



# Leader's Guide

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[www.dynamiscourse.com](http://www.dynamiscourse.com)

**A course for all God's people to create a lifetime  
lifestyle of participation in God's Mission**

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Pages are divided for ease of removal and photocopy

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## Introducing the *Dynamis* Course

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### Welcome to the journey of leading others into the dynamis of God

This loose leaf notebook (along with the Participant's Guidebook) contains everything you need to organize and lead the *Dynamis Course*.

- Feel free to reproduce any of the pages in this notebook for the use of others in your course.
- Use this as your organizing notebook and add other materials you develop—such as your specific schedule, publicity materials, names of leaders and participants, menus, contact information, etc.
- Make use of the “networking” site at [www.dynamiscourse.com](http://www.dynamiscourse.com) to offer suggestions for enhancing the course, ask for ideas from others who are leading it, and contact groups in your region.

### How do I describe the *Dynamis* Course?

The “Welcome” section in the Participant's Guidebook provides a good introduction to the course. It answers many of the questions people have.

#### What's in a name?

Obviously, one of the first questions people have is about the funny name. ***What is “dynamis” and why use such a strange word for the name of the course?*** Dynamis is the word used in the New Testament for strength, power and ability. The Christian life requires more than conviction and commitment. It is not enough simply to believe the right things or try as hard as we can. The gospel of Christ is not simply the good ***news*** of salvation. It is not just a set of ideas and information.

*“The gospel is the **dynamis** (strength, power and ability) of God for salvation” (Romans 1:16). Living fruitfully along the journey of faith requires power – the power, strength and ability of God poured into our lives through Christ by the Holy Spirit.*

*“I pray that you may know...the immeasurable greatness of God's **dynamis** for us who believe, according to the working of his great power. (Ephesians 1:19)*

We chose this word as the title of the course because it sums up in one word what the course is all about. Here are the three most important things to say as you explain the course to others:

1. The ***Dynamis Course*** explores a lifestyle empowered by the Spirit. We need more than just ideas, exhortations and discipline to follow Christ. We need strength, power and ability. In other words, we need ***dynamis!*** God wants to give us the power to walk faithfully and fruitfully and fulfil God's will and ways in our journey of faith.
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2. The course creates opportunities to encounter God's transforming power and purposes for our lives and our world.
3. By the end of the course, participants will have developed a summary of the specific qualities, dreams and commitments to which God is inviting them personally for the next steps in their journey of faith.

### **Who is behind the course?**

This course seeks to fill a gap in resources to equip people for participation in the grand adventure of life in God's Kingdom. Mission-oriented courses often focus on what we must do: on *our volunteer* activities for a few hours of our year, or on the lifetime of service by *a few* of God's people. The *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Course* provides a great overview of God's purposes in the world and our work in it. On the other hand, spiritual formation courses often focus on our inner life, with little emphasis on our work in the world. The *Alpha Course* and the *Purpose Driven Life* materials provide great introductions to the Christian faith and the basics of what it means to follow Christ.

The ***Dynamis Course*** knits together God's work in our own spiritual formation—and God's work through us in the world. Rather than something confined to our volunteer time, or to the noble work of extraordinary saints, our participation by the power of the Spirit in God's mission in the world is the joyous privilege of all God's people, in all aspects of our lives, all of the time.

Early drafts of the material were developed for the staff of World Vision International. Tim Dearborn and Don Posterski developed a Bible study guide that was used by thousands of World Vision staff, *Making the Most of the Rest of our Lives*. This became the foundation for this course. Since then, the ***Dynamis course*** has gone through dozens of drafts and been tried out multiple times in several churches. Hundreds of people have laboured through the participant's guide, offering detailed suggestions for how it could be improved.

The ***Dynamis Course*** is a joint ministry of World Vision International, and Bethany Presbyterian Church in Seattle. Tim Dearborn has authored most of the material and presents the Bible studies on the videos. He is responsible for the Christian formation of World Vision International's staff around the world and World Vision's strategies for Christian witness. Previously, he has served as a professor at Seattle Pacific University, Fuller Theological Seminary, Regent College, the French Evangelical Seminary in Paris and the University of Aberdeen in Scotland, and as a Presbyterian minister. He lives in Seattle, WA USA with his wife of 38 years, Kerry, and their 3 daughters, sons in law, and grandchildren. Other books he has written include:

*Taste and See: Awakening our Spiritual Senses* (IVP, 1996);  
*Beyond Duty: A Passion for Christ, a Heart for Mission* (MARC, 1997);  
*The Local Church in a Global Era* (ed.) (Eerdmans, 2000);  
*Short-term Missions Workbook* (IVP, 2003);  
*Worship at the Next Level: Insights from Contemporary Voices* (ed.) (Baker, 2004);  
*Doing Business in the Kingdom of God* (with Christopher Shore) (WVI, 2006).

## Who should participate in the *Dynamis* Course?

- *Interest.* This study is designed for people who are serious about taking new steps in following Christ. It assumes a desire to be used by God in the world as witnesses to Christ and the coming Kingdom. The material works for people who are new believers, as well as for people who have followed Christ for years.
  - *Age and background.* It is appropriate for people from late-teens and beyond. It is written to be accessible to people from any cultural background and from diverse church traditions.
  - *Size.* Through a combination of individual, small group, and large group discussion, the number of participants can range from 4 to 6, to several hundred.
  - *Commitment.* The course expects participants to engage in small group discussions and in personal reflection. Though someone could be a passive spectator, this risks both diminishing the quality of the experience for that individual—as well as for others in his or her small group. Therefore, it is important to clarify the expectations and time commitments:
    1. *Attendance.* Because each session builds on the previous ones, and much of the interaction occurs in the same small groups, the experience is enhanced if participants can attend each session. Obviously, things come up and our schedules change, but to the extent possible, it's preferred if people can commit themselves to the entire series.
    2. *Outside Work.* Participants should expect to engage in one hour of reflection using the reflection questions after each session. In addition, the integration exercises at the end of the course require several hours for personal reflection and prayer.
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## How many volunteers are needed?

This obviously depends on the size of your group. If you using the materials in one small group, or for an existing class, then the organization is easy and the Participant's Guidebook provides nearly all the information that is required. It is possible to engage in this study with a facilitator who only arranges materials needed for the video as well as group exercises, leads the discussion, and monitors the time-schedule. This could be rotated between participants.

