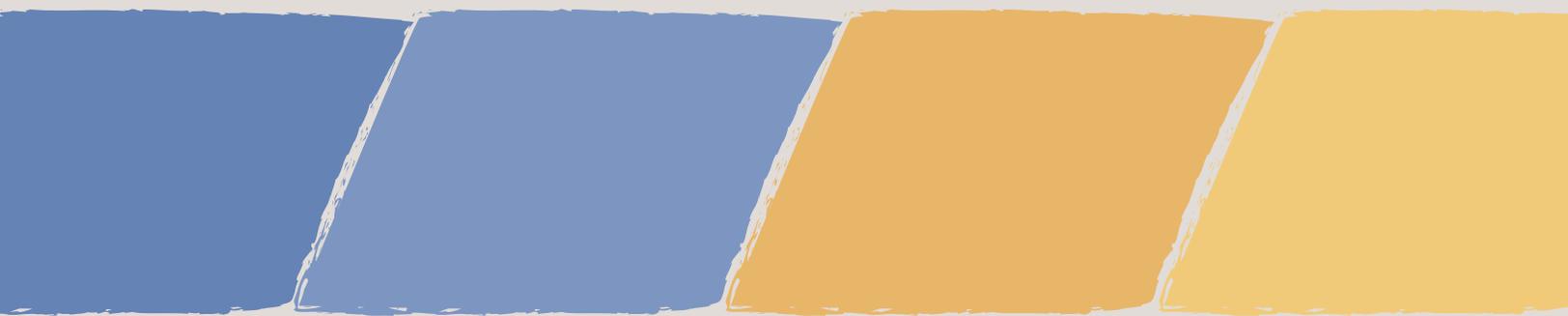


FORMATION

FOR SMALL GROUPS

a 4-week journey and
practice through the
four formation areas



Tabernacle

Community Church

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

01	Building Impact and Booklet Introduction
04	Spiritual Formation
10	Community Formation
16	Steward Formation
22	Witness Formation
26	Notespace

Building Impact

Building Impact refers to the transformative journey of spiritual and physical renewal at Tabernacle leading up to 2025, beginning in 2020 with 40 days of fasting and prayer.

The Building Impact logo symbolizes the spiritual and building facility aspects of this journey, all pointing up to Christ, our senior pastor, seated on his throne (the blue circle) and forming his people through four areas, represented by the four formation colors.



BUILDING
IMPACT₂₀₂₅

Spiritual Formation

God forms us into new and better Christ followers when we Spend Time with Jesus in his word, prayer, and other practices, fulfilling our calling to love and live with Christ daily by the power of his Spirit, ordering our lives according to His good Word and world.

Community Formation

God forms us when we Engage in Community with other Christ followers, fulfilling our calling to be his kingdom community, ordering our communities according to the "one-another" Biblical passages, and embodying together the resurrection age.

Steward Formation

God forms us when we Give of Ourselves for others and the greater good, fulfilling our calling to participate with him in the work of stewarding and restoring all of creation.

Witness Formation

God forms us when we make a practice of Sharing Christ in the whole of our life, words, and work, fulfilling our calling to share what we've seen and heard with one another and with others.

About this Study

Each week represents one formation area. In each week, you'll find a combination of questions for discussion; teaching; prayer; and sample formation practices your group can implement. Each section also goes along with a 10 minute video prompt from the author of that section. Finally, there is generous space for notes, reflection, and prayers to write into your booklet and share with the group throughout the four weeks.

May God transform your group to dwell more richly in his presence, do more fruitful work for his kingdom, and experience the joy of wholeness in the habits you create with one another. Amen.



SPIRITUAL

F O R M A T I O N



Introduction

With eyes closed, sit in silence for one minute. At the end of the minute, write down thoughts and feelings that came up during your time of silence. Notice how quickly distractions invade the mind and heart.

Reflect on how many thoughts, feelings, unfinished tasks can invade the mind in a day.

