

THE RENEWAL OF ALL THINGS

FORMATION GUIDE for communities and formation groups

MESSAGE ONE: **SERVE**

- **BIG IDEA:** As the church, we are invited to participate in the revolution launched by Jesus. The way of this revolution is humbly serving those around us.

RESOURCES FOR LEADERS + FOR STUDY:

- *“At the heart of the gospel is a redefinition of power. That is one of the central ways in which the early Christians interpreted the death of Jesus. The reason the cross carried such life-changing power, and carries it still, is because it embodied, expressed, and symbolized the true power of which all earthly power is either an imitation or a corrupt parody. ... The gospel of Jesus summons us to believe that the power of self-giving love unveiled on the cross is the real thing, the power that made the world in the first place and is now in the business of remaking it; and that the other forms of “power,” the corrupt and self-serving ways in which the world is so often run, from global empires and multimillion businesses down to classrooms, families, and gangs, are the distortion.” NT Wright, *The Day the Revolution Began*.*
- *Celebration of Discipline*, chapter 9 (copies available upon request)

QUESTIONS FOR CONVERSATION:

- Read and Discuss Philippians 2.5-11 and the paragraph above. What stands out to you about Jesus and the way of His Kingdom? How might we imitate Jesus in emptying ourselves?
- What are the obstacles, if any, that keep you from serving others in the way of Jesus?
- We serve when we do not have enough. What is challenging about that for you? Be specific. What is encouraging about that for you? Be specific.
- What is one person, group of people, organization, or place you sense the Spirit is calling you to serve in this season?

EXPERIMENTS + PRACTICES:

- The shared practice for week 2 of this journey was to plan a way for you to serve someone in need together. Have you done that? Where are the needs around you in your neighborhood or network? If you have served, discuss your experience.