However, if you are organizing the ***Dynamis Course*** as its own activity, then the following roles are needed. Just one or two people could fulfill all the responsibilities, or a different person in a leadership team could assume each responsibility:

- Course coordinator
- Registration and finance coordinator
- Publicity coordinator
- Prayer coordinator
- Dinner-or-dessert coordinator (if food is provided)
- Worship leader(s)
- Discussion group leaders (preferably two per group)
- Retreat coordinator (if a course retreat is held)

Suggestions for each role are outlined in the section on "*Forming an organizing team*".

## What are the responsibilities of discussion group leaders?

Discussion groups are at the heart of the ***Dynamis Course***. It is in discussion groups of six to ten people that opportunities are created to dive deeply and personally into God's ***dynamis*** and God's purposes for our lives. Therefore, discussion group leaders have a pivotal role.

We encourage each group to have two leaders. They can either rotate the leadership between them, or one can take the primary role, and the other can focus on being a support, praying as you go, seeking to discern what God is doing among group members, and caring for participants.

It is important to select discussion group leaders who are mature in their own faith, willing to commit themselves to the entire course and invest the time necessary to make it a fruitful experience for others, and able to create a safe environment for people to share their thoughts about the course material and their own journey of faith.

Specifically, they commit themselves to:

1. Pray regularly for the people in their group.
2. Familiarize themselves with the entire Participant's workbook and do the exercises for the next session in advance, so that they know what to expect.
3. Coordinate the timing of their discussion group session.
4. Lead the discussion by selecting which questions are the best ones for their group, and by coordinating the group activities. Obviously, these roles could be shared among the members of the group if this seems to be appropriate.
5. Ensure that any resources or materials that are needed for their group session are available.
6. Coordinate the conclusion and final prayer for their group.
7. Check-in with group members outside of the session occasionally to see how they are doing with the course and the ideas being explored.

More suggestions for the Discussion group leaders can be found in the Discussion Group Leader's Guide in the section on *Leading the Course Sessions*. You might want to copy that material for the discussion group leaders.

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## What does a typical course session look like?

Sample schedules will be provided in a later section. However, as you begin to organize the course, it's helpful to have an idea of a typical format. The following is based on seven three-hour sessions. If you decided not to meet for a meal or dessert, each session could be completed in 1½ hours.

<b>30-45 minutes</b>	<b>Begin with a meal or dessert together</b> —This opportunity for informal conversation, building relationships, and hearing of each other's experience during the week lays a central foundation for the evening.
<b>10 minutes</b>	<b>Opening Worship</b> —We begin the session with 10 minutes of worship, fixing our lives on the God of power, wisdom, glory and life.
<b>30 minutes</b>	<b>Video Presentation</b> —This 25 minute lecture lays the foundation for the evening's theme. On the first page of each week's workbook are 1) the Bible passages referred to in the lecture; 2) the central idea; 3) 1 to 3 key words that form the crux of the presentation. There is also a one paragraph summary. Following the presentation, participants are encouraged to write in a journal some of their own reactions and responses.
<b>5 minutes</b>	<b>Concluding Worship</b> —Each lecture session ends in worship through a song, a liturgy, prayer and sometimes a symbolic enacting of the theme explored that week. From here we break for small groups.
<b>45-60 minutes</b>	<b>Discussion groups</b> —Following the lecture we break into the same discussion groups each week. The Participant's workbook provides suggested discussion questions and activities. Depending on the flow of your conversation, there may be more suggestions than you have time for. Allow God to guide you through the time.
<b>Optional 30 minutes</b>	<b>Diving Deeper</b> —If your group has more time, additional exercises are provided in each session for the discussion groups to engage with the material in discussion groups in greater depth.
<b>end</b>	Each session concludes in the discussion groups.

<b>Personal reflection between sessions</b>	The course is designed for participants to invest at least one-hour between sessions in personal reflection using the questions and exercises provided in the Participant's Workbook. Each week, using the guide provided, participants are given the opportunity to chart key points in their journey of faith. During the last two weeks, they have the opportunity to create a 1-page summary. What qualities and commitments do they want to characterize their life during the next months or years of their journey—and how would they chart or draw where they believe God is wanting to lead them as they participate in God's mission in the world?
<b>Diving Deeper</b>	If participants are able to invest more time, additional exercises are provided in each session for them to engage with the material personally in greater depth.

**Final celebration**—The *DYNAMIS* Course concludes with a final celebration, without any lecture, for participants to share insights they have gained through this time together, what they have learned and how God has met them, what commitments they feel called to make, and to what next steps they believe God is calling them on their journey of faith. This ends with celebrative worship, a covenant of commitment and prayer.

## Quick-Start Guide to Getting Organized

To assist in your planning process, here is a check-list of the key decisions that need to be made. Suggestions for each area are provided in the next section. Also, a suggested time-line for organizing a course is provided below.

### Summary of Start-up decisions

✓	Secure whatever approval is necessary
	Select members of organizing team
	Find worship coordinator
	Determine course schedule
	Decide if you will offer a meal or dessert
	Determine if you will have a retreat as an optional addition to the course
	Draft a budget (materials, meals)
	Determine costs for participants and if financial aid will be available
	Develop publicity
	Registration and management of budget
	Arrange room reservations, set-up for meal, worship and videos, and discussion groups
	Divide people into discussion groups

### Planning timeline

<b>4 months before start</b>	Secure any approval necessary to offer the course Purchase Start-up kit Select organizing team Begin praying for the right people to participate
<b>3 months before start</b>	Make Start-up decisions; reserve rooms, retreat location Launch publicity If the members of the organizing team haven't taken the <b>Dynamis Course</b> previously, they could begin watching the videos as a group, discussing the Participant's Guidebook and doing the exercises as a group. Pray
<b>2 months before start</b>	Registration Pray
<b>1 month before start</b>	Order materials and finalize room arrangements Divide participants into Discussion Groups Discussion group leaders can start praying specifically for the people who will be in their groups

**Summary of time commitment** based on an organizing team that has not previously taken the *Dynamis Course*, weekly sessions including a dessert, and an overnight discernment retreat

