

WHAT WE DO TODAY MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE DAYS AHEAD

SERIES: BROKEN DREAMS | WEEK 7 | 3.22.2020

Hey, have you ever been in a situation where you're trying to change the conversation? Um, you're sitting at the table and your parent is just at you and talking about something and you don't want to go there, and you don't want to—I've met people that are just phenomenal at changing the conversation in that moment. I've also met people that are terrible at changing the conversation in that moment and they get this weird look on their face and you're like, *Oh boy, where is this one going?* You know what I'm talking about? You're sitting there in your living room talking about this right now, you know what I'm talking about, there are those moments where you're like, *Can we stop talking about this?* You know, someone's texting someone on the phone going, *Can we change the subject?* – or – *Don't go there. Don't answer that question.* You know what I'm talking about. It's like, that was not a conversation that you wanted to have happen.

So four years ago we were still meeting in a building and we had some difficult news come to our church and some stuff that was going on in our church and it hit national news. It was one those things that everyone talks about, a 24-hour news cycle, and you think to yourself, *How is it that this has not been a 24-hour news cycle? It's going day after day after day.* The news trucks are showing up in the parking lot and every night you're seeing it on the news. And now you're starting to see it in printed stuff and it's going all over the country. And then all of a sudden here in our church the conversation changed. The roof collapsed. The roof fell in. I've been in conversations over the last four years where someone's talking, *"Oh, the roof's collapsed on my life and I'm..."* And I give them that look and they give me that look like *Oh, sorry, I didn't mean to say it like that.* Nah, we understand the metaphor that the roof has fallen in and some of you, you get it right now. And some of you go, *"Oh, yeah, the roof that we're living under, that we're all come trapped into right now, yeah. Yeah, that roof has collapsed on our lives."* Because three weeks ago same thing happened here.



ROOF COLLAPSE 2016

I mean, the same conversation that happened four years ago it was, it was, it was bad. I mean, it was like trucks are out in the parking lot, news reporters out there talking to our spokesman. And then all of a sudden it's like, man, it's showing up every day, something new, a new article, and you're like, *"Aw, man, will this ever end?"* And then, I mean, as quick as it came, the conversation changed and we get to learn a couple letters and a couple numbers, COVID-19 and all that kind of stuff. And a whole conversation of a whole nation has radically transitioned to something else without any warning. Who could have guessed just several weeks ago that this is what we would be talking about today?

Now when we were talking a few weeks ago we were talking about a family in the Old Testament of our Bible in a story about a girl by the name of Ruth. And I say girl, probably late 20's, but it doesn't start out with that girl. It starts out with a family who's living in Bethlehem that has a really rough time happen in their world—their roof collapses—everyone's hungry, they have already emptied the store shelves and they're at home. And this guy realizes hey, I've got to do something to save my family. He finds out that this place called Moab, 50 miles away, grocery stores are full of food and he takes his family there. Unfortunately in his short time there—well, I say short time, 10 to 15 years—he dies, his two boys die, but not before they marry two girls. And the story sort of transitions at this point and the two girls had back to Bethlehem where Naomi had come from, the wife of this man. And they start heading back to Bethlehem when Naomi says to the girls, *"You go back, go back home, go back home."* And the one girl, her name's Ruth, and she becomes this huge piece of this story, just a beautiful girl but

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from a really tough background. And as they're going back the one girl Orpah goes back to her homeland which would only make sense, but Ruth has this experience on the road as they're having this back and forth conversation going, you know, "You go home, I'm going there, you don't want to go there, there's nothing there for you. You're never gonna be able to get married there, my family line ends with this. You don't want to do that." And in that moment Ruth has—I can't call it anything other than a conversion experience.

And let me start out by inviting you to a conversion experience. Everything that's going on in this world right now is calling all of us to a conversion experience. It's these kind of moments that cause us to go, "There's got to be answers." And something let Ruth know there is a God because her response back to Naomi was, "Your people will be my people, your God will be my God. I'm in. I'm in." If I could beg one thing of you sitting there watching is that you would just be able to in this moment consider: Would I make the God of creation my God? Would I let Him into my life? I'm gonna say this, a conversion experience, a relationship with Jesus Christ, is the very thing that's going to put all of this together for you. It's the very thing that's going to deal with this roof that's collapsing all around you right now.

