ICEBREAKER: If you could read everyone's mind for one week only, would you tell anyone or keep it a secret? Explain.

OVERVIEW: In the last passage of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus emphasizes that He offers the best way to live; and the key is obedience. But ignoring Him will lead to destruction. In this study we will go deeper in learning how we can get in on the abundant life Jesus offers.

1. Read Matthew 7:24-28. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)

2. What are some popular but unbiblical ideas in our culture about the best way to live? Do any of these ideas still tempt you? Explain.

3. Jesus had His own opinion about the best way to live. What makes Him a more credible and authoritative voice on the matter?

4. How has following Jesus Christ benefitted you?

5. Jesus said that following His teachings will make you wise. Wisdom is knowing the right way to act and speak; knowing the best course of action; the ability to navigate life skillfully. How has Jesus made you a wiser person?

6. What do the following verses say about how to grow in wisdom?

   - James 1:5-8

   - James 3:13-18

7. Following Jesus also leads to endurance — the ability to remain Christlike under the weight of trouble. What are some ways that people lacking endurance respond to adversity? How have you responded shamefully and sinfully to trouble in the past?

8. Explain how following Jesus has given you more endurance.

9. The key to the best life is obeying Jesus. This involves both listening to His teaching and then applying it to your life. What are some practical steps you can take to grow in obedience?

The Last Word: The key to the best life is obeying Christ's teachings. You are only as wise as you are obedient. You can only endure to the degree that you are obedient. The quality of your life depends on the obedience of your life.

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