<b>Before</b>	For 3 months: eight 2-hour meetings	7 to 9 p.m. every other week
<b>During</b>	For 2 months: seven 3 ½ hour meetings	6 to 9:45 for 7 weeks
<b>Retreat</b>	Either an overnight, or 1 day retreat	7 pm Fri to 4 pm Sat, or 9-4 pm Saturday
<b>Celebration</b>	Concluding evening for testimonies, worship and evaluation	One evening: 6 for dinner, 7-8:30 for sharing and worship



## Organizing the Course

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### Forming an organizing team

The organizing team is the key to a fruitful ***Dynamis Course***. This group is the center of vision, caring and leadership for the participants. You want within this group a range of gifts:

- *Someone with the gift of hospitality.* We need someone who can help create a caring, welcoming atmosphere for the participants. Let this person's creativity flow so that when people enter the room they feel welcomed.
  - *Someone with administrative gifts who enjoys details and process.* The course flows best when all the details of budgeting, room arrangements, communication with participants, etc. are handled with thoroughness and grace.
  - *Someone who has a passion for prayer.* A course that focuses on the work of the Spirit in our lives to empower us for fruitful participation in God's purposes depends on prayer. We also can expect spiritual opposition to what God wants to do in and through this course. Prayer involvement can take various forms, depending on what is appropriate for your group:
    - Prayer coordinator could check in weekly with the discussion group leaders to learn points for prayer
    - The coordinator could organize a team of intercessors who meet regularly to pray for the course
    - A group could be formed that meets simultaneously as the discussion groups, for focused prayer. This can be especially helpful if there are people who have taken the course and want to assist, but are not appropriate as discussion group leaders.
  - *People who enjoy people.* The course depends on God working through the Discussion groups. It's best to have two leaders per group. They can rotate between them one who leads a particular session, and one who prays during it, focusing on the dynamics between people and seeking to discern what God is doing in their lives. Obviously, it is important that group leaders are committed to attend all the sessions
  - *Someone who is gifted in creative leadership in worship.* The course isn't only about information—it's about transformation. It's not concerned only with ideas about God but with encounter with God. Therefore, worship is at the heart of the course. It provides an opportunity to enjoy greater freedom in innovation and participation in worship than might normally be found in a regular church service.
  - *Someone who enjoys hosting people through food.* Beginning the course sessions with a simple dinner or dessert has been found to provide a good opportunity to build
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relationships, share what has been occurring in our lives, and create a caring atmosphere. The food is best when it is simple—and the atmosphere is welcoming. This is a great opportunity for people to exercise their creativity.

**Where do you find people like this?** Our instinct is that your church, fellowship or small group is filled with them. They just need to be invited to participate. Some churches that offer the *Alpha Course*, or the *Perspectives on the World Christian Movement Course* have found that members of those leadership teams are glad to invest their time in *Dynamis*. One church runs *Alpha* and *Dynamis* simultaneously—with *Dynamis* as a sequel to *Alpha*. People join for the same meal, and then divide into different groups for the videos and the discussion groups. This provides a good follow-up to *Alpha*, and simplifies organization.

**How much time is required to be involved in the organizing team?** This depends some on what format you adopt—weekly sessions with or without a retreat or two intensive weekends? beginning with dinner or dessert? and whether or not members of the organizing team have taken the course previously.

**Prior to the Course Launch:**

If the organizing team has not already taken the *Dynamis Course*, then it's optimal if you have eight 2+ hour meetings, beginning, three months in advance, to go through the seven sessions of the course and to prepare for the launch of the course. Each meeting will require 1½ hours for the course, and 45 to 60 minutes for organizational preparation and prayer.

If you've already taken the course, then 4 planning and prayer meetings prior to launch should be sufficient.

**During the Course:**

Each session requires 1½ to 3 hours, depending on whether or not you include meals and worship. Members of the organizing team should plan on arriving 30 minutes early for prayer and to be there to welcome others. If you're doing weekly sessions, it is good if they can meet together for 20 minutes at the end of each session for the first few weeks to share experiences, evaluate the time, and make plans for the next session.

Discussion group leaders should seek to make contact with members of their group between sessions, to check in, pray and encourage them. If the groups are large it might be necessary to contact only a few people each week.

**Retreat:**

If you decide to offer a discernment retreat, then the participation of the organizing team in that retreat will be important.

## Sample Schedules

### Weekly with dinner

5:30 Organizing team, registration  
 6:00 Dinner  
 6:45 Move to room for worship, video  
 7:00 Worship  
 7:10 Video  
 7:35 Personal reflection and Worship  
 7:45 Move to rooms for discussion groups  
 7:50 Discussion groups  
 8:35 Conclusion (unless you have time for Diving Deeper)  
 8:35-8:55 *Diving Deeper*  
 9:00 *Conclusion*

4:30 dinner set-up  
 5:00 room set-up, hospitality  
 5:30 worship, video set-up

15 minutes post-session  
 leadership team debrief

### Weekly with dessert

6:00 Organizing team arrives  
 6:30 Dessert  
 6:45 Move to room for worship, video  
 7:00 Worship  
 7:10 Video  
 7:35 Personal reflection and Worship  
 7:45 Move to rooms for discussion groups  
 7:50 Discussion groups  
 8:35 Conclusion (unless you have time for Diving Deeper)  
 8:35-8:55 *Diving Deeper*  
 9:00 *Conclusion*

### Weekly without food

7:00 Worship  
 7:10 Video  
 7:35 Personal reflection and Worship  
 7:45 Move to rooms for discussion groups  
 7:50 Discussion groups  
 8:35 Conclusion (unless you have time for Diving Deeper)  
 8:35-8:55 *Diving Deeper*  
 9:00 *Conclusion*



**Two weekend intensives**

Friday 6-7 pm	Registration and refreshments
7-7:15 pm	Worship
7:15-8:10	Video 1
8:10-20	Personal Reflection and Worship
8:20-9:00	Discussion Groups 1
Saturday 9-9:30	Refreshments and worship
9:30-10:05	Video 2
10:05-10:15	Personal Reflection and worship
10:15-11:00	Discussion groups 2
11:00-11:45	Refreshments and personal reflection exercises
11:45-12:10	Video 3
12:10-1:00	Discussion groups 3
1:00-1:30	Lunch
1:30-1:45	Worship
1:45-2:10	Video 4
2:10-3:00	Discussion groups 4
3:00-4:00	Personal reflection exercises
4:00-4:30	Concluding worship and sharing from the day

