



BREAKING THE ICE

Are you a coffee or tea drinker? Why?

What has God revealed to you about what changes and rhythms you need to change in your life this year?

Who do you know that you would consider to be “built different”?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin started our new series. “Built Different”. We are all built uniquely different. There is no one on this planet built exactly like you.

1. How do you believe God created you unique? What makes you unique?

Read Romans 12:1-2

God created us uniquely, so we can honor Him. When we follow Him, we live our lives as a living sacrifice to Him.

2. How do you honor God with your life and the way you live your life?

If we want to be built different, it starts with how we think. When we renew our mind it transforms our lives. How we think about God, ourselves and our calling helps us have a renewed mind and live to give God honor.

This week Pastor Kevin retold the story about how the Israelites wandered in the desert for years. Once they were finally in the promised land they started to compromise in their lives. These compromises led to complacency and complacency leads to sin.

3. Where have you become complacent in your life?

When we become complacent it affects not only ourselves but the generations behind us. We can get into a cycle: Sin/Idolatry > Suffering > Cryout to God > Salvation > Peace

If we get complacent in peace we can start the cycle all over again.

We can call that the sin cycle or the grace cycle. We are all somewhere in that cycle. Even though it starts with our sin, God's grace is always there to rescue us out of it.

4. Where are you currently in the grace cycle? What is your next step in the cycle to move forward and draw closer to God?

God's grace is sufficient for all of our sins. He hates our sins and the consequences of our sin and He loves us unconditionally.

Read Judges 6:1-16

We can learn a lot from the story of Gideon. Just like Gideon, we can live in a state of fear. Gideon was more aware of the size of his problem than he was of God. But God gave Gideon a message that He was with Him.

5. When things are hard and you are scared, do you think about your problem more, how to solve them or do you pray and ask God for help?

When we are more aware of our problems and not the power of God over our problems; we are not trusting Him.

How we think about God in the midst of everything matters. It shapes who we are. If we want transformed lives we have to think about God first. He is big enough to handle our questions, disappointments and problems. If we don't share our disappointment with Him; our faith can become a pretense.

6. How easy or hard is it to come to God with your disappointments? How have you seen your spiritual life change when you do go to God with disappointments?

It matters how we think about God and it also matters how we think about ourselves. We are not defined by how many followers we have, what we weigh on the scale, our GPA, where we went to college or what anyone thinks about us. We are defined by what God thinks about us. When we sit in solitude with God, He can tell us how He delights in us.

7. How do you think about yourself? What do you think God thinks and says about you?

God created the universe, He can handle you and everything about you. We were created and called you to do things for Him. Use the strength you have to do what He has called you to do and He will do the rest.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for loving us and everything about us. You created us uniquely different and built us different. We repent of where we have let other people's beliefs shape our lives and how we feel about ourselves. We repent of not thinking about you like we should. Help us move from our sin to your salvation and peace. Help us not to be complacent but to be looking to you and what you have called us to do. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- Spend some time in solitude with God this week and write down what you know to be true about Him and what you think about Him.
- In the same time of solitude, ask God to tell you what He thinks about you.
- Journal about your experience and come back next week to talk about it with your group.