



PARK STREET

BRETHREN CHURCH

October 18, 2020

Openness to God (Psalm 139:23-24)

**CHURCH
WIDE
SURVEY**

WHERE ARE YOU?



Take our online survey at
parkstreetbrethren.org

TODAY'S QUESTION

Who is the person you feel most comfortable opening up to? Why do you trust them?

WHO IS YOUR FAVORITE VAMPIRE?



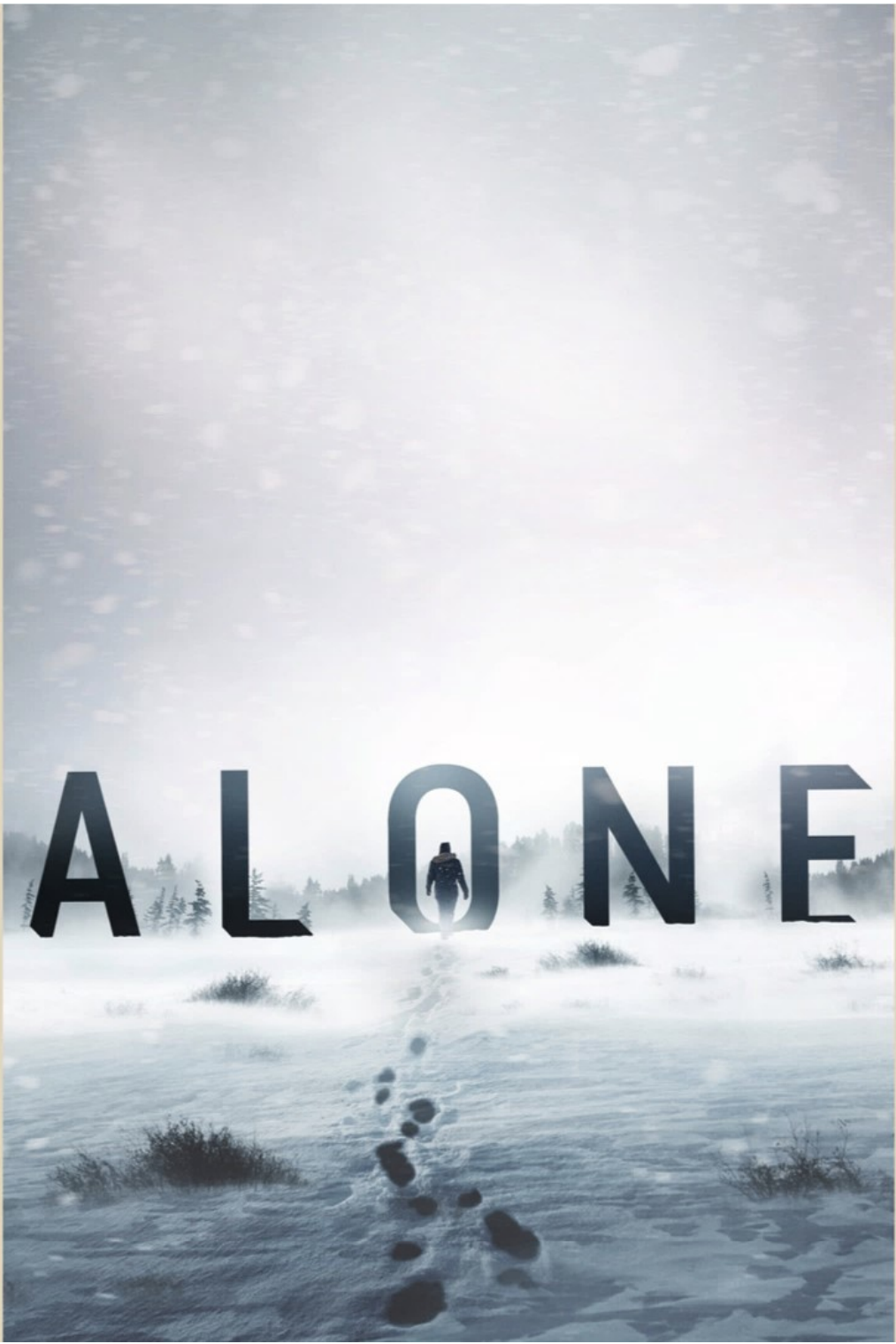
THE
PURPLE
MUPPET
FROM
SESAME
STREET





WILDERNESS SURVIVAL KIT

a guide to spiritual flourishing
when your world becomes wild



A person is walking away from the viewer on a path through a snowy, misty landscape. The word "ALONE" is overlaid in large, dark, bold letters across the middle of the image. The person is visible through the letter 'O'.

Top 7 Items That Contestants Bring to Survive in the Wild

1. Sleeping Bag
2. Ferro Rod
3. Fishing Kit
4. Cooking Pot
5. Knife
6. Axe
7. Saw



The 7 Categories of Spiritual Disciplines that Christians Use

1. **Worshiping the Lord**
2. **Openness to God**
3. **Rejecting the False Self**
4. **Sharing Life with Others**
5. **Hearing the Word**
6. **Incarnating Christ's Love**
7. **Praying to God**



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Search me, God, and know my heart;
test me and know my anxious thoughts.
See if there is any offensive way in me,
and lead me in the way everlasting.

Psalm 139:23-24

Openness to God is simply taking an inventory of every aspect of our lives and asking if we have given God access to everything?

**WHAT IS THE POINT OF
BEING OPEN TO GOD?**

**DOESN'T GOD ALREADY
KNOW EVERYTHING
ABOUT ME?**

When he arrived at the other side in the region of the Gadarenes, two demon-possessed men coming from the tombs met him. They were so violent that no one could pass that way. “What do you want with us, Son of God?” they shouted.

Matthew 8:28-34

“Have you come here to torture us before the appointed time?” Some distance from them a large herd of pigs was feeding. The demons begged Jesus, “If you drive us out, send us into the herd of pigs.” He said to them, “Go!”

Matthew 8:28-34

So they came out and went into the pigs, and the whole herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and died in the water. Those tending the pigs ran off, went into the town and reported all this, including what had happened to the demon-possessed men.

Matthew 8:28-34

Then the whole town went out to meet Jesus. And when they saw him, they pleaded with him to leave their region.

Matthew 8:28-34

God knows everything about you but that's not the same as having a relationship with you... and Jesus doesn't barge in where He's not invited.



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Relationships are a two-way street... but we often only focus on getting to know God while neglecting an equally important aspect: does God know me?

**OPENNESS:
WHAT IS GOD
SAYING TO YOU?**

- + **CONTEMPLATION/EXAMEN** is being mindful to what is happening and inviting God to help you process your experiences.
- + **SELF-CARE** is making space for God to speak into your life by prioritizing health, rest, and sustainability.
- + **UNPLUGGING** is an intentional time away from the things that distract us from what is really important.



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Open up the creaking door
And walk upon the dusty floor
Scrape away the guilty stains
Until no sin or shame remain
Spread Your love upon the walls
And occupy the empty halls
Until the man I am has faded
No more doors are barricaded