

BREAKING THE ICE

Who was your closest friend growing up? Are you still in touch with them?

What are the characteristics of a good friend?



MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin continued our second week of Rise and Shine. Every day we rise but we don't always shine.

This week, Pastor Kevin talked about authentic relationships that one way we shine in life can be a reflection of the people around us.

Most of us do not want to be alone so we will surround ourselves with people. But not all of the people we surround ourselves with are healthy and bringing out the best in us.

1. Who is one of the best friends you have had in your life? What made that friendship unique and special?

We all need people to help us climb through life. Those who will encourage us and push us when we need it. In order to have these types of relationships we have to be intentional with our friendships.



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

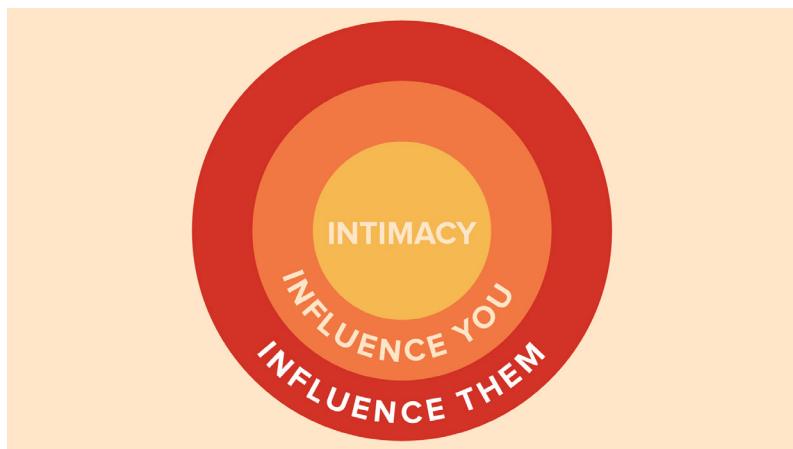
MAIN CONTENT

2. Have you been intentional with the relationships you have in your life? Why or why not?

Pastor Kevin gave an illustration on how to chose intentional relationships by using averages and concentric circles. You are the average of your 5 closest friends faith, character, wisdom and work ethic. If you wanted to do this exercise you would write your 5 closest friends names down then gauge their character between 1-10, (1 being the lowest and 10 the highest). If you add those numbers up and divide by 5 you will find your character level based on those numbers.

3. Where would you grade yourself on the character scale?

The second illustration Pastor Kevin had regarding relationships was the concentric circles.



The first circle is intimacy. This circle represents the intimacy you have with God and your spouse. The second circle is your top 5 friends that influence you and the last circle is the people you influence. The people you influence may not be your closest friends but perhaps they need someone in their life who is positive.



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

MAIN CONTENT

4. Is there anyone in your **influence you** circle that needs to move out of the circle? Why?

Read Matthew 5:1-2 (Message)

“When Jesus saw his ministry drawing huge crowds, he climbed a hillside. Those who were apprenticed to him, the committed, climbed with him. Arriving at a quiet place, he sat down and taught his climbing companions. This is what he said:”

Even Jesus knew He needed people to climb with Him, these were the people in the **Influence you** circle.

5. Who are the people that are climbing with you in your life? What characteristics make these people ‘influencers’ in your life?

When we look at the qualities we want our relationships to have in our lives we go to the Bible. Romans 12: 9-10 talks about the 4 things we should look for for those who influence us; authenticity, integrity, loyalty and humility.

6. Who is a friend in your life that demonstrates these 4 characteristics? How do they demonstrate them?

7. How do you as a friend demonstrate those characteristics?

We need devoted friends, to love in spite of what's going on. Devotion helps friendships have longevity.

8. Who has been a devoted friend in your life? Explain.

9. Who you need to be a devoted friend to?



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

God wants us to have devoted friendships where we help each other climb through the things going on in our lives. These friendships should be based on authenticity, Integrity, Loyalty and humility. Friendships based on trust through time.

Pastor Kevin's friend Dave Clayton said, competition is from the enemy. We need each other, we need not to compete with another but to submit to one another and what God has for our friendships.

Maybe you need to be a friend for someone else right now or maybe you need a friend. Either way we should ask God to be the kind of friend that is authentic, loyal, humble and has integrity. Friendships that help us draw near to following Jesus.

PRAYER

God thank-you for the friendship and relationship we have with you. Help us put Jesus as the most important friendship in our lives. Show us where we lack authenticity, loyalty, humility and integrity and help us grow in those areas to become the best version of ourselves. Show us the relationships that aren't healthy in our lives that need to be changed and open us up to the relationships we need in our lives that draw us closer to you in Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

Over the next week use the average of character illustration with the 5 closest relationships in your life. Ask God where or if you need to change these friendships in your life.

Whether you are looking for friends or not we can all be a better friend. This week pray to be the best kind of friend for others, one that is loyal, humble, authentic with integrity. Pray that as you become that type of friend, that God will place those types of friendships in your life.