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Now, understand what happens next. These two get back to Bethlehem, Ruth and Naomi, and they're at the lowest of low. They're on the lowest level of society, they don't have anything; you'll remember that Ruth goes out into the fields gleaning. Good, godly God-following people who had listened to what God said to do would leave food in their fields so that those who are in need could go get it. What a cool thing. Talk about putting eyes on exactly what the Bible was telling them to do, something that's telling us to do now, make sure we're ready to care for those around us that are in need. That's probably going to happen in the days ahead. But they get back and they're at the bottom and they're trying to figure out and they're struggling and life becomes hard. We blow by that.

Just because you trust Jesus, just because you get your focus right on the thing that's going to matter the most, the foundation of this world, it doesn't mean this life and this world's all going to be simple. Ruth Chapter 4 tells us though the longer story of this, and it was a bit longer, she happened to be at the right field, she meets this guy by the name of Boaz, who happens to be one of the redeemers, one who could marry her, one that could continue the family line on. It's an awesome story and in the midst of that she gets married to Boaz. Ruth Chapter 4, verse 13, says:

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife. And he went in to her, and the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son. ¹⁴ Then the women said to Naomi,

— her mother-in-law —

“Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! ¹⁵ He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age, for your daughter-in-law who loves you, who is more to you than seven sons, has given birth to him.” ¹⁶ Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her lap and became his nurse. ¹⁷ And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, “A son has been born to Naomi.” They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.

– RUTH 4:13-17 (ESV)

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Okay, so let me just back up a second. I told you the story about how the conversation was changed for our church four years ago, how it's been changed for our church in the last couple weeks, now let me just go to you for a moment, just being straight up, how's the conversation changed in your world? What's changing, what are you talking about, and what your life looks like, and your reality right now? Something fascinating to me in the name of this baby that was born. The baby's name is Obed and the name—and in the Bible names have a lot of significance and have meaning—this name Obed means "in



service we worship." Let me just think about that for just a second. We worship what we serve. Use the word worship for a moment, the thing that we hold high, the thing that's most important to us is what we serve.

So I told you a moment ago that this girl on the road as she's emigrating from her home country of Moab to Bethlehem she says I want God to be the one I serve. Your people will be my people, your God will be my God, where you go, I will go.¹ This is all going to be about your God being my God, and us having that as a foundation to our lives. What we serve we worship.

Now here's what I think is fascinating in this moment that I want us to think about. I would love for you to talk about even in your groups this week as you're trying to find a way to jump into groups online with them and talk, even just in your family today.

There was an inflection point, it may only be about 5 to 7 to 9 to 10 days long right now where all of a sudden everything that we were used to doing in this world came to a screeching halt. In fact, just this week one of those things was restaurants being closed. All of a sudden we couldn't even go out to eat.

Earlier baseball was closed, even Disney was closed. Your gym has started shutting down. Your sporting teams and activities and traveling teams, they've all stopped. Your music lessons have stopped. It's all come to a screeching halt. And for many of you there was this moment of relief, it's like, [*inhales/exhales*] "The shuttle has stopped. The craziness has ended."

And then you came into the building together, your house, and the roof is coming in around you. And all of a sudden the thing that you were serving has left you home alone with your family. And some of the things that we used to cover up real issues within our families—busyness and business and activity—has now exposed opportunities and struggles.

Opportunities to be home all day with the kids. My wife and I went for a walk just the other day and it was—I've heard sounds and I saw sights I don't remember if I've ever seen before. Kids playing outside in the yard. Loud noises, people goofing around, neighbors standing around congregated talking, people walking, people running, the sound of dogs barking. There was an outside environment that was amazing. An opportunity for us to come together. Dads throwing football with their kids, children just playing out in the yards kicking balls to each other. And you go how wonderful is this sight and sound.



¹ **RUTH 1:16b (ESV):** *For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.*

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I told you there's an opportunity, there was also a struggle because I have heard of people this week already who are saying, "I now have to deal with the issues of my marriage." I've heard some people say, "Actually, it's getting better. We're spending time together and we've actually talked and the tension's lowering." I've heard some say, "It is amping up because, well, those things that have always triggered it have started triggering it." Other people are now living with you, other people have come back home from school, or the husband's home all the time now and you've never been used to that before. Or you've brought the in-laws in to live with you during this time. And all of that has created a new environment and a new scenario that causes us to have an opportunity but also a struggle.

