BEYOND

BUILDINGS
THIS GENERATION
TODAY

Discussion Guide

Session 3: Beyond Our Numbers: Pursuing Depth Over Size

A note to discussion leaders: you probably won't get to every question, but try to answer at least 1 question from each group (1-3, 4-6, 7-9)

1. Why is it so tempting for churches, small groups, and Christian leaders to prioritize attendance numbers, social engagement, and quick growth over slower spiritual depth?

2. Read Colossians 1:28-29. How does Paul's goal of "proclaiming Christ, warning and teaching everyone... to present everyone mature in Christ" redefine what a successful ministry looks like?

3. Christian practices can sometimes feel forced or routine. What is the practical difference between engaging in religious activity to check a box and practicing spiritual disciplines out of a relationship with Jesus?

4. Donald Whitney defines spiritual disciplines as "habits of devotion and experiential Christianity that promote spiritual growth." How have disciplines like prayer, stewardship, and reflection helped you experience God, rather than just learn information about Him?

5. For a new Christian, prayer is often a simple daily conversation, but as we grow, it can expand and often combine with fasting. How can fasting from food or our phones expose what our hearts lean on instead of Christ?

6. As Christians mature, many schedule deliberate retreats and sabbaths for spiritual reflection. Why are quiet reflection and journaling so vital for preventing believers from getting "off track" in their spiritual walk?

7. On a personal scale, where are you currently located between simply attending church services/events and actively training for Christlike maturity? If you feel you are stuck, what has caused you to plateau or remain comfortable at your current stage?

8. 2 Timothy 2:2 urges disciples to entrust what they have learned to faithful people who can teach others. How does pouring deeply into one person (rather than broadly into a crowd) reflect Christ's discipleship model?

9. How does regular, sacrificial financial stewardship indicate spiritual depth rather than just an organizational necessity?