

## **February 4, 2024 - Influence: Influencing the Next Generation: Love and Limits**

Feel free to **PICK AND CHOOSE** some of the questions below to engage with as a group. Before you leave, be sure to spend some time going over the **Top 3** things your group members need to know.

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### **Connect:**

How/when do you feel most loved by those around you?

Did your family of origin tilt towards love or limits? How does that affect the way you interact with the loved ones you are currently surrounded by?

### **Engage:**

**Read Ephesians 6:1** - What did obedience look like in your family of origin? How did that feel growing up? What do you desire obedience to look like in YOUR nuclear family? What does training up in the instruction of the Lord mean or look like?

**Read 1 Kings 1:6** - Adonijah was never reprimanded and it led to a foolish life and ultimately his execution at the hand of a king. When is a time that you have seen lack of discipline lead to negative consequences? When is a time that you WEREN'T reprimanded that it might have made a difference in your life?

Robert shared three questions all kids need answered by words and by practice:

**1. Where are the boundaries? (Hebrews 12:11)** What do healthy boundaries look like in family life? How do we discipline with dignity and speak truth in love to those closest to us? How and why is consistency important in discipline?

**2. Do you love me? (1 Peter 4:8)** We make the mistake of thinking that love is stuff, when love is really attention. Provision is important, but your presence is necessary for influence. You don't have to be perfect, but you need to be present. What is the difference between love that is spoken and love that is felt? How have you seen "love cover a multitude of sins?"

**3. Do I have what it takes? (Ephesians 2:10)** How do you see "His workmanship" in the loved ones you are surrounded by? How can we lovingly spur one another on to do hard things and support one another to fail in healthy ways and persevere? How can we encourage one another to follow after the LORD'S will for our lives?

### **Which of these questions above resonates with you the most and why?**

According to Dr. Anthony Bradley, there are four things that can undo a person's faith:

1. Divorce
2. Spiritual or sexual abuse
3. Parent's/Pastor's moral failing
4. Domineering fathers who lacked affection

### **Which of these above things do you feel like affect people's faith the most and why?**

### **Apply:**

How can we be more present for our loved ones in the upcoming week? How can we pour out love to those who surround us and, in gratitude, begin to see our earthly family through the lens of our HEAVENLY father?

### **Top 3:**

#### **Membership Class | Wednesday, February 21 at 6pm**

Membership is a way for our church leadership and church members to make promises to one another as we seek God's best for Fondren Church together. The first step in becoming a member is to attend a membership class. In the class, you'll learn more about the history of our church, our leadership structures, and the ways we promise to care for you as a church member. To learn more and register, visit [fondrenchurch.com/events](http://fondrenchurch.com/events).

#### **Serve Day | Saturday, February 24**

Serve Day is a day when people from Fondren Church serve alongside ministries all over the Jackson-Metro. We have ways for people of all ages and abilities to make a difference together. Registration opens soon. For more information and to register, visit [fondrenchurch.com/events](http://fondrenchurch.com/events).

#### **Marriage Workshops (Includes dinner and childcare for adults and children)**

##### **How to Childproof Your Marriage | Wednesday, February 28**

##### **Date Night | Sunday, March 3**

##### **No Kids, No Problems? | Sunday, March 3 at 5:30pm**

In "How to Child Proof Your Marriage", Laura McAlpin and Raymond Kennedy, a Fondren Church member and professional counselor, will lead us through a night to strengthen marriages in every stage of parenting. Couples will receive encouragement, practical tips, and helpful resources to grow the strength of their marriage even in the midst of demanding seasons. Whether you're expecting your first child, in the "middle miles" and actively parenting kids and teens, or are navigating an empty nest, this will be a valuable investment of time in your marriage.

In "No Kids, No Problems?" Laura McAlpin will lead us through a night to build and strengthen marriages in the early years. Specifically designed for engaged, nearly married, newly married, and couples without the stressors that children add to the marital relationship, couples will receive encouragement, practical tips, and helpful resources to grow the strength of their marriage, and build healthy habits and strong foundations in their relationship.

Register for either Workshop at [fondrenchurch.com/events](http://fondrenchurch.com/events).