

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The scene is peaceful and serene.

# Deeper Dive

Spiritual Formation  
in Community

## Welcome!

### **The Kingdom**

*“My goal is to wake up in the Kingdom of God every morning, and to live each day fully alive in that Kingdom, regardless of my geographical location in the world.”*

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The scene is dynamic, with bubbles and movement. The text is overlaid on this image.

# Check-In

*Work of the Spirit Report*

## **The Spirit's Work**

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In me,  
Around me,  
Through me

**“Repent, for the Kingdom of  
Heaven is near!”**

**Follower,**

Change the way you think about everything | Choose Jesus

**Disciple,**

Leave the old ways and live the Jesus Way,  
A complete character transformation from the inside out

**Disciplemaker.**

Make disciples of all nations; teach and baptize in the name of Jesus

**Simple.**

Kingdom | Grace | Character

**Seamless.**

Weaving spiritual disciplines into the daily routines of real life

**Seeking.**

No formulas | No definitive how to's | Relentless pursuit of life with Jesus

# Reason for God

- The physical universe is not a closed system where it's future depends on resources within itself. It is an open system. It did not create itself and can be acted upon by forces outside it.
- It had a beginning, which could not be caused by something else physical; it had to be non-physical
- The natural world around us - the physical universe points to a designer/creator/architect

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Review**

# The Existence of God

- The biblical God of Judaism and Christianity
  - A spiritual or non-physical, ultimate and absolute being
- Attributes of personality and consciousness, knowledge, emotion, and will
  - A person of immense proportions in substance, power, and goodness of character
- Involves himself in human affairs through his primary nature of love
  - His existence and activities depend on nothing but himself

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Review**

# A Christian Worldview

- God created the world, he is real, and he has a Kingdom
- God intervenes in his creation and is involved in our lives
- God desires to know us and have an intimate, personal and loving relationship with us; the reason we were created
- Satan, the Prince of Darkness is a real being with limited power, seeks our destruction, and his domain is the created world

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Review**

# The Kingdom of God

- In the Kingdom what God wants done is done
  - The Kingdom is open and perfectly safe
- The Kingdom is experienced mostly like being part of a loving family
  - Throughout the Bible God is explaining the Kingdom to us
    - *Governed by God and all who live in it are subject to its way*
    - *The kingdom of the world is governed by the Prince of Darkness and stands in opposition to the Kingdom of God*

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Review

# Life with Jesus in the Kingdom

- Knowing Jesus is something I do in my life right now, living interactively with him in my daily activities
- This knowledge does not come completely by a description, but by being acquainted with him personally - Jesus is the human face on the Kingdom of God
  - *I am becoming on the inside the kind of person who would be at home in the Kingdom of God*

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# Outcomes & Effects of Life with Jesus in the Kingdom

- You will discover remarkable changes in your beliefs, attitudes and emotions
  - You will receive communications from God
- You will experience the "lighter burden" because God is with you in your circle (*Matthew 11:28-30*)
  - You will see God at work in you, around you, and through you

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Review

The background of the slide features a light blue gradient with a faint, semi-transparent image of several divers underwater. The divers are in various poses, some appearing to be in a group hug or simply swimming together. The overall aesthetic is clean and serene, with a focus on the blue tones of the water.

# Benefits of Life in the Kingdom

- The life you get to live
- The person you become
- Life in the Millennial Kingdom

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# Waking up in the Kingdom

## Waking up every day in the Kingdom *(Matthew 6)*

- *I will have a different purpose and way of doing life than most of the people around me*

## Communicating constantly with the Spirit

- *There is nothing that happens to me that is unimportant to discuss with the Spirit, and I expect him to talk to me*

## Operating moment by moment in the Spirit with a full tank of grace

- *Grace is the Spirit in me with power to accomplish anything needed, leading and guiding me all through my day*

## Trusting the Father completely as Provider & Protector

- *The Father will provide everything I need for the day; there is nothing that can happen to me that he cannot turn into good in some way*