[In order for participants to have time for the personal reflection exercises, it might be wise to schedule the two weekends a month apart]

Friday 6:30-7:00	Refreshments
7-7:15 pm	Worship
7:15-8:10	Video 5
8:10-20	Personal Reflection and Worship
8:20-9:00	Discussion Groups 5
Saturday 9-9:30	Refreshments and worship
9:30-10:05	Video 6
10:05-10:15	Personal Reflection and worship
10:15-11:00	Discussion groups 6
11:00-12:30	Refreshments and personal reflection exercises
12:30-1:30	Lunch
1:30-1:45	Worship
1:45-2:10	Video 7
2:10-2:30	Personal Reflection
2:30-3:30	Refreshments and Discussion groups 7
3:30-4:00	Personal reflection exercises
4:00-4:30	Concluding worship and sharing

## Dinner or Dessert?

### Reasons for gathering around food

The Kingdom of God is described as a “feast”, even as a “wedding banquet”. There is something special that happens when we gather around food. People relax. We feel cared for and welcomed. We’re all doing the same thing (eating). There’s no special agenda except to enjoy being together and to enjoy the food. Therefore, beginning the session with food can be a great moment of welcome. Some have found eating in your discussion groups each session provides a good opportunity to build your relationships in a less formal setting, and time to “catch-up” with one another, and to “check-in” by sharing experiences people had with the Personal Application exercises.

### Pros and Cons of Dinner vs. Dessert

Whether you meet for dinner or dessert depends on you—your schedule, setting, finances and what’s feasible. The advantage of dinner is you have more time to be together. If you are meeting for an evening session, people are going to need dinner anyway so it can simplify their life. The disadvantages are that it makes organizing the course more complex and it adds another layer of expenses.

The advantage of dessert is that it’s simpler, less expensive and takes less time. It still can afford some time for hospitality and informal relationships. The disadvantage is simply that you have less time together and that people have to eat anyway.

### Suggestions for Keeping it Simple

The complexity of arranging food obviously depends on the size of your group. If it’s small, you could do “pot luck”. People in discussion groups could rotate and either each group would take turns hosting the food for everyone, or one person from each group could bring something for each session. If your group is larger, you might need to cater the meal, looking to local pizza, Chinese, Mexican, or India restaurants to cater and deliver food. Or, maybe someone in your church would enjoy providing a simply soup, salad and bread meal.

### Dealing with Costs

Obviously you want to keep costs down. If you’ve had to purchase food (rather than doing it on a potluck basis), then you could build the cost into the registration fee for the course, or use an honour system and have a basic with suggested donations.

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## Retreat?

A retreat can provide an outstanding opportunity to build community and to go deeper in God’s *dynamis*. The purposes of the retreat are to:

1. Give people the opportunity to deepen their relationships with one another.
2. Provide time for personal reflection and discernment.
3. Create a context for individualized prayer and discussion for each participant with team leaders.

If you decide your group has time, and if you think people can afford it, an overnight retreat provides maximum time for focused engagement and refreshment. If not, even a half-day retreat on a Saturday morning can be helpful.

### Sample schedule and program for a half-day retreat

Part I	Personal Reflection	Led by	Segment needs	Other notes & “to do”s
8:45-9:00	Coffee, mingling		Coffee, snacks; Nametags; pens/crayons	snacks Arrive at 8 am to set up
9:00-9:15	<b>Welcome</b> Project slide with instructions, and explanation		Computer; Projector; music	<i>nametags, handouts, slides, laptop, projector, remote, basic room set-up, piano, mikes, lectern</i>
9:15-30	<b>Worship</b>		Worship slides	
9:30-10	<b>Personal Reflection</b>			
10:00-10:30	<b>Small group discussion</b>			
10:30-10:45	<b>Break</b>	-		
<b>Part II</b>	<b>Participating in God’s mission in the world</b>			
10:45-11:05	<b>Worship</b>		Worship slides	
11:05-11:25	<b>Personal Reflection</b>			
11:25-11:55	<b>Larger group facilitated conversation</b>			1-where are you now? 2-where is God nudging you?
11:55-12:15	<b>Corporate feedback – What resources/support do you need to proceed?</b> - <i>Training</i> - <i>Contacts</i> - <i>Help doing research</i>			Frame the “division of labor” and expectations – things “you” can do; how we can resource you.
12:15	<b>Pray</b>			
12:15-1:00	<b>Lunch</b>		Lunch	Fellowship and encouragement time

## Possible retreat materials

These materials have been used for a half-day retreat. Participants are given these questions along with brightly coloured “sticky” notes. During the reflections they write key thoughts on the notes, and then later, during the time of worship, are given the opportunity to come forward and post their notes on one of four large sheets of paper, according to the topic: confession, remembrance, longing, action.

### 1. **Personal Reflection: Confession**

*“We’re here because we’ve heard God’s invitation to live in love. We want to learn how to respond in love. We know that following Christ means being empowered to experience and participate in the art form of lives shaped by love.”* Tim Dearborn

Can you name anything that is standing in the way of you living and responding fully in God’s love?

Without mentioning your name, write thoughts on sticky-notes to post on the wall later.

### 2. **Personal Reflection: Remembrance**

Recall one of the stories Tim shared in the video. What is it that resonates with you?

Remember a time when you’ve encountered God in a very specific way. How has this shaped you?

Without mentioning your name, write thoughts on sticky-notes to post on the wall later.

### 3. **Personal Reflection: Longing**

*“God loves us so much God accepts us just the way we are, but God loves us too much to leave us that way. We all desire transformation—deep and enduring change for ourselves, for others, and for our world.”* Tim Dearborn

Where do you long to see transformation in your own life?

Where in your immediate world do you long to see transformation? What would this look like?

Without mentioning your name, write thoughts on sticky-notes to post on the wall later.

### 4. **Personal Reflection: Action**

*“He has told you, O mortal, 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

As you consider this description of God’s purposes for your life, what specific things come to mind to which God might be calling you?

Without mentioning your name, write thoughts on sticky-notes to post on the wall later.

