

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in a blue, slightly hazy environment. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The overall mood is serene and communal.

# Deeper Dive

Spiritual Formation  
in Community

Welcome!

Spiritual Formation

*“The Spirit-driven process of forming my inner being so that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself.”*

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. In the background, there are large, branching coral structures. The overall scene is serene and captures the beauty of underwater life.

# Check-In

*My Emotional Weather Report*

My Emotional  
Weather

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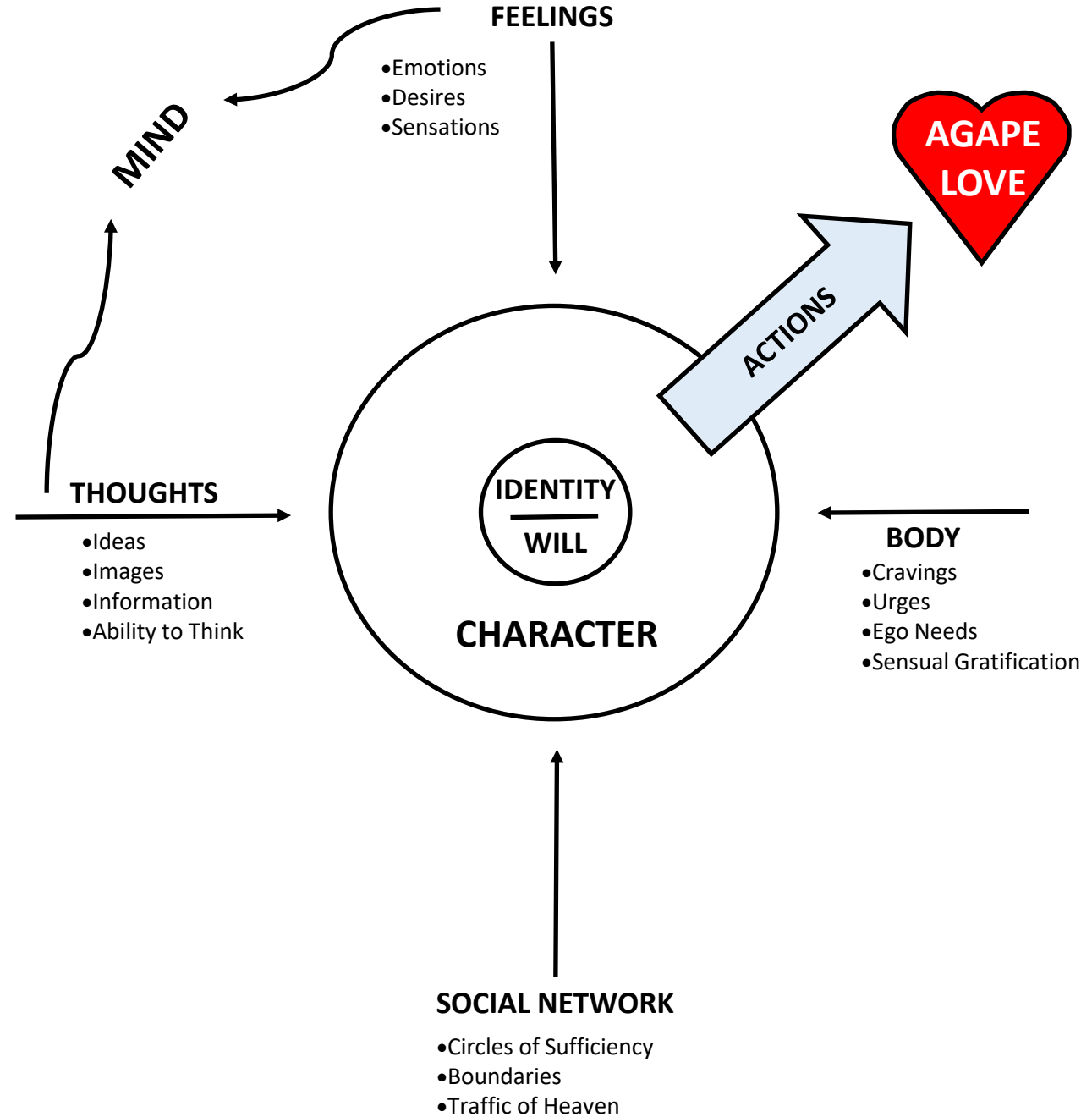
*Stormy*

*Cloudy*

*Calm*

*Sunny*

# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



**SEEN**

**HEARD**

**VALUED**

# Listening is Loving

*From God's perspective there is nothing more important than the human being.*

An underwater scene with several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The overall atmosphere is serene and deep.

