



## Group Leader Guide “Baby in a Baby Carriage” - First Comes Love October 24-25, 2020

### Group Creed

We come together as a Group with the goal of Spiritual Formation; encouraging one another to become the same kind of person that Jesus is, so that we can live out every part of our lives inside of His Kingdom.

### // Message Summary

Have you ever felt like you are doomed to repeat the parenting mistakes that your parents committed? This week, Teaching Pastor **Ben Foote** finishes up the “**First Comes Love**” series talking about how God doesn’t curse families based on the sins of one member but gives us the right to become His children and create a new life for ourselves and our kids based on His love and grace.

### // Biblical Background

#### **Exodus 20:5 - “3rd and 4th generation”:**

Ben explained the context of a national commandment vs. a personal commandment and how, over the years, the Israelites confused them. He also explained why the Israelites interpreting this commandment as when someone sins, their family is cursed for exactly 3-4 generations, was done in error. However, it still begs the question of why did God choose to say “to the third and fourth generation.” To clear this up, it helps to understand a bit of Israelite culture. They were a tribal society, and an individual’s identity was nowhere near as important as the identity of your family, tribe, or clan. The number of generations living in any given family at the time was, on average, 3 or 4. You would have the family patriarch, who was the oldest living male. And then you would have all of his sons, and all of their sons, and all of their children all living in

close proximity and representing one familial identity. In **Exodus 20:5-6**, God is comparing Israel, the nation to whom He is giving this commandment, to a family that shares an identity. Therefore, the commandment could be interpreted to mean that if the leader of this nation (Israel) sins in this way (idolatry), everyone living in the nation will suffer for it because the nation’s identity has been attacked.

On the flip side, the fact that God promises to show steadfast love to a thousand generations who follow His commandments shows how His desire to grace far outweighs His desire to punish!

**Books of Israel’s and Judah’s Leaders:** Ben also mentioned that there are entire books of the Bible dedicated to showing how this commandment was first and foremost a national law. Those books are **1 & 2 Kings** and **1 & 2 Chronicles**. These books recount basically the same period of time. A good example of what Ben is talking about is found in **2 Kings 16 & 18**. In chapter 16, it tells of a king of Judah named Ahaz. (Judah was the name of one of the kingdoms that Israel split into after the death of Solomon in 1 Kings). The other kingdom kept the name “Israel”). It begins the way most of the accounts of the kings do. It gives his name (Ahaz) and whether he did what was evil in the sight of the Lord or what was pleasing in the sight of the Lord. Ahaz did what was evil (**16:2**), and therefore, God allowed other nations

to attack Judah, and everyone living in the kingdom suffered for it. However, the next king, Ahaz's son, did what was pleasing in the eyes of the Lord (**18:3**). Therefore, the Lord blessed him, and Hezekiah was successful in everything he did (**18:7**). This not only shows that the commandment in **Exodus 20:5-6** was a national law, but it also shows that a literal application of a curse to following the sin of a father to following generations was simply not true, as Hezekiah was only one generation removed from Ahaz and reaped the blessings of the Lord based on his own actions.

### // In Preparation

This week entails group members looking back into their lives and reviewing how their parents were. This has the potential to bring up a lot of pain. If someone is reluctant to talk about certain topics regarding their parents, or especially past trauma caused by parents, be sure to respect that. They may not be willing to go there right now, and that is perfectly ok. Help them to feel safe, even if they don't want to talk about certain things. Primarily, this week isn't about churning up past hurt, but looking forward to how we can live out of the truth that we are God's children. So don't push too hard if you sense someone holding back from going into their past. Instead, remind them that they are a child of God who has an opportunity to completely change the trajectory of their life in the present and future. Focus more on having them answer the questions toward the end so that they can clearly see the opportunity they have to be an agent for change, grace, and hope!

### // References

Kaiser, Walter C., et al. *Hard Sayings of the Bible*. InterVarsity Press, 2010.

Walton, John H., et al. *The IVP Bible Background Commentary: Old Testament*. InterVarsity Press, 2004.



