

Change Points!

Week One

Memory Verse: Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. (Jesus – Mt. 16:24, The Message Translation)

Video introduction by Pastor Steve

Recap of week one "Change Points!" message:

- How the Apostle Paul changes "pressure points" to "change points": We can rejoice, too, when we run into problems and trials, for we know that they help us develop endurance. And endurance develops strength of character, and character strengthens our confident hope of salvation. And this hope will not lead to disappointment. For we know how dearly God loves us, because he has given us the Holy Spirit to fill our hearts. (Rom. 5:3-5)
- Jesus Christ is Lord! (Rom. 14:8)
- Jesus: Anyone who intends to come with me has to let me lead. You're not in the driver's seat; I am. (Mt. 16:24, The Message Translation)
- Change the question from "Why?" to "How?"
- Next Step: Give Jesus Christ the driver's seat in your life.

Questions to explore:

1. In the home you grew up in were you taught through word or example that life is a series of pressure points to be endure and fought through on your own, or were you taught that life is a series of change points in which God is at work in our lives to grow us up into Christ?
2. Read Rom. 5:3-5. What difference does Paul say it makes when we view problems and trials as "change points"? What is the downside of viewing problems and trials as only pressure points?
3. Talk about how changing the question from "Why?" to "How?" open the door to Jesus bringing His change into our lives. Talk through different common pressure points/ change points such as: Difficulties at work, challenges in parenting, rough spots in marriage, financial stress, etc. What happens if we focus on the "Why is this happening?" What happens when we focus on the "How is God at work?"

Challenge question:

- Did you take the next step Pastor Steve suggested of giving Jesus Christ the driver's seat in your life by sitting in your vehicle's driver's seat, then switching to the passenger seat, and telling Jesus the areas you are turning over to him? What was that like? Were you able to understand that as an act of worship?
- What is the one area of your life that is most difficult for you to give Jesus "drivership" over? What do you need to do to remove obstacles to letting Jesus "drive"?