



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

BREAKING THE ICE

What's your breakfast routine? Do you have the same breakfast every morning or do you switch it up and have a few things you choose from?

Are you a procrastinator when it comes to making decisions or are you a quick decision maker? Explain.



MAIN CONTENT

Pastor Kevin continued Week 2 of our series called, "Defining Moments." Over the next few weeks, we will be spending time going through the Bible discussing what some of our mentors' (from the scriptures) defining moments were and how it affected their lives. The hope is to learn from their defining moments and apply it to our own lives.

One of the first things Pastor Kevin said in his message this week was, "Our lives are the sum of the decisions we make."

1. Where have you seen a decision you made in your life alter how you live your life now?

We make decisions every day in our lives. In fact, it's been said that we make over 30,000 decisions a day. Those decisions can be small and seem insignificant, while others can create defining moments in our lives. "We're all one decision away from having a completely different life." - Pastor Kevin

2. Have you ever made a bad decision in your life; one you weren't proud of that cost you something or someone? How did the result of that decision play out?





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We've all made bad decisions. Even Jesus' closest followers, his disciples, made bad decisions. When we choose to do the wrong thing, it allows us to grow from that decision but also allows us to give grace to others who have made bad decisions as well.

Jesus gave much grace to one of His closest disciples, Simon Peter. This week, Pastor Kevin went through the defining moments of Peter's life. To refresh your memory of the defining moments in Peter's life you can read the following scriptures as we go through the questions and talk about how they relate to Peter's life.

John 1:42 - Jesus "saw" Peter and gave him a new name.

3. Has anyone given you a false name that you let define you? Are you still living with the false name?
What do you want your new name to be?

Jesus gives us a new name when we follow Him. Those bad moments that you defined your life with are no longer relevant. Just like Jesus gave Simon (Peter) a new name, you have a new name in Jesus and you get to live that out in your life.

The next defining moment we see in Peter's life is in Matthew 14:28-31. Go ahead and have someone read the scripture.

In the previous scripture surrounding the text, we see the disciples are in a boat and Jesus walks on water. Jesus calls Peter to join Him. As Peter starts to walk on water, he takes his eyes off of Jesus, loses his faith, gets fearful and starts to sink, but Jesus saves Peter when he calls out to Jesus for help. Fear will always sink us but Jesus **never** will.





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4. Where have you let fear overtake the faith you have in your life? How did you overcome that fear?

Peter's faith in Jesus at that moment on the water was another defining moment in his life.

In Matthew 16:17-18, Peter makes a bold confession that Jesus is the Son of the Living God. Jesus knows that there is no way Peter could have been so bold in that confession without God helping him with that revelation. But in that moment, Jesus sees Peter's boldness and tells Peter that He is going to create a movement that can not be stopped. He called Peter to greatness, creating another defining moment in Peter's life.

5. Have you had a defining moment of bold faith that led you to be courageous? Explain that moment.

We see more defining moments in Peter's life, like when he didn't know what to say. We see Peter rambling to Jesus and not at his best (Mark 9:5&6). What is so great about this moment, is that even though this wasn't Peter's best, Jesus still gave him grace and wanted Peter close to Him. We all have moments like that, where we just aren't at our best. The good news is, Jesus asks us to stay close, keep our eyes on Him and keep following.

Probably the most defining of moments in Peter's life is when he denies Jesus three times. We see Jesus predict the denial in Matthew 26:31-35 and we see it played out in Luke 22:54-55.

We all have moments where we have acted like Peter. For us, denial may look like disobedience and not doing what He's asked you to do, or caring more about what other people think than what God thinks.

6. Have you had moments like Peter, where you cared more about what others thought about you than what God does? Therefore, you made bad choices?





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When we go back and look at the scripture where Peter denies Jesus, we see where Peter starts following Jesus from a distance (Matthew 28:54). When we follow Jesus at a distance we put time, people and things before Him. That keeps us from being close to Him so he can guide us to the right decisions. But Jesus always asks us to come closer to follow Him and walk with Him.

7. Where has God redeemed a defining moment in your life?

8. Where do you need God to redeem a defining moment in your life?

We can have a tendency to beat ourselves up over our worst nights or worst moments. When you have one of those times, don't live your life in isolation. Ask Jesus to redeem that moment and move forward to create lasting defining moments worth remembering with Him. God defines us by His moments with Him not the worst moments in our lives.





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PRAYER

Jesus, thank you for the defining moments in our lives. Thank you for the good and even for those that we wish didn't happen. Will you take those moments that have caused us hurt and pain and help us move through them to give you glory? Will you give us new defining moments in following you that draw us closer to you? Help us draw near to you when we feel discouraged and guide us to defining moments that are examples of your love for us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

How can you seek more of Jesus this week? Take time in prayer, solitude, Bible reading or discussion with your group, to draw closer to Jesus this week. Share with your group members what your quiet time looked like with Jesus this week and how it impacted your daily life, maybe even create a defining moment in your life.