OPPORTUNITY STRUGGLE

And I look at this and I go, *Here's what the problem and the solution is going to be.* The problem is simple, the problem is we have false gods. Let me explain to you why that is important in the midst of this. This girl Ruth came from a place called Moab where they worshiped this god by the name of Chemosh, and Chemosh demanded child sacrifice. This is an awful religious environment; a dark, evil, wicked place that they're coming from and all of a sudden she leaves that dark, wicked, evil place. Many of the people you're living with have spent a lot of time in worlds where what they're seeing and what they're having to deal with around them is nastiness. And all of a sudden they're coming out of that and we're now in the protection and the bubble of this home—something has radically transitioned in our lives and it's changing the focus. And we are moving to this place where we say I can say no to those false gods. I don't have to be on the road all the time. I don't have to be sitting listening to some of the stuff I've heard in the cafeteria or in the hallways. All of a sudden we're now in this place called home and there's this transition. Do we leave the false gods behind?

Some of them were just taken away from you. You can't sit and watch the TV anymore, we can't watch baseball anymore, we can't watch whatever the basketball game is anymore, we can't because they don't exist. We can't go to practice, we can't busy ourselves being somewhere else, so now we're at this moment where we go hey, those false gods were taken away from us, do we create new false gods to fill that place? Or do we do like Ruth did on her way from this place that worshipped false gods where she says your God will be my God? This is a moment where I'm gonna figure out how I can come into contact with the one true God. Most of the rest of our lives you sort of say, "Hey, when things slow down. When I get to that place in my life where I can settle down a little bit, then I will try to figure God out." And all of a sudden things got really quiet.

I hear people are downloading books and downloading podcasts and doing everything they can to keep their mind active. That's why so many people are outside—this is our moment to say I'm gonna reject the false gods. I see them now. I was chasing after stuff that a week ago, three weeks ago, mattered a whole lot but now the season's canceled. It doesn't matter. It's over and we don't know if and when it will ever restart again. And we are reminded right now how powerless and helpless we are. We never dreamed there was a day our whole country could be brought to an immediate standstill and yet it has, and this is our moment to be able to say your God will be my God, I'm going to turn to Jesus in this time for my strength.

So the core of why many problems happen in the first place is that issue of false gods, and if we can remove those false gods from our lives—which they have been removed, many of them forcefully removed—the conversation can change. Two verses in the Bible are really key and one is found in Joshua Chapter 24, and so I'm gonna ask us right now: Would we consider having a Ruth moment? A Ruth moment where the conversation changes from what it was – false gods – to a conversation to what

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it could be – true God – because the answer to that marriage stress that you're feeling right now, that answer to that thing that you're struggling with within your family is Jesus. It's having the one true God being brought to bear in their lives, and they're sitting here in your midst right now. Kids, if you're listening on right now, the stuff that's been taken away from you, right now He's calling you, Jesus is calling you, God is calling you: Put your attention, put your focus in on Him.

Listen to these words in Joshua Chapter 24, verse 14, it says:

¹⁴ “Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness.

— listen to these words —

Put away the gods

— and that's little "g", false gods —

that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and

— do this instead —

serve the Lord.

— that's that back and forth thing that I'm explaining here —

¹⁵ And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve,

— that's what Ruth did, that's what I did a long time ago, that's what I'm going to ask you to do today, have your Ruth moment —

whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

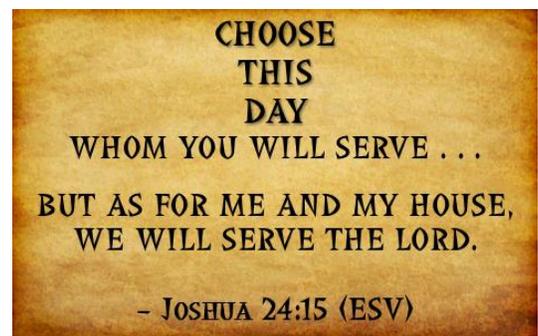
– JOSHUA 24:14-15 (ESV)

Am I gonna serve the god of business? Am I gonna serve the god of baseball? Am I gonna serve the god of soccer, of basketball, of education, business, of busyness, of alcohol, of drugs? You walk away from those gods that have controlled us and say, "Hey, as for me and my family, right now we're in. We're in. We're gonna serve the Lord." We're gonna turn afterwards and go, what do you guys think? What do y'all think? Do we want to serve Jesus? I mean, he's right, this is a moment where we've got to decide this. And listen to this, it says here, "But as for me and my house," this is Joshua Chapter 24, verse 15, "*But for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*"

Dads, moms, what if we said that right now? Turn to the kids, "We're in. We're serving Jesus." Let's say it right now, "We're in. We're serving Jesus. We will serve the Lord." That's the way it's going to be here, we're gonna figure it out this time." And verse 16 says:

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods,

– JOSHUA 24:16 (ESV)



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And he stops there and they begin to say hey, this is what we've seen God do in the past.

