

ICE BREAKER: As a kid, what one chore did you dislike doing at home?

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 21-23) Jesus began his preaching ministry at 30 years of age. For thirty years, we know very little of Jesus’ life except the following:

- He was a **carpenter**.
- Joseph, his legal father, died early, leaving him, the oldest son, to lead a single-parent family.

Yet during this largely unknown period of Jesus’ life, God the Father summarized Jesus’ life, proclaiming, “With you I am **well pleased**.” God the Father declared his pleasure **not after** Jesus’ ministry, but **before** He even began it. The Father was pleased with Jesus’ **simple life** at home before His spectacular life as the long-awaited Messiah.

1. How can you experience **God’s pleasure** and **favor** in the **ordinary, simple, boring** tasks of your **life**?

(Read verse 23) The world-changing, miraculous ministry of Jesus lasted only **three years**. The **foundation** for those three years was the 30 ordinary years of Jesus living and working at home. Day in day out, week in, week out for thirty years Jesus **faithfully** performed the **daily tasks** of a carpenter and oldest son.

In the parable of the talents, Jesus described a principle for faithfulness and success, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been **faithful** with a **few things**; I will put you **in charge** of **many things**. (Matthew 25:21)”

2. How has God granted you **greater opportunities only** after you showed **faithfulness** in a **lesser task**?

Living a simple life as a carpenter for thirty years in Nazareth, Jesus faced the common problems and hardships of life: the loss of a parent, making a living, demands of family, expectations of the oldest child, the stress of work, amidst everyday temptations.

A great news of the Gospel is **Jesus faced every temptation** and **struggle** common to us all. He understands all we go through and ever will go through. Speaking of Jesus as our High Priest, Hebrews 4:15 states, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to **sympathize** with **our weaknesses**, but we have one who has **been tempted in every way, just as we are**—yet was **without sin**.”

3. How can knowing **Jesus** has **faced** and **understands** our every **temptation** and **struggle** bring you **hope**?

From verses 23 through 38, Luke lists the **genealogy** of Jesus through David and Abraham all the way back to Adam. In fulfilling all human history in the person of Jesus Christ, God describes how the Messiah Jesus came forth. The full revelation of who God is came **not** through **kingdoms**, nor **civilizations**, nor **technological breakthroughs**, but through **people**.

God **works primarily** through **relationships**. It’s reflective of his own nature—the **Trinity**. Similarly, God’s work through His **church** must be focused on **people** and **relationships**, **not programs** or **buildings**.

4. What **dangers** does the **church** face when her focus is **not** on **people** and developing **relationships**?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Christ with this week or invite to Celebration.)
