BREAKING THE ICE

If you could go off the grid anywhere in the world, where would you go?

Did you choose one word for 2019? If so, what word did you choose and why?
(If you aren't familiar with one word, watch the online sermon from December 30.)

MAIN CONTENT

This week, we started a new series called Off the Grid. In Scripture, Jesus takes some time "off the grid" after His birth. But in those 30 years, He grew and prepared for His last three. Along the way, He grew in wisdom, in favor with God and in favor with man — three things absolutely vital not necessarily for the goals He had, but for the plans God had for Him.

1. Have you ever taken time to get off the grid? How did it feel to be quiet and not seen? Did you learn things from being off the grid?

90% of Jesus's life was unseen; we only saw 10% of it. In the 90% of the hidden life, we find ourselves and refine ourselves.

10% Visible + 90% Unseen = Indestructible Life

2. What percent of your life do you feel is visible versus unseen? How do you feel these percentages affect your life with others and with God?

When we are off the grid, God has a chance to help us grow. This happens because we spend more time communicating with Him and less time communicating with others to give us the validation we need. It's in the hiddenness where we find ourselves.

3. What does a lack of focusing on God in the hiddenness cost you?

We see that of the 90% of Jesus's life that was unseen (hidden), He grew in 4 areas.

Read Luke 2:25

Luke tells us the 4 areas where Jesus grew: wisdom (intellect), stature (physically), favor with God (spiritual life) and favor with man. Jesus took time to grow in wisdom even though He already knew most things. He took the time to grow wiser and see things from God's perspective.

When we have wisdom, it allows us to see things from God's perspective and gives us the ability to make great life choices.

We gain wisdom in three ways: talking to God in prayer, listening to God by reading our Bible and surrounding ourselves with wise people.

Read James 1:5

4. Have you ever prayed and asked God to give you wisdom? How did you see that prayer answered?

5. What does prayer look like in your life?

God loves it when we ask for wisdom, but asking for wisdom requires us to go off the grid and communicate with Him.

When we communicate with God, we gain wisdom. One way to communicate with God is by reading the Bible. The Bible is full of wisdom. God speaks to us in the Bible and gives us advice on how to make decisions. When you take time to go off the grid and read the Bible, you hear from God and gain wisdom on how to live your life.

6. What does spending time with God by reading the Bible look like in your life?

7. What are some of the things you have learned by reading the Bible to help you make good choices in life?

The choices we make are tied to the decisions we have made when we go off the grid and spend time with God. The more time we spend with Him, the more we will become like Him.

Spending time with wise people will also help you gain wisdom in your life. Wise people seek wise friends and ask questions.

Read Proverbs 13:20

8. Who is the wisest person you know? What makes them so wise?

When we surround ourselves with wise people, it gives us the opportunity to become wiser. That's why community groups are so important. We spend time praying for each other, asking questions, learning together and caring for one another so we can all focus on following Jesus more closely and gain the wisdom we need to live our lives like Him.

9. How can you gain wisdom this year?

CLOSING PRAYER

God, thank You for showing us love through Jesus. Thank You that He is the one we need to help us through our waiting and guiding us. Help us love others as You love us. Show us where to we can serve others and love them.

ACTION STEP

Think of who you can get up and love this week. Show them the love God has for them as we head in to the last week of Advent.