



HERE BE DRAGONS

Week 3

BREAKING THE ICE

What is a funny, yet challenging experience you've had while traveling?

What are one or two positive outcomes you've noticed when forgiving others or being forgiven?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, Pastor Kevin talked about forgiveness and reconciliation in the third week of our "Here Be Dragons" series. In life, sometimes we are hurt by someone close to us, be it family or friends. On the flip side, sometimes we may be the offender without realizing it.

Although difficult at times, walking through forgiveness and reconciliation can be a journey that produces hope in us, and results in newfound joy and peace.

1. Talk about a time you had to forgive someone. What happened and how did it feel after you made the decision to release the offense?

Unfortunately, sometimes those closest to us can cause hurt that seems unbearable. Jesus demonstrated a perfect example of forgiveness and reconciliation while on the cross by asking God to forgive those who mocked and mistreated him in such a brutal way, "for they know not what they do".

Pastor Kevin also talked about Joseph and the many hardships he faced at the hands of his own family, but how God turned Joseph's pain into beauty and purpose. (Read Genesis 50:19-21)

2. Can you remember something painful in your own life that God has used for good?

Many times in our world, it seems people are shown favoritism based on external things such as appearance, social status, etc., but the Bible says that "God is no respecter of persons." (Read Acts 10:34-35)

3. Can you think back to a time in school, or elsewhere, when it seemed someone was treated with favoritism? How did that make you feel?

In this week's message, we learned that Joseph's sons names both have meanings that we can learn lessons from. Manasseh means "forgetting" and Ephraim means "fruitful". These two names are a reflection on Joseph's life – both forgetting and bearing fruit – and they both flow forth from forgiveness.

4. Can you think of a time when you experienced a blessing after forgiving someone? How did that make you feel?

5. Is there someone that you feel God is calling you to forgive? Are you willing to pray for that person?

Though forgiveness can be difficult, there is beauty and healing that comes from letting go of bitterness – for us and often for those that we forgive.

6. Is there a broken relationship that you want God to restore? Try praying about it or inviting a trusted friend to pray with you.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for the gift of your forgiveness and grace. Please pick up the broken pieces caused by jealousy, anger, careless words, and betrayal. Please help us to forgive others and replace our hurt with your joy and peace. May we show love and grace to others even when it seems very hard to do so. We give you honor and praise for all that You've done. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

- Pray and ask God to reveal areas in your life that need forgiveness, healing and/or reconciliation.
- Join us for One Church at 6:30 PM on August 22 at the Nashville campus (be sure to get there early!). For more details visit www.crosspoint.tv/onechurch
- Pray and ask God if it's time to be baptized. Our next baptism service is August 27. To find out more go to www.crosspoint.tv/baptism.