

# REform

THE BOOK OF 12



re.FORM ///

Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture will be quoted from Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV® Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.®

This particular version can be shared freely without permission.

Selling this publication is expressly prohibited.

Copyright © 2013 | Anthony L Opliger

[nefw.org](http://nefw.org)

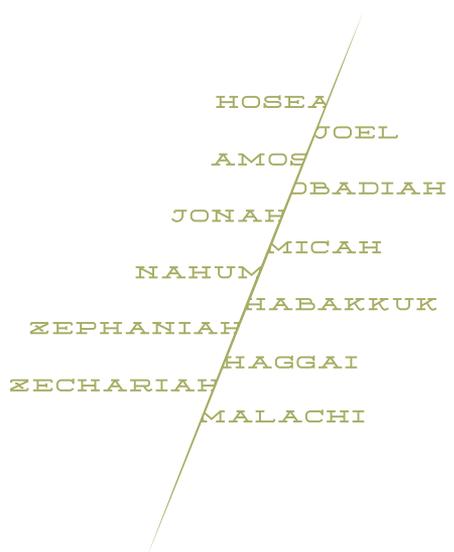


# INTRO

Welcome to a season of learning together from *The Book of Twelve*. This book, which is found in the Bible, consists of the anthologies of twelve different Hebrew prophets.

These prophets were God’s mouthpieces to His people and His world. They were given the costly and glorious task of calling all hearers to turn around and to realign their lives with God’s Kingdom.

They spoke words of *judgment, wrath, forgiveness, salvation, restoration, and hope.*



HOSEA  
JOEL  
AMOS  
OBADIAH  
JONAH  
MICAH  
NAHUM  
HABAKKUK  
ZEPHANIAH  
HAGGAI  
ZECHARIAH  
MALACHI

Here is their message in one word—*reform*.

We need reform. There are parts of our lives that do not fully align with the Kingdom of God. This is true of all of God’s people, and it is certainly true of the world around us.

**re-form** [ree-fawrm]

*verb*

to change something  
in order to improve it

*God is still calling us toward reform.*

That is what *The Book of Twelve* is about. That is what the prophets were about.

That is the aim of this tool.

# THREE AIMS

## AIM 1 // BIBLE DOING

This is not a Bible study. Bible studies are important. In fact, we place a high value on studying the Word of God. However, we should place an equally high value on doing the Word—having our lives transformed by it. During these weeks, we will immerse in the study of *The Book of Twelve* in the Bible. As we do, we want to emphasize doing the Word together by the power of the Spirit. Therefore, this group is not a Bible study. *It is a Bible doing.*

## AIM 2 // HELP OTHERS

Your main goal with this tool is to help other people grow. Let me try to provoke you by saying,

*Your main goal here is not to grow. Your main goal here is not to develop friends. Your main goal is not to be cared for. Those are all really great desires. But they are not the goal. Your main goal is to help other people grow.*

This is a really exciting and really central part of following Jesus. He called us to make disciples. Indeed, it is our great commission. In other words, He called us to help other people experience reform in and through their lives. This tool is designed to help you do just that.

## AIM 3 // JESUS

It's important to state our belief that the only effective reform ever done in our lives is because of and through Jesus. He has made a way for us to be reformed, and He is actively at work by His Spirit to make that happen. Furthermore, He Himself is the aim of the reform. All Kingdom reform moves us toward knowing and following Jesus more.

