

BCL Ep 312 Are You Sabotaging Your Parenting? Embracing the Unexpected with Scott Barron

Now it seems like just when we've got life balanced and good practices in place as parents, something always changes. Maybe the discipline strategy for our third grader suddenly doesn't seem so effective once they hit later grammar school or even middle school years. Or the routines that we put in place last year are now replaced with totally different and more consuming schedules and demands.

But here's the good news. In the ever-changing challenges of raising children in the modern moment, as parents and as educators, there are timeless truths to anchor us. Join us for this episode of Basecamp Live as we find practical ways to hold fast to true truth while navigating life's unavoidable changes.

Mountains. We all face them as we seek to influence the next generation, get equipped to conquer the challenges, summit the peak, and shape exceptionally thoughtful, compassionate, and flourishing human beings. We call it ancient future education for raising the next generation.

Welcome to Basecamp Live. Now your host, Davies Owens. Welcome to another episode of Basecamp Live.

Hard to believe it's 2025. Wow, things have moved along faster. This makes it our eighth year doing the Basecamp Live podcast.

Thank you for so many of you who have listened for many, many years. And for those of you who are brand new, we welcome you to this conversation we have each week as we explore what it's like to raise the next generation to what does feel like at times the top of Mount Everest. And we need to stop at these base camps and get recharged, get equipped, and get encouraged as we go on this journey together in this big community and the opportunity to join together around the world.

It's so encouraging. Reach out to me at footbasecamlive.com. Love to hear where you're listening from. A couple of shout outs, first of all, to Jeff Johnson, headmaster of the Bradford Academy in Melbourne, North Carolina, as well as Nathaniel Pullman, headmaster at Redeemer Classical School in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Just shout outs to both of you as leaders and to your teams and your parents as well. We are so grateful that you're part of the Basecamp Live and Zipcast communities. We have a lot of things exciting to announce coming up in 2025.

We'll share those with you later around Basecamp Live, new things we're going to be doing here on the podcast, and, of course, Zipcast 2.0 is going to be coming out for the next school year. There's a lot there and a lot of fun stories we'll be telling you about as well. But for this

conversation, I get to sit down with my good friend Scott Barron.

I've known Scott for years. He has been in educational leadership for 21-plus years. He was a founder of School Growth with a real heart to walk alongside school leaders and just encourage them in that daily process of raising the next generation.

He considers himself a man of, I love this, intelligent faith. He loves creating and sharing books and messages, presentations. He's a fellow podcaster and he creates lots of very helpful content to encourage educators to just persevere in their calling.

He's been in many roles as school head. He's served on boards of schools and he speaks around the country to thousands of educators and audiences really around the world. So it's a joy to get to have this conversation with Scott and have you be a part of it.

Before we get to the interview, just a quick shout out, as always, a thank you to the sponsors for this episode, Classical Academic Press, Gordon College, Wilson Hill Academy, The Classic Learning Test, and Life Architects Coaching. We are grateful for you and the resources you provide. You can check out more of these great organizations and their helpful resources and tools on our partnership page.

Without further ado, here's my conversation with Mr. Scott Barron. Scott Barron, welcome back to Base Camp Live. Oh, my pleasure.

Davies, love working together with you and your team. I know, we've met each other for a long time. It's good to reconnected here for this conversation.

I've got to get Scott back on. I know you've been here before. Well, I love what you do in your ministry.

Well, I appreciate that, Scott. Give folks a little background on kind of your story. And you've obviously been in Christian education for many, many years and seen it from so many perspectives.

But yeah, share a little bit of the Scott Barron story. Well, you know, I was involved in education technology for several years. And then I made this deal with God one night in 1997.

And all of a sudden, a few months later, I'm running a school. And it was not part of my career trajectory plan at all, which speaks to the idea that you have to be careful what you pray for. But also, be ready, because if you make yourself willing to follow what God's got for you, you may end up doing things you totally are unprepared for and have to kind of go back and learn.

And that's what I love about what you're doing here on the platform is we all have to learn. And that's what I've been doing. I served as a head of three different Christian schools for about 14 years.