## Group Discussion Questions

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#### // Bible References

Matthew 19:13-15; Exodus 20:5-6; Ezekiel 18:2-4, 20, 30-31; 2 Corinthians 5:17, 19; Ephesians 5:22-24; John 1:12-13; Revelation 21:5-7; Romans 8:14-16; 1 John 3:1

#### // Message Screenshots

- Do we know who we are, as parents?
- “Generational Curses”
- “Like father, like son/Like mother, like daughter”
- “Like Father (God), like son/Like Father (God), like daughter”

#### // Community Questions

1. What did God teach you/reveal to you after thinking about how seriously you take your marriage/singleness this past week?
2. Have you ever heard yourself repeating a phrase your mom or dad used to say to you? What was it?

#### // Core Questions

*Some of these questions will focus specifically on parenting, but if you don't have kids, that's ok. Just replace any references to parenting with another area of your life where these questions may be relevant (for example: other relationships, your job/business, other responsibilities, etc.)*

1. Have you ever felt like you were being punished for something your parents did or a choice that they made? Explain.
2. Have you ever promised yourself that you were going to parent differently than your parents did? If so, give at least one example of how.
3. Have you ever found yourself doing that anyway? If so, explain.
4. What, if any, good examples of parenting did you learn from your parents?
5. Describe a time when you were compared to your parents in a negative way (this could be from others or from your own self-judgments).
6. How does becoming a new creation and a child of God give you hope that you can parent differently than what was modeled to you by your parents?
7. In what ways have you already been successful in parenting your kids differently than your parents parented you?
8. In what ways do you see in yourself room to grow in breaking the bad habits you learned



from your parents?

9. If you were to truly view yourself as a parent who is a child of God and not doomed to repeat the mistakes your parents made, how would your children benefit?

### // Challenge

Ben mentioned that if we can genuinely view ourselves first as children of God, we have a genuine shot at raising our kids in a home that values the things God values, such as grace and love. The challenge this week is to put that into practice. What is one way you can show grace to your children this week? Not a reward for good behavior, or something that they have to earn, but a true, undeserved gift of grace. Use your imagination to think of what will work for your kids, but some examples could include taking them out for ice cream just because, or skipping something you really want to do so you can do something that they really want to do. And again, if you don't have kids, apply this to another area of your life. Who in your life could really use an act of undeserved grace or love from you? Come back next week ready to share your experience or plan!



**Student Group Discussion Questions**  
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**// Parent Resource**

Think through the past month or the past few weeks and remember a time where there was a short coming in your parenting. When you are driving in the car with you student or sitting down with them, bring up that incident. Tell them how you were wrong- own your emotions. Don't follow up with a “but you did” statement. Then tell them your strategy for how you will try to do it different next time. This will be a hard-emotional moment, but you will be teaching your student how to own their actions and plan for a better outcome next time, leading by example.

**// Discussion Questions**

1. What is something fun that your parents do that you also do?  
Ex. Watch football, eat BBQ, go camping etc.
2. What is something that your parents do that you notice yourself doing as well?  
Ex. How you sit in a chair, the way you laugh, the faces you make.
3. What is something that your parents do that you hope you will never do?  
Like things that frustrate you, make you sad and angry.  
On a scale of 1-10, how likely do you think you are of doing that thing?
4. Read Romans 8:14-16 two times.  
What sticks out to you?  
How many times is the word “children” used?  
What is confusing about this?
5. How do you become one of God's children? Helpful Hint: You become a child of God through Jesus and His Spirit lives inside of us and directs our lives.  
Is this something that you have done?  
Is this something you want to do?  
If so, what should your next step be?
6. What is hard for you to believe about being a Child of God?  
Ex. Belonging, being valued, being loved Unconditionally, being supported, being forgiven  
What changes about your life if you really believed and trusted that?
7. Leaders tell each student in your group one characteristic of God that you see in each of them.
8. Pray that as we look to Jesus, God's Spirit will transform us to be the kind of people who live and think like Him.

**// Leader Feedback**

Please let us know how these questions went over in your group. Email your feedback to [caleb\\_flowers@flatironschurch.com](mailto:caleb_flowers@flatironschurch.com)