

# *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 natural and serene setting. The overall mood is peaceful and inviting.

COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS



































# *CULTIVATING*

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













STOP  
HERE ON  
RED  
↓

ROAD

ONE  
VEHICLE  
PER  
GREEN









THE MAN



BEHIND

*the*

BUMP















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He has made everything beautiful and appropriate in its time. He has also planted eternity [a sense of divine purpose] in the human heart [a mysterious longing which nothing under the sun can satisfy, except God].

— Ecclesiastes 3:11 AMP

***CULTIVATING***



*“I’m convinced many believers live as  
Passive, Powerless, Pointless and Paranoid.*

*Instead of Passionate, Provocative,  
Purposeful and Powerful.*

*Our faith can feel Feeble, Frail, and Flimsy.*

*Instead of Fearless, Favored, and Fervent...*

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*...Jesus sent out his disciples as a movement to change the world. This was a movement led by the ordinary but empowered for the extraordinary.*

*A movement led by the marginalized, uneducated, impaired, and ignored. Yet, their calling for greatness far exceeded their capacity for greatness. Our limitation is always the beginning of God's demonstration."*

— Mike T

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***THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN  
THE OMNIPRESENCE OF GOD***

***AND THE MANIFESTED  
PRESENCE OF GOD.***



# ***THE MALAISE OF IMMANENCE***





# **MALAISE**

*“A vague or restless feeling of mental uneasiness, lethargy, sickness, or discomfort.”*

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# ***IMMANENCE***

*“To be present within or inhabited by.”*

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*“The malaises contribute to the suffocation felt by many, a sense of pointlessness. Malaise can take away hope and meaning and direction, flattening everything into a kind of very comfortable despair.”*

— R.J. Snell

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*“Taylor also notes that the age of modern reform, with all its accomplishments and benefits, tends to the malaises of disenchantment. It delivers freedom and power, but we find ourselves lacking horizons of meaning.”*

— R.J. Snell

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*“In short, the buffered self discovers itself to be free, but pointless. Enlightened, but an organic robot awaiting death. Democratic, but without the spirit or will to live for anything except comfort and distraction, lacking the spirit even to propagate. Disenchantment has its malaises, and we know this.”*

— R.J Snell

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# **EXISTENTIAL CRISIS**

*“People can have an existential crisis when they start to wonder what life means, and what their purpose or the purpose to life as a whole is.”*

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Therefore I tell you that the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and given to a people who will produce its fruit.

— Matthew 21:43

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**“READY” AND “PREPARE”**







***CULTIVATING***



A brown leather sofa is positioned on a green lawn. The background is a dark, textured wall. The text is overlaid on the sofa and background.

***PREPAREDNESS  
EMPOWERS US TO RESPOND  
INSTEAD OF REACT.***



***PREPARING IS NOT  
ABOUT CONTROLLING  
BUT CONDITIONING.***



God can pour on the blessings in astonishing ways  
so that you're ready for anything and everything,  
more than just ready to do what needs to be done.

— 2 Corinthians 9:8 MSG

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***PREPARING IS  
ABOUT SEIZING  
DIVINE MOMENTS.***



***YOU NEVER RISE TO  
YOUR LEVEL OF EXPECTATION...***

***YOU SINK TO  
THE LEVEL OF YOUR PREPARATION***



Be prepared. You're up against far more than you can handle on your own. Take all the help you can get, every weapon God has issued, so that when it's all over but the shouting you'll still be on your feet. Truth, righteousness, peace, faith, and salvation are more than words. Learn how to apply them. You'll need them throughout your life. God's Word is an indispensable weapon. In the same way, prayer is essential in this ongoing warfare. Pray hard and long. Pray for your brothers and sisters. Keep your eyes open. Keep each other's spirits up so that no one falls behind or drops out.

— Ephesians 6:15-18 (MSG)





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***PREPARING TOGETHER  
MOVES US FROM REACTING  
TO RESPONDING.***



Do not be deceived: God is not mocked, for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up.

— Galatians 6:7-9 ESV

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# ***REACTING VS RESPONDING***

With Fear  
With Hate  
With Impatience  
With Hostility  
With Outrage  
With Recklessness  
With Envy  
With Control  
With Greed  
With Shame  
With Despair  
With Confusion  
With Compromise

With Peace  
With Love  
With Patience  
With Kindness  
With Forgiveness  
With Wisdom  
With Gratitude  
With Trust  
With Generosity  
With Security  
With Hope  
With Clarity  
With Courage





***CULTIVATING***



***PREPARING TOGETHER  
MOVES US FROM  
INHIBITED TO INHABITED  
BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.***



***PREPARING TOGETHER  
MOVES US FROM  
A SHAKABLE FAITH  
TO AN UNSHAKABLE FAITH***



Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving. See to it that no one takes you captive by philosophy and empty deceit, according to human tradition, according to the elemental spirits of the world, and not according to Christ.

— Colossians 2:6-8 ESV

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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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Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong.

— 1 Corinthians 16:13 ESV

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***ROOTS DETERMINE FRUITS***











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***PREPARING TOGETHER  
MOVES US FROM  
RESTRAINING TO RELEASING.***



And as your shoes the readiness  
to announce the Good News of peace

— Ephesians 6:15 GNT

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## **GROUPS**

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graph TD; GROUPS --> DISCIPLESHIP_COMMUNITIES[DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES]; GROUPS --> DISCIPLESHIP_COHORTS[DISCIPLESHIP COHORTS];
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### **DISCIPLESHIP COMMUNITIES**

A Discipleship Community is a group of 6-12 people or couples who meet in homes around the 4C's: Care, Community, Conversations, Church.

### **DISCIPLESHIP COHORTS**

A Discipleship Cohort is a group of 3-6 men or women who will commit to meeting frequently, doing community while vertically pursuing the life of Jesus together.



***COMMUNITY IS MEANT TO BE THE  
SUPERNATURAL ECOSYSTEM FOR  
THE HOLY SPIRIT TO PRODUCE THE  
FRUIT OF CHRIST IN OUR LIVES.***



**CULTIVATING NURTURES**

**BELONGING, NOT HIDING**

**SHARPENING, NOT SHAMING**

**RELEASING, NOT RESTRAINING**





***CULTIVATING***



***PREPARING TOGETHER  
MOVES US FROM  
REGRETTING TO REPENTING.***



Those who cleanse themselves from the latter will be instruments for special purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

— 2 Timothy 2:21

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Night is almost over, and day will soon appear. We must stop behaving as people do in the dark and be ready to live in the light.

— Romans 13:12 CEV

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Produce fruit in keeping with repentance.

— Matthew 3:8

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The eyes of the Lord search the whole earth in order to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. What a fool you have been! From now on you will be at war.

— 2 Chronicles 16:9 NLT

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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. In your wrath  
remember mercy!

— Habakkuk 3:2 CSB

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***PRAYING IS ABOUT SEEKING***

***A MOVE FROM GOD***

***PREPARING IS ABOUT SEIZING***

***A MOVE OF GOD***



# ***CULTIVATE***

*“Prepare and use (land) for crops or gardening.”*

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# *CULTIVATING*

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COMMUNITY WITH OTHERS



# ***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS***

- 1. Do you feel a spiritual malaise?*
- 2. What does being ready spiritually mean to you?*
- 3. How can we prepare ourselves for a move of God?*
- 4. Where do you feel the most unprepared in your faith?*
- 5. How does being in community help prepare you for uncertainty or challenges?*

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