



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

BREAKING THE ICE

Who is the most courageous person you know? What makes them courageous?

What's the most courageous thing you have ever done? Did that courageous decision result in a defining moment for you?



MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin talked about John the Baptist and the defining moments in his life. Before John was even conceived, God sent an angel to his parents giving them a description of what John's life was going to look like (Luke 1:13-17). God had prepared a way for John just as He prepares a way for you.

1. Read Psalm 139:13-16. When you hear you were knit together in your mother's womb with a plan for you; how does that make you feel?

Before John was born, his family knew that John would prepare the way for Jesus. This was just one of the many courageous and defining moments John was going to have in his life.

John lived life by convictions as a Nazirite (Matthew 3:1-6). Those convictions took courage to stand for the things he felt strongly about that others did not.

2. Do you have any convictions that require you to have the courage to live by? Explain.





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Our convictions require us to be courageous and to live a life that requires us to live differently. But when we live for God's approval and not others approval, it helps us live courageously for Him.

John lived in the wilderness for years waiting to tell others about Jesus. Even though it took years for John to see the results of staying in the wilderness, he had the courage to stay. He wasn't looking for approval from anyone else, just doing what God had called him to do in the wilderness.

3. Where have you had the courage to stay in something God has called you to that is difficult? Did you see the results you expected from that courage?

John was always happy when Jesus showed up; he was thrilled to see Jesus come to the wilderness. When Jesus asked John to baptize Him, it took courage from John to do so. He knew Jesus was the Messiah and that that fact alone could have made him feel unworthy to baptize Jesus. However, John knew he needed to take the next step in his life and do what God called him to do and that next step was to baptize Jesus.

4. What is the courageous next step God has called you to do? Have you started to take that step? Why or why not?

John had the courage to celebrate Jesus and what He was doing in the world. He could have focused on himself and his ministry, but he took the time to help lead others to Jesus (John 1:29). It takes courage to celebrate others and to celebrate their next steps.

5. Whom do you need to courageously celebrate in your life right now? Why do you need to celebrate them? Is it difficult or easy to celebrate them? Why?





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It takes courage to keep going when we don't know what's next; to celebrate others' victories when our situations don't look promising at the moment or even turn out as we thought. But sometimes, our courage at the moment helps others have courage in their situations.

6. Has your courage ever helped make a defining moment for someone else? Explain.

God gives us courage and the Bible tells us that God is with us and He will help us.

Read Isaiah 41:10 from the New Living Translation.

“Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand.”

7. If you lived every day knowing God is with you, that He will give you courage, strengthen you and help you - how would you live your life differently? How would your life change? How would that affect your next defining moment?





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PRAYER

God, will you give us courage; the courage we need to take our next step; the courage to have the conversation, make a decision, follow through with the things you have planted in our hearts? Will you give us the courage to help others take their next step and show us how to support them in it? And will you give us the courage to celebrate others in their defining moments, even when our situations may not be ideal? Help us have the courage to boldly follow you in our lives. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

What's the courageous next step you need to take this week? Tell a group member about that step. Pray for each other and encourage each other this week as you live courageously doing what God has called you to do. Text each other and cheer each other on this week as you take the next step God has called you to. Come back next week and share with your group about how you courageously lived for God.