# OVERVIEW

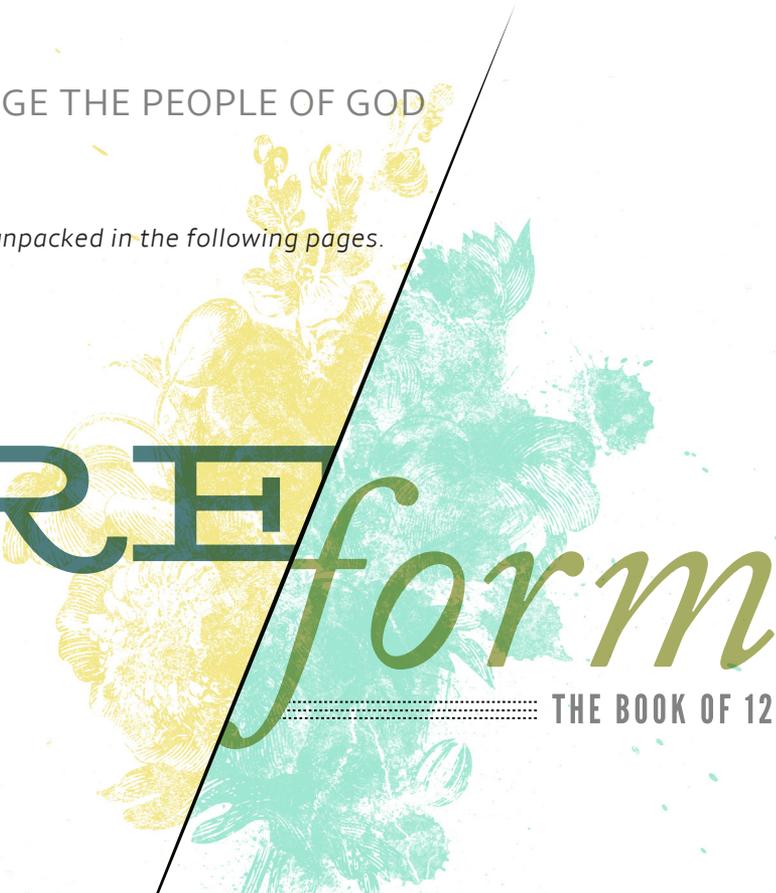
This tool is simple. There are 3 components.

**1** ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

**2** ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

**3** ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

*These are unpacked in the following pages.*



**RE**form  
THE BOOK OF 12

each week, engage

# THE WORD OF GOD

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org

&

do one or more of the following

*Immerse in the text.* Read it repeatedly (e.g., read Amos three times this week).

*Study the text.* Select one small portion of the text and study it (see below for some study helps).

*Memorize the text.* (Not the whole thing.) Select a chunk of the text and commit it to memory.

*Other the text.* Engage the text in some other way and be prepared to share what you did. Here are some ideas:

Create a piece of art that communicates a truth from the text.

Paraphrase a portion of the text in your own words.

Write a poem or a song inspired by the text.

Pray the words of the text as you read it slowly (Google "*lectio divina*").

---

immerse | study | memorize | other

---

## STUDY HELPS

Read the introduction material in a Study Bible.

See [Bible.org/seriespage/minor-prophets](https://www.bible.org/seriespage/minor-prophets).

Read the passage(s) in a variety of translations (e.g., NIV, ESV, & NLT).

Using a journal, write down any of the following:

*questions*

*ideas*

*connections to other parts of Scripture*

*what the text says about God and His story*

*how the meaning of the text can be applied in your life*

# THE SPIRIT OF GOD

As you read the Word and journey through life, consider the following three questions. Come prepared to share your answers.

What reform is God calling for in your life?

What reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

What is the next step in these areas?  
be specific

We believe that God is indeed still calling. And we believe that as we consider the above questions

*He will point out areas of our lives that need to be reformed.*

*He will point out the reform needed in the world around us.*

*He will give us specific ways to partner with Him to see real, lasting change.*

This is really exciting!

It is also important to state that it is okay to say, "I don't know." Just be prepared for your brothers or sisters in your group to help you move toward clarity. Furthermore, God calls for different reform for each person. Some may see change in many areas of life over the semester, while others may see significant change in only one area. Both are wonderful and all should be celebrated!

