



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

BREAKING THE ICE

What are the characteristics of a good friend?

Do you currently have friends that model those characteristics?

Do you think you have those characteristics of a good friend? Why or why not?



MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin talked about devotion; Christ's devotion to us, the Apostles' devotion to Jesus and our personal devotion.

1. Who is the most devoted person you know? Explain what makes them so devoted.

As Pastor Kevin said in his message this week, **“God is devoted to you first and at your worst.”** That means, no matter what we've done, He still loves us and is devoted to us.

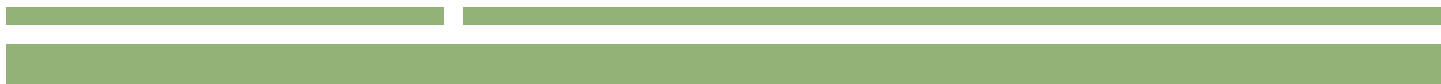
Read Romans 5:8

2. Where have you felt God's devotion to you in your life? If you haven't, is there something that keeps you from feeling that way? Explain.

In 1 John 4:19 it says, “We love because He first loved us.” God loves us first before we do anything right or wrong, He loves us. When we receive His love, it allows us to love others as He loves us.

The movement of Christ's love starts in His people. We see this demonstrated in Acts.

Read Acts 2:42-47





GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

In Acts, Luke uses the word “devoted” to describe what was going on in His church. The same principals and expressions the Apostles were devoted to are the things we, as a church, want to devote ourselves to.

When the Holy Spirit guides us, we can practice these devotions: the Apostles teaching (the commands of Jesus), fellowship with other believers and the breaking of bread (with those who need community) and prayer.

3. How do you practice the Apostles teaching (commands of Jesus)?

4. Where and how do you need to practice more of the commands of Jesus?

We trust what Jesus commands us to do; we hear it, but it’s up to us to follow through with what He asks us to do. One way we can continue to follow the commands of Jesus is through fellowship with other believers, people that we can invite to keep us accountable.

5. How does your fellowship with others help you follow the commands of Jesus?

God wants us to have koinonia. Koinonia is a love that is Christ-centered, unselfish, giving and serving. It brings about deep relationships that are life-giving. This kind of fellowship is a gift you can give to other people and that you can also receive.

6. How do you share koinonia love with others you know?

God wants us to have fellowship with others that we know, but He also asks us to have this type of fellowship with those that need community and love from us as Christ-followers. He calls us to open our hearts and homes to break bread with those who need to know Jesus and need to know how much love He has for us. When we give this fellowship to others, not only do we see others grow but we grow as well.

7. How can you show koinonia love for others and devote yourself to others who are not like you?

The last expression God calls us to do is prayer. He calls us to pray to Jesus and to pray with one another. Prayer is a conversation with God, and the good thing is, prayer doesn’t have to be perfect; it’s as simple as just talking to God as if you were talking to a friend.





GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

The disciples learned how to pray by being with Jesus. When we surround ourselves with others and pray with them, we learn more about prayer and can share how God works through our prayers.

The disciples were devoted to prayer. They prayed about leaders, about where they should go or how people could come to know Jesus and they prayed for the Holy Spirit to move. As we devote ourselves to Jesus and follow Him, our conversations with God and prayers with others inspire a movement to “be the church” and love like Him.

8. How would you describe your prayer life?

9. What are some prayers you can pray to encourage a movement of God in your community and Middle Tennessee?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for your devotion to us and that You loved us before we did anything to deserve your love. Will you help us be the church? Holy Spirit, will You show us how to continue a life where we obey your commands, fellowship with others, break bread with those that need community and live a life of prayer? In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

Over the next week, take some time to look at your devotion to 1). Christ’s teaching, 2). fellowship with others, 3). your commitment to reaching out and breaking bread with those who need community and 4). your prayer life. Ask God to show you which one of these you should work on and make a plan to start or deepen these expressions in your life. Text a group member your plan and ask them to keep you accountable to the plan.