Family, will you respond? "Yeah, we're in. We'll serve Jesus. And you know, we've seen God work in powerful ways in our home and in our family in the past, and He's protected us and He's even protected us in this moment."

One other passage is found in Ephesians Chapter 5, verse 15, I love these words, they're important words. In fact, I wrote next to these words "first principles" and if you're familiar with first principle thinking these are foundational concepts and thoughts, that if you drill them into your mind it's gonna guide you in everything you do. So I wrote in the side of my Bible, "first principles." Ephesians 5, verse 15:

¹⁵ *Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,*

— here's the key phrase —

¹⁶ *making the best use of the time, because the days are evil.*

– EPHESIANS 5:15-16 (ESV)

There's a battle, I mean, we know from Scripture that it is sin that allows sickness and disease to reign in front of us. If you're angry at the sickness and disease that is messing up our lives right now, be angry with sin. Realize that it was never, ever, ever meant to be this way. And he says hey, listen, redeem the time because the days are evil. Redeem this week, redeem this moment, redeem these days with the kids.

My son and I were walking just this week. And he's now in college—guess what, home like your college students are, I hope you're all watching today and thanks for watching, thanks for being here. My son looks at me and he says—we were looking at this dad and son throwing a baseball back and forth, back and forth—and he goes, "I bet you that son will remember this day for the rest of his life, the opportunity to play ball with daddy." Redeeming the time, redeeming the days, for there's evil, sickness, but redeeming them wisely. Go out there and throw a ball with your boy. Sit down and have breakfast with your family. If we had just said just a couple weeks ago do that we all would have been pulling our hair out trying to figure out what time to do that. Now it's been tailor fit for us.



Redeeming the time for the days are evil. And then he goes on and he uses words like this and I'm not gonna read all of these, but he says:

¹⁸ *... but be filled with the Spirit,*

– EPHESIANS 5:18c (ESV)

And the Greek word there is that continually filled because if you have made a decision to follow Jesus, to make Him Lord of your life, the Spirit of God came into your life, and so the Spirit of God is coming into your life and it says this is how you do it. Think about this in your home right now. It's crazy in that room. It's crazy under that roof. We're all here again, it's noisy, it's loud, everyone's eating, the babies are crying, the kids are fighting, there's all sorts of weirdness going on, and so that little pretty picture of throwing baseball that lasted about what? Ten minutes until he got hit in the eye?

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Let me read what it says:

¹⁹ addressing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with your heart, ²⁰ giving thanks always for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ submitting to one another out of reverence to Christ.

– EPHESIANS 5:19-21 (ESV)

Here would be a great assignment, [*he laughs*] when I just mentioned this sweet moment followed by a [*shrieks*] moment in your home, you all got it. You've all been there. You know the moments of this time already that you go, "That was cool," and the moments you're going, "I don't know if I can do this for two weeks. And now they're talking about much longer." Here's your instruction Book, let God just—you made the decision to follow Jesus—now let God's Spirit fill your life, "*psalms and hymns and spiritual songs.*" By the way, just turn on Christian music, let it blast through your house. Let it blast over the yard. Fill your hearts with the words of God. Spend moments studying Scripture together. It talks here give thanks, stop and when you pray for the meals thank God for the food in front of you.

For the first time it's like, "Wow. I went in the store the other day, it's empty." And you stop and you go, "Oh, thank you, God." We took this for granted a week ago. Today we say thank you, God, I know it's your provision. I know You can provide. I know You can multiply that. This is a big day. But stopping and giving thanks. Thanks, God, that I can be here with my kids. Thanks that we can have these two weeks together. Thanks that we can have time that we never saw coming. Submitting to one another out of reverence for Christ. The Scripture talks about this often. Here's the bottom line: Consider the other person as more important.² Wow, how great is that?



