

An underwater photograph showing several divers swimming in clear blue water. The divers are silhouetted against the bright light filtering down from the surface. The overall tone is serene and deep.

# 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.

# Check-In

*Work of the Spirit Report*

## The Spirit's Work

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In me,  
Around me,  
Through me

# Homework Review

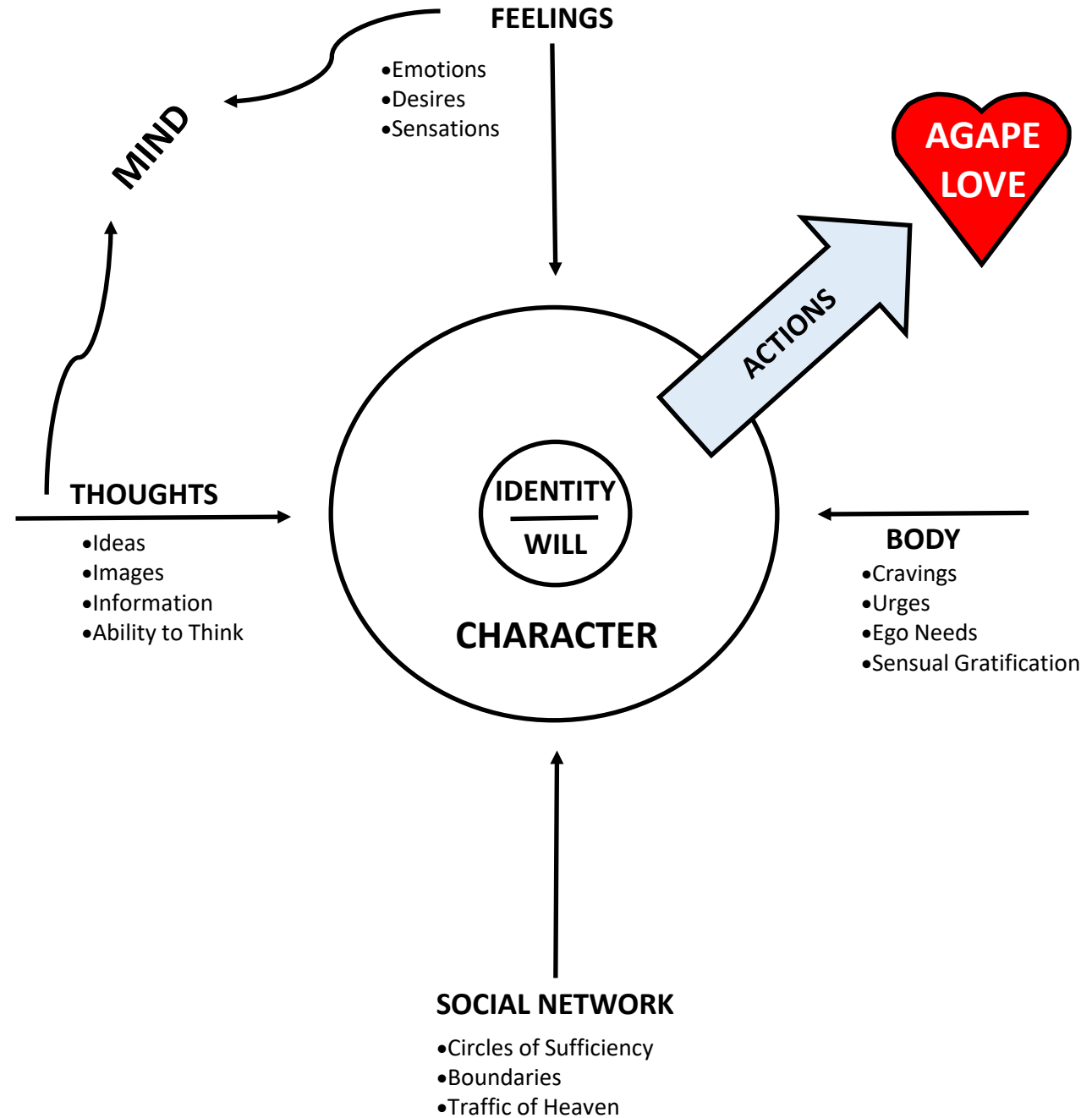
*“What is my true identity  
and the role of my body in it?”*

- **Genesis 1:27** – created in the image of God
- **John 1:12** – a precious child of God
- **Ephesians 2:10** – His workmanship; His project
- **2 Corinthians 5:17** – His always renewing creation

*“Did you practice a Sabbath this week?”*

**Deeper  
Dive**

# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*



# Relationships in the Kingdom are Circles of Sufficiency

The natural condition of life for human beings is a **reciprocal rootedness in others... a need to be connected** to people who are “for us”.

The **amount of “for-ness”** in the relationship determines its **level of sufficiency**.

In a Circle of Sufficiency, I feel **welcomed, accepted, and valued**.  
I am **enough** – I am **sufficient**.

