

## **Breathe - Week 3**

### **Parenting – Ben Foote**

**August 29, 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**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Matthew 6:33

#### **// Message Summary**

This week's message from Ben Foote is the third in a series on family, marriage, parenting and other important relationships. In this series, we have been challenged as a church to continue to look "upstream" to God and our relationship with Him, before we look "downstream" to our daily challenges and choices. Ben focused on the act of parenting: the job of taking a young life and helping to form this precious young person into a person with certain values, a particular view of the world, a respect for other human beings, and a moral foundation and compass that will help them thrive in a confusing world. Such formation of our children requires both repetition and time - but more importantly, a willingness to allow God to form *us* first.

#### **// Community Questions**

1. Remembering back to your childhood, what enjoyable memories do you have of your parents (or other parental figures)?
2. Think of a parent you admire (either real or fictional). What is it that you admire about them?

## // Discussion Questions

1. As a group, read Deuteronomy 6:4-9. What do you notice? What questions does it raise for you?
2. In our contemporary day to day lives, what does it look like to:
  - a. Have God's commandments on our hearts?
  - b. Impress God's commandments on our children?
  - c. Talk about them when we sit at home, walk along the road, lie down and get up?
3. Ben shared two observations about formation:

Repetition without Time = Frustration

Time without Repetition = Passivity

When have you seen either of these observations at work in your life?

4. Our kids are formed by the way we talk, the way we act, and the state of our homes.

Which one of these would you like to improve? How will you do that?

5. The Bible describes God as the Perfect Parent, and us as children in His family (Romans 8:15-17).

What does this tell you about how He will work with us, and how He wants us to work with those around us?

## // Challenge

Formation takes time and repetition, so as we allow God to form us into the people He wants us to be, we need to allow Him the space to do His work.

- Plan to be at church, in person, for the next 7 weeks. Give God the time and the repetition opportunity to continue His formation work in you and your family.

For parents and caregivers carrying this incredibly important role of forming young lives, head to the Flatirons Family Ministry page, where you will find resources ranging from parenting at each step of the journey, to using technology well, and supporting children with higher emotional needs.

[flatironschurch.com/family](http://flatironschurch.com/family)