



HERE BE DRAGONS

Week5

BREAKING THE ICE

- Have you ever had someone play a prank on you? If so, how did it make you feel?
- As a kid, what was your least favorite costume you wore to a party and why?

MAIN CONTENT

In the final week of our "Here Be Dragons" series, we heard from Pastor Steve Carter about the beauty of "un-dragoning". We learned we can gain hope through Christ in overcoming our pain, trials and fears.

1. Talk about a time you felt weighed down by life's challenges.
2. What are some steps you took to find peace and healing during that season?

Pastor Kevin began the message with a great intro where he talked about C.S. Lewis' book *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*. We hear about Eustace who is a troubled little boy who turns into a dragon due to his own hurtful attitude and bad decisions. Then, by contrast, we learn about Aslan (the lion, representing Christ). The only hope Eustace has to be "un-dragoned" is to draw near to Aslan.

This story is very similar to what many of us experience. When the cares of this world and the pain of our bad decisions weigh us down, God has a way of inviting us to draw closer to Him for healing and restoration.

3. Are there some areas of your life that you feel need to be un-dragoned?

Later in the message, Pastor Steve Carter talked about “The Thing Beneath the Thing” and he talked about triggers aka “potholes“. He shared how easy it is to get triggered by things because of the unhealed wounds from our past that we carry. If left unhealed, these potholes could become “sinkholes”.

4. What are some potholes in your life that others may run into if left unaddressed?

Read Esther 3:5-6, 8-9

Pastor Steve also discusses Mordecai refusing to bow down to King Haman and how this triggered the king so much that he wanted to destroy all of Mordecai’s people, the Jews. This Bible story is a great illustration of how, if we remain unhealed and unrestored, we can wreak havoc on others to the point of potentially causing extreme harm and destruction.

5. Have you ever hurt somebody and realized later it wasn’t them you were angry at, but something else in your own life (the “Thing beneath the Thing”)?

In today’s stressful climate, many of us go to social media, seek retail therapy or chase perfection as a way to make ourselves feel better about life. Many times, this leads us to greater feelings of insecurity. Instead of turning to empty sources of comfort, God wants us to turn to Him.

6. Where do you go to hide and seek comfort from your hidden pain?

It seems that we live in a time where there are so many opposing viewpoints on a variety of topics, but God is challenging us to rise above the divisions and live at peace with each other. We can only do that if we are willing to release the lies we hold in our hearts about others. We can trust God to heal our past wounds (“potholes”) and give us a new vision for how we see others.

7. Have you ever caught yourself creating a false narrative in your head about someone else?

Many of us carry old wounds that God wants us to give to Him. By doing the inner work of healing, and trusting our deepest issues and/or traumas to Christ, we can truly live a life that is centered on love and hope instead of fear and pain.

8. Are you willing to show grace and love to others who may have wounded you in the past due to their own unhealed triggers (“potholes”)? What might that look like?

CLOSING PRAYER

Jesus, we thank you for your healing and restorative power to overcome our deepest pain and triggers from the past. Please help us to walk in love and forgiveness. Please help us to exchange anger and strife for healing and peace. Thank you for demonstrating your love and grace to us all despite our shortcomings. Please help us to do the same for others who may have hurt us. We give you all honor and praise. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

- + Pray and ask God to show you the areas of your life that need healing. Ask Him to replace the past pain with His joy and peace.
- + Healing and growth happen best in community. Lean in with your group this week about the parts of your life that God may be asking you to "un-dragon".
- + Save the date for Serve the City on September 23 and make plans as a group to find and serve at an opportunity together: crosspoint.tv/local