

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

## **Character Trait Development**

*Anyone using the  
template to work on  
a trait of your own  
choosing?*

## **A Day in the Kingdom**

*Is awareness  
increasing and how  
does it feel to  
spend a day in the  
Kingdom?*

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the light, and their fins are visible. A large, white, serif font word "Review" is overlaid in the center of the image.

# Review

# Practicing the Presence of God

## Why do we connect with God?

*The hundreds and even thousands of tiny disappointments or losses we experience in life accumulate over time and destroy our primal drive for life. God's remedy is the river of life that flows from a relationship with Him. (Resilient, by John Eldredge)*

## John 7:37-39

*“If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him.” By this he meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were later to receive.*

## Why do we struggle to connect with God?

*Most of you in this study have been trying to find more room in your life for God. We struggle because we need to be doing the opposite.*

*Pouring **new wine** into **old wineskins** (Matthew 9:16-17)*

***We must make connecting with the all-loving, life-giving, grace-fueling and energy-infusing presence of God within us the most important thing we do and then build the rest of our life around that.***

# Deeper Dive

# Practicing the Presence of God

## Where does God live?

*I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through His Spirit ***in your inner being***. - Ephesians 3:16*

A Deeper Dive is a descent into your inner being to connect and meet with God.

### **The Shallows**

*The distractions of life where we flit from thought to thought like a butterfly flits from flower to flower.*

### **The Midlands**

*The cares of life where we find worries, heartaches, longings, pain & suffering.*

### **The Depths**

*The essence of your existence deep in your inner person where God lives, and you experience the truth about you as you connect with Him and love Him.*

*(Resilient, by John Eldredge)*

# Deeper Dive

# Practicing the Presence of God

The sacred and the secular are not to be separated.

*The presence of God can be practiced  
wherever we are and in whatever we are doing.*

Isaiah 6:3

Acts 17:28

Ephesians 4:4-6

Matthew 28:18-20

1 Corinthians 10:31

Psalms 139:5-12

Acts 7:54-60

Colossians 1:16-18

Romans 8:37-39

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

*Read each verse and make notes about the common message.*

# Deeper Dive

**God is always and without limit, loving us, sacrificially and extravagantly, in every moment of every day, awake or asleep.**

*God demonstrates his love for us... (Rom 5:8)*

*Because of his great love for us...God made us alive (Eph 2:4)*

*We know and rely on the love God has for us...God is love (1 Jn 4:16)*

*See what great love the Father has lavished on us! (1 Jn 3:1)*

*Nothing can separate us from the love of God (Rom 8:39)*

*There is no fear in love because perfect love drives out fear (1 Jn 4:18)*

**This agape love is the air we breathe  
in the Kingdom of God.**

Breathing in and out this love is how we train to love and be loved,  
even when we have suffered greatly, and continue to suffer.

**This current life is not all there is... otherwise life is a cruel joke.**

*We must stop measuring God's love by our circumstances.*

**Practicing  
the  
Presence  
of God**

# Breathing Kingdom Air

A training program acknowledging the presence of God...

*We are not trying to generate or manufacture the presence of God.  
We are reminding ourselves of His presence and thinking rightly about Him.*

**Turn our mind  
regularly in a  
Christward  
direction.**

**Remain  
constantly  
thankful.**

**Do  
everything  
for God.**

*What would this look like in your daily routine?*

**Deeper  
Dive**

## Turn our mind regularly in a Christward direction.

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- **Ask the Spirit questions** about everything you are doing while doing it
- Find a way to do the mundane to the glory of God
- A piece of jewelry
- Thoughts, feelings, body, relationships
- Descend to the River

## Remain constantly thankful.

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- Choose gratitude; text it, handwrite it, and speak it out loud in conversation
- **Slow down and notice** what you don't usually take time to see or appreciate
- Take nothing for granted... ever
- Thank with a touch