It's easy for our mind to be primarily focused on our tasks and problems. How do we transition to making God the focus of our thoughts and the one that we depend on daily?

Scripture Readings

Daniel 6:1-10

2 Timothy 3:14-17

Joshua 1:6-8

Mark 1:35

Video

Example of Daniel

- See Daniel 6:1-10
- In these difficult _____, Daniel continued his _____ of _____ with the Lord in prayer.
- Summary: When we have a _____ of _____ we are able to face the _____ with an _____ with God.

The Nature/Function of God's Word

- See 2 Timothy 3:14-17
- *Summary:* The Bible _____ and _____ us because it comes from _____ with his _____, and because it comes from God it is _____, _____ and _____ for us, and for our growth as believers.
- We study God's word because we gain a deeper knowledge of his love for us.

- *Summary:* Because God _____ us, he has _____ himself to us through the _____. If you ever want to _____ God's love in a deeper way, you must _____ with God through his Word.

The Importance of Prayer and Meditation

- See Joshua 1:6-8
- _____ is not merely reading or studying - it is _____ time to _____ about and _____ on God's word.
- *Summary:* _____ results in _____ with God, _____ with Him, and a _____ of understanding God, ourselves, His word, and our world.



Example of Jesus

- See Mark 1:35
- *Summary:* Let's remember the example of _____, who even though he was fully God, lived as a man, and depended _____ on God through _____ and _____ on His word.

Discussion Questions

- What is your first honest reaction when you are faced with a trial or a difficult circumstance? What hindrances or distractions may prevent you from going to God first?
- What are some habits, things, or people that tend to compete with the authority of God's word in your life? How can they hinder you from seeing God's love as expressed in his word?
- Think about your day. Name areas that consume your time and thoughts. What should be removed to make time for meditation on God's word?
- How will you reprioritize to include a time and a place to meet with Jesus daily? How will you prepare for distractions?
- As you spend time with God individually, how does this lesson help form a community of Jesus followers who embody his love?

Final Moments Together

Closing Prayer

- New habits of Spiritual Formation
- Accountability with other believers
- Conviction and Joy from spending time with God

Corporate Formation Practices

- Turning off TV or Social Media for one week - reflect together about how spiritual formation was enhanced this week.
- Memorize a verse of scripture together as a group. Pair people up. Touch base once or twice to practice the verse. Over the course of a year memorize 5-10 verses together





COMMUNITY

F O R M A T I O N



Introduction

Community has been one of those Christian "buzzwords." There isn't a church in the world that doesn't acknowledge that "community" is a core element to being Christ-like, as presented throughout the Bible. There are even several churches that incorporate the word in their name, such as Tabernacle! For the beginning of our small group gathering, let's each share what community means, or better yet, looks like, in our daily lives? There is no wrong answer, so no need to try to answer it the way you think the Bible does!

Scripture Readings

Genesis 2:22-24

Matthew 5:22-24; 10:21; 12:46-50

John 17:20-21

Video

Views on Community

- Modern America's view of community is _____, focusing more on the _____.
- The world of the bible's view of community is _____, focusing more on the _____.

Relational Priorities

- Among all group identities, the strongest in the biblical world was the _____.
- Among all familial relationships, the strongest bond was between _____.



Discussion Questions

- How does the biblical view of community compare/contrast with the answer I shared in the beginning?
- In what ways does engaging in community complement the other spiritual formation pillars: Spending time with Jesus, Giving of Ourselves, and Sharing Christ?
- How does a biblical view of community help us corporately engage in the formational habit of Engaging in Community?
- What is God teaching me in this, and how can I bring it into my small group?

Final Moments Together

Closing Prayer

- Impromptu prayer based on longings for community life together

Corporate Formation Practices

- Do a love ambush as a group (get creative!)
- Gather together for a barbecue, possibly on a day that isn't your small group day?!
- Each week, spend time praying for one individual of your group specifically. For that week's gathering, encourage/bless/shower them with the love of God in a specific way, and repeat for a different individual the following week.





