



FIRST THINGS FIRST

Week 2

BREAKING THE ICE

What was your favorite story as a kid? What about as an adult?

If you had to choose a Bible story that you feel resonates with your stage of life right now which one would you choose?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin continued our series, "First things First". The Scripture we base this message series on is Matthew 6:33. To seek God's kingdom first.

This week, Pastor Kevin started the message talking about values. What we spend our time and money on is a glimpse into what we value.

1. What are your proclaimed values? If you looked at your life over the last 72 hours, would you say those values reflect how you have spent your time and money?

The one person who can teach us about what to value is Jesus. When you read about Him in the Gospels of the New Testament you see Jesus values communion with God, relationship with people, love, grace, truth, forgiveness, hard work, rest and mercy.

2. Out of the values listed above, which one do you resonate with the most and why?

Jesus teaches about values in the parables in the New Testament. Jesus hid spiritual truths in the parables. He hid these for us to find. He wants us to seek out these truths through prayer, reading His word and spending time with Him — making Him first.

Read Matthew 13:44

This Scripture refers to treasure. Jesus is the treasure. Other things are incomplete and can not satisfy like Jesus. We should trade everything for Him.

3. What are some ways you treasure Jesus in your life?

What we sacrifice in our life shows what we really treasure. Jesus treasures us. He values us more than anything. He died for us to be with Him. You can tell what someone values by what sacrifices they will make.

4. What kind of sacrifices have you made for your friends and family? What kind of sacrifices have you made to follow Jesus?

Milestones are a good reminder of what we value and how we spend our time. This week, Pastor Kevin gave us an illustration using marbles about how many weekends we have with kids from birth until graduation. Those weekends we spend with our families show us what we value and focus on.

There was another illustration Pastor Kevin gave of some big rocks and pebbles. Pebbles are the small things that we spend our time on; things like apps, movies, wasting time on social media. The big rocks are the important things: Our relationship with God, marriage and family, jobs or school, exercise, church, volunteering. When we focus on the pebbles, we don't have time for the big rocks. When we focus on the big rocks first, we have just enough time for the pebbles.

5. What are the big rocks in your life? What are the pebbles? Which ones do you spend more time on?

6. How do you need to reprioritize the pebbles and big rocks in your life?

God wants us to focus on the big rocks in our life and to seek Him first. To organize our lives around His kingdom. To love, serve and seek Him. This summer we have plenty of opportunities to do these things and start practicing them now.

CLOSING PRAYER

God thank you for reminding us of the big rocks we need to focus on in our lives. Holy Spirit, show us where we have focused on other things than you, convict us and help us turn our hearts to what you have for us. Help us prioritize our lives for Your kingdom, God. Surround us with friends and family that can help guide us in the direction You have for us. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- + Make a list of the Big Rocks in your life. How much time do you spend on these each day? How much time do you spend on other things that aren't as important? Schedule out time to focus on the big rocks this week and the months coming up.
- + Take time to serve your community this summer. Go to Crosspoint.tv/serve and find a place where you can help see God's kingdom come this summer in Middle Tennessee.
- + Find someone in your group that you can keep you accountable to practicing putting the big rocks in your life first. Text and pray for each other throughout the week to encourage one another to focus on the most important things, such as God's kingdom.