And then the last dozen years we've been working with around the United States, in North

America, around the world, really solving for those spiritual cultural problems, right? What are the things that are keeping us from being able to really fulfill our mission and to be able to change lives at the level that we really want? And usually that's tied up in those interpersonal issues, right? It's those things that even having grown up as a preacher's kid, you know, I've been around a lot of ministry people and times and situations. And even among Christians, we often pick fights with each other. I don't know if you've noticed that.

Yeah, fallen nature doesn't go away. It doesn't go away, right? Salvation does not give an exemption from personality conflicts or other spiritual battles and other things. And so I think that's one of the things that's been a privilege of our work is being able to minister to those who are called to lead schools and those who have been gifted with that precious gift to teach is could we create an environment for them to practice their craft in a way that's not in a dysfunctional system, right? Because man, so many times it seems like our schools are so profoundly committed to dysfunction and we got to stop that because there's no joy in that.

It makes it so much harder to practice this gift of teaching and leading. And so that's what our commitment is, is doing that among Christian schools and other schools as well, just giving them a pathway to really greater joy and love in the work. Well, I love that you're doing that and you're right.

I think there's almost sometimes almost harder being in a Christian school and Christian environment because we come in with even higher, rightfully higher expectations. And I think so we have, you know, probably further to fall when things don't go right. Cause we expect everything to be, you know, all full of love and grace constantly and everything's perfect.

I'm like, well, you expect that down the street at the secular school, but at the Christian school, well, how do we navigate all that? So let me know when you find that. Yeah. I think that's called a, you know, heaven academy or something.

We'll get there. Yeah. That's what I like to say is that our Christian school, you know, it's a Christian school.

It's not heaven. We've not been perfected yet. And so we have to allow the leeway for adjustments and learning and growth.

Right. Yeah. Well, it's always, what was the old church thing? Churches are supposed to be more like hospitals for the wounded than, you know, holy places for the saints.

So I think it's the same notion. And, and part of what I know we're going to jump into here is just really the fact that things change. And I think part of it sometimes is we, you know, that those early, whether it's the early years of a pioneer startup school, you see it in sort of the school cycles where those early days, which are often romanticized when people look back, they're actually pretty grueling if you're trying to start a school and everything's so perfect.

Well, it probably wasn't, or you just have changes that happen in yourself and your children.

Talk about that a little bit. Can I introduce that idea? Cause I think it's, it's, it's kind of obvious, but it's not.

I mean, we tend to, I think, especially as Christians, because we hold on to Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and there's nothing new under the sun. And so, wait a minute, things are changing. So what's going wrong? Help us understand that.

I think one of the things, the most important things that I have learned both as a, as a parent, as a grandparent, and as an educator, as a school administrator is, hey, we don't live in a steady state. And this is a parenting truth that it's, it's actually really important to, for us to, to get our head around and to process and to think about, we don't operate in a steady state. And of course, what that means is a steady state is a condition in which all the variables are predictable.

They're constant over time. And so we can, we can really kind of map things out and know what's going to happen. And this is used in a lot of different areas of science and production and other things where there are predictable states, right? We do not live in a steady state.

Instead, we live in what is called a, a trans, transient state, right? Where the variables of the system are changing over time. And, you know, usually in a, in a system that we're, we're eventually trying to get to equilibrium as a parent, forget about it. You're not getting to equilibrium.

It doesn't happen. You have to, you're constantly dealing with a changing set of variables. And, and in some ways there is a piece in that, you know, you learning, and this is, this goes back to Reinhold Niebuhr's serenity prayer, right? Is there is, there really is a bit of, there's a real intelligence and a wisdom, but also a sanity in being willing to accept the things you cannot change.

I mean, really being able to accept the things that you cannot change, we kind of blow past that and say, yeah, yeah, okay. But no, really you're not living in a world where everything is supposed to be the way you think it is. And sometimes as parents, we get, we get in very stressful situations because we see these models or whatever, whatever is proposed in social media or in other forums where there's like this ideal.

And, and then we're trying to live up to what is supposed to be, right? I think there's a freedom and understanding. There is no supposed to be there. It is what it is, as my friends in Texas say, right? It is what it is.