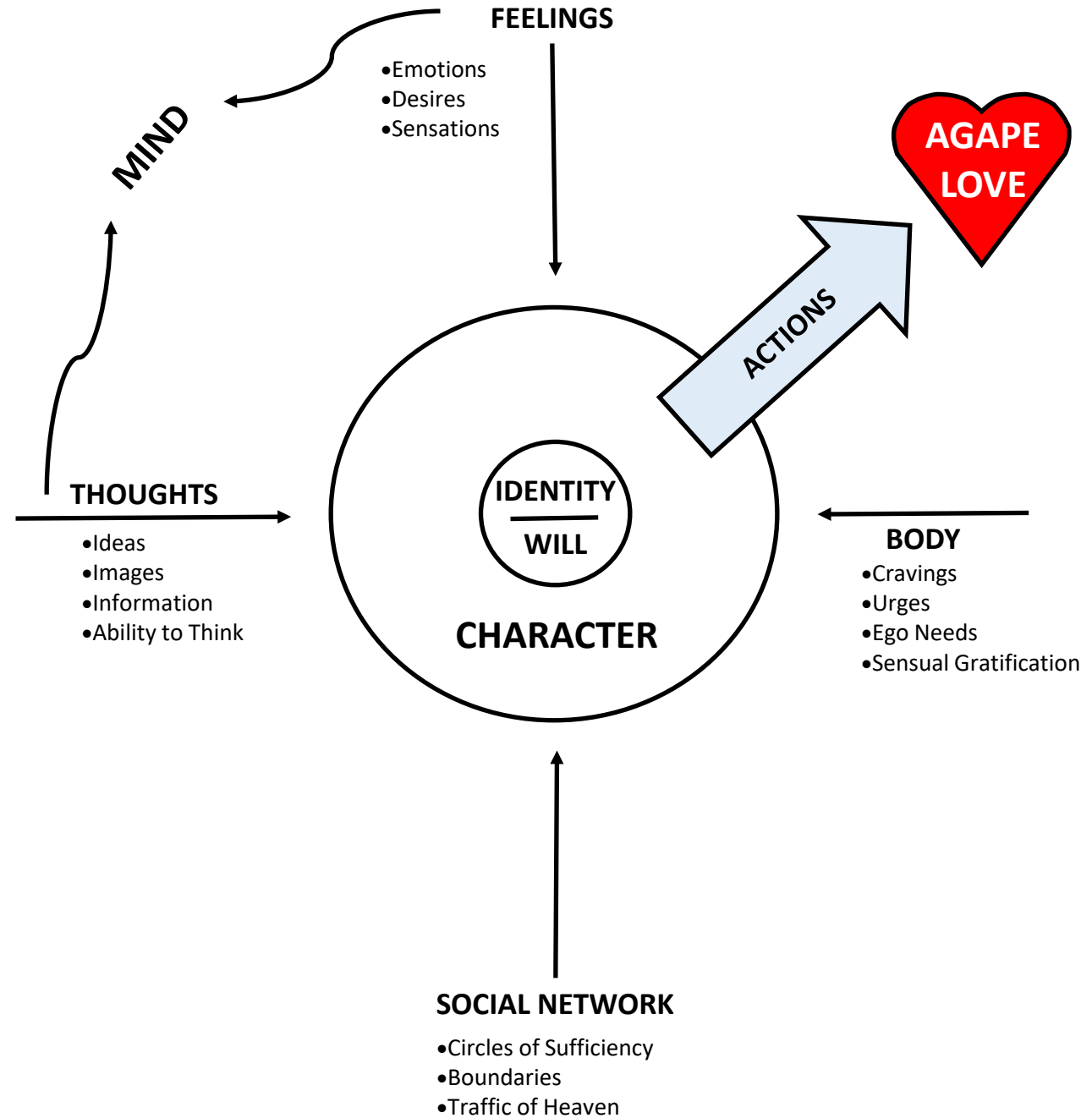
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# Spiritual Formation

- The Spirit-driven process of forming my inner being so that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself
- What we cannot change or become in our character by direct means we accomplish indirectly through the practice of spiritual disciplines
- Change takes place when there is a vision, intention and a means for the change

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# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