**5. Personal Reflection: Participating in God’s Purposes in the World**

*“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me into the world, so I send you.’ When he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, ‘Receive the Holy Spirit.’” (John 20:21-22).*

*“God calls us to obey the truth we know. If we don’t live our lives intentionally, it is likely that we’ll live them accidentally—driven and controlled by our circumstances.”* Tim Dearborn

As you consider the rhythm of your daily life, to what extent do you feel you are living in response to God’s love and in pursuit of God’s Kingdom, and to what extent are you primarily only surviving, trying to keep your head above either the waters of busy-ness, loneliness, or struggle?

What might you do to create more room in your life to receive and respond to God’s invitation to participate in God’s mission in the world?

Without mentioning your name, write thoughts on sticky-notes to post on the wall later.

*“Our approach to the present is shaped by our vision for the future. Will it be laden with opportunities? Will our good dreams come to life? Or will only nightmares become our reality. Hope instills courage and inspires the strength to penetrate problems and surmount obstacles through God’s transforming grace.”* Tim Dearborn

What is the deepest and best dream you have for your own future—and for the future of your immediate world?

What resources do you have to move forward toward that dream?

With whom else could you partner to help bring that dream to life?

What obstacles stand in the way?

What further resources and/or training do you need to move forward?

What are the next steps?

For what would you like others to pray?

Without mentioning your name, write thoughts on sticky-notes to post on the wall later.

## Finances

The cost of running the course depends obviously on the number of participants. If you're doing this as a small group, then the only costs are for materials. Any food could be provided by the participants.

### Estimated costs

If you are expanding the programme to include a larger number of people, then there are four expenses for which you need to budget:

- Materials
- Publicity
- Food, Refreshments
- Retreat

### How much to charge participants?

Many churches are not used to charging people to participate in an "adult education" course. It may be that the church budget will underwrite the costs and you simply could ask participants for donations.

The advantage of taking registration and charging some kind of registration fee is that it underscores the commitment involved in taking this course and it ensures that those attending are serious about participating. Even a nominal fee can help solidify commitment.

Some groups charge a small registration fee, and then have people pay in addition for their copy of the Participant's Guidebook. If you have a course retreat that involves additional expenses, it is appropriate to ask participants to pay these costs.

### Providing Financial Aid?

Some churches find it helpful to charge a little more than what the course actually costs and place the reserve funds in a financial aid pool. You can stress in the publicity that financial aid is available and that you do not want anyone to choose not to participate because of costs.

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## Publicity

Here is one sample. There are templates on the [dynamiscourse.com](http://dynamiscourse.com) website that you could personalize and adapt to publicize your course.



(Greek noun for *strength, power, ability* — as in *dynamic, dynamo, dynamite*)

A course for all God's people to create  
a lifetime lifestyle of participation in God's mission

A 7-week journey exploring  
themes in Scripture that define  
God's purposes for our lives.

**How do we live so  
that our lives are  
filled with  
fruitfulness and  
hope in this midst  
of the turmoil of our  
world?**

Designed for Christians of all  
ages and stages.

Integrates discussion, small  
group exercises, personal  
exploration of Scripture.  
Encourages participant  
involvement outside of class in  
personal study, conversation  
with a study partner, and  
application of the themes  
explored in class to chart God's  
purposes for the next years of  
your life.

Jesus sends us into the world to participate in God's love—but not without giving us the love and ability to live God's way. The **Dynamis** series will help us receive God's guidance for the core decisions that determine how we spend our lives. Through this, we will discern how to be empowered by the Spirit to participate in God's love for the world as our way-of-life—integrated into everything we do and all we are. [www.dynamiscourse.com](http://www.dynamiscourse.com)

Mark your calendars. For information about registration contact

**Time:** Location:  
Dates

**Homecoming:** Participants in a love affair

**Purposes:** Making room for mercy

**Changes:** Pursuing Change in all its fullness

**Community:** Loving is hard work

**Generosity:** Acting on grace

**Confidence:** Restoring our capacity to dream

**Surprises:** Walking off the map

Celebration

This series is facilitated by a team from ....church, who have been meeting and praying together for months preparing this course.

It is taught by Tim Dearborn who developed it originally with other World Vision colleagues for the 33,000 staff of World Vision International. Tim has written 6 books on areas of spirituality and mission. Has been a professor for Seattle Pacific University, Fuller Seminary and Regent College; and served as University Pastor of Urban and Global Mission at University Presbyterian Church in Seattle.

## Dividing Participants into Discussion Groups

### How large should discussion groups be?

Five is a good minimum. That way no one feels pressured to speak, but there is a diverse enough group to encourage interesting interaction. Ten is a good maximum. It's large enough to keep people feeling safe. But if it is larger than this it makes it difficult for everyone to participate.

### Keeping couples together?

It is valuable to give couples the option of staying together or of being in different groups. Every couple may have different preferences. Since the course deals with issues of personal faith, commitments, lifestyle and life direction—it is obviously valuable for couples to be able to share about these ideas together.

Many couples have found that the course gives them the opportunity to discuss issues of faith, purpose, lifestyle and direction that they may not have been able to explore together before.

### Caring for “difficult” people?

The Body of Christ is wonderfully diverse, and some people have awkward social skills in groups. Some tend to dominate. Others make inappropriate comments. Some lack the emotional or mental capacity to discuss issues of faith in a group or to participate in the group exercises.

One church found it helpful to invite especially challenged people to join a *Dynamis* prayer group. While others were in discussion groups working through the questions and exercises, this group met to pray together. The leader had a special vision and commitment for caring for these people, and they felt valued and made an important contribution.

If someone in a discussion group dominates or makes inappropriate comments, this is an opportunity for the leader to meet with them separately and help them grow in their social skills. Simply commenting that we're grateful they are so eager to contribute, but that could they hold back a little to give others the opportunity to share their own thoughts may be sufficient. If not, a more direct approach may be necessary with the leader telling the group that in order for everyone to have the opportunity to share their thoughts, the leader will call on people so everyone has a turn.

### How to prayerfully discern which people should be together.

Forming people into the right groups is central to the success of the experience. The organizing team does well to meet to pray about this, and to pray and talk through who would relate well together—seeking God's guidance. It is amazing how God does indeed orchestrate this. If, after your best efforts, some people would prefer being in a different group, it's important to talk this through with the individual and both group leaders and make the change as early as possible in the course.