*Not that we are sufficient in ourselves,  
but our sufficiency is from God...  
2 Corinthians 3:5 (ESV)*

**Describe  
one  
of  
your  
Circles  
of  
Sufficiency**

# Circle of Four

The  
**essential  
building  
block**  
for the  
**sufficiency**  
of all  
other  
circles.

- **Father, Son, Spirit and Me!**
- The **primary “other”** for any human being is always **God**, whether or not they acknowledge this truth
- It is only in this Circle of Four that we find our **true identity** and **complete acceptance**
- A **Circle including Father, Son and Spirit is the only circle that is potentially self-sufficient;** all other circles contain only broken and flawed people
- Circles lived **outside** the Kingdom Way are **doomed to devolve** into circles of **insufficiency**

# Understanding what is Broken

The **two forms of evil** bringing **destruction** to relationships:  
**assault** (*attack*) and **withdrawal** (*distancing*)

## **Society has No Vision for Circles of Sufficiency**

*There is no expectation of safety in our relationships*

*Moral law has been systematically removed and not replaced*

## **Pledge of Allegiance**

*I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the  
Republic for which it stands; one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty  
and justice for all*

# Assault

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# Withdrawal

We all have  
**relational**  
**wounds;**

we have been  
**hardened** by  
them,

and we  
experience  
**pain** and  
**dysfunction**  
because of  
them.

# Woundedness

Where are your relational wounds?

Woundedness causes unforgiveness, insecurity,  
and an **unwillingness** and **inability** to love with **agape**.

We must **seek healing** and **continuing spiritual formation** as paths  
to the **transformation** of our **relationships** into **circles** of **sufficiency**.

Ask the **Spirit** to **heal** our **inner person** and **transform** our **relationships**,  
**becoming** on the **inside** the kind of person who **loves everyone** with **agape**.

# A New Way to Live

**Eliminate assault & withdrawal from your relationships**

*What would it look like for you to do this?*

*Let go of defensiveness, pretending, comparing, and judging*

**Sufficiency from Constant Mutual Blessing**

**Kingdom relationships** are characterized by **goodwill** and **respect**

Treating **every person** with **agape**, **willing good** for **every person**

**Readiness to acknowledge, make way for, or assist**

Repent  
&  
Rethink

everything

about the way  
you live  
your life

# Transformation of Relationships

*The Elimination of Assault & Withdrawal*

**Exodus 20:12-17**

last 6 commandments

**Colossians 3:5 – 4:6**

relationships with all types of people

**Matthew 5-7**

salt & light, you have heard... but I say (murder, adultery, divorce, oaths),  
eye for eye, love for enemies, giving to the needy, judging others, golden rule

**1 Corinthians 13**

love is the most excellent way

# Withdrawal

At its core,  
withdrawal is  
**indifference.**

When another  
person's well-being  
**just doesn't  
matter.**

We **withdraw** from  
those we **assault**  
and **assault** those  
from whom we  
**withdraw.**

If I am  
to be  
transformed,  
my  
relationships  
must be  
transformed.

# Spiritual Formation is Profoundly Social

Spiritual formation is meant to be **experienced in community**

*There is nothing strictly between me and God.*

**Romans 14:1-7; John 13:34-35; 1 John 3:11-24; 1 John 4:7-12**

*"When two people connect; when their bodies intersect as closely as two bodies during intercourse, something is poured out of one and into the other that has power to heal the soul of its deepest wounds and restore it to health. The one who receives experiences the joy of being healed. The one who gives knows the even greater joy of being used to heal. Something good is in the heart of each of God's children that is more powerful than everything bad. It's there, waiting to be released, to work it's magic... **but it rarely happens**". (Larry Crabb)*

# Love begins with a Circle of Four

*The primary “other” for a human being is always God*

**True identity & complete acceptance**

*Waking up in the Kingdom of God*

**A Circle of Four is always safe**

*Your Circle of Four will never assault you or withdraw from you*

**Experiencing all dimensions in a Circle of Four**

*thoughts, feelings, body, relationships*

**Where  
relationship  
transformation  
begins!**

# Multiple Circles Built on a Circle of Four

The  
Kingdom  
I wake up in  
is where I am  
loved,  
healed,  
formed,  
and  
commissioned

## My Circle of Four

*True identity and complete acceptance*

## Transformation of a Marriage Circle

*The problem is people don't know how to be married*

## Transformation of a Family Circle

*A womb for children to grow up in the Kingdom*

## Transformation of Society

*Mutual submission vs Individual desire*

# Transformation of all Circles

*From Circle of Four to Marriage to Family to Friends to Society*

## **See myself as whole**

*To see myself as God sees me – I am enough!*

## **Abandon all defensiveness**

*To be less concerned with my image and more with who I am on the inside*

## **Pursue genuine love**

*To seek good for all people in any situation with real agape love*

## **Choose to reconcile, redeem and restore**

*To give my life in service to others*

**Imagine  
this in  
every  
Circle!**

# Engagement

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Reading the Bible

Journaling

Prayer

Scripture Memory

Service

Fellowship

Evangelism

Check-In

# Spiritual Disciplines

# Abstinence

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Sabbath

Solitude

Silence

Fasting

Simplicity

Chastity

Secrecy

Sacrifice

# Homework

Spend the week contemplating the elimination of assault and withdrawal from your relationships.

