



DATE	January 1, 2017
SPEAKER	Paul Clark
TITLE	Living in Ordinary Time
SERIES	As Christmas fades, we head into a season that the Church calls Ordinary Time. Absent the holiday highlights, aren't most of our days rather ordinary? Jesus spent some 30 years in relative obscurity: living, learning, and growing. What can we learn from Jesus' own ordinary time?

1. Read Luke 2:40 and Luke 2:52. Pastor Paul Clark asked several speculative questions about the life of Jesus during the 30 years of his life prior to public ministry.

Discuss your own speculations about these undocumented years. What do you think should and/or might have distinguished Jesus as the Son of God?

2. Pastor Paul said: *Every day we live, even the ordinary days, especially the ordinary days, has dignity and significance to God—and should to us as well.*

What does this look like in the life of a Christ-follower? How is it different from a worldview apart from God?

3. Read Philippians 3:12-14. Pastor Paul said: *There is no such thing as a static Christian.* Talk about periods in your life that were spiritually static and other times you spiritually progressed. How do you think this passage applies?
4. Pastor Paul described wisdom as acquiring the skill to manage life. To discern and practice what's essential for godly living. He cited things like...
 - Truth of scripture filling our thoughts, guiding actions and shaping our hearts
 - Participating in faith communities
 - Daily dependence on God
 - Listening to the voice of the Holy Spirit

How do these passages relate to the ideas presented above: Prov. 3:13-18; Prov. 2:6; Ephesians 5:15-16; James 1:5; James 3:17; 1 Corinthians 3:18.

5. Pastor Paul described stature as growing into or becoming fit for something that is intended. Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20; Romans 12:1-2; Romans 6:13-19

What key ideas stand out to you? How can you apply them as positive prescriptions rather than negative don'ts?

6. Pastor Paul concluded that every ordinary day is packed with both God and man. Luke 2:52 tells us Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, AND in favor with God and Man. Do we as Christ-followers have an obligation to allow God to grow us? How does our individual growth impact our families, peers, acquaintance and strangers?