



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

Week 3

## BREAKING THE ICE

What is your favorite pastime of summer?

Are you a hit snooze on your alarm clock kind of person or jump out of bed when you hear your alarm kind of person?

## MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin continued our series on "First things First". The first 15 minutes of our day can impact what kind of day we are going to have, but the first 15 minutes aren't the only important part of our day. The rest of our day matters as well.

What we spend our time on is what we deem as "worthy". Something that we deem as "worthy" can lead us to worship that thing. Most of the time when we think of worship we think of songs we sing at church on Sunday, but we tend to worship the things we spend our time and energy on.

1. Take a few minutes to pull out your phone, how much time do you spend on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter? How much time do you spend on gaming apps? What about Netflix, Hulu, YouTube or another streaming platform?

What we spend our time on matters. God wants us to "Be still and know that He is God" (Psalm 46:10). When we are still, we are taking time to worship Him. We were all created to worship, but it's up to us to decide what we are worshipping.

We can worship God or we can worship the things that give us a temporary fix. Things like shopping, entertainment, sports, sex, education, success, money, substances and fame are temporary and won't fill you like Jesus can.

2. If someone was to look at your life, what would they say you spend your time on?

Pastor Kevin talked about our restless hearts and how we try to fill them with things that are temporary. When we seek Jesus and His kingdom first, He will be our source of complete satisfaction. Our worth and identity should be wrapped in Him, not the temporary things that continue to make our hearts restless. No "thing" satisfies our restless hearts, only Jesus can.

Read Romans 1:21-25

In this Scripture, we see where "things" were being used to fulfill what only Jesus can truly fulfill in our lives.

When we worship the things of this world it can turn into idolatry. Idolatry is worshiping created things rather than the creator. We were made to worship but what are we worshiping?

3. When you hear the word idolatry, what do you think about?

Many times when we think of idols, we tend to think of little figurines or statues that people worship but idols are anything more important to you than God. When we worship other things (things more important than God) it turns into idolatry. Idolatry is putting things other than God on the throne of our hearts. What we spend our time and energy on is what is on the throne of our hearts.

4. What do you really spend your time and energy on?

Many things can battle for our hearts and not all of these things are bad things. But even good things can become bad things when they become ultimate things. These things make a lousy God because these things can't meet the deepest needs of our hearts. They can't hold our significance and value. When those things take precedence over God, it turns into idolatry; especially when we use those things to find our worth and identity.

5. Where do you find your worth and identity? (ie: your job, success in school or work, what people say about you, your finances)

How do we know when something moved from a good thing to a counterfeit thing? Tim Keller says in his book "Counterfeit Gods", "A counterfeit god is anything so central and essential to your life that, should you lose it, your life would feel hardly worth living."

6. What is the thing(s) that are so essential in your life that you would feel lost without them?

Pastor Kevin gave us a great example of something in his life that started as a good thing that became an ultimate thing. When CrossFit (once a good thing) became an ultimate thing and an idol in Pastor Kevin's life, God, in His kindness revealed how CrossFit had become an idol to Kevin. Just like God did this for him, He can reveal those things to you as well.

God helps us know how to find those ultimate things and idols in our lives in a few ways. The first way is to realize that idols can't sustain us; in fact, they eventually enslave us. Also, Idols will eventually fail us. One day when those things fail us we will find ourselves at a loss.

7. What is something that you have made an ultimate thing, that once it failed you, you found yourself at a loss?

Another way to identify ultimate things and idols in our life is to remember that we become like what we worship. (Psalm 115:8) We become what we behold. What we revere, we end up resembling.

8. What would others say about you? What do you resemble? What do you behold more than anything?

To help us decipher what our idols are, our team created a tool. Go to <https://crosspoint.tv/firstthings/> to answer some questions about some good things that have turned into ultimate things (idols).

## CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for loving us even in the midst of our misaligned priorities. Holy Spirit will you convict us of the good things we have made ultimate things? Will you show us the good and bad things that we have made idols? Please help us prioritize our lives to worship you Lord and not the things of this world that give us temporary pleasure. Please surround us with friends that help us focus our worship on you. Amen.

## ACTION STEP

+ Go to <https://crosspoint.tv/firstthings/> and answer the questions about idols. Follow the prompts to confess, pray and ask God to replace those idols with a love for Him.

+ Partner up with someone in the group and pray for each other this week as you confess and turn from your idols. Commit to being accountable to one another and encourage one another to focus your time and worship on God.

+ Galatians 5:3 says, "You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love." Take some time to serve your community this summer with one of our Local Good projects. Click [HERE](#) for more information.