**Exodus 20:12-17**

last 6 commandments

**Colossians 3:5 – 4:6**

relationships with all types of people

**Matthew 5-7**

salt & light, you have heard... but I say (murder, adultery, divorce, oaths), eye for eye, love for enemies, giving to the needy, judging others, golden rule

**1 Corinthians 13**

love is the most excellent way

**Big Idea  
Of the  
Week:**

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**Agape**

# 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

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 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

An underwater photograph of 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!

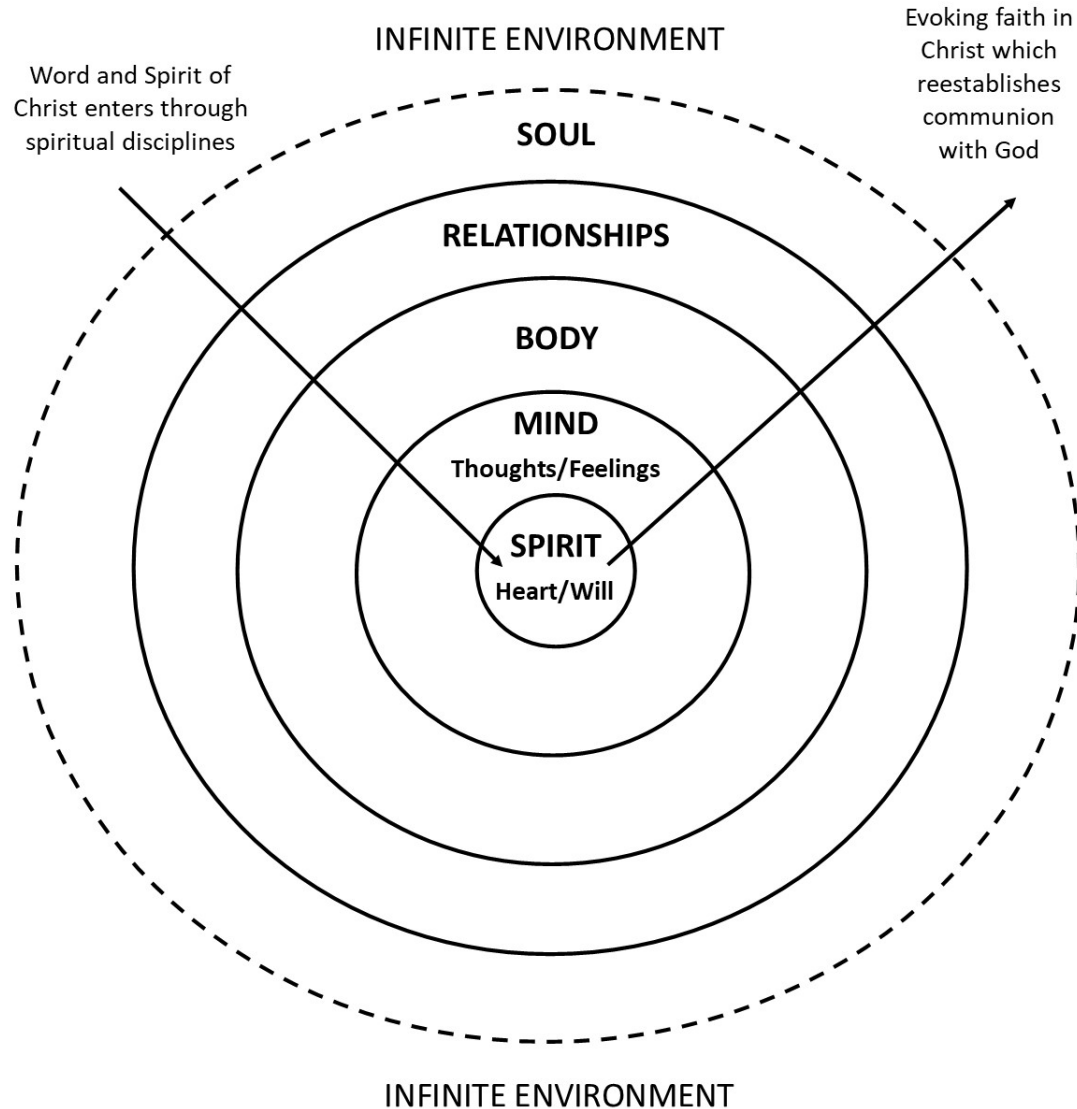
Spiritual Formation

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

# The Entire Human Self

*The Whole Picture*

Spiritual  
Formation  
*in the  
Kingdom  
of God*



# Spiritual Formation *in the Kingdom of God*