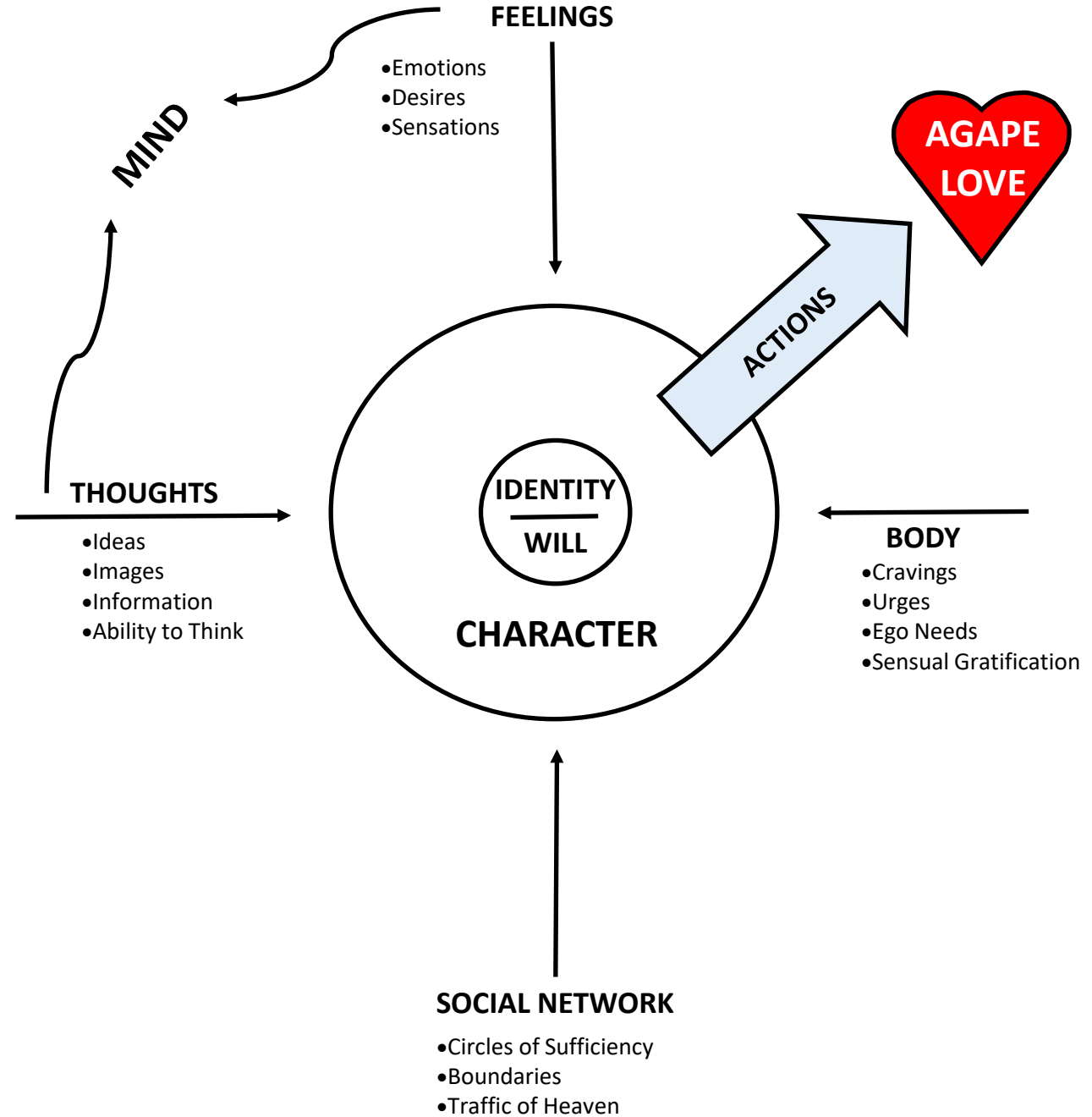
## Do everything for God.

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- List all your routine tasks; make them holy by how you think and do them
- Slow down & value agape connections
- Do everything with your whole heart & from your Circle of 4
- **Invite God into your next task**; both with God and for God

# Deeper Dive

# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



# A Day in the Kingdom

Wake up in the Kingdom  
Breathe Kingdom Air (*love*)  
Burn Kingdom Fuel (*grace*)  
Build Kingdom Character  
Do Kingdom Work

Deeper  
Dive

# Homework

## Practice the Presence of God

- Read again the 8 verses from today's study
  - Breathe in and out agape LOVE
- Write all three elements of your training program on a note card or paper and practice them all through the day, every day, all week long
- Journal how God's presence affects your ideas, images, information and how you process details of each day