each week, engage

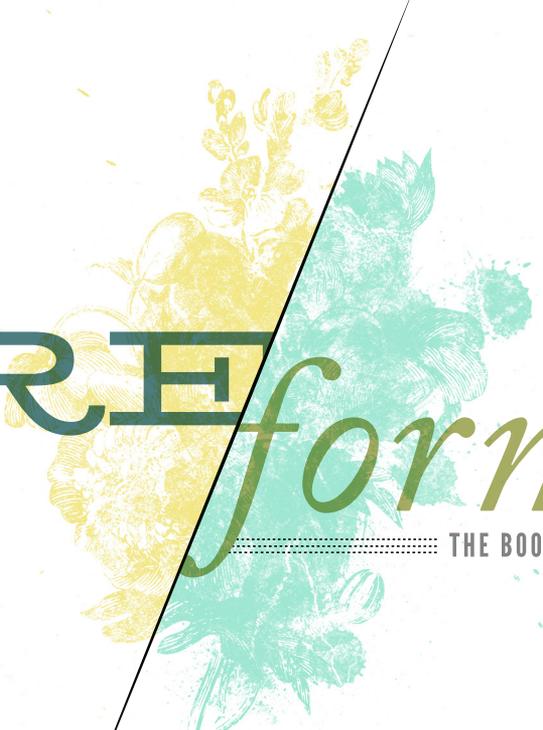
## THE PEOPLE OF GOD

When you meet together with those in your disciple-making group, do the following:

1. Share your answers to the three questions on the previous page.
2. Pray for one another.
3. Rejoice in the stories of God at work in your group.

**IMPORTANT** /// Your main goal while you “engage the people of God” is to help them grow—to help them see reform.

Whoever is in your group is appointed by God to help you grow in this season, and you are appointed by God to help them do the same.



**RE**form  
THE BOOK OF 12

# YOUR TIME TOGETHER

This tool can be used in a number of different ways. Leaders may decide to use some parts of it and leave other parts out. Here are some suggestions:

## SMALL DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUPS

2-5 people

When you meet together, make it a priority to share your answers to the three questions. Encourage one another to take steps of reform. Rejoice in stories of God at work in and through your group. If you meet in a place suited for this, pray for one another. With any time left, discuss what stood out to you in the Word of God.

## LARGE DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUPS

anywhere between 6 and one billion people

**SOCIAL SPACE** // For the first 10-15 minutes do something altogether. The leaders of the group will set the direction for this. Do a mixer. Have a time of prayer or singing. Ask an intentional question. Here is one really good question to ask: What is one thing that stood out to you from the Word this week?

**DISCIPLE-MAKING GROUPS** // Then for the majority of you time, get into groups of 3-5 people. It is strongly recommended that these groups remain the same for the entire semester. Do the stuff mentioned on the previous page.

**REFORM STORIES** // Finally, reserve the last 15-20 minutes for everyone to regather and share stories of reform taking place in your lives and in the world around you. Tell lots of stories of God's faithful work! The idea here is to share about the reform you've witnessed in and through others in your group. These stories will be cause for great rejoicing!

NOTE /// Breaking down into smaller groups is optional. Group leaders may decide it is best to remain all together.

week 1

## HOSEA

### ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on [nefw.org](http://nefw.org)

&

do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Hosea 3 times.

**study** // Read through Hosea one time. Then select one small portion of the text and study it. Don't be intimidated by that. You can do it! See the notes on page 6 for some practical steps you can take to get started.

**memorize** // Memorize Hosea 6:1-6. As you memorize, spend time each day allowing the Word to move your soul.

**other** // Engage Hosea in some other meaningful way. Be prepared to share what you did.

### ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

### ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

Come to your meeting prepared to help others grow.

*For I desire steadfast love and not sacrifice, the knowledge of God  
rather than burnt offerings. / HOSEA 6:6*

---

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org

&

do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Joel 5 times.

**study** // Read through Joel one time. Then select one small portion of the text and study it. One good section to study is Joel 2:28-32. See how it is used by the Apostle Peter in Acts 2.

**memorize** // Memorize Joel 2:28-32. As you memorize, spend time each day allowing the Word to move your soul.

**other** // Engage Joel in some other way. Maybe you could create a piece of art while you meditate upon the text? (Just an idea.)

---

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?

in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?

be specific

---

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

Pray for the people in your group. Come to your meeting prepared to help them grow.

*Return to the Lord your God, for he is gracious and merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love. / JOEL 2:13*

week 3

# AMOS

---

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org

&

do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Amos 3 times.