# Identity

## How I define my self

- I am designed by God
- I am loved
- I am enough
- I have a purpose
- I have free will and can independently make decisions that affect my life

## I have worth and value and the extent to which I experience it influences my identity

- My ideal self, my real self, and how I feel about my self
- There is an incongruence between my ideal self and my real self that must be viewed through grace

## What God says is true about me (Psalm 139; Acts 17:24-28)

- Life before and leading up to my existence
- God planning the days I would live
- Impossible to get away from him
- He sees who I am and who I can be
- He wants a relationship of trust and dependence with me

# Deeper Dive Review

# Circles of Sufficiency

- What relationships in the Kingdom are designed to be
  - Circle of 4 - Father, Son, Spirit and Me
    - I am never alone
    - I am always outnumbered

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Dive  
Review**

The background of the slide is a light blue, semi-transparent image of several divers underwater. The divers are in various poses, some upside down, creating a sense of movement and depth. The overall tone is serene and spiritual.

# Traffic of Heaven

- Where Jesus is, God is at work
- Spirit at work in me, around me, and through me

**Deeper  
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Review**

# Character

**A result of consistently exercising my will in one direction**

- **Knowledge** - An important foundation for belief and commitment
  - **Beliefs** - Tendencies to act, and can be based on many sources
  - **Profession** - Stating a belief whether believed or not
  - **Commitment** - Choosing a course of action; knowledge and belief not required
- 
- A compilation of traits formed and represented by consistent decisions of my will
- 
- Moral and ethical qualities originating from beliefs and principles resulting in actions, and influenced by my identity

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# Agape LOVE

- The source of goodness in character
- LOVE wills the good of what is loved
- 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 the aspects of goodness of character coherently flow
  - For those nearby, neighbors with whom you're in contact
- An action and not simply an emotion or a feeling about the entire world
- Something you do in ordinary situations and not only extraordinary ones; more than simply alleviating suffering
- Extends beyond simple obedience - not just keeping the commandments

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# Hearing God

- God's communication with us usually comes in the form of thoughts or perceptions; impressions in our soul or inner being. Our spirit.
- The word of God will not become life changing for us unless we apply it to the specific circumstances of our life.
- When our own inner conscience speaks to us , we find that voice arguing with us. The voice of God in us will never argue, but will state clearly and plainly what is true
- Nowhere in the Bible did any man, animal, or being doubt the voice of God or Jesus when they spoke

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# The Word of God

God is speaking to us through the Bible

Whenever you read the Bible ask two questions:

- What is God saying to me about the Kingdom and living in it?
- What is God saying to me about my character and any decisions I am being asked to make?

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# The Three Lights

*Use these to prepare yourself to receive a message from God  
and not necessarily to be the message itself*

1. **Circumstances** - closed & open doors, a change in a situation; opportunities with or without a deadline
2. **Impressions from the Spirit of God** - an awareness, perception, or voice that is familiar and consistent
3. **The Word of God** - the voice of God will never contradict the Word of God; a Kingdom Cleanse (*Ephesians 5:25-27*)

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Review**

# Characteristics of God's Voice

*We identify the voice of God speaking to us the same way we would from any other human person trying to communicate with us*

- 1. Quality** - weight; character; impact
- 2. Spirit** - the way Jesus spoke to his disciples and people with whom he was ministering
- 3. Content** - principles from the Word of God, fundamental truths over individualized messages. God's voice will never contradict his word in the Bible

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Review**

# Homework

## Thinking about Thinking

- Begin noticing and making notes about your thoughts

## Christlike Character Inventory - Exercise

- Draw a line down the middle of the page
- On one side list what is not Christlike about you
  - On the other, what is Christlike about you
    - Start the exercise on Day #1, and add new info to the exercise each day

## Big Idea of the Week

- *Matthew 5:17-20 (Changing the mind)*
- *Romans 12:1-2 (Transforming the mind)*

Deeper  
Dive

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. The scene is peaceful and serene.

# 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.”*

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 upright. Both are wearing scuba gear, including tanks and fins. The water is clear, and the overall tone is serene and deep.

# Invite Others

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

Deeper  
Dive

# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*

