

CULTIVATING

A brown leather sofa is positioned in a lush green field. The background is filled with dense, dark green trees and foliage, creating a sense of a natural, outdoor setting. The overall mood is serene and peaceful.

COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS

Lord, I have heard the report about you; Lord, I stand
in awe of your deeds. Revive your work in these
years; make it known in these years.

— Habakkuk 3:2 CSB

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PRAYING IS ABOUT SEEKING

A MOVE FROM GOD

PREPARING IS ABOUT SEIZING

A MOVE OF GOD



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A Scared World needs a Fearless Church
A Confused World needs a Clear Church
A Divided World needs a United Church
A Hurting World needs a Loving Church
A Lonely World needs a Connecting Church
A Deceived World needs a Discerning Church

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Be ready! Let the truth be like
a belt around your waist.

— Ephesians 6:14 CEV

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Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage — with great patience and careful instruction.

— 2 Timothy 4:2

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...and as your shoes the readiness to announce the
Good News of peace

— Ephesians 6:15 GNT

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But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

— 1 Peter 3:15

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This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit,
showing yourselves to be my disciples.

— John 15:8

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FORMATIONAL GROWTH

Character
(My Beholding)

Competency
(My Becoming)

Community
(My Belonging)

Conviction
(My Beliefs)

Core
(My Being)

Calling
(My Bearing)



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FORMATIONAL FACTORS

Power of His Spirit

Pressures of Life

Practices of Jesus

People of God

Promises of the Word

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Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially to those who belong to the family of believers.

— Galatians 6:9-10

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***IF YOU DON'T DESIRE
AUTHENTICITY, YOU WILL ALWAYS
SETTLE FOR ARTIFICIAL.***

A brown leather sofa is positioned on a green lawn. The sofa has two large back cushions and two seat cushions. The background is a blurred green lawn. Overlaid on the sofa is a quote in white, bold, italicized text.

So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, and overflowing with thankfulness.

— Colossians 2:6-7

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ROOTED IS RADICAL





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“But blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord,
whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree
planted by the water that sends out its roots by the
stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves
are always green. It has no worries in a year of
drought and never fails to bear fruit.”

— Jeremiah 17:7-8

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FORMATIONAL SEASONS

Season of Darkness

God seems distant, life is hard

Season of Darkness

God seems distant, life is good

Season of Discipline

God seems closer, life is hard

Season of Delight

God seems closer, life is good

***THE GOAL IN SEASONS OF
PRUNING IS TO RE-FOCUS
WITHOUT RE-TREATING.***

***LIVING IN HIM IS CULTIVATED
WHEN WE ARE LIVING AS HIM.***

HOW DID JESUS LIVE HIS LIFE?

He took Peter and Zebedee's two sons with him. He was beginning to feel deep anguish. Then he said to them, "My anguish is so great that I feel as if I'm dying. Wait here, and stay awake with me."

— Matthew 26:37-38 GW

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***JESUS CONFIDED IN THE 03,
TRAINED THE 12, MOBILIZED THE 70,
AND TOLD PARABLES TO THE CROWDS.***

FOUR SPACES OF BELONGING

Intimate Space

Personal Space

Social Space

Public Space

2-4

5-12

20-50

70+

Vulnerability

Accountability

Availability

Visibility



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I no longer call you servants, because a servant does not know his master's business. Instead, I have called you friends, for everything that I learned from my Father I have made known to you. You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit — fruit that will last

— John 15:15-16

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***DISCIPLESHIP IS
FRIENDSHIP WITH
PURPOSE***



And without faith it is impossible to please God,
because anyone who comes to him must believe
that he exists and that he rewards those who
earnestly seek him.

— Hebrews 11:6

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from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

— Ephesians 4:16 NASB

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So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

— 1 Thessalonians 2:8 ESV

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CURIOUS FOLLOWER

*Those who follow Jesus with caution
but are openly seeking.*

CONFLICTED FOLLOWER

*Those who want what Jesus offer
but also want what the world offers.*

CASUAL FOLLOWER

*Those who believe fully in Jesus but follow
as a consumer when it is convenient.*

COMMITTED FOLLOWER

*Those who are all in and fully devoted
their lives to risking and following Jesus.*

CONNECTED FOLLOWER

*Those invested in a discipleship group
and helping to cultivate Jesus in others.*



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I have told you this so that my joy may be in you
and that your joy may be complete.

— John 15:11

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...Instead, I hope to visit you and talk with you face to face, so that our joy may be complete.

— 2 John 1:12

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I have no greater joy than to hear that
my children are walking in the truth.

— 3 John 1:4

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...fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross.

— Hebrews 12:2

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A brown leather sofa is positioned in the center of a lush green field. The background is filled with dense, dark green trees, creating a sense of a secluded, natural setting. The overall mood is peaceful and contemplative.

COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. What areas of your spiritual formation are you desiring to grow in?*
- 2. What gaps would you say are in your spiritual formation?*
- 3. What helps us grow deep roots of trust in God?*
- 4. What season of formation would you say you are in right now?*
- 5. Of the categories of followers, which one best describes you?*
- 6. Are you actively pursuing others to be in discipleship with?*
- 7. How does getting into small groups help foster deeper discipleship?*

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