

Practice Guide for October 13th, 2024

Life Together, pt. 6—Embrace Wonder.

Suggested Ice Breaker (5 minutes)

What is one location in the world that you've visited, near or far, which had a big impact (and why)?

Opening (10 minutes)

Before beginning, open the meeting time with 2 minutes of silence to focus on God's presence. Afterward, ask someone to open in prayer, asking God to open our hearts to the mystery and wonder of His ways.

Opening Question: Are you usually one who embraces change and new adventures, or do you thrive in repetition and consistency? How does this quality interact with your faith journey?

Reflecting On Scripture (15 minutes)

Have someone read Romans 11:33 and 1 Corinthians 2:6-10 out loud for the group.

Questions for discussion:

1. How do these scriptures challenge or invite us to embrace the mysteries of God?
2. What do you make of the distinction in 1 Corinthians 2 between earthly wisdom and the wisdom of God? How does this impact our approach to faith?
3. How can embracing wonder in our relationship with God lead to deeper trust, even when things don't make sense?

Community Practice (25 minutes)

Read aloud this quote from NT Wright in *Surprised by Hope*:

"Our task in the present...is to live as resurrection people in between Easter and the final day, with our Christian life, corporate and individual, in both worship and mission, as a sign of the first and a foretaste of the second."

Take 5-7 minutes to journal your response to these questions:

1. Where in your life are you tempted to force God or life into a box of certainty? How might God be inviting you to embrace the wonder of the unknown?
2. How can you cultivate a childlike wonder in your relationship with God, yourself, and others?
3. Are there areas of your faith or community life where you need to release control and accept the mystery?

Share your answers in groups of two or three.

Group Discussion:

- How can our community embrace wonder and mystery together?
- What practical steps can we take to value diverse perspectives and the unknowns in our relationships with each other?
- How can we remain open to the mystery of God while staying grounded in faith?

Closing Prayer (5 minutes)

As we conclude our discussion, have someone close in prayer and/or slowly read this prayer by Catherine of Siena.

*Eternal Trinity,
You are a deep sea,
into which the more I enter,
the more I find,
and the more I find,
the more I seek.
The soul cannot be satisfied
in Your abyss,
for it continually hungers after You,
the eternal Trinity,
desiring to see You with the light of Your light.
Amen.*

Further Reading:

- *Surprised by Hope* by NT Wright
- *The Wisdom of the Heart* by Henri Nouwen