



TAKE COURAGE

Week 2

BREAKING THE ICE

Who is your favorite artist or band and why?

Who is the most courageous person you know? What makes them courageous?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin was back in our second week of our series; "Take Courage". He started the message talking about the song, "In the Name of Love" by the band U2. Bono and the band wrote the song about Martin Luther King Jr and his courage to stand up for civil rights. Bono's life was threatened due to the nature of the song but he courageously continued to sing the song for a cause that is dear to his heart.

1. What is the most courageous thing you've ever done?

It took courage for U2 to sing the song; their lives were in danger. But the message of everyone being equal was more important. They were passionate and courageous for a cause.

2. What is something that you are courageous for?

We all have something we should be courageous for. Our faith is the most important thing we need to have courage for. It takes courage to address our sin, it takes courage to stand up for what is right despite the consequences, to admit when we need help. As Pastor Kevin reminded us - Courage is contagious.

3. Who's courage have you been positively affected by?

Courage means heart. Courage is contagious but so is discouragement. Discouragement is deadly. When we become discouraged it attacks our heart. Pastor Kevin read a quote, "The opposite of courage is not cowardice, it's conformity. It's blending in." If we live our lives conformed to the world around us we will never live our lives for what God has for us.

4. How have you seen your life be conformed to the world around you? What courage did you take or you need to take in order to step out and live the life God has for you?

Read Matthew 14:22-23

Jesus had just fed 5,000 people. Jesus went to be alone with God, He knew the crowds followed Him because they wanted one thing from Him, His miracles. He knew it was more important to be alone and get what He needed from His father before He could be there for the people.

Pastor Kevin said, "Communion with God privately is where we get courage to live life publicly. It takes courage to be alone with God".

5. How has God given you courage after spending time alone with Him? If you don't spend time alone with Him, what keeps you from it?

Read Matthew 14:24-33

It was the middle of the night, the disciples were scared. Jesus came to them, He told them to take courage, it's me, don't be afraid. The literal translation of what He said is, Courage, I AM, Don't Be Afraid. Jesus is our courage. He will protect us, He is with us. When we seek Him, praise Him, call out to Him, He comes to us.

In the scripture Peter, took a step out in courage and trusted Jesus with his life and physical safety. The evidence of courage is taking a step. Just like Peter took a step of courage, obeyed Jesus and took a step, God calls us to do the same.

6. What step of courage do you need to take in your life right now?

It took courage for Peter to get out of the boat. The boat was safe, it helped him feel secure. We all have something that makes us feel comfortable and safe. It could be our home, relationships, our careers, our bank account or even a habit. When we put our faith in Jesus He gives us the courage to trust in Him completely and know that He is our security. Take the first step toward Him and trust Him.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank-you for Jesus, the most courageous person who ever lived. He knew what the plan for His life was and trusted you with His life on earth. Please show us what our boat is and help us take a step of courage to get out of the boat and trust you completely. Surround us with friends who can help encourage us as we trust you and take our next courageous step.

ACTION STEP

- + Take some time with God this week to figure out what your boat is. Write it down and ask Him to help you take a step out of the boat and trust Him.
- + Take a step of courage and invite someone into your courageous next step. Partner with them to pray for each other and encourage one another this week.
- + What's the next courageous step you need to take in your faith? Serving, Missions, Creating a place for community? Ask God to show you what that is and step into it.