



SUMMERFEST

Week 6

BREAKING THE ICE

What's your favorite 4th of July tradition?

How did David Nasser's message impact you, this week?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, we heard from our friend David Nasser. David told his life story, a story about freedom. David started his message talking about how, as a child, he thought God was an angry God—the "God" he saw others worship was mean and didn't like Him.

1. How have you mislabeled God in your life? ie: angry, vengeful etc. What made you mislabel Him in that way?

David explained why he felt that way. He felt that way because someone misrepresented who God really was. David's family had to escape Iran because of the government. David felt like God was hurting them but eventually realized God was helping them.

Read Isaiah 41:10

2. How do you feel this verse applies to your life and experience with God?

David talked about how, when they were desperate to get to America, they prayed to the "American" God, Jesus. It wasn't the best theology, but they saw God move in their family and open a door to let them in America—the free country.

3. How have you seen God move in your life even when you may have had bad theology?

In school, David was bullied and persecuted for being from Iran, for looking different. He quickly figured out how to fake it, how to perform to be accepted, and how to dress the "right way" and act the way people wanted. He just didn't want to be lonely anymore. He became popular, but emotionally bankrupt.

4. Describe a time you felt emotionally and spiritually bankrupt in your life. How did that resolve?

David continues his conversation about how he was invited to church by a friend. At the same time, church members from the same church had been showing Christ's love and serving David's dad, and had even invited his dad to church—the same church! Their kindness was how David came to know the real God, the real Jesus and the real Holy Spirit—not the same one David was shown as a child.

5. Whose kindness has helped you experience the real love of Jesus?

6. David said, "Love is a magnet." How have you experienced love being a magnet in your life?

David talked about how one by one each of his family members came to know Jesus. His family found more than just freedom from Iran. One by one, they discovered that there is freedom in the temporary but, Jesus is the freedom forever.

7. How have you experienced Christ's freedom in your own life? How can you share that freedom with someone else?

CLOSING PRAYER

God thank-you for the freedom you offer us. Not only is it freedom in this world but freedom to call you our own, for us to experience you in new ways. Thank-you for the freedom to show others your kindness and grace. Help us love others and show them the real you. Not the God or Jesus that's been misrepresented in their lives. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

Take some time this week to contemplate the freedom God has given you. What has He given you freedom from? Who and how can you tell others about it?