



TAKE COURAGE

Week 3

BREAKING THE ICE

What is the longest friendship you have had in your life? Why do you think the friendship has lasted as long as it has?

What do you think is the key characteristic to make friendships last?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin talked about taking courage to make new friends and relationships.

1. When have you courageously sought out a new friendship or relationship? What was significant about that relationship?

We all long for relationships and community in our life. We were made from community and for community. God didn't make us because He needs us. He created us to be in a relationship with Him, just like we are created to be in relationships with others.

2. How do you view your relationship with God?

Community is God's design. He created us to walk with Him and with one another. Pastor Kevin talked about the speed at which God walks, 3 MPH. Enough time to walk slowly with us. God wants us to slow down and walk with Him and one another in love.

Read Mark 1:12

In this scripture, we read that after Jesus was tested, He went and found 12 friends. Friends to walk with Him and to do life with Him. It took courage to follow Jesus. He asked them to do uncomfortable things, just like He asks us. He was with them physically in the uncomfortable things He asked of them, but He is also with us through the Holy Spirit to be our guide in the uncomfortable things He is asking of us.

3. What is something uncomfortable Jesus may be asking you to do right now or has asked you to do in the past? Talk about what that journey is looking like for you now or has looked like before.

Read Matthew 9:1-8 and Luke 5:18-19

In this scripture, scholars believe that Jesus is staying at Peter's house. Everyone is there to see Jesus, including four friends taking their paralyzed friend to see Jesus in order to be healed. They had to walk slowly because the crowds were so large and it took a while to carry their friend, but they were committed to helping him.

4. What kind of friendships do you have that have walked slowly with you through hard times? How did their friendship influence your life?

Pastor Kevin talked about how community and relationships happen slowly. We tend to rush them when we need to slow down. These friends had faith and took the time to get their friend to Jesus because they knew He could heal them.

When we keep reading this scripture we see Jesus forgave the man before he is healed. The forgiveness of sin is the greater miracle in this story. The forgiveness of sins is the greatest miracle because it is the greatest need. Jesus forgave the inward parts of the man and He healed the outward parts of Him too. We all need friends to help us draw near to Jesus for both the inward and the outward parts of healing.

5. What friends do you have that help you draw near to Jesus?

We all need Jesus and we all need community that will help us be pointed toward Jesus. Pastor Kevin said, community is not a commodity to be consumed, it's a gift we give. It takes courage to begin friendships that are life-giving and courage to be the friend God calls us to be.

CLOSING PRAYER

God thank you for the friendships you have placed in our lives. Please help us be the kind of friends that point others to Jesus and walk slowly with them through the hard times. Open our hearts to the friendships you have for us, and show us who to befriend. We love you, Jesus. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- + What are some ways you can be a good friend to others this week? Make a list and take time to walk slowly with those friends.
- + Take time to pray and ask God who He wants to place in your life so you can show them His love and be a good friend to them.
- + Reach out to a friend who has made a difference in your life. Encourage them in how their friendship has changed you.
- + Invite others to be a part of your Group at Cross Point or consider making space for more people to experience community by applying to lead your own group at crosspoint.tv/groups.