



BREAKING THE ICE

How does your family celebrate Easter?

What does Easter mean to you?

MAIN CONTENT

This past Easter Sunday, Pastor Kevin talked about the gift of uncertainty. Our lives are never certain; we face uncertainty every day. We never know what the next day will hold. Uncertainty is like a fog: you can't see through it clearly, but you have to get through it to reach your destination.

1. Have you ever felt like you were living in a fog?

The first Easter was very uncertain, almost foggy. The disciples were dealing with their friend, mentor and leader, Jesus, dying. Even though Jesus had predicted His death, the disciples were still feeling a loss without Him.

But just like we are never certain of things in our lives, neither were the disciples certain of what was going to happen next. They were living in history and uncertainty at the same time.

2. How can you compare the uncertainty and history the disciples had around the death of Jesus with a time in your life where you felt uncertain?

Even though the disciples had been told 11 times that Jesus would die and come back to life, they were still uncertain (read Matthew 20:17-19). We can forget the stories and truths we already know because we can't see through the fog and mess in front of us. The disciples were so distraught with Jesus dying that they forgot He would be coming back in just a few days.

3. What are some things you have forgotten in the midst of fog and uncertainty? Looking back now, how would these truths have helped you in the midst of the fog and uncertainty you were going through?

Uncertainty can be a gift because uncertainty reveals what really matters in life. It reveals what you are

trusting and believing in. When things are uncertain, we are search for someone or something to give us truth. Something to hold onto. Something that will not change.

4. When you are uncertain about something, what is the first thing you do? Who is the first person you trust with the uncertainty in your life?

Death is the most uncertain thing in our lives. We know we will die but none of us know the exact day or time when it will happen. Jesus overcame the biggest uncertainty in life. When Jesus was resurrected, He validated the work of the cross. Jesus triumphed over sin, death and hell when He died and rose three days later. And the best part was that He did it so we could join Him in Heaven. He gives us the opportunity to confess and repent from our sins, trust in Him and go to Heaven with Him when we die.

5. What do you trust Jesus with? What do you keep from Him and try to do on your own?

In the message this past Sunday, Pastor Kevin talked about three circles. These three circles represent our faith as followers of Jesus.

The first circle represents our world and the brokenness in this world. We live in a broken world filled with uncertainty. So much of our pain makes this world broken and makes it feel uncertain.

In the next circle is what we sense the world should be. It's how God created the world, it's how He loves us and wants relationship with us. But sin keeps us from God.

So God sent His son for us, which is represented by the third circle. God didn't want to leave us broken. He wanted community and relationship with us. So when Jesus was sent to Earth, died and rose again, our relationship with God was restored.

6. How does the story of the resurrection affect your life? Have you ever shared about Jesus' life and resurrection with others?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:1-8

In this scripture, Paul urges us to hold on to the gospel (good news) of Jesus and share it with others. Paul says, it's by this gospel you are saved. There's not another gospel. There's not another way to salvation. If there was, Jesus would have never had to die. It's the only way. Jesus' resurrection validates it.

Paul had friends that witnessed Jesus' death and resurrection. He knew the prophecies that Jesus fulfilled. Paul gave every piece of good news he could to let us know the truth of what Jesus did for each one of us. We just need to have faith and believe it.

We have faith when we get in a car and trust it's going to take us to our destination. We have faith in doctors who tell us what medicine will help us feel better or how we can live a healthier life. Faith in Jesus is the best gift of all: certainty of where we will go when we die.

7. What makes it hard to have faith? What makes it easy?

Our faith in Jesus is the best story we can tell others that don't know Him.

Leaders: take a few minutes to have people share their story of how they became a follower of Jesus.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank You for Your Son that You sent to die for our sins so we can spend eternity with You. Thank You for the uncertainty in our lives that leads us back to You. Help us draw near to You and remember the sacrifice You made for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

+ Take some time to re-read the story of the resurrection this week and focus on what Jesus did for all of us.

(Matthew 28:1-8, 11-15; Mark 16:1-8; Luke 24:1-11; John 20:1-10)

+ Write a list of the uncertain things in your life and follow it with five things you are thankful for.

+ Talk to God about the things you are uncertain about and pray that He helps you with them.