

Now What?

EASTER RECAP

WEEK OF APRIL 16TH, 2023
I'VE MET JESUS, NOW WHAT?
Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

ICEBREAKER



The Avengers are looking for a new Avenger to add to the team, and they've chosen YOU! What's your Avenger name and superpower?

Introduction

- Share the story of when you said yes to Jesus. What was your influence?
- When you became a Christian, did someone come alongside you and help teach you how to “be” a Christian? Or, did you sort of figure it out on your own? How did it work out for you? What advice would you offer other new Christians?

What I've Said Yes To:

- Is there a time early in your walk with Christ where you fully understood what you were saying yes to? How is it different saying yes to Jesus as a kid versus as an adult?
- What are you gaining by saying yes to Christ? What scares you about saying yes?
- Ephesians 2 says it is the grace of God that offers that salvation! It is a free gift of God for all people, and if we receive it, we receive it by faith! By simply holding out your hand and accepting God's free gift, we're cleansed of our sins and guaranteed an eternal life with God. Do you struggle to accept God's grace and forgiveness? Have you accepted His identity for you in Christ?
- “We Believe,” in Romans 10:9-11, means we are so deeply convinced that it moves us to change how we live and behave! What things did/do you feel convicted to change to follow Christ?
- When you say yes to Jesus, you're not only saying yes to salvation, but you also say yes to Jesus as Lord of your life. Do you feel like you said yes to both? Is it a struggle for you to submit to Jesus as Lord?
- When you say yes to Jesus, you're never the same. What one thing in you changed the most when you were saved by the grace of Jesus?
- Salvation from sins only comes through Jesus Christ, “The Lamb of God!” What other ways had you heard of before you became a Christian? Why are all the other pathways to salvation without Jesus dead ends? Why are so many in the world so eager to go looking down those “dead end” pathways, when Jesus as “The Lamb of God” is so readily available?

What We Do From Now On:

- What currently has lordship in life? What are you struggling to completely hand over to Christ?

WEEK OF APRIL 16TH, 2023

I'VE MET JESUS, NOW WHAT?

Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

- How is “Follow Me” so simple yet so difficult at the same time? Why is it so hard to deny ourselves and just follow Jesus?
- Life is full of distractions. What would it look like to be still and listen to God and silence the noise of the world? What distractions do you need to remove from your life so that you can be fully devoted to following God?
- What does “Follow Me” look like in your life? What should it look like?
- In allowing Christ to be Lord, where do you allow Him? Where do you keep Him from entering? Do you allow the Holy Spirit to access every moment of your life?
- “Then Jesus told His disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whoever would save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?” (Matthew 16:24-26). What cross do you need to take up? Why are you holding on to it?
- Philippians 1:27 says, “Only let your manner of life be worthy of the gospel of Christ.” Is your manner of life now worthy of the gospel of Christ? Why or why not?

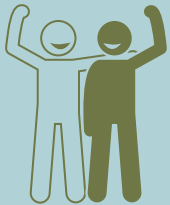
What Do I Do... Next?

- Romans 6 tells us that Baptism is a reflection of the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. Have you been water baptized? Why or why not?
- Grade yourself (A through F) in the following categories of “being taught” as a Christian and share why you chose that grade:
 - Reading your Bible,
 - Prayer
 - Small Group participation
- If we’re not careful, we can fall into the trap of routine versus relationship with Christ. How do you keep your walk with Christ “fresh”? What can you do to make sure the relationship continues to grow and deepen?
- Think about how much time you spend with your best friend. In what ways do you cultivate that relationship? What would it like for you to cultivate a best friend relationship with Jesus?
- What guardrails are you using to protect your time with Jesus?
- When you pray, are you allowing God the space and time to answer your prayers? Are you submitting to His authority in how He answers your prayers?

WEEK OF APRIL 16TH, 2023
I'VE MET JESUS, NOW WHAT?
Speaker: Pastor Mike Burnette

EASTER SERIES

ACT ON IT



ENCOURAGE

Now that you've said yes to Jesus, you get to believe certain things, you get to behave certain ways, and you get to live your life as a result of your decision. Now that you've chosen to walk with Christ, it's time for basic training. Remind yourself what you've said yes to. You've said yes to salvation, forgiveness, and to be born again as a new creation in Christ. Fix your eyes and heart on who God wants you to be. You've also said yes to surrendering and to accepting Jesus as Lord of your life. From this point on, your primary instruction is to follow Jesus. Let that instruction guide you into your next steps. Let those two words lead you in submitting to God's plan. Welcome to the Family of God!



Ask

- Are you saying that you're following Jesus but still trying to live on your own? Have you fully accepted your new identity in Christ?
- Have you been honest about what your cross really is?
- Are you a regular attender at church? Are you in a small group? If How does doing this strengthen your walk with God? If not, what is holding you back?
- What ways is Jesus trying to be with you? Have you allowed Jesus to be Lord in every area of your life? Are there some areas that you're still keeping from Him?
- What will you do differently this week to better follow Jesus?



Challenge

Look inward and take a personal inventory of how you're doing with following Jesus. We should follow Jesus in our parenting, in our marriage, in our singleness, in our business deals, in our job, with our personal finances, in our calendar, in our priorities, in everything we do.

If you struggle to know what your cross is, ask someone close to you to help you identify it.

What are some bad habits that you need to break to make room for good rhythms with Christ?

PRAYER

God, thank You for saving us. Thank You for Your gift of grace. Thank You for loving us so much. Jesus, we proclaim You as Lord of our lives. We surrender to You. Holy Spirit, help us to lay our burdens down. God, You are now in charge. Continue to move us and convict of the things that keep us separated from You. Helps us truly to accept the invitation to follow You in everything we do. Help us remember that the cost of dying to ourselves is small compared to the abundance of blessings You have for us. We are no longer slaves to who we used to be, we are new creations in Christ. We accept our new identities. From now, help us to follow You better. Show us where we need more of You. Reveal to us the crosses we need to bear. Help us live in a way that shines the light of the gospel to those around us so we can be a part of Your desire to see all people saved. Show us the next steps You have for us in our journey and give us the strength and boldness to take them. We are blessed to be a part of Your family. We are blessed to be loved by You. Amen.