

# Rough Crowd "Step Out of Your Hiding Place" – Ben Foote

July 29-30

## Community:

1. What were some of your favorite games you played as a child? Was "Hide and Seek" one of those games? When was the last time you played it?
2. How does it make you feel when you are referred to being part of "Rough Crowd" here at Flatirons?

## Core:

1. **Read Romans 5:6-8.** How does this verse speak to our brokenness? What does this verse mean for us as the "Rough Crowd"? What do you think we learn from these verses?
2. **Read Romans 6:1-2.** What does this passage imply about receiving God's grace? Why do you think the Apostle Paul uses the strong phrase "*By no means*" to answer the question?
3. Looking at Romans 6:1-2, how would you explain the truth that God is best glorified when we repent or turn away from our old life and old ways?
4. Ben talked about a period in his life where he tried to protect other people from himself, and his sin. As a result, he went into hiding. Can you relate to Ben's story? Have you ever gone through a similar time in your life, and are you in hiding now?
5. **Read 2 Samuel 11:1-27.** Ben shared the story of David. Why was David hiding? How far did he go to cover up his sin?
6. **Read 2 Samuel 12:1-13.** What are your thoughts on how Nathan confronted David with his sin? Once that happened, how did David respond? How do you usually respond when you are confronted with wrongdoing?
7. Ben defined "repentance" as, "*To take ownership for your sin and rethink your strategy for life.*" He specified that repentance is a gift, not a guilt-trip, and that it is "*the road to a changed life*". Why do you think it's important to see repentance as a gift? What does it mean to rethink your strategy for life, and how can you apply that to your life?
8. **Read James 5:16.** Ben said, "*Forgiveness starts when you step into faith, but healing starts when you step out from your hiding place.*" In light of that verse (and quote) how do you differentiate forgiveness and healing in your own life? What's the risk in confessing your sins to another person? Do you believe the risk is worth it?

## **Challenge:**

Ben outlined three steps to help us step out of our hiding places, and start the healing process from the sin in our lives. (1) Confess your sin to God, in order to take responsibility for your actions. (2) Accept forgiveness from God. God doesn't hold sin against us and we shouldn't hold it against ourselves. (3) Confess your sin to another person—a most difficult step. If that seems too risky, ask God to help you think of a first person you could talk to; a counselor, a pastor, or a wise friend. The key is to take the first step and start somewhere.