So learning how to accept that is very powerful. And I think it does lead to a greater sense of peace and joy. ISKRA Yeah.

And it's one of those, again, I think everybody at face value would say, sure, I know that's true. And then in reality, you don't know what to do with it. And it seems like, you know, it plays out in so many ways where whether it's, you know, the way you parented your first born and then

the second born is not the same.

Um, same gene pool sometimes, completely different. Right. Or I've seen it as an administrator.

I mean, so many examples is just, let me think of these examples are an example of, you know, we, you know, sweet little girls that were all wonderful and early grammar school. And then all of a sudden fifth grade hits and, you know, and the fifth grade girl problem as he used to call it, you know, what's going on with this child, right? Yeah. Hormones are hitting and, you know, and well, then it becomes, who do we take the blame to? And this again is the road to where friction and brokenness happened because it says, well, you know, that parent, that teacher is not doing their job managing stuff and therefore.

That's right. And well, it's interesting, right. We come into this again, assuming sometimes a steady state, but when we learn to accept the fact that it is a, it's not just a transient state, I call it an uber dynamic transient state.

That's what parenting is, right? You got to put a little uber in there, right? It's an uber dynamic transient state. The variables are constantly changing, but that's no different. I mean, if you think about, for example, let's take let's take Steph Curry, right? For the famous NBA player, amazing shooter, right? Well, Steph Curry, when he goes into to start a game, he doesn't just kind of put the uniform on, lace them up and they'll grab the ball.

Okay, let's go, right? He goes and shoots sometimes three to 500 shots before every game, right? Now, if you think about why, right? Because what's not changing for Steph Curry? Well, I mean, the height of the rims aren't changing. They're set. The boundaries around the court, they're the same, right? The balls aren't changing.

Well, maybe they are, right? I mean, because they do, they change based on different elevations. People may have different types of balls they're using, right? So the way the wood floors are made, it changes. There's certain soft spots and they have to find out where those soft spots are and they have to, but he's also going through a lot of change himself, right? His mindset is different every day.

His mood is different. His muscles, his oxygen levels, his rest, the area, the environment around it, the competition, the crowd, the floor, everything is, even the enforcement of the rules. They're changing, right? Tanner Iskra, PhD I think, I don't know why I remember this random stat from science class years ago, but it was like somewhere in the neighborhood of like 300 billion cells change in our body every day.

So I mean, basically like, you know, as I'm looking at you, there's literally nothing that I'm seeing that was here, you know, a year or two ago, like your entire cells, your body does this too. So to your point, you know, your moods change, but just, you know, things are different. Variables are happening.

And so that's right. Trevor Burrus And the problem is, is if we go into this assuming a steady

state, and we do, we assume coming into, you know, sometimes we even assume, an example, again, is we assume that the same kid that we drop off is the same kid who, their behavior and what they do at home is the same as they do at school. And yet I've seen so many parents go, my kid did what? That's not my, and then they kind of, they have a chance to observe their child, like, without being seen.

And they're like, who is that kid? I don't even, right? Because, because the variables change, right? And so being able to accept that your child is constantly changing, and you are constantly changing. Dr. Justin Marchegiani And it's not, you know, it's, it's a negative and it can be a negative, but it just, it's just how we are as humans. I mean, we tend to interact, like, to your point, it's not that my child is, you know, manipulative and dishonest.

It's just, no, they're there with their peers, and they're in a different setting. And so in different contexts, there's different, yeah, different pressure points, different opportunities, things are moving. And so, yeah, that's, it's a really- Dr. Kahney And different kids are wired differently.

Some respond to that. And they have, they, they are maintained as a state and others, they are very adaptive to their situations. And, and so they have to figure out how to navigate that world.

And again, they're processing it themselves. And that's the, again, that's the key thing is that as parents, right? You as a parent, you are changing physically, you're, you are going through physical changes every day. Like you said, the cells are constantly in motion, they're changing spiritually, you're changing, hopefully, hopefully, you're growing and developing that the disciplines of spiritual growth, physiologically, emotionally, interpersonally, habitually relation.

