

THE WAY DIGGING DEEPER

The Way: Gather

January 11th, 2025

Theme: Planted Together

Key Idea: Creating intentional environments for meaningful connection with God and with each other.

Discussion Questions

LEAN IN — Connecting Life to the Message

1. When you hear the phrase “*the Great Reset that became a Great Setback*,” what resonates most with your own experience over the last few years?
2. In what ways did isolation, disruption, or changes in routine affect your spiritual life, relationships, or sense of community?
3. The message compared spiritual growth to the rings of a tree—slow, steady, formed over time.
 - Where do you feel pressure to grow *quickly* rather than *faithfully*?

LOOK UP — Scripture Engagement

Main Passage: Psalm 1

Read Psalm 1 together, slowly. If possible, have two different people read it.

OBSERVE — What does the text say?

- What words or phrases stand out to you from Psalm 1?
- What contrasts do you notice between:
 - The righteous and the wicked?
 - A tree and chaff?
- What actions or postures describe the “blessed” person?
- What imagery is used to describe stability, growth, and fruitfulness?

What do you notice and what are you curious about?

INTERPRET — What does the passage mean?

- Why do you think the psalmist uses the image of a *tree planted by streams of water*?
- What does it suggest about where growth and strength actually come from?
- How does meditation on God's law "day and night" shape a person over time?

What do you learn about God from this passage?

(Consider His role as source, sustainer, and watcher over our way.)

What do you learn about humanity?

(Consider formation, influence, stability, and vulnerability.)

APPLY — What's my response?

- In what ways are you currently *planted*—and in what ways might you feel spiritually uprooted?
- How does this passage encourage or challenge the way you think about gathering with others?
- Where do you sense conviction: in your rhythms, priorities, or proximity to life-giving community?

What should be our response—individually and as a group—to this passage?

REFLECT — Bringing It Home

1. Acts 2 describes believers who were *together*, devoted to teaching, prayer, fellowship, and shared life.
 - Which of those practices feels most natural to you?
 - Which feels most challenging right now?
2. Hebrews 10:23–25 calls us not to give up meeting together, especially in difficult seasons.
 - What gets in the way of gathering consistently—for you personally?
3. **Where might God be inviting you to grow one "ring" deeper this season rather than rushing toward visible results?**

Scripture

Psalm 1

Matthew 28:16–20

Acts 2:42–47

Hebrews 10:23–25

John 15:4–5

Prayer

Use the guide below or allow space for spontaneous prayer.

Begin with Thanksgiving

- Thank God for His presence and faithfulness across every season of life.
- Thank Him for planting us in community, not isolation.

Move to Confession

- Confess ways we have withdrawn, grown passive, or prioritized comfort over community.
- Name any fear, distraction, or self-protection that has kept us from gathering fully.

Pray for Formation

- Ask God to root us deeply in His Word and presence.
- Pray for resilience, patience, and steady growth like a well-watered tree.

Pray for the Church

- Pray that our gatherings would center God's presence, deepen relationships, and clearly proclaim Jesus.
- Ask that God would add to our number—not for growth's sake, but for His glory.

Close by praying the Lord's Prayer together.

Practice — STEP OUT

Choose **2–3 practices** to engage this week as a group or individually:

1. **Commit to the Gathering and Prayer before service on Sunday**
 - Intentionally attend a weekend service or group gathering this week with a posture of presence (no rushing, no multitasking).
 - Pray beforehand: "God, plant me where You want me today."
2. **Share a Table**
 - Share a meal with someone from your group or church this week—no agenda beyond being together.
 - Practice Acts 2-style fellowship: food, gratitude, conversation.
3. **Daily Rooting Practice**
 - Spend 5–10 minutes each day this week in Psalm 1 or John 15.
 - Ask: *What is forming me today—and where am I planted?*