

Group Leader Guide

“Quarantine Family” - The New Normal

May 2-3, 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

Ben Foote tackles the struggles of dealing with our families, those that live with us, during this quarantine. Living in such close quarters has revealed traits in us that have been there all along. We just don't have the space or schedule now to run away from them. Using **Deuteronomy 6:6-8**, Ben lays out how we can view what seems like a major inconvenience from a different perspective. We can view it as a gift from God to shape and mold our families and closest relationships into what we want them to look like by “embracing the mundane” and “giving grace in the insane.”

// Biblical Background

Deuteronomy 6:6-9: Jesse DeYoung taught on this same passage of Scripture back on November 23-24 during our series, “**The Perfect Li(f)e**,” in a talk called “Family Takes Intentionality.” I wrote about some word study items in that week's group leader guide. If you would like to read about that, that guide can still be found on that message's page on the website by clicking on “Questions” underneath the message video. I will put a link to it down in the references section.

Deuteronomy 6:8: Some Jews did, and still do, take this command

literally. They use what are known as *tefillin* or *phylacteries*, which are leather straps and boxes bound to the forehead and arms with these writings from the Bible contained inside the boxes.



Tefillin

Deuteronomy 6:9: Likewise, a *mezuzah* is used to adhere these teachings to doorposts.



Mezuzah

The teachings are written on parchment inside.

// In Preparation

Occasionally, our messages are targeted to a specific audience. This week, parenting is the focus. This is an important topic, especially during this time, and came as the result of a recent survey to see what people wanted to learn more about during the quarantine. We recognize that not everyone is a parent, however. Some people tend to tune out if the topic seems irrelevant to them. Some people in your group may feel this way. However, there is always an application that is universal. I worded the discussion questions to hopefully be relevant to everyone. Still, it may take some effort on your part to help them bridge the gap from a strictly parenting application to something that they can apply to their lives without kids or a spouse. Try to remind them that they do have relationships that these principles can be applied to, whether that is relationships, parents, friends, siblings, etc. We can all do better at engaging the people closest to us!

// References

Currid, John D., and David W. Chapman. *ESV Archaeology Study Bible: English Standard Version*. Crossway Books, 2017.

<https://www.flatironschurch.com/sermon/family-takes-intentionality-week-3/>



Group Discussion Questions

“Quarantine Family” - The New Normal

May 2-3, 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.

// Bible References

Deuteronomy 6:6-9

// Community Questions

1. What drives you the most crazy about the people living in your house with you right now?

// Core Questions

1. Ben mentioned that he can be impatient, selfish, controlling, irritable, and numb at times with his family during this quarantine. What has this quarantine revealed in you about how you handle relationships?
2. Were those traits there before the quarantine? How did they show up?
3. What was life or schedule like before the quarantine that possibly masked these traits better than they are now?
4. What do the “quiet, mundane moments” look like for you now?
5. How can you embrace these moments as opportunities to engage with those closest to you?
6. How can you use these moments to shape and mold your family into what you really want for them and yourself?
7. How can you “show grace in the insane” moments when everyone seems to be going crazy?
8. How can you show grace to yourself, knowing that you are doing your best during a global crisis?

// Challenge

Not all of us have kids or spouses, or even anyone living with us right now. But the message from this weekend is equally applicable. We all have people in our lives that this quarantine has given us the opportunity to engage with more. Our children, our spouses, our roommates, our parents, our friends, etc. The challenge this week is to put the answers to the questions above into practice. What is one thing this week that you can do to engage those closest to you when you would normally want to hit the self-eject button and either explode or isolate? How can you empathize with the people in your life going through similar circumstances and show them grace when you want to react differently? If we can acknowledge that there are at least some elements of this quarantine that are a gift from God, we can start to view our circumstances from a different, healthier perspective.