I mean, we're constantly changing. Dr. Justin Marchegiani Right. It's vital to keep that in our minds that everything that we see, we don't, and here's the message.

We don't know what we don't know. Parenting requires a humility, a humility in working with your, your child, a humility in working with your spouse, a humility in working with your educators, right? You don't know what you don't know. They don't either.

But when we can agree to that, and we can agree to then learning together, it changes things. It changes the nature of the relationship. Dr. Justin Marchegiani Well, it and I think there's, you were talking earlier, just about the, there's so many pressures that parents are feeling more, more than ever today, that that sense of, you know, whether it's mom guilt, there's dad guilt, or just the FOMO, there's a sense in which I, you know, I'm barely getting it done here.

And now you're telling me, I just when I kind of got, it's like, just when I clean that room up, it's a disaster again, I got to start all over again. It's a very, so on the one hand, it can sound very, it's very discouraging, because you just feel like I'm trying so hard. Are you talking about Steph Curry out there? It's like, wait a minute.

So the lines on the court moving and the goals, the height of the goals changing. So there's

some things are not changing. So why don't we take a break and come back? Because I think that the hope comes from what are the things that are not changing we can hold on to? And then where do we show grace to ourselves and others with things that are changing? I mean, so it's just, in some ways, it's so basic.

In other ways, boy, we all get caught in this every day. So let's take a quick break. We'll come back and practice a bit more.

I want to take just a moment during our break and let you know about the great work that's being done by Wilson Hill Academy. They offer a vibrant, rich and accredited classical Christian education available to families and schools almost anywhere. With a click of a button, students join master teachers and friends live online from all over the world to engage in deep and lively discussions, solve math problems, conduct science experiments, translate Latin, deliver thesis presentations, and so much more.

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It's a blessing certainly to be a believer and know that there are truths that are unchanging. I think it's just hard as you're describing, like what are the things we cling to that are not changing and what are the things we just need to relax a little bit because they are going to change? And sort of sometimes we get that upside down and we're holding on to the things that are changing and not holding on to things that are unchanging. So what's some wisdom on how to navigate that? Well, I mean, one thing that we reiterate a lot in what we're, as we're working with education leaders and teachers and parents is, hey, don't forget those four stages of learning.

We're all in them. We're all different stages. And the way that I relate this is if you ever have had to teach a child how to drive, they've turned 15 or whatever and now they're trying to learn how to get behind the wheel and you've got to trust them and teach them all these things that you do so naturally that you've forgotten what it's like to have to think about it.

And so there's those four stages, right? There's the unconscious incompetence where we don't know what we don't know. And that requires a humility to really listen. And even in your relationship with your child, as well as with your, your teachers and others, being willing to go back to that starting point and acknowledge that I don't know.

And it's okay to not know. I don't, I'm not, I don't have to know everything, right? There's a freedom in that. And then, but moving, being committed to then move through to the second stage of conscious incompetence where we didn't realize what we don't know.

And we start to develop that just like that child driving. Now they start to realize, oh, I now have to look ahead. I have to anticipate.

I have to have all these things going on with my feet and my hands and, and my head and my eyes. And I mean, there's, there's just constant sort of now data I'm collecting and I'm having to make decisions. And then I moved to conscious competence where now I start to practicing it.

I'm getting, okay, I got it. Here we go. Right.

And then I moved to unconscious competence eventually where now I'm back into a mode of, I do this very naturally. The hard part again is because of everything changing so much, we have to be comfortable with going back to that, that humbling state of unconscious incompetence. You know, you know, I don't know, David, you probably know this from your experience as an administrator, but some of the highest maintenance or the families that often have the require the most work from school administrators are oldest or onlys, right? It's when the oldest or only child is coming through because they've never been through these stages before.

They've never had to learn how to navigate all these things and their child often is very different from them. And so now they're having to learn how to navigate this and figure it out. And there's a lot of stress and there's a lot of tension and there's, right.

And so that, that ability, you know, to, to have a humbleness to say, I don't know. And it's okay not to know and be able to work with your, the folks around you. We'll talk later about feedback loops, but that's a critical part of navigating through those stages.