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## Leading the Course Sessions

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The following material answers some of the “frequently asked questions” pertaining to the course and could be used at the first session to orient participants to the journey on which they are about to embark.

### Introducing the Course to Participants

If they have not already seen it, encourage participants to quickly read through the “Welcome” section in the participant’s guidebook. This provides a good overview of the purposes of the course and what to expect.

It might be helpful to have people discuss this in small groups formed with the people seated near them (prior to watching the first video). What are their reactions to this description? What expectations do they have? What apprehensions might they have?

Discuss the commitments that are expected from participants, including the expectation of homework! For some people it will have been years since they had “homework” to do. Stress the personal nature of this process—and of their work. The more they can invest into this journey of discerning how to participate more fully in God’s purposes for their lives, the more fruitful will be the outcome.

### Helping people understand the purpose of the Course

The *Dynamis Course* creates an opportunity to grow in our encounter with God’s love and our involvement in God’s purposes. It is indeed “*a course for all God’s people to create a lifetime lifestyle of participation in God’s mission.*”

Discuss together the meaning of the word “dynamis” and its English derivatives: dynamite, dynamic and dynamo. What is the relationship of these words to living the Christian life?

The goal is for each participant to grow in their relationship with God, with others and to gain new insights into God’s purposes for their life. By the end of the course each participant should have greater clarity into the specific qualities God desires for their life—and the specific purposes to which they are called. This will be summed up in a one-page statement of personal commitments and mission.

### Explaining the flow of each session

Each session includes fellowship, worship, a brief lecture, prayer, personal reflections and discussion in small groups. Pages 6 and 10 provide an overview of a typical session, and a sample schedule. It’s helpful for people to know what they can expect.

### Building comfort and anticipation about the discussion groups

Many people feel apprehensive about joining a small group, but most end up saying that this was the most helpful and meaningful aspect of the course. Encourage

people with the promise that no one will be asked to share more vulnerably than they feel comfortable, but that these groups provide a great opportunity to discuss with others our own journeys of faith and God’s purposes for our lives. It might be helpful to summarize some of the keys to effective small groups found in the Guide for Discussion Group Leaders.

Indicate that you have carefully prayed through the composition of each group as you have matched people together. However, sometimes there are issues and concerns about which you may have not been aware, and if anyone would like to join a different group, please contact you at the end of this session and you will see what you can do.

**Explaining the “Diving Deeper” questions and the Discussion Group Activity Worksheet**

Both the discussion group questions and the “homework” include a second set of resources. If you have more time (as a group or individually) these can be helpful questions and activities to assist as you pursue more deeply the meaning and implications of the ideas emphasized in that session.

The “diving deeper” section for the discussion groups is built around a on-going exercise using the “Group Activity Worksheet”. This is an opportunity to identify two pressing issues or needs either in your own city or town, or in the world and explore what it would look like for God’s kingdom love to penetrate and transform that particular concern. It is a cumulative exercise, with a little more added each session. There are copies of the worksheet in the Participant’s guide, as well as in the resource section of the Leader’s guide.

**Explaining the homework**

Each session in the Participant’s guidebook concludes with a set of resources for “Personal Application”. This is the adult word for homework! The resources begin with a Springboard—this is a key thought that emerges from the video presentation in that session. A copy of all the key thoughts is included in the Resource section of this leader’s guide. You could print them on cardstock or coloured paper, and have the discussion group leader’s cut them into sections and distribute one after each session. The Personal Application resources include one passage for Bible study, some reflection questions, and then the Journey of Faith overview. There also is a “Diving Deeper” section if people can invest more time.

**Explaining the integration project: Portraying my Journey of Faith**

There is an explanation of this project at the back of the Participant’s Guidebook. It is intended to be a fun, creative exercise in which you draw an overview of your journey of faith. Begin by selecting a metaphor, and then using that image sketch out the flow of your life up to this point. You might want to insert a timeline. After each session, you will have the opportunity to add symbols onto the flow at the relevant moments in your journey. It might be helpful to add key dates. On pp. 49-50 of the Participant’s Guidebook there are templates that can be used for your drawings. On pp. 51-52 there are places to write comments and reflections on your experience.



The goal is to reflect on how God has led you up to this point, in order to gain further insight into God's purposes for your future.

### **Explaining the concluding exercises**

The course concludes with the opportunity to create two summary documents. First, on p. 53 is a one-page overview of what you think God is calling you to have characterize your life, according to the seven themes explored in the course. What are the qualities that God would like to build into your life? What commitments are you willing to make in order for this to occur? And what specific actions or steps will you take to bring this to life?

Following this, there is the opportunity to extend the portrayal of your journey of faith that you worked on throughout the course. The diagram you've been working on explored your journey up to the present. Now, where is God leading you? How would you draw God's future for your life? The Spirit of God gives us the *dynamis* to dream dreams and live with vision. What's God's vision for your future?

## Overview of each session

This is designed to give you and the discussion group leaders a summary of the overall course, as well as any materials that might be needed for each session. Another overview that can be given to participants is found in the final section of this Leader's guide. It's recommended that the participant's overview not be distributed until after the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> session.

	<b>Key Word</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Materials</b>	<b>Application</b>
<b>1 Homegiving</b>	<b>home</b>	Describe someone I know who has loved others the way Christ loves us	TV & DVD player, or computer and projector and screen	When have I felt particularly aware of God's love?  When have I felt most at home?  Where am I in the journey of receiving God's love?  Who is someone God is calling me to show love?  Begin the chart of my journey of faith (pp. 8, 45-47)
<b>2 Purpose</b>	<b>justice mercy humility</b>	Stand in corners of room  List areas needing justice, mercy, humility  Brainstorm what this would look like	TV & DVD player, or computer and projector and screen  Flip chart or whiteboard in discussion groups	When has someone shown me mercy?  How is God calling me to create a safe place for others to flourish?
<b>3 Changes</b>	<b>nous sacrament sanduka</b>	List ways our "minds" receive messages contrary to God  In groups of 3 brainstorm what renewal (being disciplined) would look like.  Evaluate this unusual interpretation of Mt 28	TV & DVD player, or computer and projector and screen  Flip chart or whiteboard in discussion groups	What have been turning points in my life.  What areas of my own life need God's renewal and transformation?  How confident am I of God's authority and power in these areas?

