



SUMMERFEST

Week 7

BREAKING THE ICE

What is the best concert you ever experienced? What made it the best?

If you could choose one experience to participate in this summer what would it be and why?

MAIN CONTENT

This week in our Summer Fest Series we heard from Pastor Chris Nichols. Pastor Chris talked about what it's like when our heart burns within us.

1. What makes your heart burn within you? (What brings you joy or excitement?)

Read Luke 24:30-32

Pastor Chris led us through a scripture in Luke where the disciples were sitting around a table after just having time with Jesus. They talk about how, while with Jesus, their hearts burned within them. They found joy and excitement just being in His presence.

2. When is the last time you felt your heart burn within you in your relationship with Jesus? What was significant in your life at that time?

Read Luke 24:13-29

As Pastor Chris takes us back through the scripture, the men did not know who they were walking with. One of the men said, "We had hoped that he was the one who was going to redeem Israel."

3. Have you ever prayed, hoped or asked for something that didn't turn out like you wanted? Maybe you are living in that prayer currently. Share about that experience.

At that time, Jesus could have shown the men His scars proving who He was. Instead, He shared the prophecies and scripture that supported who He was. When they realized who they were walking closely with, their hearts burned within them. Something we can learn from these men is: there is something found in walking closely with Jesus that isn't experienced at a distance.

4. How closely are you walking with Jesus right now? What can you do differently to draw closer to Him?

Another thing we can learn from the scripture passage is, It's not just Jesus' teaching, but His character that makes our heart burn within us. Pastor Chris breaks this point down by talking about Jesus at the dinner. He was a guest at the table yet He served everyone. Jesus character was shown every day to every person, His character and words are why people chose to follow Him.

5. What do you love about Jesus' character? What about His character draws you to Him?

6. What can you do in your life to build your character to be more like Jesus?

At the end of the message Pastor Chris wraps up by talking about the men he walked with were only spoken of once in scripture. We also don't know exactly what they were doing and where they were going.

Pastor Chris made this point: You might be surprised how far out of the way Jesus is willing to go to sit at your table.

7. How have you experienced Jesus chasing you to show His love to you? How can you share that experience with someone else who may need the hope He offers?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you God for your word and the stories we can learn from in your word. Where we have drifted from you and not walked closely with you, God, will you reveal it to us? Will you help us draw near to you, show us how to draw close to you as you draw near to us? Will you convict us of the things we do that don't line up with your character? Show us where we need to make adjustments, and how we can be more like you. And if we don't feel you, Lord, will you please reveal yourself to us? Where we may feel lost and forgotten, please show us you are still here and how you love us. Amen.

ACTION STEP

+ What are some things you can do this week to draw closer to God? What makes you feel close to Him? Do those things, this week.

+ Take account of your character. Where does it align with Jesus' values? Where does it not? Where do you need to pray for a character that exemplifies Him? Ask Jesus to make you more like Him. Ask Him to show you and convict you of the places in your heart that don't line up with His character.