STEWARD

F O R M A T I O N



Introduction

Discussion

- Have one person look up the dictionary definition of "stewardship."
 - When you think of stewardship, what do you think of?
 - Brainstorm around the different ways that stewardship can play out in our lives.
-

Scripture Readings

Genesis 1:27-28; 2:15

Psalms 24:1

1 Peter 4:10

Ephesians 2:8-10

Matthew 25

Colossians 3:23

Video

Image bearers of God

God has a call on our lives to create and cultivate

Everything is the Lord's and we're stewards

The Greek word for stewardship, *oikonomos*

How might stewardship look differently in different cultures (the multi-ethnic vision of the church...)?

How might stewardship look different across different age groups (i.e. what does it look like for children)?

Practicing Sabbath can help us live lives of service to others by worshipping

The idea of *tsaddaqa* leads us into acts of selfless love and stewardship.

In conclusion, our giving should be different than how the world gives. We're to be a kingdom people whose hearts are rooted in gratitude to God, which leads to acts of selfless service.



Discussion Questions

- What does it mean to you to be an image bearer of God? How does that play out in your life?
- How does Genesis 1:27-28 and 2:15 speak to the idea of cultivating and creating culture? Have you ever thought about this idea?
- How might you be more intentional about creating and cultivating culture in your life today?
- The Greek word for stewardship is *oikonomos* which means “household manager.” How does this concept inform your thinking about how we’re to be stewards today?
- As your concept of stewardship is broadened today, identify the areas in your life where you’d like to intentionally pursue being the type of steward that is spoken about in the Bible.

Final Moments Together

Closing Prayer

- Pray about God's call on our lives to be image bearers and being fruitful in our service to Him.
- Pray about living into our calling to be stewards or "household managers" who oversee the affairs of our lives in a way that brings glory to God.

Corporate Formation Practices

- Identify an opportunity to financially contribute to something kingdom-oriented together.
- Identify an activity that the group can do together that in some way demonstrates care for the earth and/or people.
- Prayer walk together through a group member's neighborhood as a way of practicing spiritual stewardship for one's surrounding community.
- Start a recycling routine in your household as a good and simple way to help teach and demonstrate stewardship for children in the family.





WITNESS

F O R M A T I O N



Introductory Video & Activity

Video

- Sharing Christ was never meant to be an _____ or _____
_____, it is something that you _____ your
_____ around.
- It's just a part of _____ you do and _____ you are.
- Witness Formation is an _____ activity.
- We cannot _____ the seeds that don't grow, for
whatever reason. Our job is to be the _____!

Activity

- Pair up with someone else in your group.
 - Share something that gives you JOY.
 - Share what authentically means the most to you about your
relationship with Jesus.

Scripture Readings

Acts 2:44; 4:32-35

- How do you think this behavior helped the early church members to spread the Gospel and share about who Jesus is and what He has done for all of humankind?

Discussion Questions

- What are the places and circumstances that you have been conditioned to believe are “appropriate” for sharing Christ with others? How does this contradict the “All of Life” approach in which our very lives are a witness?
- What is one activity that brings out joy in you that you can share with someone else this season?
- Prayerfully consider your areas of struggle or weakness. Then, commit to asking for the Lord to work through you to correct ONE area to help increase the strength and validity of your witness for Christ.

Final Moments Together

Closing Prayer

- Pray for the people who will come across your path in the future, believers and non-believers alike.
- Ask each group member how they need prayer, specifically around Sharing Christ with others.

Corporate Formation

Practices

- Create a regular rhythm within the group of asking one another about our needs and how we can help and support each other.
- Take turns pursuing each person’s joyful activity together.



*And put on y'all's new humanity, which is being renewed in the image
of your Creator as you come to know him.*

Colossians 3:10

"Spiritual Formation is

the ordering of the whole
community toward love
through daily habits by the
power of the Spirit."

-Pastor Artie Lindsay

