



AWAKEN

Week 2

BREAKING THE ICE

- How is your February going so far?
- What is the song you have been playing on repeat recently?

MAIN CONTENT

Pastor Kevin continued in our "Awaken" series this week for a second week and spoke about what it is like to have influence, as a church and as people. He brought us through Acts 11 where the presence of the Lord moves from the temple to the people, and the Jesus movement moved from Jerusalem to Antioch. In this passage, we see the first Gentile church being built.

What made the church of Antioch influential? It was not what they had, it was who they were, what they believed and how they lived. Their influence came from the way they looked like Jesus! We, as the church, have influence in our everyday lives.

1. In what ways do you have influence in your life right now?
2. Who is in your circle of influence?

Pastor Kevin then went on to ask, "What does an influential church look like?" The early church's influence came from the way they looked like Jesus! Jesus' hope for the Church is that we as the Church would be a multicultural, authentic community of believers who are filled with the Holy Spirit, devoted to the Word of God, love God, serve others, share Jesus, live generously and are radically committed to growing in faith. Then, we take that hope and healing of Jesus to those who are need, hurting and have not heard. That is an influential church! An influential church believes the Gospel is for everyone, is evidenced by both grace and truth and is generous toward other churches. An influential church will continue their influence, not by building the name of their church building, but by building the kingdom! The moment we start pointing at ourselves, we are missing the point. We gain influence by pointing people to the cross.

3. How do we keep from letting influence point to ourselves and instead point to Jesus?
4. From looking at Pastor Kevin's message, how do we have an influential church?

Pastor Kevin finished his message by explaining what kingdom influence looks like. It requires integrity with others, sees the good in others that they can't see and opens doors for others they couldn't open on their own. That is what lasting influence looks like. Kingdom influence is not about having the spotlight or having everyone know your name. We see in the Gospels that Jesus lived most of His life on Earth in hiddenness. We see His birth, a couple of small moments from His childhood, and then nothing until He is 30. We know Jesus had significant influence during these hidden years, even though He knew they would not be recorded in the Scriptures. He knew that influence means so much more than fame or being acknowledged. Kingdom influence comes from a heart of wanting to live and love as Jesus did.

5. In what ways can you have a positive influence in your circle this week?
6. Has anyone had this kind of influence in your life that has impacted you to this day?

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank you for the ability to have Kingdom influence. We are honored to be used by you on this side of Heaven. We praise you today for the ways you are working in the hearts of your children. You are a good Father, thank you for the ways you love us. Show us how to have Kingdom influence this week. Show us who we need to encourage. Thank you Jesus for all you are and continue to be. In Jesus' name I pray, amen.

ACTION STEP

- 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.
- Check out our [Global Trips](#) and talk as a group about how one or multiple of you could go on a trip this year, possibility even together!
- Pray into how the Lord can use you this week to have Kingdom influence!