



BREAKING THE ICE

At the beginning of 2019, as a church, we each picked a word for the year. If you were with us then, what was your word? What did you learn about yourself, or God, related to that word in 2019?

Are you the type to make New Year's resolutions? If so, what are your resolutions (or goals) for this year?

MAIN CONTENT

We are starting the new year with a new series called, "Made." The Made series will help us want to become who we are made to be and to do what we are made to do.

1. Did you make and/or keep your New Year resolutions from last year? How did you see life change happen with those resolutions?

After the busyness of the holidays, we may feel tangled and knotted. We can be "knotted up" not just from the busyness of the year, but the things going on in our lives. If we were to take count of what's going on in our hearts and minds, we could potentially see knotted up feelings and emotions.

2. Are there things in your life that have you feeling tangled? Can you give those things to God?

Pastor Kevin shared that the one thing that keeps us knotted up and tangled in our lives, can be the one thing that keeps us from God. We often pretend that these things will fill us up and make us feel whole, but they don't. We are Made by God, Made For God, Made to Need God, Made to Run to God. We are made to be in relationship with God in order to be filled by Him and not things of this world.

3. How many times do you go to something else, when you should be looking for God?

4. What do you go to to help escape your feelings and numb out the things in your life that cause you to stress?

MAIN CONTENT

Anything we run to in order to escape our feelings can keep us from God, who wants to spend time with us. God did not send Jesus to Earth for more than those things; He did not come for your habits, He came for your heart. He wants us to be awakened to Him and be fully alive in Him.

In order to be fully alive in Him, we have nothing to prove, nothing to hide and nothing to lose.

We are fully alive when we have nothing to prove. We are fully loved and accepted by God; His approval is the only approval we need.

5. Do you ever feel like you have something to prove to others? If so, does this keep you from being the real “you” you were created to be? How can you live free from the approval of others?

We are fully alive when we have nothing to hide from God. We have nothing to hide from God because He already knows everything and wants to set us free from it. When we are walking with God, we are given a boldness straight from Him.

6. Are there things in your life you are currently hiding from others? Are you comfortable with sharing those things and asking your group to help pray for you to release those things to God?

We are fully alive when we have nothing to lose. We have nothing to fear if we have Christ in us. When we are fully alive in Christ, we can be who God has made us to be.

Read Isaiah 30:15-18

Re-read verse 18, “The Lord longs to be gracious to you. He will rise up and show you compassion.”

7. Have you experienced God’s grace and compassion in your life? Share with your group how you’ve seen that grace and compassion impact your life.

We are made free and feel God’s grace and compassion when we come home to Jesus and have communion with Him.

When we come home to Jesus, we have the opportunity to repent to Him. The word, “repent,” has been made to seem like a word that should bring shame but that’s not true. However, repentance does come in a few steps.

MAIN CONTENT

The first step requires us to get honest with God about what is causing us hurt and grieve the decisions and people that have caused hurt in our lives.

The second step is to confess those things to God. God already knows what they are but, He wants you to come to Him with those things.

The third thing is to confess to others, this allows you to have freedom from the things that have kept you feeling knotted.

The last step is to let go of the things that keep you from who God made you to be.

8. What keeps you from repenting? Is there something that is keeping you from letting go of the things that keep you from being the person God made you to be? Do you feel like you can repent of those things and tell your group about it?

God's kindness leads us to repentance. In that repentance, we can be whom He has made us to be.

PRAYER

God, thank you for loving us and creating us to live fully alive in you. In your grace and kindness, show us where we need to repent in order to be the person you made us to be. Surround us with people with whom we feel comfortable, that can help us grow closer to you and let go of the things that keep us from you. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

This week, walk out the steps of repentance in order to be the person whom God made you to be.

Steps of Repentance

1. Get Honest with God about the things that keep you from Him.
2. Confess those things to God.
3. Confess those things to others.
4. Let go of those things.

At 7 PM on Monday, January 6, there will be a night of prayer at all of our campuses. If you would like to start the process of releasing things to God and want prayer for release, please join us for a night of prayer.