



Just Breathe – Jim Burgen

August 15, 2021

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.

// Bible References

Matthew 6:31-34, 21:13; John 15:7; Hebrews 10:25

// Message Summary

This week's message from Pastor Jim Burgen is the first in a new series on family, marriage, parenting and other important relationships. As we begin to unpack these areas, however, we need to first revisit our most important relationship: the one we have with God. We need to be filled and inspired by His presence and His word: what we breathe in spiritually is as important to our health and the wellbeing of our relationships as oxygen is to our lungs. The Bible even likens the presence of God to air, wind and life-giving breath (it was the breath of God which spoke the world into order and gave life to humanity in Genesis 1 and 2). Jim then draws upon Jesus' instructions to 'Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness' to remind us that intentionally and actively seeking God gives life to our spirits, just as air gives life to our bodies.

// Community Questions

1. Have you ever been caught without air? What happened? How did you respond to it?

// Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read Matthew 6:31-34. How does Jesus compare the lifestyle of His followers, and those of other people?

2. Jesus tells His hearers to seek (look for, require and even crave) the Kingdom of God, and God's righteousness, before anything else in our lives.
 - a. What does it mean to seek the Kingdom of God?
 - b. What does it mean to seek God's righteousness?
3. In John 15:7, Jesus tells us to 'remain in Him', and to have His words 'remain in you.' What did He say would be the result? How is this possible?
4. Jim talked about prayer as a dialogue rather than a monologue. If you don't hear anything audibly back from God, how might you hear what He has to say to you?
5. If God instructs us to remain in Him, what might that tell us about what God is like?

// Challenge

As a church, we value the physical, in-person community that Jesus initiated when He began to build His Church. Though global circumstances (and summer!) have made meeting in person difficult or at times not possible, we know there are unique and valuable benefits to everyone when we come together.

- Make a covenant with God, your family and your friends to take part in a service, in-person and at one of our campuses, every week that is possible for you.