



BREAKING THE ICE

What is your routine when it comes to solving problems?

Who is your go-to helper when you are trying to solve a problem?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin talked about how to live a life of faith. The message started with a story of a family and a little girl who said, “God is bigger than that.” When we know in our hearts that God is bigger than any problem we have, we are practicing faith.

Faith is hoping and trusting; it is believing that God exists and rewards those who diligently seek Him.

1. How much faith do you have right now in your life? In relationships?

There are two signs (miracles) that teach us how to strengthen our faith.

Read John 6:1-14

What we know from this scripture is that it was close to the time of Passover. During Passover, Jews would take time to remember the deliverance from Pharaoh. The Jewish religion still celebrates and remembers Passover every year.

The first thing we can learn on how to live a life of faith is to **remember well**.

2. How do you “remember well” when it comes to the things God has done in your life?

As the people were remembering Passover, they all gathered on a hillside to see Jesus. Jesus and his disciples wanted to feed the people, but they had very little food. When Jesus brought up feeding the people to his disciples, they were concerned with the cost and unsure of how they would get enough food. But Jesus knew He could feed them. The second thing we can learn on how to live a life of faith is to **trust Him with what we have**.

When Peter brought the boy's fish and bread to Jesus, it was all they had. But Jesus multiplied it in order to feed the people. When we trust Him with what we have, He can multiply it and He does more with it than we can ever think or imagine.

3. When it comes to your life and what you have, what do you trust Jesus with? What do you have a hard time trusting Jesus with?

The feeding of the 5,000 was the first sign in John Chapter 6. As we continue reading, we see a second sign (miracle) emerge.

As the crowd grew, Jesus knew He needed to step away from them. They wanted food from Him, but He wanted to offer so much more. We see the third sign of living a life of faith here, as Jesus chose to **withdraw from the crowd**. Jesus knew in order to keep His eyes on the Father, He needed to withdraw.

The same can be said for us. We often search for our identity in how people look up to us and how others view our performance. But our identity should be first in how God sees us.

4. What crowd do you need to withdraw from in order to find your identity in Christ?

The second sign (miracle) starts in John 6:16-21.

In this second sign, we see the disciples are scared, in the middle of a storm on a boat. Then they see a man walking toward them on the water. But it's Jesus and He tells them not to be afraid. This miracle of Jesus walking on water was special. It was just for the disciples. Most miracles were for those that didn't follow Jesus, but this one was for the close followers of Jesus. We can live a life of faith when we **receive Jesus in the boat**. We receive Him in the middle of the problem we are facing.

5. Talk about a time where you felt Jesus show up in the middle of a problem you were facing. How did that boost your faith?

When we are in the middle of a crisis and we need help, we can ask Jesus to come into the boat with us. We go to Him first in prayer, spend time talking to Him, repent of trying to do it on our own and ask Him to help us. We draw near to Him.

6. Is your first response to a problem to pray, or to do something else?

If you want to build a strong faith, you need to have consistent rhythms of just you and God. This means you will have to withdraw from the crowd. You will need to take time to listen to what HE says about you, instead of listening to what others say. Time with Him helps break the people-pleasing habit that consumes us.

7. When is the last time you heard God speak over you? What did He say?

God wants us to communicate with Him. He longs to hear from us. The more we have relationship with Him, the more we trust Him with everything. The more we trust Him with our finances, relationships, jobs and family, the more we see Him working in our lives. And when He does something in our lives, we need to write it down. We need to record it so we can look back at it later and remember His faithfulness.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, we are grateful for how You continually show us more about You. You are faithful and true. Will You help us remember Your faithfulness in our lives. In the areas where we need to trust You, will You reveal that to us and help us receive You in the midst of it. When we need to hear Your voice and withdraw from the crowd, will You nudge us to do just that. You are so faithful, God. We are thankful for Your faithfulness.

ACTION STEP

On Sunday, we took communion as a church. If you would like to take communion with your group, check out [this resource](#) for some tips.

This week, start living a life of faith. Practice the following things:

- + Remember well - Look at old journals or write about God's faithfulness in your life.
- + Trust Him with what you have - What do you need to give to Him this week?
- + Withdraw from the crowd - Take time with Jesus this week. It can be five minutes a day or more, but be intentional about your time with Him.
- + Receive Jesus in the boat - Allow Him to come to you in the mess. You don't need to have it all together for Him to draw near to you. He wants you just as you are.