



SUMMERFEST

Week 9

BREAKING THE ICE

When did you move to Nashville?

How hard was that move for you?

What do you love about Nashville?

MAIN CONTENT

This week our good friend, author and speaker Annie F. Downs shared with us. She started her message talking about how the places we live and love change and what we can do with those changes.

1. If you have lived in Nashville for a long time, how have Nashville's changes affected you?

Nashville continues to grow and change but growth can be frustrating. But when something is growing we can ask, "What is God up to"?

2. What do you think God is up to in Middle Tennessee?

As Nashville continues to grow and change we need to pray and pay attention to a few things. When our city grows we should pay attention to people in need. The people in need tend to disappear when a city grows. We have to work extra hard to see the people in need around us.

Read Proverbs 19:17

3. How do you see people in need? What do you do when you see people in need? How does that touch your heart?

We also get to pay attention to the city's growth. What Nashville offers is new and exciting and we should pay attention to that. It's possible people were praying for Nashville years ago and this is the answer to their prayer for growth.

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4. Annie said, "The frustration of growth is real, but is God somehow answering your prayers in the midst of the frustration"?

Read Proverbs 11:11 (Message version)

We are a city that is building, creating and exporting things out of our city. We have an opportunity to share the gospel and export it to the world.

The last thing we need to pay attention to is the people moving here. We should be asking people why they are moving here. What does God have for the people who move here? As Middle Tennessee continues to grow, we should keep space for new people in our lives because we want to know why they are here and how we can all be a part of something bigger than what we can imagine.

5. How well do you keep space for new people in your life?

Read Jeremiah 29:4-7 (NLT)

As our city grows we need to pray the following things: growth in fruit and that people would experience God. We have the opportunity to show the love of God to others so they can know Him more deeply. Annie encouraged us to reach out to our new neighbors and showed them kindness and grace.

6. How have you been able to show new people in your life how loving God is?

We say Everyone's Welcome and we should live like Everyone is Welcome. Annie said, "When people fall in love with the people of God, they fall in love with God". The way we welcome people is a step in showing God's love. We also need to pray for protection for our city. We want good to increase and evil to decrease. We should ask God to protect our growth so people can see and know God.

7. How do you live out "Everyone's Welcome" in your life?

The last thing we should pray for is revival. We want to pray people back to life and to know God. We have the opportunity to plant seeds of love and life in others. When we plant these seeds people will come to know Jesus.

Annie finished her message talking about God's kingdom growing from the inside up. We are part of His kingdom and when we work for equality and justice in our city, everyone prospers.

8. How are you praying for our city right now? How can you be a part of revival in the city and help promote equality?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for loving the people of Nashville and our city. We want to love everyone as you love us. Will you show us new things about Nashville we may not see? Will you show us the people who need to feel your love? Will you help us pray for our city, protection, the people moving here and for revival. Help us keep our eyes and hearts focused on what you have for us and this city. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

Get involved with a local good project where you can serve with others this summer. Show the love of Jesus to those who may need a little extra help right now.

Take some time this week and intentionally pray for growth in fruit, protection over our city and revival in Nashville.