# The Value of People

Genesis 1:26-31

Psalms 8:1-9

John 4

Woman at the well

*Mark 2*

Paralyzed man & his friends

*Luke 8*

Mary Magdalene

*Luke 19*

Zacchaeus, Tax Collector

*Mark 8*

Bartimaeus, blind man

*John 3*

Nicodemus,  
Pharisee with questions

*John 11*

Martha, Mary, & Lazarus

*Exodus 3*

Moses, the Burning Bush

*People want to  
be **seen***

*People want to  
be **heard***

*People want to  
be **valued***

*People want to  
be **LOVED!***

**BEING SEEN, HEARD & VALUED IS  
SO CLOSE TO BEING LOVED THAT  
TO MOST PEOPLE, ONE IS NO  
DIFFERENT THAN THE OTHER.**

*Plan for Me,*  
**Zach Williams**

You had a plan for me even though I couldn't see it, you had a hope and a promise for my life  
I never walked alone, but I struggled to believe it, every step I took, you never left my side

Oh, every step I took, you never left my side; Your relentless love, ever chasing me  
Your amazing grace has opened my eyes, and now I can see

I tried to run away, but my life was a disaster; there's not a broken dream that you cannot  
redeem; You never turned away, though I gave you every reason  
What you have started, you were faithful to complete  
Oh, what you have started, you were faithful to complete

Your relentless love, ever chasing me  
Your amazing grace has opened my eyes, and now I can see

When I fell down, you picked me up, when I was not, you were enough  
When I was bound, you set me free, at my worst, you did not leave

When I was darkness, you were light, when I was dead, you breathed new life  
God, you changed my destiny, and now the only thing I see

Your relentless love, ever chasing me  
Your amazing grace, you opened my eyes, and now I can see

You had a plan for me, even though I couldn't see it, you had a hope and a promise for my life

# Learn by Reflecting

Share examples of the following:

How my understanding of love is changing

How my awareness of love is expanding

How I loved by listening recently

Deeper  
Dive

# Groupwork

## Select a Reporter

Mark 8:35

Luke 22:27

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

1 Corinthians 13

Romans 5:5-8

2 Peter 1:7

Matthew 23:11

Leviticus 19:18

Galatians 5

Colossians 3

Romans 13:8-10

Mark 12:31

# LOVE !!!

# Deeper Dive

## **AGAPE - LOVE**

*We all know and understand the evil of intent to harm, and the goodness of intent to help or benefit.*

*This perception of good and evil is the fundamental intuition of the moral life.*

*Love wills the good of what is loved.*

***The Golden Rule***

***The Silver Rule***

**“The correct understanding of love, and the intelligent overall orientation of our lives in terms of it, is the source from which all standards of virtue and right behavior, and all aspects of goodness of character coherently flow.”**

Christian civilization has failed miserably by its own standards during the great periods of colonization, industrialization, and technological development out of which the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries arose.

This failure is rooted in our inability to submit our human desire and culture of sensuality to the act of loving.

We must learn love, and we must learn that love as a way of life can be trusted.

**- Dallas Willard**

An underwater photograph of a diver in blue water, viewed from above. The diver is wearing a mask and fins, and their arms are outstretched. The water is clear and blue, with some light rays visible.

# My Beloved Charter

What God's Word says about  
how God feels about  
and sees me

## **My Identity**

*“Jesus needed, not once, but again and again at each stage of his mission and each crisis in his living and dying, a freshly confirmed knowledge of his own identity.”*

*“I exist because God loves me already. I am a child of divine love.”*

# Homework

**#1 - Continue writing your “Beloved Charter”**

**#2 – Read, journal & pray about these verses**

**1 Samuel 16:7  
Romans 12:1-3**

**Deeper  
Dive**

The background of the slide features a faded, light blue image of two divers underwater. One diver is positioned higher and upside down, while the other is lower and more upright. Both are wearing scuba gear, including tanks and fins. The overall tone is serene and aquatic.

# Invite Others

Who do you know that needs to know God  
in a deeper and more real way?

Deeper  
Dive

An underwater scene with several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The overall atmosphere is serene and deep.

# Deeper Dive

Spiritual Formation  
in Community

See you next week!