4	<b>Community</b>	<b>ekklesia koinonia</b>	<p>Discuss chart on community</p> <p>Role play Jn 8</p> <p>List areas of enmity and conflict</p>	<p>TV &amp; DVD player, or computer and projector and screen</p> <p>Flip chart or whiteboard in discussion groups</p>	<p>When have I felt most included in a community?</p> <p>When have I responded with conviction and compassion?</p> <p>When have I not done this well?</p> <p>What does God want to do through me to enhance my involvement in community?</p>
5	<b>Generosity</b>	<b>charity fair balance</b>	<p>Review themes of first 4 sessions</p> <p>List motives for charity</p> <p>Discuss 2 Cor. 8</p> <p>Role play about charity and justice</p> <p>In threes discuss generosity in our own lives</p> <p>Draw a world filled with generosity</p>	<p>TV &amp; DVD player, or computer and projector and screen</p> <p>Flip chart or whiteboard in discussion groups</p> <p>Coloured pens or crayons</p>	<p>When was someone particularly generous toward me?</p> <p>What qualities does God want to nourish in me so that I live a lifestyle of generosity.</p>
6	<b>Confidence</b>	<b>hope</b>	<p>Name images about the future from the Bible</p> <p>In pairs describe a time when we felt hopeful</p> <p>Discuss key verses about the future and compose new verses to Amazing Grace and Joy to the World that convey our hope</p>	<p>TV &amp; DVD player, or computer and projector and screen</p> <p>Paper and pens for composing songs</p> <p>Be sure to collect these at the end of the session and give them to the worship leader</p>	<p>When have I felt particularly hopeful?</p> <p>What does it mean for me—and for us as a Church—to provide the world with signs of what God’s good future will look like?</p>

**7 Surprises**

**hesed**

Share ways in which God has “surprised” us in our journey of faith

Discuss Bible passages focusing on God’s surprising ways.

TV & DVD player, or computer and projector and screen

When has God met me in surprising ways?

In light of what I have learned in this course, what does it mean for me to live life intentionally—rather than accidentally!

Complete the summary of my journey and draft my commitments for the future.





## Worship ideas

Here are ideas for the concluding worship times, following the video. PowerPoint slides with these liturgies and prayers can be found on the [dynamiscourse.com](http://dynamiscourse.com) website.

### 1. Homecoming

**Stand and recite as an entire group the following affirmation of faith:**

*The Gospel is not the command from God to try to be more loving.*

*The Gospel is the gift from God to participate in God's great love.*

*We confess that without the dynamis of the Spirit, our love is weak and insufficient.*

*We celebrate that in Christ, the Spirit bears in us the fruit of God's love (Galatians 5:22).*

*We receive the promise that "The Spirit that we have received is not the spirit of fear but of power, love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7).*

*We claim that Good News that "The love of God has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Romans 5:5).*

**Sing together a song celebrating God's love.**

**Pray together**, first silently each praying the prayers we've just written, and then together asking God to pour out God's love in us that we would know we are loved, unconditionally loved, and that this love is passed through us to others.

### 2. Purpose

**Read** in unison Psalm 85:10: "Mercy and truth have embraced, justice and peace have kissed."

- Praise God for being a God of justice, mercy and even humility.
- Name before God specific situations where life needs to be "made right" for people.

**Pass** around cups of soil, inviting each person to **sprinkle** a **very** small amount of dirt and place it in the palm of his or her hand.

**Let us affirm our faith by saying in unison:**

*"Justice, mercy and humility meet as my hands and feet become soiled with the needs of the world, to the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ who humbled himself, to the point of death on the Cross. We humble ourselves before God and one another, that God might bring life and goodness to the world through us."*

**Pray together** the beloved prayer of St. Francis of Assisi:

*"Make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.*

*O heavenly Father, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life."*

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### 3. Change

**Pray** together for God's love to penetrate these raw edges and rough places.

**Read together** the following affirmation of faith:

*Jesus said, "All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me...Remember, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."*

*Jesus has authority over all things, everything in heaven, and on earth. There is nothing outside his authority.*

*Jesus sends us into the world to participate in God's transformation of every aspect of life. There is nothing to be left untouched by God's transforming love.*

*Jesus doesn't send us into the world alone, on our own, or even only with one another. He is with us always, everywhere, today, tomorrow and until the Kingdom comes in all its glory.*

*Just as we don't engage the world in our own name and authority, neither do we serve with our own capacity and strength – but with his.*

**Sing together** a hymn or praise song affirming God's sovereign love over all the world.

While the worship leaders play instrumental music, **pray individually**, asking God to guide or confirm for you an area of focus where God wants to work through you to express God's transforming love.

**Conclude** by praying, either silently or aloud, asking God to empower you with the dynamism of the Spirit to live boldly as agents of change.

### 4. Community

Let us call ourselves to a moment of silent prayer with this prayer about conviction and compassion spoken by our Lord:

*"My prayer is not that you take them out of the world but that you protect them from the evil one. They are not of the world, even as I am not of it. Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth. As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world...My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through them, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me...I in them and you in me, so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you have sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me." (John 17:15-23)*

**Silently** bring before God in **prayer** the concerns that have surfaced in our hearts through what we've discussed.

**Pray** over the lists we've made, asking for God's wisdom to lead people in the path that unites conviction and compassion

**In conclusion**, let us **pronounce** over our gathering – and over our world, this **Franciscan Benediction**:

*May God bless you with discomfort at easy answers, half-truths, and superficial relationships, So that you may live deep within your heart.*

*May God bless you with anger at injustice, oppression and exploitation of people, So that you may work for justice, freedom and peace.*

*May God bless you with tears to shed for those who suffer pain, rejection, hunger and war, So that you may reach out your hand to comfort them and to turn their pain into joy.*

*And may God bless you with enough foolishness to believe that you can make a difference in the world,*

*So that you can do what others claim cannot be done to bring justice and kindness to all our children and the poor. Amen (cited in Philip Yancey, Prayer, 105)*

## 5. Generosity

In addition to any other singing we may do, let us sing together

**“Take my life and let it be”** by Frances Havergal

*Take my life, and let it be consecrated, Lord, to Thee.*

*Take my moments and my days; let them flow in ceaseless praise.*

*Take my hands, and let them move at the impulse of Thy love.*

*Take my feet, and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee.*

*Take my voice, and let me sing always, only, for my King.*

*Take my lips, and let them be filled with messages from Thee.*

*Take my silver and my gold; not a mite would I withhold.*

*Take my intellect, and use every power as Thou shalt choose.*

*Take my will, and make it Thine; it shall be no longer mine.*

*Take my heart, it is Thine own; it shall be Thy royal throne.*

*Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Thy feet its treasure store.*

*Take myself, and I will be ever, only, all for Thee.*

**In silence**, let us pray through every aspect of our lives and release them to God:

our moments and days

our hands and feet

our voice and lips

our money and possessions

our intellect and power

our will and heart

our love and our very selves!

