



BREAKING THE ICE

What was your first job? What did you like most about it?

What is the best news you've heard this week?

MAIN CONTENT

This week we are continuing our conversation on what the world needs now. Last week we talked about how the world needs love. Pastor Kevin gave us four things that love requires of us: slow your roll, give your full attention to others, not holding short accounts, and serving others.

1. Where were you able to slow down this week and give your full attention to others?
2. Did God reveal to you any place where you were holding offenses against others? If so, what happened in that situation?

Our scripture for this series is Galatians 5:13-26. This week, Annie F. Downs taught us about why we need good news (goodness).

3. Describe what goodness is to you.

Goodness is defined as, "the quality of being morally good or virtuous."

When God made the world, He saw that it was good. He was completely satisfied. Annie mentioned that when we do good, we are putting things in creation order - the order they are meant to be.

The question we can ask ourselves is, "What does goodness require of us?"

Read Romans 12:9-21 (the Message version)

MAIN CONTENT

We are called to overcome evil with good. When we ask God to help us to do good and restore things to the way they should be, we overcome evil.

4. Where has God helped you restore goodness in your life?

Annie told us there are four people we should be good to: those we love, ourselves, strangers and enemies.

5. What are some ways you are good to those you love?

When we show up for those we love, we are being good to them. Take time to listen to them. Be present, laugh and cry with them. Share in their lives and their emotions and most importantly be present when you are with them.

6. How can you be good to yourself?

Pastor Kevin talked about our body, soul and spirit last week and this week, Annie reminded us that those three parts of who we are as people, need goodness as well. We need to take care of all three of those things. We are good to ourselves when we are taking care of ourselves completely - body, soul and spirit.

7. What are some ways you are good to strangers?

At Cross Point, we call our serving outreaches “local good” and “global good” for a reason. When we serve strangers, with no strings attached, we are showing them the goodness of God because He is good.

8. How can you be good to your enemies?

The word “enemy” is a tricky word. When we think of enemies, we typically think of someone that we are actively hostile toward. You may not have someone in your life like that - you may think you have any enemies, BUT there are definitely people you don't agree with and you may even say bad things about. We are called to love our enemies (Luke 6:27-28).

PRAYER

God, you are so good to us. Will you help us show goodness to others? Will you help us show goodness to ourselves? Reveal to us where we can love strangers and serve them well. When our enemies frustrate us, let our first response be to act out of love instead of anger. Thank you for loving us and showing us your goodness, Amen

ACTION STEPS

This week make a plan to show goodness to the four people Annie mentioned: those you love, yourself, strangers and your enemies. Come back next week and give specific examples of how you shared God's goodness with them.