



GROUPS AT CROSS POINT

BREAKING THE ICE

Have you ever lost something so important that it completely derailed your focus? What happened?

When is the last time you celebrated someone or something that had been lost?

MAIN CONTENT

This week, we continue our series, Off the Grid. Jesus's life was largely spent off the grid. It was during those obscure times that He was growing, learning and maturing.

When we are off the grid, we are in a place of hiddenness. But hiddenness isn't a place to be ashamed of - it's a place of preparation, a place for us to grow. Maturity happens in obscurity and places of hiddenness.

1. Where have you felt growth in your life in times of hiddenness?

We all want to grow in spiritual maturity. But we want to grow in maturity quickly; we don't want it to take time. In Luke 2:52, spiritual growth can be described as favor with God. In order to know God and have spiritual maturity with Him, we have to want a relationship with Him. The more time we spend with Him, the more our relationship with Him grows and the more time we want to spend with Him.

2. What does spiritual maturity look like to you?

To know God means you have to know in your heart two things:

1. You are made by God
2. You are made for God





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It's one thing to know intellectually that you are made by God and for God. It's another to let those bold faith statements settle in your heart. We weren't created to live in a relationship without God.

3. How do the statements "you are made by God" and "you are made for God" impact your life? Do they impact your life at all? Why or why not?

You were created to live in a relationship with God. It's possible for you to be more concerned with other relationships than with your relationship with God.

4. Have you let other relationships in your life become more important than your own relationship with God? Explain.

God wants a relationship with you wherever you are. Even if you are in a place of hurt or heartache, God knows your place, and there is not a wasted day in that place. Those hidden, off the grid places are often the places where God grows us the most. In those off the grid moments, God is preparing you for something you may not even be aware of yet.

There are three ways we grow in spiritual maturity when we are off the grid: we find our worth, our character and our audience.

We find our worth in God through our relationship with Him. How do you grow in relationship with Him? You spend time with Him. God is more than a transactional God that we spend one hour with on a Sunday morning. God wants to spend time with you more than just an hour during Sunday service. He wants to spend time with you every day. He is with you 24 hours a day and would love to engage with you all the time. He wants to show you and tell you how much he loves you. He does this when you spend time in your relationship with Him.

5. How would you describe your relationship with God right now? Do you feel worthy to have a relationship with Him?

Read Luke 3: 21-23

God loves us and is pleased with us. No matter what we have done or will do, He will always love us and want a relationship with us. We are worthy because he made us for a relationship with Him.



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When we are spending time with God off the grid, we find our character. This means we are the same in public as we are in private.

John Wooley said,

“Reputation is who other people think you are, character is who you really are.”

6. Is your life the same in public as it is in private? Explain.

Our character is who we are in private. It's who we really are. God knows our character and he loves us despite our character flaws. Our character flaws aren't detrimental to our relationship with Him. He loves us through them because He knows we will never be perfect on this side of eternity. As our relationship with Him grows, we want to be more like Him, and our character becomes more like His. As our character becomes more like His, we love like Him and care for others like Him.

When we are off the grid, we find our primary audience. When we are walking with God, we are concerned with Him being our primary audience not impressing everyone else. Our relationship with Him should be the most important relationship in our lives. As our relationship with Him grows, we can tell others about His goodness and love - how we are created by Him for a relationship with Him.

7. Who is the primary audience of your life? Who do you live to be noticed by and to please?

God doesn't ask us to do good works to please Him or anyone else. He just wants to have a relationship with you - a relationship where you spend time together getting to know one another so you can tell others about Him.

CLOSING PRAYER

God, we know that You created us for a relationship with You. Will You please show us the things that keep us from engaging in a relationship with You; the things we put above you for others. Show us the love You have for us and the things we need to hear from You in order to grow closer to You. In Jesus' name, amen.





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ACTION STEP

In the month of February, we will be joining close to 300 churches in Nashville in taking time to pray for the city of Nashville. We will be praying as a church community publicly and privately for those who need God in their lives. This time of prayer and fasting for others not only grows us in maturity in our relationship with Him, but also gives us time to think about someone other than ourselves.

As a group, pick up a packet (if you haven't already) and commit to praying for the people on the list. Pray for them every day using the prayer prompts in the packet. While you pray during the month of February, you may consider fasting and giving up something you love for something greater: people coming to know Jesus. For more information on fasting, email your groups director or groups@crosspoint.tv.

