



"And now I am no more in the world,  
but these are in the world..." (John 17:11).

Use this recent news story to help your students see the relevance  
of this week's lesson from the Standard Lesson Commentary®  
or Standard Lesson Quarterly®.

### **THE BRASHNESS OF YOUTH**

Kobe Bryant joined the Los Angeles Lakers in 1996, coming directly out of high school. Kobe was a brash, self-assured young basketball player. However, his occasionally questionable behavior off the court and his brash demeanor on it rubbed a lot of people the wrong way, especially Shaquille O'Neal, the team's leader. But through the years he matured into an excellent player who became the undoubted, dynamic leader of the team. Last week Kobe played his last professional game, leading the Lakers from behind to beat the Utah Jazz, scoring 60 points himself.

### **THE WISDOM OF MATURITY**

The prodigal son thought he knew more about life than anyone else, especially the older members of his own family. So he left home, seeking a new life on his own terms. Eventually a crisis convinced him that his life was going in the wrong direction. His slowly evolving maturity was finally demonstrated in swallowing his pride and returning home to his loving father.

1. What examples can you cite of public figures whose regrettable youthful behavior was eventually overcome by maturity? Are some professions more likely than others to produce such examples? Explain.
2. Today, many runaways are trying to escape unpleasant or even abusive home situations. Nevertheless, some run away from stable homes and loving families. Which of those two situations seems to be the one Jesus describes? Explain.
3. What similar family situations have you observed? Were they resolved? If so, how?
4. Regardless of the type of human parents one has, all have the same heavenly Father. What is Jesus saying in this parable about those who run away from God to live life on their own terms?

—Charles R. Boatman

<http://www.standardlesson.com/downloads>

Copyright © 2016 by Standard Publishing, Part of the David C. Cook Family. All rights reserved.  
Each download is for the use of one church only.