



## BREAKING THE ICE

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If you had only one week to live, what would you do?

What have previous Easter Sundays looked like for you? Is there a certain Easter tradition you have carried on throughout your life?

## MAIN CONTENT

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This week, Pastor Kevin talked about the last week of Jesus' life. To start the message, Pastor Kevin had 3 questions: (1) Who am I? (2) Why am I here? (3) What happens after I die?

Over the past year, we have had a lot of time to think about these questions, but many of us have kept busy enough to avoid thinking about them.

1. Have you found yourself asking the 3 questions above: Who am I? Why am I here? What happens after I die? What answers did you come up with to these questions?

The way we answer those questions gives perspective into our lives. We can answer those questions in one of two ways: with God or without God. With God, we know who He has created us to be. We are on Earth to show love and His glory to others and we know we will live with Him in eternity when we die. If we answer those questions without God, our answers will look much different.

Sometimes when our lives get hard, we play the "remember when" game. Remember when things were easier and life seemed simple? If only we could have stopped time and lived in that stage of life forever.

2. Do you ever play the "remember when" game? What would you miss out on if your life was always like the "remember when" stage you reminisce about? What can you learn from that?

It's fine to look back at times and have fond memories of them. But it's not helpful to think our lives should always be that perfect. It's through the hard times we learn about perseverance, trust, hope and gain strength.

There is truth in knowing that while we are part of this world, we will always have hard times and death is

inevitable. But it is also true that we have eternity in Heaven with our Maker to look forward to.

Our scripture this week comes from John 11. John 11:25 says, “Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die.”

3. What emotions do you have about death?

Knowing that if we believe and put our trust in Jesus we have eternal life should give us hope and no fear for our future.

Read John 11

When we read John 11, we read about the story of Lazarus and how Jesus called Lazarus to rise from the dead. Lazarus had been dead for days. Jesus had received word about Lazarus’ death. He cried and mourned his friend’s death. He mourned with Mary and Martha, Lazarus’ sisters. He showed His humanity and emotions as He wept with them.

When they questioned Jesus and told Him, “if only you had come days earlier,” Jesus did not chastise them. He sat with them in their emotions.

4. Do you have “if only” thoughts? What do you do with those thoughts?

Mary’s statement, “Lord, if only You would have been here, my brother would not have died,” shows she trusted Jesus enough to bring all of her thoughts and emotions to Him. Jesus wants us to trust Him with all of our thoughts and feelings. He can take them.

Jesus saw their suffering, He suffered with them and He knew what would happen next. He was angry, He was mad at death and that His friend was no longer with Him.

5. Does knowing that Jesus had emotions like anger and sadness make Him more relatable to you? How does it change the way you think about Him?

John 11:38-44

38 Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. 39 “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.” 40 Then Jesus said, “Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?” 41 So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, “Father, I thank you that you have heard me. 42 I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people

standing here, that they may believe that you sent me.” 43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, “Lazarus, come out!” 44 The dead man came out...

Jesus knew the power of His Father. He knew what God could do and wanted to give Him glory so others would believe.

Even though Lazarus' body died, his soul kept going. Our souls matter to God. When we entrust our lives to Him, we get to spend eternity in Heaven with Him.

Lazarus was a man after God, He believed in Jesus and knew who God created him to be.

6. Who do you say you are? How has it changed over the years and throughout the things you have endured in your life?

You are a child of God. Made in the image of God. Your life matters to God. Every breath. Every day. You mattered to God even before you were born. (Psalm 139:13-16).

7. How has your knowledge of how much God cares for you changed over your life?

God's care for you is never-ending. You can't outrun His love. You can't do anything to be unloved by Him. He will always love you.

When we have relationship with Him, when we walk with Him and when we do what He asks, we give Him glory. He wants us to be in relationship with Him and to help others know about His love and care for them, all for His glory. And when our physical bodies are done in this life, we will see Him in Heaven.

8. Does knowing you are made in God's image for His glory, and that we have the opportunity to live in Heaven with Him, change your answers to the 3 questions: Who am I, Why am I here, and What happens when I die? Why or why not?

## CLOSING PRAYER

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God, thank You for Your Son. Thank You that You love us so much that You sent Jesus to die for us, that You choose to love us and forgive us despite the mistakes we have made. Will You help guide us to make choices in our lives that glorify You, that honor You. Will You help us live a life that represents You. Help us have a heavenly mindset and remember Earth is temporary, but Heaven is eternal with You. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## ACTION STEP

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+ Pray and ask God who He would have you invite to Easter, then invite them to join you in person or online.

+ If you haven't taken time to ask the questions: Who am I, Why am I here and What happens when I die, ask yourself those questions. Ask God to show you what He says about you. Research scripture about God's love and care for you. Read it, write it down, memorize it so you can carry it with you to know who God says you are.

+ In preparation for Easter Sunday, spend time meditating and reading about what Jesus did for us. Follow along in the Lent reading plan at [www.crosspoint.tv/lent](http://www.crosspoint.tv/lent) for more information.