EMPTY SHELVES

Back to the name Obed, in serving we worship. And oftentimes we think worship is just coming to church and singing a song, but when we serve each other out of reverence for each other—care for each other, who can get to clean up the dishes first, who can vacuum the house first, who can serve by helping watching the baby, who can serve by making dinner so that someone else doesn't have to make it, and who can serve by creating a fun evening together as a family—and in so doing that will bring out in us the responsiveness of thankfulness to God because something begins to change. Maybe you and your spouse have not been doing well for quite a long time, serve your spouse like crazy during this time and watch this marriage turn around. God has given this moment to us to cause us all to point our eyes upward and then to put our eyes into the Scriptures. I mean, this is a great time to begin reading your Bible. We've mentioned two passages today, Joshua Chapter 24 and now Ephesians 5. Like, if you capitalize on those two passages and just began to say how could that change my life and my family so that we could respond "*as for me and my house.*"

Let me wrap up real quickly. At the end of this chapter here in Ruth there's this genealogy, and I don't know about you but when I read genealogies I sort of blur over. Okay, a couple weeks ago I was watching, I don't know, some show on TV and there was a commercial. I think it was that ancestry group that you can go work on your own ancestry stuff on there. And this woman starts showing these

² **PHILIPPIANS 2:3-4 (ESV):** *Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.*

pictures of her great-great grandpa driving along the coast in an old car, and he looked like this cool, awesome dude who had done all these amazing things. And it creates this picture like Wow! and you just go, "I wish I could get that because maybe I could see that same video of my ancestors"—as if such a thing existed—"if I were to buy that."

When I read the genealogies in Scripture I rarely look at that and go Wow! And even when they were living this through they didn't understand what the genealogy would be because that was yet future. You and I don't understand what our genealogy is going future, but what we learn because we get to look back on this—which is why Scripture's written, to help us see life from a very different direction through God's eyes but also through real situations that have been happening.

RUTH 4:18-22 (ESV)

The Genealogy of David

Now these are the generations of Perez:

**Perez fathered Hezron,
Hezron fathered Ram,
Ram fathered Amminadab,
Amminadab fathered Nahshon,
Nahshon fathered Salmon,
Salmon fathered Boaz,
Boaz fathered Obed,
Obed fathered Jesse,
and Jesse fathered David.**

What we learn here is this Obed that was born of Ruth and Boaz has a son, his name is Jesse, who is the daddy of King David. And I don't care who you are or even if you've never been into the church mode before, you've seen statues of David, you've heard of King David, historical King that the Scripture talks about Jesus having been in the line of King David. And here's what we recognize in all of this, is through this girl Ruth's really hard upbringing, maybe even dark past, here's a girl that God says I'm going to put you in the line of Jesus. From you is ultimately a bunch of generations down going to come the Messiah, the Redeemer. Remember, she gets into this line because there's a redeemer, a guy by the name of Boaz, who really pictures Christ in this. There's going to be a Redeemer coming who's going to save us from this problem. The same problem that caused the famine there; the same problem that causes disease and death here—the problem of sin. There's a Redeemer coming and it was through her that that Redeemer would come. It was through her that Israel's great King David would come.

Can you imagine? She didn't see it in her lifetime. She couldn't have seen it. But some day looking down from Heaven, can you imagine her seeing her grandson, actually, I think it'd be great-grandson, King David, and realizing the decisions that I made in my life and the training that I provided for my boy Obed all led down a path that was one that would change all of history. It's a picture that most never get to see that we get to see because we can look at the rest of the story. The decision that she made that day on her way as an immigrant back to Bethlehem was a decision that changed the conversation. Without her deciding to follow God she never meets Boaz, she never meets Boaz, she never gets married, if she never gets married she never has Obed, and the line of Christ is stopped right there. But God is very active, He's very involved, and He's using people. And the decisions that she made changed the conversation.

I'm confident that the decisions we are making right now in our home and in our family, the way we respond to these moments whether we're in freak-out mode or whether we're in the mode of God's got this, I'm thankful, let's use this as a moment, let's leverage this moment. Let's capture this time. This is our moment, our entire family will talk about these days for the rest of their lives.

I grew up hearing about the Great Depression. I have pictures in my head. I have conversations in my head. I heard about years that I never lived in and someday our kids are going to talk about living through something that the people at that time will not know anything about, but they'll hear over and

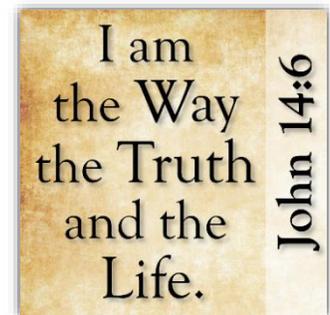
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over the weeks we spent at home because the whole country was brought to its knees. And what I want for you is that your family, your family will be able to say: "Those were the days I got to know my daddy." "Those were the days that my mom and dad's marriage was healed." "Those were the days I put my trust in Jesus because we figured it out as a family."