Feedback loops, just like you do with your child when they're learning to drive, you're giving them feedback. Oh, oh, stop, stop, turn here. You just signal, you know, all this stuff, right? Feedback loops are critical.

Well, I think again, to the point you're making about just ages and stages. And if you've got that, that firstborn coming through, I mean, just look at, you know, Kevin Lehman and others have written books, you know, like on birth where he's very well known for that book. I mean, we know this, we know that by that, that third child comes along.

We tend to parent a little differently. We tend to parent more casually, just because things that we once thought were going to be the end of the world, we're like, you know, that's just not going to be a big deal. They're going to get through it.

I'm going to get through it. We're going to move on, but you don't have that perspective on that, which, you know, as we, as we get into some of the, you know, here in a moment talking more about just the practical side of it, you know, as I speak and connect with schools around

the country, and often we'll do kind of informal focus groups with parents. And one of the questions I ask is just, you know, who are your, how do you know how to parent where you're parenting role models? And so much of what I, we know, but statistically and just realistically, it is that families don't live near extended family.

There's not that generational wisdom that was once there grandma going, Hey, that's okay. So they will say to me, well, I either go Google my way through parenthood and try to find answers, which is fraught with who knows what's going to pop up. Or I phone a friend and I try to talk to somebody who's got a child, maybe a little older than mine that can kind of say, how did you guys get through this? But which is good to do, but you just, everybody's clamoring for that.

What's normal. Is this normal? Is that normal? So that seems to be the big part of the problem is you get that answer. That's right.

Yeah. And there's also, I guess, this is where parenting does require, you know, being anchored. What gives you the ability to accept the things you cannot change is a faith, right? It's a faith remembering that, you know, Hebrews 13, eight promises, Hey, Jesus is the same yesterday, today, and forever.

Right. And that's a promise that we can hang on to. That's what, that's what gives us the grounding.

The grounding isn't in ourselves because we're changing. The grounding isn't in our own wisdom because we don't know what we don't know. Right.

But, but we do have that hope and that promise that that's not a promise. It's James one, 17 to the same thing, right? Every good and perfect gift is from above coming down from the father of lights with whom there is no variation or shadow due to change. Right.

That's our anchor. And when we're unanchored, that's when we typically see behaviors that are way too emotional, overreact, overreacting. We see the, that, that unfortunately that term, Karen comes out in us, right? I feel sorry for all those named Karen, right? Because that name is just obliterated.

But, but there is that, that outrage that we kind of default to today. And it comes from forgetting, Hey, listen, we're not perfect. We, we, we haven't, we don't, we don't have those, everything that, that righteous understanding, but we do have a father who is.

And I think that's a critical part of parenting is you gotta stay anchored. Right. And, and, and knowing that it, your identity is, is not based on your performance, which I think is, I think that's, I mean, really what's going on in the minds of so many parents.

I know when I was, I have told this story when I was young dad, firstborn Hannah had come along, I think she was probably two or three, you know, in the grocery store cart at the grocery

store working, going up and down the aisles. And, you know, I turned for just a second and turned back and she had grabbed whatever it was, the cereal boxes and about 10 of them are on the ground and people are turning to look at, you know, who is this incompetent father who, you know, child is going crazy in the store. And I'm, and I'm, and I immediately, I found just, you know, anger welling up in me.

And I was like, wait a minute, what am I, I had to take a breath. Cause I was really, I was more upset about what people were thinking of me than I was that she was really acting out in the sense that that's just what you do when you're that age and you've got some something there, you reach out and touch it and it falls and something happens. And so, but I think that's that, that very narrow line we walk, which is, you know, is this a case where someone really messed up and I need to discipline them and correct them? Or is this a case of I'm feeling shame because I didn't perform the way I expected to based on my own.

So it's complicated sometimes sorting those emotions out. Even if we know that God is the same and we know he's on his throne, but we're down here in the grocery store right now and there's some chaos breaking out. 100%.

Well, there's a thing that there's a, there's a wisdom, right? That comes with that experience. And it's like you said, if sometimes if you have multiple children, the, the, the older ones will say, wait, you didn't let me get away with that. What is going on around here? You're right.

