



HERE AND NOW

Week 2

BREAKING THE ICE

- Are you expecting some snow in your city this week?
- What is your favorite snow activity?

MAIN CONTENT

This week in “Here & Now”, Pastor Kevin continued our series on Hebrews 12 talking about running the race that the Lord has set out for us. He reminded us that the passage encourages us to not run the race alone. We simply cannot run the race alone. The passage begins by saying, “Therefore, we are surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses.” He knows we were not created to live alone. That is why He created Adam in the garden and then created Eve as a companion. Even Jesus went out and found His 12 disciples, Jesus also knew He needed community because He was fully God and fully man.

1. Do you normally lean toward being alone or being in community?
2. Is it fairly easy or pretty scary to lean into community for you?

The enemy loves when we are in isolation. When Jesus was tempted in the desert, He was alone. Satan knows we are most tempted when we are alone. Look at Hebrews 10:23, “Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another — and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”

Jesus wants us to stay in community because He knows there are many trials in this life, and it is much easier to walk through them with a Godly community. We need people to help spur us on.

3. Do you feel like you have a good, Godly community?
4. Who in your life is spurring you on?

It is also easy to feel the need to compare ourselves and our lives to those around us. We tend to see the outside of peoples' lives and think, "Wow, their life looks perfect". We tend to only see what these people want us to see. We mostly only see their amazing jobs, exciting family vacations, and overall "perfect lives". It is easier for us to share all that is going well, instead of sharing what is hard or not as glamorous. The more we compare ourselves to others, the more it leaves us feeling inadequate, inferior, insecure and ungrateful. This comparison also leads to envy. Envy is failing to enjoy what we have and obsessing over what we lack. The Bible states that "comparison is the thief of joy".

5. What are ways we can combat comparison?

6. What are the areas that you find yourself battling comparison?

Comparison is something that most people struggle with at some point in their lives. We must be aware of it and continue to fight against comparison. We can do this by cultivating gratitude, cheering others on and celebrating our brothers and sisters in Christ. We must learn to be content in all circumstances. The Lord has created you on purpose and for a purpose. Continue to run the race the Lord has put in front of you and fix your eyes on Him. He has great plans for you.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for the air in our lungs. Thank you for a life where we can serve and follow you. Let us be grateful simply to be living another day today. In this battle with comparison, Lord help us to keep our eyes fixed on you. This is all for you. Remind us of our purpose, to love others and to love you. Let the things of this world fade away. Amen.

ACTION STEP

- Write down three things you are grateful for every morning this week.
- Reach out and pray for someone in your life this week.
- Encourage friends to join your Group, or an open Group at crosspoint.tv/groups