



# AWAKEN

## Week 3

### BREAKING THE ICE

- How has the month of February been going so far?
- What is one thing you are grateful for that happened this week?

### MAIN CONTENT

We are in week three of our Awaken series and studying the book of Acts. Last week, Pastor Kevin discussed what it looks like to have influence as a church and as followers of Jesus. We learned that the church in Antioch had influence not because of what they had, but rather because of who they were as a church. This week, our exploration of Acts continues as we focus on what it means to pray and worship, even in life's darkest hours.

Pastor Kevin began his message by presenting statistics about Nashville, Tennessee. Did you know that Nashville has around two million residents? He shared that out of those two million people, seven out of every 10 profess to be Christian, but only three out of those seven are active Christians – meaning they attend church one time per month. These statistics show us that there are many people who say they are Christians, but are spiritually asleep.

1. Do these statistics surprise you? Why or why not?
2. Have you ever been spiritually asleep and needed an awakening? What do you think influences a person to become spiritually asleep? What does it take to wake up?

In Acts chapter 9, we learn about the ways God uses a man named Paul, previously known as Saul. Saul was a Pharisee, a religious leader, who led the persecution of Christians. Despite being someone who tried to stop people from following Jesus, Saul had an encounter with Jesus on the road to Damascus and was radically transformed into an influential leader who was now leading the movement of Christianity that he had been previously trying to destroy. Jesus renamed him Paul which ironically means “small.” Paul’s transformation shows us that God can use even the least expected people to further His Kingdom.

3. Have you ever found yourself questioning whether you possess the qualities it takes to lead others? Name some of the lies the enemy has placed in your mind that led you to feel this way.

4. When we are feeling unqualified to lead others, how can we combat those feelings? What does it look like practically to remind ourselves who Christ says we are rather than what the world says or the lies of the enemy?

Read 2 Corinthians 12:9

5. What does this passage tell us about our weaknesses?

Read Acts 16:16-40

We see in the book of Acts, that Paul planned to travel to specific cities, but God led him elsewhere. Sometimes in life, God will lead us into unexpected places with unexpected circumstances.

6. Share an example of a time God led you into unexpected circumstances, and how that led to divine opportunities. What did this teach you?

7. How can we support and encourage each other when we find ourselves in unexpected places or facing unexpected challenges? What role does community play in navigating these journeys?

8. What are the “chains” in your life that are locking you up or have kept you locked in the past?

We are not stuck in our chains forever. In fact, we see that Paul and Silas found freedom through worship and prayer. Pastor Kevin shared that even when we are locked up in our darkest hour, in our “midnight”, we can still praise God because worship is our weapon. Freedom comes through a sacrifice of praise. Even when we do not feel like it, even when life is tough, and even in our darkest hour, freedom can be found in Christ.

9. What does it look like for you to pursue freedom in your life? Share an example with the group of a time when Christ set you free from bondage of the chains in this world.

10. How can you, as a group, rally around each other to help one another find freedom in Christ?

## CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank you for this time together. Your Word tells us where two or three are gathered together, you are there also. We pray that as we continue in this season of Awaken, that you would reveal ways in which we are spiritually asleep. We pray that if there are chains that need to be broken, that you would highlight those to us. Lord, we know that in your goodness and in your power, we can find freedom. So in your name Jesus, break off any chains that are keeping us bound from knowing more of you. In your name, remove any spirit of fear or any lies from the enemy. We know that even in our weakness, we are strong because of you. Help us to know more of you Jesus and praise you, even in our darkest hour. We thank you for your faithfulness, for your goodness, and for who you are. Amen.

## ACTION STEP

1. Pray. During this week, take some time for prayer and in that time, ask God to reveal any chains in your life that need to be broken. Ask God to help you break free from them and then praise God for the work He has done and will continue to do in your life. Mark your calendars and plan to attend the next Campus Prayer happening at your campus.
2. Check out our Awaken Resources and mark your calendar for our Awaken Worship Night on February 29 at our Nashville campus – doors open at 6:00 PM.
3. If anyone in your group is interested in getting baptized, sign-up for Baptism Sunday on February 25 here!