



BREAKING THE ICE

What vacations do or did you have planned for this summer?

Who is the most influential person in your life? What makes their influence so strong in your life?

MAIN CONTENT

It's been a heavy week with news and social media regarding racism in America. As Pastor Kevin mentioned in his message on Sunday, we want to educate ourselves to help our hearts and homes be in line with what God says about loving Him and others. If you want to join us in this learning journey, go to: crosspoint.tv/educate.

This week Pastor Kevin started a new series called, "Take It or Leave It".

1. If you could take anything with you from the last 3 months what would you take?
2. If you could leave anything from the last 3 months what would you leave?

Our lives are based on the choices we make. We choose who we hang out with, what we do, who to love and who to follow. One thing we can choose is to take hope with us.

3. What is one thing in your life that gives you hope?

Hope is defined as future-oriented faith. The circumstances may be less desirable right now but hope tells us good things are coming because we have a good God. Hope is the windshield of life. Hope allows us to look forward instead of becoming stuck in our past.

We live in a broken world filled with hurt and pain. This hurt and pain can cause our hope to be deferred because the things we are dreaming of and looking forward to don't happen like we thought they would.

MAIN CONTENT

4. Where have you experienced hope deferred in your life?

God wants us to put our hope in Him. (Psalm 33:22)

There are three types of hope: casual, precious and ultimate. Casual hope is daily hope. Things like, “I hope I can get some exercise today outside.” or “I hope to grab coffee with a friend.” Precious hope is more serious and more care is wrapped up in it. Things like, “I hope my mom doesn’t get sick.” or “I hope my kids make the right friends at school.” Ultimate hope revolves around more life and death scenarios. Things like, “I hope my sins will be forgiven.” or “I hope for peace with God.”

When hope is deferred with a causal hope, we are disappointed for a few days. When precious hope is deferred, we can carry the disappointment for weeks, months or even years. Ultimate hope should never be deferred.

5. Which deferred hope have you experienced? How did you move forward from that disappointment?

It’s easy for us to take our casual hopes and make them a precious hope. And when we move our precious hope to an ultimate hope, we are living a life too dependent on things other than God. Jesus is our ultimate hope because He is the only thing that will not fail us.

6. Where have you allowed a casual hope to turn into a precious hope?

When things are difficult, our hopes can move and cause us to feel sorrow. And that’s OK. God can handle our sorrow. He encourages us to bring Him our sorrow.

God sees the broken world we live in, He sees the suffering. It breaks His heart. Jesus suffered while He was here on earth so He understands and can empathize with our pain. He wants us to bring our sorrow and suffering to Him, because He cares so deeply.

When our hope is deferred and we feel desperate and hopeless, we can let Him know. Jesus can handle our deferred hope.

7. Where has Jesus given you hope in a desperate, hopeless situation?

When you do feel hope deferred, name it. Talk about it. Ask which category does that hope fall into (casual, precious or ultimate). Talk to a trusted friend or family member about the hope deferred.

Listen, love and care for one another through the deferred hope. Provide a safe place for your friends and

family to just be. You don't have to have all the answers, but pray and ask God to be with you and to give you the hope you need to keep going.

8. Which situations are you facing in which you need hope right now?

PRAYER

God, thank you that you sent Jesus to be the hope we need in this world. Where our hopes have been deferred will you help us find the hope we need to keep going. Will you surround us with people who create a safe place to speak hope into our lives and allow vulnerability to share our hopes. In your name, amen.

ACTION STEP

This week take some time to write down your hopes. Categorize them between casual, precious and ultimate. Ask God to show you if any hopes are mis-categorized and ask Him to help you align your hopes with His plans for you.