



Lenses — Week 1

1. Brian cited Bill Bishop's research that shows: "In 1976 less than 25 percent of Americans lived in places where the presidential election was a landslide. In other words, we lived next door to, and attended school and worshiped with, people who held different beliefs than ours. We were ideologically diverse. In contrast, in 2016, 80 percent of U.S. counties gave either Donald Trump or Hillary Clinton a landslide victory." **How is this shaping our society? How is it affecting you?**

2. In the book Braving with Wilderness she says, "Living with air pollution increases your odds of dying early by 5 percent. Living with obesity, 20 percent. Excessive drinking, 30 percent. And living with loneliness increases our odds of dying early by 45 percent." **How should we be dealing with this loneliness epidemic?**

3. Read [John 4](#). To understand this full gravity of this story, you must embrace the enmity the Jewish people (Israelites) felt towards the Samaritans. **Why did John choose to include this story in his account of Jesus' life?**

4. As we come out of the Covid-19 pandemic, are you more or less judgmental of people?

5. Covid-19 has created more of an ideological divide in our world. How can you apply the two things Brian talked about:

1. Stop dehumanizing others.
2. Ask better questions.