

Formation

Small Group Questions



The following questions are intended to start conversations. Use only the ones your group finds helpful. Explore others as they come up.

Our preaching series during the season of Lent will focus on apprenticeship to Jesus (what does it mean to follow Jesus?). Questions will be provided each week to help you think about these stories BEFORE you listen to the sermon. It is our hope that this will encourage your own study and prepare you for the upcoming sermon.

- To be human is to grow, to mature, and to adapt over time. Formation is simply the process by which our inner person is formed into a particular shape or character. Who (or what) is shaping your thoughts and attitudes? Take some time to consider.
- Annie Dillard pointed out that “how we spend our days is, of course, how we spend our lives.” Consider your daily or weekly habits. How are these things shaping you? What kind of person are you becoming?
- Read **Romans 12:1-2** (the Message). What is Paul’s main concern in this text?
- In what ways are we being conformed to the pattern of this world? Is this a greater danger today than in Paul’s time? Why?
- What does Paul envision in being transformed by the renewing of our minds? What does this look like? Be specific.
- Read **Colossians 3:12-17**. What is Paul’s desire for the Colossian church?
- What is the connection between “letting the word of Christ dwell among you richly” (v. 16) and “doing all things in the name of the Lord Jesus” (v. 17)?
- Optional: Take a minute to consider the icon of Mary (attached). After looking at this image, consider that Mary literally allowed the word of Christ to be formed in her and then birthed through her. In what way does Mary become an image of spiritual formation?
- Spiritual formation has been described as “the activity of the Holy Spirit which moulds our lives into the likeness of Jesus Christ. We cooperate with this work of the Spirit through certain practices that make us more open and responsive to the Spirit's touch...” (PCUSA). What stands out for you in this definition?
- How have you participated in your own spiritual formation?



Mary Icon

Ade Bethune