



AWAKEN

Week 4

BREAKING THE ICE

- What has been a way you have seen the Lord work in your life this week?
- What is something that made you laugh this week?

MAIN CONTENT

Pastor Kevin brought us to the end of the Awaken series with his sermon this past Sunday! He opened by speaking about Luke 15:1, “Now the tax collectors and sinners were all gathering around to hear Jesus. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the law muttered, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.”

Jesus has always been a fan of bringing in the “outsiders”. Jesus came to earth on a rescue mission, to save the lost and heal the hurting. In Isaiah 40:31, it says, “We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to his own way; and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all.”

We have all gone astray – Jesus came on a rescue mission for all of us. Jesus came looking for people, people who have lost their way. He came looking for people who feel overlooked, undervalued or far from God.

1. Have you ever felt like an outsider?
2. When is a time in your life when you felt far from God?

Pastor Kevin then went on and spoke on belonging. What does it mean to belong? We grow up looking for where we fit in and do everything we can to fit in. The religious leaders in the Bible wanted everyone to think like them and believe how they did. Jesus tells us that as followers of Him, we belong to Him first, then we believe and finally become more like Him. The church we see in Acts is one that is multi-ethnic and multi-generational, that does not exist for itself, but rather exists for the outsider.

We are constantly trying to fit in and belong when that is not the way of Jesus. Jesus comes and tells us that first and foremost we are His sons and daughters. We have always belonged to Him. It is our tendency to turn inward, the Lord calls us to look outward.

In Acts 1:8 it says, “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” The Lord calls us to go out into the world, and bring others in.

3. When is a time in your life where you felt you did not belong?
4. Why is it such a temptation for us to look inward instead of outward?

In Acts 15, there is a huge controversy. Paul is preaching the Gospel to everyone – not just Jews, but to the Gentiles as well. The movement of Jesus was spreading like wildfire! People were being saved and filled with the Holy Spirit!

Acts 15:11 says, “We believe that it is through the grace of our Lord Jesus that we are saved, just as they are.”

This was an inconceivable concept at this time because the Jews placed their faith on their works and laws. This was offensive to the religious leaders at the time, but the Gospel is offensive. We are all sinners, and the only way we are able to be saved is by grace through faith. Paul was sharing this boldly and courageously in front of anyone that would listen. The good news is that the Lord changes our hearts when we give our lives to Him. The Lord is calling you to Him – accept your belonging as His sons and daughters today!

5. Why do you think the religious leaders were in such an uproar during this time of the early church?
6. Where do you feel like you could show more boldness in your faith today?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you that we are your lost sheep. Thank you for leaving the 99 sheep to find the one. Lord, I pray for the one who feels like an outsider today. Thank you for calling us first to you. You are a good Father, and a Good Shepherd that goes after the lost. We pray for boldness today in our faith, show us the one who feels that they are on the outside. We praise you Jesus, thank you for your love and your peace today!

ACTION STEP

- Check out our Awaken Resources for our last week and we will see you at the Awaken Worship Night on Thursday at the Nashville campus – doors open at 6:00 PM!
- Pray into how the Lord can use you this week to bring in the outsider!