



BREAKING THE ICE

What's your favorite meal of the day and why?

Would you rather go down Niagra Falls in a barrel or go across Niagra Falls on a tight rope? Why?

MAIN CONTENT

This week we are continuing to discuss what we want to take with us and what we want to leave from the last few months. Pastor Kevin started the series encouraging us to take hope with us, and Annie F. Downs shared last week about leaving judgment so we can take grace with us.

1. Where have you experienced hope in your life in the last few weeks?
2. How have you received God's grace or given God's grace to others in the last week?

This week Pastor Kevin talked about taking trust with us. That we can trust God with all things.

3. What is the easiest thing to trust God with in your life? What is the hardest thing to trust God with in your life?

It can be easy to trust God with eternity and harder to trust God with your daily life. Because we live in a broken, fallen world, it's hard to place our trust in anyone. We can carry that distrust into our spiritual life and tend to do everything on our own and not trust God to help us. But God wants us to trust Him in the big things and the small things.

This week's message revolves around the scripture verses of "The Sermon on the Mount." We're going to start in Matthew 7.

Read Matthew 7:24-29.

MAIN CONTENT

This story is about two people who put their in two different kinds of foundations. We can learn a few truths about what it means to trust God from this scripture. The first truth in this story is **Every Person Builds a Life**. You've heard the saying, "Our lives are the sum of the decisions we make." Our decisions affect how our character is built.

4. What kind of life are you building? How are you building the life you want?

The second truth from this story is **Every Person Faces Storms**. God never promised us a storm-free life. When you look in scripture you see that even those who walked closely with God faced storms. But God is always with us in the storms. The third truth is **Storms Test our Foundation**. When we are going through a storm or trial it reveals where we put our trust: our bank account, our family, our job, our self-dependence.

5. Where do you run for help when a storm comes?

The good news is Jesus gives us words to help put our trust in Him. When we put His words into practice we trust what He says and build our life on Him.

When we follow Jesus, His words become the dominant voice in our life. There are a lot of voices we can learn from, but Jesus' voice and words are the most important things we should listen to in our lives.

Read Matthew 5:3-11.

This scripture begins the Sermon on the Mount which contains many truths Jesus gave us to live by.

This specific section of scripture is called the Beatitudes. When we take this scripture and apply it to the last few months, we can learn so much about taking grace and truth from these verses into our daily lives.

6. Which "blessed" verse do you need to apply to your life from this section of scripture and why?

Read Matthew 6:25-34.

When we think about trusting Jesus with everything, it can be overwhelming. Jesus tells us not to worry but to seek Him, His kingdom and His righteousness and He will take care of us.

7. Have you found yourself with a lot of worry these last few months? How have you worked through that worry and put your trust in Jesus?

8. How can you actively seek God's kingdom in your life and trust Him with everything?

When we trust in Jesus and build our life on His teachings, He will give us what we need, when we need it. It may not always be easy, there may be storms and trials that come up but He will not leave us in the midst of them.

The more we listen to His voice and make it the dominant voice in our lives, the more peace, grace, mercy and trust we will have.

PRAYER

God, we are thankful you sent your Son to give us words of comfort and words to live by. Will you silence the other voices that have been louder than yours? Will you help us make your voice the dominant voice in our lives? Help us draw closer to you and trust you with everything. Amen.

ACTION STEP

1. Read Matthew 5-7 (The Sermon on the Mount) this week.
2. Think about these themes as you read, meditate, journal and pray about how God would use them in your life:
 - + How can I be salt and light?
 - + How can I love my enemies?
 - + How are giving, prayer and fasting a part of my life?
 - + What things do I continually worry about that I need to give to God and trust Him with?
3. This week, follow along on Instagram where we will be reading The Sermon on the Mount together. There will be times of reflection and questions to help us dig into this teaching and apply it to our lives.