Right. Right. But there's a, there's also an interesting saying, this is, you know, the, the young men know the rules and the old men know the exceptions.

Right. That's good. Yeah.

There is a, of course there is a wisdom that comes with having gone through different cycles, different kids. Right. And you learn to, to, to have more gray than black and white.

And that's one of the things I guess that you have to have understanding as a parent that, you know, you, you're living in a, that Uber dynamic environment. You do have to have the ability to understand it's not all about the rules. Right.

And, and sometimes, especially in relationship to schools, this gets very complicated because there's, there's, there's the idea that, well, we should apply the rules all the same to every, everybody, everything's well, there's always more to it than, you know, and, and one of the hardest things about school leadership is, is sometimes there's a clamoring for a false ideal called transparency. Right. As an educator, I can't be transparent with you as a parent.

There's things that I know about other situations and families are the things that you just, you just can't know. It's sometimes it would be unprofessional. Sometimes it'd be illegal to share a lot of this information about different situations.

And, and so there's a, there's sort of this idea that, you know, I have a right to know because

I'm a parent and, and, and, and that relationship has to allow for the, some, some variability. It has to allow for some decision-making. Now, listen, a lot of educators make unwise decisions and I'm not, I'm not defending all education decisions, but the, the role that the educators play in relationship with the parents does require a give and take.

It requires the ability to wisely navigate, negotiate in order to sustain a healthy relationship. One of the most damaging things that I see parents do to their children is to model an outrageous behavior that does not allow for listening and respect. And that, and that's something that I wish schools would focus on more as well.

I, I, firstly, as a school administrator, I could care less about student voice. I know for some, that would be an outrageous statement. I'm more concerned about wisdom.

I'm more concerned about an understanding of truth. I'm more concerned about an ability to navigate different decisions, understanding that most of the world is not black and white. There's a lot of variability that, that, that God allowed, but, but also that we have to be able to, to, to navigate through, make the best decision we can and move forward.

But it does sometimes devolve into some very unprofessional and immoral conflict that isn't allowed to linger. ISKRA Well, and, and at a very, again, at a basic level, the, just the structures of how communication occurs, you know, I've said at times, if you were to think about, let's go create a new business model. I know, let's build this thing called a school and we're going to work with little children who are constantly changing and get hormonal.

And we're going to work with the customers called the parents, but we're never really with the parents. We just have the children become the ambassadors over this 13 year journey. I mean, what could go wrong? You're dealing with people's money and their children and their faith.

And so in their time, it'd be like being married, but never, you have like some little child that has to inter intercede between the two of you. And so it's just, no matter what, we've got to get that fixed, which means when something suspicious or concerning happens to your point, you know, do we just start ranting? Do we fire off an email or do we actually make an effort? And this is, I think the heart of the problem because everybody's so busy or claiming to always be so busy as like to make the effort to untangle these things, it's going to take some time to really work through the grays and the fuzziness at times. And that's hard, but it's necessary or else we just get sideways really fast and cancel or do whatever.

Yeah. That's right. And that's, I mean, that's not unique to schools.

That's true in any organization, right? It's just in the schools, like you're saying, schools are quite different in the sense that it's the emotional ecosystem that makes up a school. And that, that changes pretty much everything. Well, and again, as classical and or as classical Christian, but it's any, any Christian educational endeavor biblically is operating in an understanding that the parent is the primary discipline provider authority.

I mean, that's God set up the parent to be in that role. So it's, again, it's just, it's weird. Like, wait, who would set the structure up where you're, we're basically as a school and loco parentis working under the authority of the parent.

But so even these who's really in charge, well, you know, we're working at it as a team, but it takes a lot of effort that we don't step on each other. The teamwork requires trust. Yes.

And that's really the, that's where everything rises or falls is our ability to generate an emphasis to sustain a high level of trust together. And most schools rise or fall based on that. That's right.

And it can change really fast. So let's take another quick break. I want to come back.

You talked about feedback loops. I want to hear some thoughts on some best practices of how we can help guide ourselves and our schools and our children through the ever-changing world around us. We'll be right back.