**study** // Read through Amos one time. Then select one small portion of the text and study it. One potential direction is to study what Amos says about justice.

**memorize** // Memorize Amos 9:13-15. As you memorize, allow the Word to move your soul.

**other** // Engage Amos in some other way. Other ideas include paraphrasing a portion of the text or perhaps writing a poem based upon it. Be prepared to share what you did.

---

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

---

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

What reform is God calling for in and through the others' lives?  
Pray for them. How will you partner with God and them to see this happen?

*But let justice roll on like a river, righteousness like a  
never-failing stream! / AMOS 5:24*

---

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org

&

do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Obadiah 5 times.

**study** // Read through Obadiah one time. Then select one portion of the text and study it. How does God's judgment speak to followers of Jesus today?

**memorize** // If you can find something to memorize in Obadiah, you are awesome. As you memorize, allow the Word to move your soul.

**other** // Engage Obadiah in some other way. Be prepared to share what you did.

---

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

These questions should be familiar at this point. Keep pressing in. Spend time listening to how the Spirit of God might answer them.

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

---

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

Spend time listening to how the Spirit might be prompting you to help the others in your group grow. Come prepared to share and to see them grow!

week 5

# JONAH

---

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org

&

do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Jonah 5 times.

**study** // Read through Jonah one time. Then select one portion of the text and study it. What does this book teach us about God and His Mission?

**memorize** // Select a passage of Jonah to memorize. As you memorize allow the Word to move your soul.

**other** // Engage Jonah in some other way. Be prepared to share what you did.

---

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

---

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

What reform is God calling for through the others in your group? Salvation? Blessing? A changed neighborhood? A changed city? Pray that God would accomplish all the reform He desires through those in your group.

---

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

This week engage the Word of God however the Spirit of God is leading you to do so. Perhaps there is a specific text or topic that has been on your heart recently. Read, study, memorize, or meditate on it. Come prepared to share what you did.

---

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

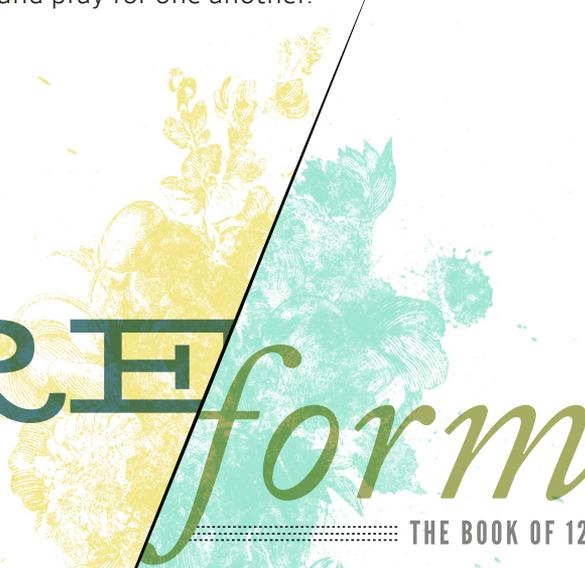
Review your progress. What reform has God been doing in and through you? What themes do you see? Look back over these past five weeks, rejoice, and resolve to keep going.

---

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

What reform has God been doing in and through the others in your group? How might you be led to help them take more steps? When you come together, share and pray for one another.



**RE**form

THE BOOK OF 12

week 7

# MICAH

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on [nefw.org](http://nefw.org)

&

do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Micah 3 times.

**study** // Read through Micah one time. Then select one portion of the text and study it.

**memorize** // Memorize Micah 5:2-5. Maybe this is something you could do as a group. Spend time each day allowing the Word to move your soul.

**other** // Engage Micah in some other way. Be prepared to share what you did.

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

Be reminded this week that God has chosen you in this season to help the other people in your group grow. Be patient with their brokenness (as they are with yours). Encourage them to take steps.

*He has told you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God? / MICAH 6:8*

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org

&

do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Nahum 5 times.

**study** // Read through Nahum one time. Then select one portion of the text and study it. Remember that these are the very words of God.

