



FIND AND FOLLOW

Week 1

BREAKING THE ICE

1. Growing up, what was one of the most inspiring or fun events you experienced? How did it encourage you?
2. Have you ever surprised someone with an invitation or gift that was impactful or life-changing? How did that make you feel?

MAIN CONTENT

In Week One of our “Find & Follow” series, Pastor Kevin talks about the importance of discipleship and the Great Commission.

We learned how Jesus welcomed Matthew, a tax collector, to become a disciple. This is significant because many at that time would’ve shunned Matthew due to his profession. This story beautifully illustrates the love and hospitality that Jesus showed toward people that society often rejected. (Read Matthew 9:9)

1. Has someone ever reached out to you when you felt shunned or rejected? What did that act of kindness do for you?
2. Have you ever tried to do the same for someone else? What was the result of that?

Pastor Kevin also told us about the rescue efforts that took place during the sinking of the Titanic and how, unfortunately, many lifeboats were not used to their full capacity. If they had been, many more people could have been saved. In the midst of this tragedy, was an amazing true story about a Titanic passenger, John Harper, a man who was determined to risk his life bringing others to Christ during the crisis. He understood the Great Commission and knew there wasn’t much time left for his fellow passengers, but kept urging those in the water who didn’t know Christ to follow Jesus while they still had a chance.

3. Have you been able to share the gospel with someone during a difficult time? What was that experience like for you?

(Read Matthew 9:11-13)

In our world, it often seems that many often lose sight of the mission by focusing on religious legalism, instead of having a true relationship with Christ. Ultimately, Jesus encourages us to show love, grace, hospitality and kindness to others. This is the beauty of discipleship. Jesus invites us all to follow him no matter what our past may look like.

4. What are your thoughts regarding the Pharisees' treatment of Jesus and others?

During the message, we were introduced to the Hebrew word 'hesed', which represents God's love and kindness. We learn that God is more concerned about our ability to show grace to others than He is about our works and sacrifices. He loves unconditionally.

5. How do you feel about God's grace and hospitality? Are you willing to act similarly - to give grace and make space for others in your life even when it feels difficult to do so?

Pastor Kevin mentioned a previously Christ-centered mission statement from a well-known and prestigious college (Harvard) that began with a focus on God, but over the years it fell away from that calling. As Christ followers, we are reminded of the importance of staying focused on the mission of Jesus to help lead others to Christ.

6. Where in your life have you started with a powerful mission, but somehow drifted away from it? Why do you think that happened?

(Read Matthew 28:16-20)

We are continually reminded that Jesus came to save broken people. Isn't it wonderful that Jesus encourages us to bring our doubts, questions and worries to Him? He wants us to help others do the same. Using the Titanic analogy, Pastor Kevin reminds us that Jesus has given each of us an oar to row toward the lost and broken.

7. Are you willing to embrace The Great Commission? If so, what will that look like for you?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for your love, kindness and grace. Please help us to engage The Great Commission and help lead others to you. There are so many who feel hopeless and broken due to their circumstances, but Lord, you are able to heal and bring hope to them. Please give us the strength to focus on your mission to serve and love the lost, and brokenhearted. We give you honor and praise for all that You've done. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

- Pray and ask God to reveal ways for you to make space for others.
- Practice sharing the gospel in 30 seconds with a friend. Then try sharing it with someone else who doesn't know Jesus yet!
- Practice serving and loving your neighbors by signing up for Serve the City on September 23: crosspoint.tv/local
- Follow along with our new Find & Follow Podcast starting Wednesday where we will hear stories of discipleship happening at Cross Point, and receive new episode release emails, at crosspoint.tv/podcasts.