



TAKE COURAGE

Week 4

BREAKING THE ICE

Do you get scared easily? What tends to make you scared?

How fast is your life pace? 3 MPH, 45 MPH.... ?

How comfortable are you with your life pace?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, we had the opportunity to hear from one of our Pastors at Cross Point, Josh Reed. Pastor Josh told us a story about how he snuck into a building as a kid and it was pitch black. He made a comment on how hard it was to see in that moment and how he had to feel his way and search for light.

1. Do you have an experience you can share where you were in the dark spiritually, physically, emotionally? What was that like? How did that feel?

Read Mark 10:46-52

In this scripture we see that Bartimaeus wants to see. He was blind and wanted to see - but not just physically. He had the courage to ask Jesus to have mercy on him to see, both physically and spiritually. Spiritual sight is something that many of us lack as well - sight to see our purpose with Jesus and sight to help others see theirs as well.

The courage we need from this scripture is the courage to grab someone's hand and lead them to the light (Jesus). A recent Barna study said 70% of Christians are not engaged in helping others find and follow Jesus. When we do help others find and follow Jesus, it helps us grow closer to Him as well.

2. Is there someone in your life that helps or has helped you find and follow Jesus? Talk about that relationship and the importance of it in your life.

3. What keeps you from helping people find and follow Jesus?

Last week, Pastor Kevin talked about moving at 3 MPH (God speed) but we tend to run at 70 MPH. Our speed. We want to continually grow and move at our pace, instead of waiting on God and His pace, His plan for us. But that's just what we need, to slow down, walk with God and have Him show us and others what it looks like to find and follow Him. We can't be blind to our busyness, we need to slow down and invest in others to help them find and follow Jesus.

The second thing we need courage for is to admit we need sight. Bartimaeus wanted physical sight. He was physically blind. Some of us are spiritually blind. Tim Keller says, "Spiritual blindness is an impaired ability to see and perceive the truth." The essence of spiritual blindness is self-reliance or self-sufficiency, which is the belief that we can do all of this on our own.

4. Be honest, how much do you rely on yourself versus how much do you rely on God? The problem with relying on self is that we tend to base our purpose on a culturally-informed worldview. The shows we watch, the music we listen to, the people we follow on social media tell us what's important in life, which all shapes our worldview. We tend to base our worldview on what culture says about how our life should look, instead of how God says it should look.

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Pastor Josh had five questions that shape our worldview:

1. How did it all begin? Get here?
2. What is it for? Purpose?
3. What went wrong? Recognize something isn't right. Happened/how, but wrong/broken. Not the way it's supposed to be.
4. Is there any hope? Source of hope.
5. Where is it all going? How's it all going to end?

5. After reading these questions, what do you think most influences your worldview and why?

The answer to these questions can shape your worldview and what you believe to be true. Pastor Josh said that mere religion isn't the answer. Religion will give us a sense of discipline in our lives, but if we aren't careful it will turn to self-righteousness. If we follow the rules well, we become self-sufficient. If we don't follow them well, we will self-loathe. We can become spiritually blind in our worldview if we aren't keeping Jesus at the center of it all.

6. How have you let religion and rules become the way of your spiritual life? How can you change that to be more about relationship with Jesus instead of trying to follow all of the rules?

Read John 8:12 and John 1:5

When Jesus is the light in our lives, He eliminates the darkness and we can trust that He will lead us.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for sending Jesus to our lives to eliminate the darkness, to live a life where we can be secure and rely on something other than ourselves. Please show us where we have been self-reliant and where we have a worldview based on things of this world and not you. Help us have the courage to move beyond the rules of religion and have a relationship with you. Surround us with others that we can walk with at 3 MPH to find and follow you. Amen

ACTION STEP

- + If you have been relying on yourself and not Jesus, take a step of courage and talk to your group leader or someone else in your group about what it would look like to follow Jesus closely. No rules or religion just a relationship with Him.
- + Ask God who He would want you to lead to the light, maybe a friend, co-worker or family member. Ask Him to walk with you as you tell this person about who Jesus is.
- + If your group has space for new group members, invite someone you know to join the group. Your group could be a next step for someone to find and follow Jesus.
- + Join us as we pray and fast in the month of February. Go to <https://crosspoint.tv/awaken/> to find more information.