01 / GOD AND US

A life of disciplined devotion

An overview of the ideas we explored together across our twelve-week journey.

Loving God · Understanding myself · Loving others

Relationship is the center of our continuing journey.

Discipleship drives devotion

Following God gives our practices meaning. Discipleship continues beyond completing a program or receiving a certificate. People speak into our lives as we also speak into theirs.

Knowing God, reconsidering meaning

We bring accumulated meanings and assumptions into our relationship with God. Growing includes allowing those understandings to be questioned and changed.

HEUTAGOGY / PARTICIPATING IN OUR OWN GROWTH

Autonomy	Discovery	Resonance	Reflection
Taking ownership	Exploring	Finding meaning	Reconsidering

These helped us frame a pathway beyond transactional habit-making toward transformation.

Devotional reading: room to wonder

“Hmm.” “What?” “Wait.” “I wonder.” “What if?” Our reading can open discovery, deepen meaning, and make room for questions as we continue becoming.

Prayer as sojourning

Prayer is part of walking with God through life. We explored a prayerful relationship beyond requests and transactions, with devotion reaching into everyday living.

02 / LEARNING AND BECOMING

Growth throughout our lives

Our work, capacity, capabilities, and affinities can express a continuing life with God.

What we produce does not determine our worth.

Ordinary work and unseen care can express love and worship.

Whole-life worship

Wholehearted devotion reaches into our everyday lives. Ordinary work can become an expression of worship. We explored motives, excellence, perfectionism, rest, and burnout.

We continue learning

Adults keep discovering and assigning meaning to experience. Autonomy, discovery, resonance, and reflection help us reconsider what we know and expand our capacity.

CAPACITY AND CAPABILITY DEVELOP TOGETHER

Capacity	Capability
Room to grow and become	What we can express and do

Growing capacity opens possibilities for action; exercising capability can expand capacity further.

Discover the service already present

Gifts show up in work, relationships, quiet care, and what others ask us to do. Mechanics, carpenters, accountants, dentists, and professors can serve through ordinary life.

Room for created fit

We explored service through capacity, capabilities, and affinities: what we love, do well, and are asked to contribute. Discovering that fit includes being able to voice our needs.

03 / BELONGING AND RESTORATION

Making room for one another

Who people are. Who they are not. What they need.

There is value and room for the tendon.

Our less-visible contributions belong within the life of the whole body.

Look within the body parts

A leg, foot, arm, or eye contains many essential parts. Looking more closely helped us recognize contributions that broad roles overlook. Tendon-like service also connects people.

Community and restoration

We explored the gospel's communal and relational dimensions. Teaching, shared meals, prayer, generosity, and care give expression to belonging and restoration.

MAKING ROOM FOR THE ACTUAL PERSON

Who they are	Who they are not	What they need
Gifts and distinctiveness	Freedom from our template	Room to receive care

Love makes room for people's lives without making our approval the condition of belonging.

A sanctuary of unconditional love

The church can become a place where people discover their value, with room for differences, limitations, and needs. That love extends into the wider community.

Relationships remain fluid

We receive from people and contribute to their lives. Those circles overlap and change. Loving others can transform us, eroding our biases, hatreds, and false narratives.

04 / LOVE IN EVERYDAY LIFE

Salt, light, and loving freely

Our devotional exploration of Matthew 5:13–16 and John 3:25–30.

Transformation happens within love.

“Transformation is not the admission price for love.”

Love beyond our validation

Liking reflects our preferences and affinities. We challenged the “Double Validation Heresy”: requiring God’s love AND our approval to recognize a person’s worth. “As yourself” includes our own worth, too.

Truth, hurt, and boundaries

Speaking truth in love should communicate a person’s value. We examined shame and judgment, and working through our own hurt. Love can continue with boundaries, accountability, and protection from harm.

“HE MUST INCREASE, BUT I MUST DECREASE.” / JOHN 3:30

Release control	Release the transaction	Remain receptive
Their journey is not ours	Care without a return	We can be changed, too

We examined expectations of gratitude, agreement, attendance, recognition, credit, and change.

Light: seeing with care

Light helps us recognize another’s value and our own blind spots. In our devotional analogy, too much light can overwhelm and lead someone to seek shelter. Our presence calls for attentiveness.

Salt: encouraging their essence

Salt brings forward flavors already present. Too much makes a meal inedible. We explored enhancing another’s God-given distinctiveness, releasing pressure to make them who we expect them to become.