Continue the conversation. This episode of Base Camp Live is sponsored by the Graduate Leadership Program at Gordon College, one of the nation's top Christian liberal arts colleges. Their program equips rising leaders in the classical Christian movement with the knowledge, skills, and relational wisdom to lead thriving schools.

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So guys, we think about the practices that we could keep in mind each day as a parent in a world that is always changing and it's not a steady state. What are some other just best practices? You talk about feedback loops. Help us understand what that, what those are all about.

Yeah, I mean, you're looking for ways of validating, right? Because we have to go with the assumption that we don't know. We don't have it correct, right? And then because there's a saying about assumptions. It doesn't go very well, right? I mean, there's things that get us in trouble, right? And that's something that we have to be very aware of.

And if you use, you can use social media for feedback loops. You can use other, but that's dangerous because there's sometimes not shared values and shared principles and sort of practices as well. So we do encourage parents to be very intentional about, hey, finding those feedback loops that are, that give you that motivation to keep your spirits up, right? Because it's

easy to get discouraged.

Of course it is. It's easy to get worn down. There's a line that Marty said one time, right? That fatigue makes cowards of us all.

And we get tired and we just came off of a, of a break and everybody's been at home. And now we're going back and we've all shared all these germs together. We've gotten sick over sometimes over the holiday and now we're going back and we're trying to get back in the rhythm of everything.

And now, and then the spring sports start starting, you know, get going. And then it's just this, this rapid, you know, sprint in the United States here to the, to the end of the school year. And so there's a lot of opportunities for, for conflict and for battles.

So it is important to, to have those, to have those, that feedback loop that gives you a motivation because it keeps your perspective, right? And that's the, that's the secret sauce Davies that I think is important for both educators and parents is it's all about perspective. Don't, don't forget who you are. Don't forget that that child is a temporary gift, right? When you, when you reflect back and remember, you know, you've been through this, you've seen your children go through all the stages and you look back and go, what happened? I mean, it's like, it's over.

Right. And, and when they're gone, they're gone. I mean, it's, it's a different deal.

By the way, parenting is harder when they're 30 and 40 than when they're 15, just so you know. It's even the hardest, trust me, it's even harder later on. But those feedback loops for self-reflection, for adaptation, as well as, you know, looking at, you know, how do I learn? How do I keep, stay fresh and know what's going on? Those are, those are some of the things we kind of stress as a part of this.

Just a couple of suggestions. One is find some folks who can be coaches and mentors. You know, that's, that's very scriptural, right? Where, you know, sometimes the older women, more experienced women, you know, counseling and providing feedback to younger women is important and men as well.

And having those feedback loops that we can kind of learn from each other. Sometimes we don't have extended family nearby, as you said earlier. And so finding other resources in your church or other places that can give you wisdom, can give you real feedback and then having the humility to listen to it.

I mean, I'm always be what we want, right? But to hear that feedback and then make adjustments. So that's one, coaches and mentors. Two is the peer feedback.

Choose your friends wisely. It's just like with your kids, you become like who you hang around with. That's an inevitable part of our wiring for whatever reason, that's the way God made us.

And so you pick up the attitude, the habits, the mindset of those people that you spend time with. So choose your friends wisely. Find some people, listen, pay them to be your friend if you have to, whatever you have to do, right? Spend time with those people.

It cannot be overemphasized of how important that is. And then continue to develop your self-intelligence. This is one of the things we found.

That's the number one characteristic of high-performing educators as well as the most effective parents is they have a high degree of self-awareness. They know who they are, but they don't just know by through their own sort of guessing, right? They actually use different mechanisms for feedback. They maybe use some types of evaluation, feedback loops, that kind of thing.

But they really are developing a current understanding of who they are, of how they operate, how they think. And then as they're growing, they're conscious of how they naturally think about things or how they make decisions or how they take action. And they don't try to kind of trump other people.

They don't try to trump their kids. When you say trump, I mean, they don't try to overwhelm them or kind of play that card that kind of wins everything, right? Instead, they're willing to encourage and build relationships with and understanding those dynamics that are at play. And listen, every parent has to know your prayer life makes a difference.