**memorize** // Memorize Nahum something—your choice. As you memorize, allow the Word to move your soul.

**other** // Engage Nahum in some other way. Be prepared to share what you did.

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

What is something creative or extraordinary you could do this week to encourage the others to take steps of reform? *Do it. Do stuff.*

week 9

# HABAKKUK

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org

&

do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Habakkuk 5 times.

**study** // Read through Habakkuk one time. Then select one portion of the text and study it.

**memorize** // Memorize Habakkuk 3:1-7. Perhaps you could put these words up somewhere around your home this week. As you memorize them, allow the Word to change you.

**other** // Engage Habakkuk in some other way. Be prepared to share what you did.

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

Keep praying for the people in your group. Keep investing in their growth. As you do, you are fulfilling the great commission (Matthew 28). You are making disciples.

*Lord, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, Lord.  
Repeat them in our day, in our time make them known; in wrath  
remember mercy. / HABAKKUK 3:2*

# ZEPHANIAH

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org  
&  
do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Zephaniah 5 times.

**study** // Read through Zephaniah one time. Then select one portion of the text and study it.

**memorize** // Memorize Zephaniah 3:14-17. As you memorize, allow the Word to move your soul.

**other** // Engage Zephaniah in some other way. Be prepared to share what you did.

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

Your main goal here is to help others grow. That is hard, and it is so worth it. What is amazing is that when we shift our focus onto others, that is when we can grow, too.

*The Lord your God is with you, the Mighty Warrior who saves. He will take great delight in you; in his love he will no longer rebuke you, but will rejoice over you with singing. / ZEPHANIAH 3:17*

week 11

# BREATHE

---

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

What is one text from the prophets that has wrecked you (in a good way)? Go back this week and revisit that truth. Read, study, memorize, and meditate upon it.

---

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

What are the stories of God's reforming work in and around you over these past 10 weeks?

*Write them down.*

*Rejoice.*

*Tell others.*

Keep leaning forward into what the Spirit of God has for you over this last month.

---

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

This might be a good week to reserve more time for telling stories of God's reforming work and to pray all together. Follow the guidance of the group leaders on this.



**RE**form

---

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on [nefw.org](http://nefw.org)  
&  
do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Haggai 5 times.

**study** // Read through Haggai one time. Then answer the question: How does Haggai point to Jesus? Spend time studying the scriptures to find an answer.

**memorize** // Memorize Haggai 2:6-9. As you memorize, worship King Jesus and allow His Word to change you.

**other** // Engage Haggai in some other way. Create something that proclaims a truth in this text.

---

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

---

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

You have just a few weeks left in this disciple-making effort. Finish strong. Help the others finish strong.

*The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house,' says the Lord Almighty. 'And in this place I will grant peace,' declares the Lord Almighty. / HAGGAI 2:9*

week 13

# ZECHARIAH

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org

&

do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Zechariah 2-3 times. Your choice.

**study** // Read through Zechariah one time. Then answer the question: How does Zechariah point to Jesus? Spend time studying the scriptures to find an answer.

**memorize** // Memorize Zechariah 2:10-13. As you memorize, remember that Jesus is present.

**other** // Engage Zechariah in some other meaningful way.

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

God loves you. Allow that to overwhelm and motivate you today.

*The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD,  
and his name the only name. / ZECHARIAH 14:9*

## ENGAGE THE WORD OF GOD

---

listen to our Sunday morning message live or on nefw.org  
&  
do one or more of the following:

**immerse** // Read Malachi 4 times.

**study** // Read through Malachi one time. Then answer the question: How does Malachi point to Jesus? Spend time studying the scriptures to find an answer.

**memorize** // Memorize Malachi 3:16-18.

**other** // Engage Malachi in some other way.

## ENGAGE THE SPIRIT OF GOD

---

Consider these questions and come prepared to share your answers:

what reform is God calling for in your life?

what reform is God calling for through your life?  
in your neighborhood, workplace, home, etc.

what is a next step in these areas?  
be specific

## ENGAGE THE PEOPLE OF GOD

---

*Pray.*

*Engage.*

*Help.*

*Reform.*

Have a Christmas Party!



# REform

THE BOOK OF 12