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 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 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

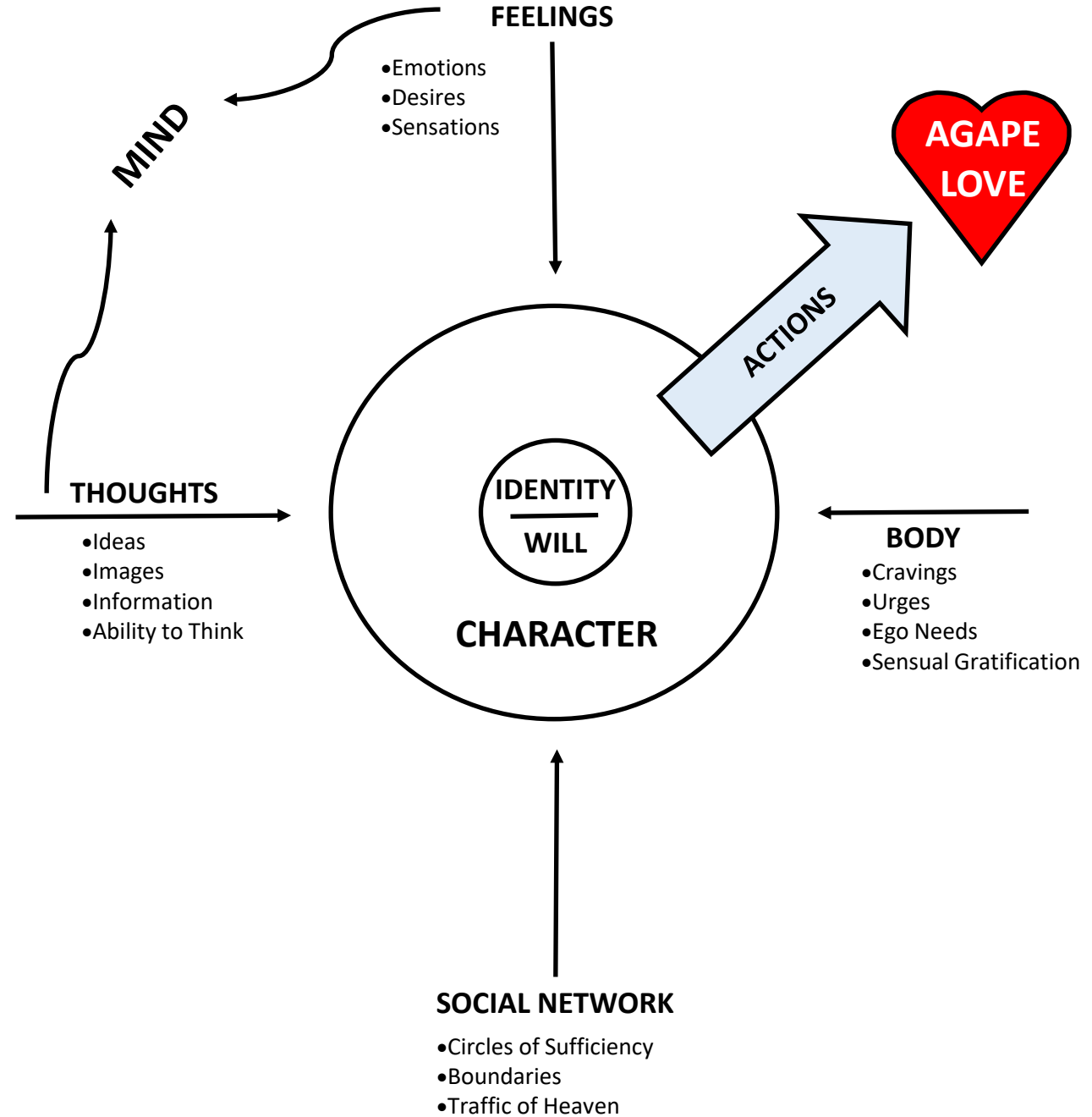
Spiritual Formation  
in Community

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.”*

# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



# The Entire Human Self

*The Whole Picture*

Spiritual  
Formation  
*in the  
Kingdom  
of God*