Your prayer life makes a massive difference. And so there was a spirit one time where Jesus said to the disciples, this one only comes out through prayer, right? And sometimes the challenges that you're running up against as a parent, sometimes you got to say, Hey, I know you think you got this figured out. This one, this one only comes out through prayer.

ISKRA Well, and there's so many, what a great summary of just this best practices you were telling, kind of walking us through that, Scott. I was thinking about years ago when I was at Heritage in Atlanta, and I mentioned earlier, fifth grade girls. I just, maybe I just kept finding that to be a hotspot.

But I just remember we had a situation where there was a lot of the sweet little girls in third grade became other little girls in fifth grade. And so, but the way that was resolved is so beautiful because the parents in particular, the moms were getting together because they were in community, which again, is one of the great joys of our schools is that there is an opportunity for parent to parent deep community and engagement. And they got together and they just started cross communicating to make sure it wasn't just the plan off families one to the next.

And then they prayed together to your point. And it really was amazing within just a few weeks, so much of that just settled down and the girls kind of got realigned and it was beautiful, but it only happened because the parents were willing to take the time to spend sorting out the issues, not blaming, having humility, praying about it. But it can be done, but you're right.

It takes some intentionality. So, yeah, 100%. Well, Scott, thanks so much again for this

conversation and for your time.

For folks who want to know more about you and just the great work you do, how can they find out more about you? Well, they're looking, you know, we do a lot of ministry to educators through schoolgrowth.com. That's where we provide a lot of training and guidance for administrators and other educators and trying to figure out how to take that journey to authentic, sustainable excellence, right? It's one thing to talk about excellence. It's another thing to deliver on it on a day in and day out basis. And so we kind of provide, again, some of the feedback loops, some guidance and some prodding to say, come on, let's go, right? So we try to really help them provide the best conditions to love and lead educators.

And then through Educators Fellowship, edfellowship.org, we are really ministering to educators around the world. And so if someone there has a heart to see educators grow in both their calling to this work as well as in their faith, that's what we do. And so we just provide a variety of different tools.

We have conversations and content for educators in all fields. I mean, across the board, private, public, charter, international, wherever we don't, we don't care if they're involved in education, that we want to be a part of their journey and just to be there just to encourage them. And of course, you know, challenge them in some of their spiritual development as well.

And so that's our ministry through Educators Fellowship. And we'd love to have folks that want to be a part of that journey with us, either, you know, if they want to just subscribe to our content on our Monday encouragement for educators, or even be a part of supporting some of the things we have planned for 2526 and elevating some of that ministry, that would be fantastic. I'm so glad you're doing that.

What an important role you're playing is just coaching, guiding, and supporting these critical work that happens every day all around the world in Christian education. Scott, thanks so much. Always good to have you on and look forward to continuing conversations with you.

Thanks so much. My pleasure. Thanks for all you do Davies.

One of the most frequent questions I hear from parents as I travel around the country is at what age should I give my child a phone? I get the question. It's very practical and very important to be able to communicate with our children. And I think sometimes we think of it as an all or none.

I won't give them any phone or I'll give them a fully functioning internet ready smartphone. You know, there's a great solution that I'm a big fan of. It's the light phone, L-I-G-H-T, light phone.

It's built by folks that want to help us find some sanity and the need for communication, which is very practical. The phone is very basic. It allows you to make phone calls, to do two-way texting.

It does allow podcast and allow some map features, but really other than that, what else do you need for communication? So it's a perfect tool for adults and children alike who just want to simplify and not have all the temptations of the full internet. Check out the light phone on our partners page, and I know that it will be a blessing to your family as it has been to mine. Well, you've done it.

You've made it through another episode of Base Camp Live, and I sincerely hope that you've been encouraged along the way. Thank you for being such a faithful listener. And thanks again to America's Christian Credit Union, Classic Learning Test, Gutenberg College, and Wilson Hill Academy for sponsoring this episode of Base Camp Live.

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Take a moment, invite other parents and school leaders, anyone involved in raising the next generation to listen to the podcast, and we will see you back here next week with another episode that you will not want to miss. Thanks again for listening.