Spiritual Formation

*“The Spirit-driven process of forming my inner being so that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself.”*

Reading the Bible

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*Big Idea of the  
Week*

*Book or Topic*

*Commentary*

*Insert Yourself*

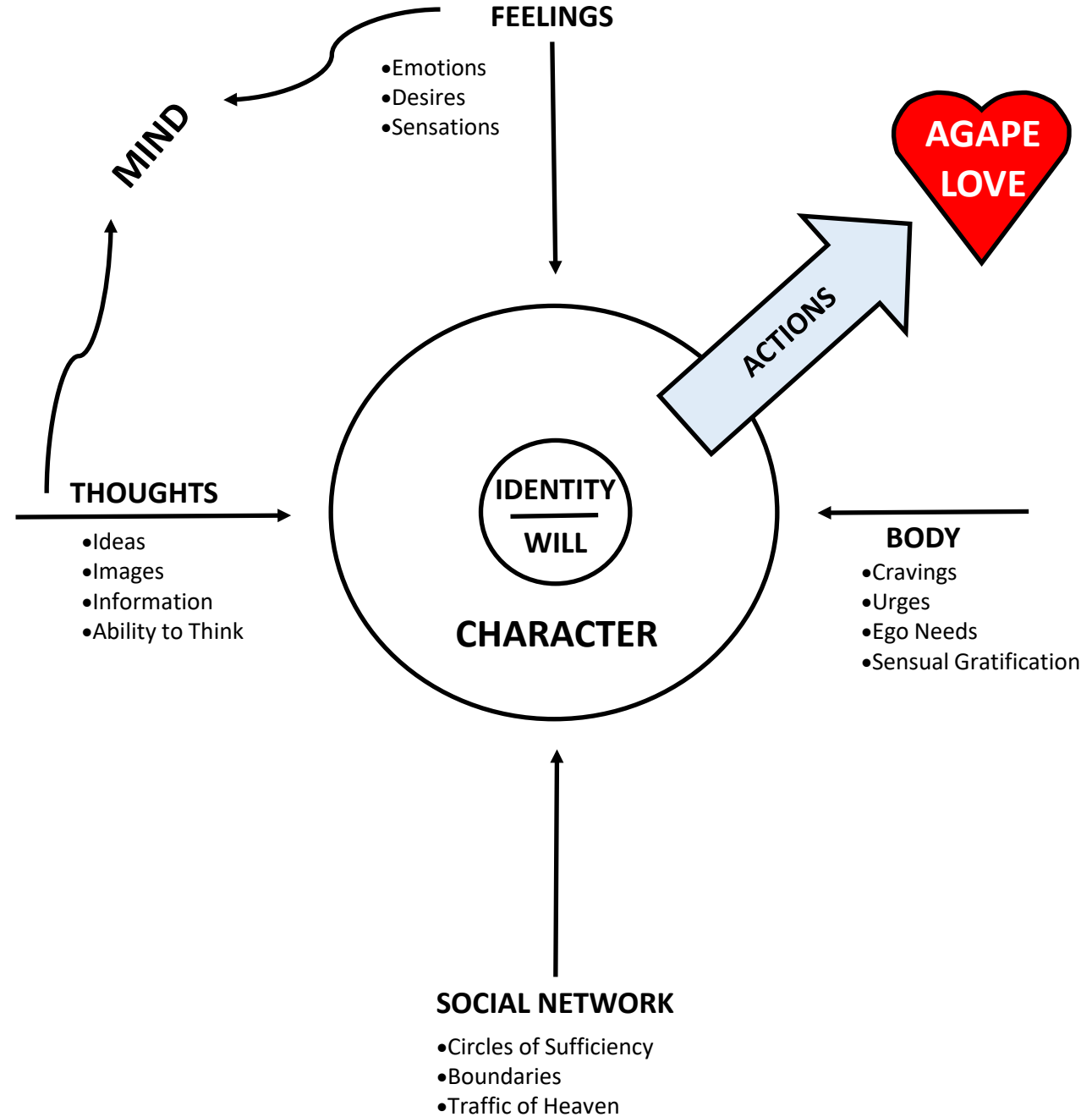
*Imagination*

*Use Your Senses*

An underwater photograph showing several divers in a blue, slightly hazy environment. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The scene is dynamic, with divers in various positions, some appearing to be in motion. The overall tone is serene and exploratory.

# Deeper Dive

# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



**1 John 4:7-21**

*What is the difference between agape and other types of love?*

**John 13:34-35**

*Where have you seen agape love in you, around you, and through you this week?*

# Big Idea of the Week

*Agape LOVE!*