Our church is working really hard right now and I hope that you're jumping in on it. Our students, the stuff that they're doing online for the kids right now, they're so involved. We went from the youngest of kids to our junior high and high school, our leaders in those areas are doing amazing things. Our groups are continuing to meet to help encourage us and be a backstop and to help encouraging each other to love and good deeds. And just because we're not coming into the building doesn't mean we're not meeting. We're still meeting. Jump in and take every opportunity that's there, but don't become so dependent on all the screens of your life that you miss each other in this time, that you miss getting together and saying, "Hey, let's talk about what God's doing. Let's remember what He's done in our lives in the past and let's make this a day that some day when we're talking to our kids we can go, 'Do you remember March of 2020, COVID-19?' " And remember the goodness and the graciousness of God, but it'll only happen if you decide this morning your God will be my God, as for me and my family we will follow the Lord. It will only happen if we respond and say, "I'm in. Oh, I'm all-in."

Someone at the church, and I'll close with this, told me a story this week. It's a true story, it happened in a grocery store. They were so specific they told me it was in the pasta aisle when they overheard two young adult women talking and she said she heard these two girls talking and one of the girls said, "You know, in my belief system if we were to all die from this thing I'd just wake up and be reincarnated into just another Hell." And this person that was standing in the aisle she says, "You know, people don't normally look at you and talk to you anyhow in the grocery store, they're all focused," and she goes, "I just couldn't help myself." And she just said, "I exclaimed," and I wrote down what she said, she says, "Wow! That was depressing and devastating." And then she looked at them and said, "How do you cope with that?" And they looked back to her and their only answer was, "Life is so meaningless." And this woman from our church looked back at them and said, "I'm not concerned at all. I'm not concerned about death because I believe in Jesus and because He overcame death, because He's alive, He's offered me life. And He's the only One that can offer me and assure me of life. I believe that Jesus, as He said, is the way, the truth, and the life."



These are important moments to move from fear to faith. Moments to know for certain that I have eternal life, to know for certain that the people sitting in our living room right now watching this have eternal life. That they aren't in a place where it's meaningless; where they're not somehow moving from one Hell to another through some made-up term called reincarnation. But there is a God who stepped out of Heaven who loves you so, so much. And it is that God that so drew Ruth to say that'll be my God. That is the God that Joshua called all of his people to say me and my household will follow Him. And I just ask you right now: Are you all in? Just nod your heads to each other. If you're sitting next to each other, grab each other's hands, hold each other's hands. Could you do that? I know, we don't normally do that in church because you never know who you're sitting next to. You're at home, you're with your family right now, hopefully you wash your hands before you do this, grab each other's hands.

Jesus,

Jesus, would you impress on the hearts of each person sitting in circles holding hands or putting their arms around each other say, "Yes, for me and my household we will follow Jesus."

WHAT WE DO TODAY MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN THE DAYS AHEAD

SERIES: BROKEN DREAMS | WEEK 7 | 3.22.2020

Will you say that out loud in your circle right now? We'll follow Jesus. Say it, one by one in your circle, all of you say it, "We'll follow Jesus." If you've never followed Jesus, just squeeze the hand of the person next to you saying, "I want to follow Jesus right now," and just pray this prayer: *Jesus, come into my life. I want to trust You. I want to follow You. I love You.*

Lord Jesus,

We love You and I pray for each person in the hearing of my voice right now that this will become a starting point in our road back to what You've called us to be. And Lord God, I pray that You'll bring healing in our homes. I pray that You'll rebuild that roof over each of these homes, that You'll put a protective layer around each person.

For those listening on to this message who are sick, those who are scared that they're sick, those who are fearful that they'll get sick, those who don't have enough food, those who don't have enough money to pay the bills, Jesus, for those who just don't know what's next and are just sort of nervous about everything, Lord, I pray that the peace that passes all understanding through Christ Jesus would fall upon each person in the hearing my voice right now. We ask this in the name of Jesus.

Give each other a little hug. Give each other a little squeeze.

We love You, Jesus. It's in Your Name we pray. Do a work in our families, please Jesus; answer prayers that are unspoken around this circle right now. O Jesus, do a miracle. We know that You are the God who can do something that only God can do and we're asking You to do that right now. Jesus, move in this family, move in this home, move in this town. Jesus, move in this country. Jesus, move across the world today.

We ask in your strong name, Jesus Christ. Amen.

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Calvary Fellowship Website: <https://www.cfdowningtown.com/watch>

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Facebook: Not Available

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