



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Week 1

BREAKING THE ICE

Do you have a routine when you first wake up in the morning? If so, what is it?

If you could start a new routine, what would you add or subtract from it?

Do you have a story like Pastor Kevin shared, where your plans got completely derailed because you were distracted?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin started a new series called, "First things first". We can get so busy doing good things in life that we don't take time to order our lives around the best things God has for us, Himself.

We can aspire and work towards a "good life" filling it with things we want and desire by the choices we make. But are those choices what God desires for us?

1. How would you describe the "good life?"

Read Matthew 6:25-34

In this scripture Jesus tells us not to worry, that even the birds and flowers are taken care of. If He can take care of these small things, don't we know He can take care of us as well? Jesus wants us to bring our worries to Him. He has them under control.

2. Do you struggle with worry? How do you handle your worries? How have you seen God give you peace through your worries?

Jesus wants to break us from our cycle of worry through priorities and simplicity. When we make God our first priority He brings us peace and orders our steps. One way we make God a priority is seeking Him through prayer and worship. Prayer and worship reconcile our hearts to God so He can give us what we need.

(Matthew 6:33)

3. What does it look like for you to make God your first priority?

When we seek God first, we can know He will take care of us. He may not give you everything you want, but He will give you everything you need. He gives you everything you need with His peace.

When we don't seek God first, we forfeit our peace.

4. How have you seen a difference in your life when you choose to handle things yourself instead of coming to God first about everything?

When we seek God as our first priority we can start making a list of what comes next, I sought God in prayer, now I can focus on family, work, school, friends etc. But seeking God first means everything belongs to Him. We seek Him in our family, work, school and friends. He reigns over all things in our life. Seeking Him means trusting Him with every aspect of our lives. Trusting Him in ALL things.

5. How easy or hard is it for you to trust Him with ALL things in your life? Is this something you struggle with? If so, how do you actively choose to trust Him?

We seek God first we ask Him what He wants us to do. When we ask Him what He wants us to do we are choosing His kingdom over our kingdom. We also ask Him what He wants us to say. Ask Him to guide all of our conversations, to give us wisdom with our words and to let the Holy Spirit guide everything that comes out of our mouths. We ask Him first before we try to do anything on our own.

6. How often do you ask God, "what do you want me to do" and "what do you want me to say?" How have you seen Him guide you when you ask these questions?

We make God first in our lives when we focus on simplicity. Every day we have the opportunity to seek God first asking, "God, please give me what I need for today". We put Him first, asking Him to guide us through all of it; our mornings, our work, our school, our families. He will give you what you need for the day.

To make God first, we need to make sure our relationship with God is our top priority. We ask Him what He would have us say and do every day. We come to Him every day, trusting Him for what we need for the day as we seek His kingdom instead of our own.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank-you for taking care of the birds, flowers and us. You care more for us than we can even think or imagine. Jesus, it's your kindness that leads us to repentance. Would you show us where we put our trust and security in other things. Holy Spirit lead and guide us where we try and do things on our own and focus on our kingdom instead of God's kingdom. Over the next few weeks will you show us everywhere we put our needs, desires and agenda before you. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- + This week, start taking notes on where you put your trust. Whether it's in your life experience, finances, job, education, friends or family. Where are you trusting in things or people instead of God?
- + Ask the Holy Spirit for guidance and to help you seek God and His kingdom first in your conversations, your work and your finances.
- + Practice asking God, what do you want me to say and what do you want me to do this week. Listen to and obey what He is asking of you.
- + Partner with someone else in your group and pray for one another this week. Pray for God to move in their lives as they continue to seek God first. Pray for the Holy Spirit to show each other where we are seeking other things above God and then ask for God to help each of you reorient your lives and your hearts to where God is your top priority.