Let any who are willing pray aloud the prayers they wrote earlier during this session.

**Conclude by praying** for those around you.

## 6. Confidence

**Prayer as an entire group** for our world. **Plead** with God regarding these present problems in your community and in our world. **Ask** God to mobilize people so that they bring evidence of the kingdom into the midst of these problems. **Thank** God for the assurance that comes in our personal and our global hope.

**Sing** “Joy to the World” and “Amazing Grace,” first using an original verse and then including the new verses composed by each group.

**Conclude by praying together** the Lord’s Prayer.

## 7. Surprises

**In smaller groups**, let us pray for one another. Pray specifically for what one another has shared and that God’s “*power at work within us will accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine*”. (Ephesians 3:20).

**As an entire group**, let us **kneel** and **pray** in unison:

*“For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth takes its name.*

*I pray that, according to the riches of God’s glory, he may grant that you be strengthened in your inner being with power through his Spirit, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, as you are being rooted and grounded in love.*

*I pray that you may have the power to comprehend with all the saints, what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.*

*Now to the God who is able by the power at work within us is able to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, to God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”(Ephesians 3:14-21).*

## Discussion Group Leader's Guide

### Suggestions for guiding small group sessions:

Though intended for your guidance as a group leader, you may choose to share some of these ideas to the members of your group—as a group agreement regarding how to make the most of your time together.

1. **Encourage members of your small group to learn each other's names.** They might want to write down names and other information about fellow small group members.
  2. **Make members feel included and cared for.** Make an effort to be balanced in time for each one to talk. Make sure everyone in your group has a chance to talk—but don't force people to share. Often the questions open up the possibility for personal sharing. No one should be expected to share more intimately than they desire.
  3. **Resist the temptation for you as the leader to respond after each person shares.** Avoid being the center point of your group. After someone has shared, encourage other people either to respond or share their own ideas.
  4. **Direct the conversation so that one person doesn't dominate.** If one person tends to dominate the sharing, the next time a question is posed, invite everyone to write down a few thoughts. Then ask if anyone would like to share what they have written. If the more "outspoken" person wants to begin, gently state that "xxx, we're grateful that you're so eager to share your thoughts and insights with us. This time, let's give some others an opportunity first to share their ideas. Then, if there's time, we'll get back to you."
  5. **We don't have to fix each other's problems.** The way to encourage each other to explore new ideas and to talk about the fears and obstacles to new actions is to encourage group members as listeners and to refrain from fixing or solving or correcting in our responses. We want to avoid evaluating or analyzing one another.
  6. **Discourage judging or evaluating what other's share.** As we listen we want to focus on good listening to each other's search, exploration, and journey. We want to avoid evaluating or analyzing one another. Creating a safe place to explore and consider new ideas depends on companions who are non-judgmental. If one person tends to offer advice or to criticize what another has shared, remind the group of your agreement that you won't judge or offer advice.
  7. **Deal with differences respectfully.** Work to create a context in which other churches, denominations and even other religions are treated with
-

- respect. Discourage jokes or caricatures of other religious practices or beliefs.
8. **Encourage confidentiality.** Ask your group to commit to confidentiality about what is shared by each other in our small groups. This means what is shared in the small groups won't be repeated by any other than the one who did the sharing in the first place.
  9. **Encourage continuity.** The opportunity to describe what one is learning in the growing trust of a threesome exploring the course material together week after week is a significant feature of this course. Listening and remembering during each week will be a resource to each member as the cumulative exploration progresses. The opportunity to express what one is learning in the growing trust of a group of people who are exploring the course material together is a significant feature of this course. Being present and a good listener for the others in your group is your contribution to their experience that no one else can give.
  10. **Encourage contact between weekly sessions.** You might want to form prayer partners within your group. Knowing there is another person praying for me can make a tremendous difference in my journey of faith. These pairs may also choose to “connect” by phone, email or even occasionally over coffee.

## Other Resources

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### References to *dynamis* in the New Testament

**strength, power, ability** (ability 4, meaning 1, mightily 1, mighty 1, miracle 2, miracles 17, miraculous powers 3, power 83, powers 6, strength 2, wealth 1)

<u>Mt 6:13</u>	And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil. [For Thine is the kingdom, and the <b>power</b> , and the glory, forever. Amen.]'
<u>Mt 7:22</u>	"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many <b>miracles</b> ?'
<u>Mt 11:20</u>	Then He began to reproach the cities in which most of His <b>miracles</b> were done, because they did not repent.
<u>Mt 11:21</u>	"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the <b>miracles</b> had occurred in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes.
<u>Mt 11:23</u>	"And you, Capernaum, will not be exalted to heaven, will you? You shall descend to Hades; for if the <b>miracles</b> had occurred in Sodom which occurred in you, it would have remained to this day.
<u>Mt 13:54</u>	And coming to His home town He began teaching them in their synagogue, so that they became astonished, and said, "Where did this man get this wisdom, and these miraculous <b>powers</b> ?"
<u>Mt 13:58</u>	And He did not do many <b>miracles</b> there because of their unbelief.
<u>Mt 14:2</u>	and said to his servants, "This is John the Baptist; he has risen from the dead; and that is why <b>miraculous powers</b> are at work in him."
<u>Mt 22:29</u>	But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures, or the <b>power</b> of God.
<u>Mt 24:29</u>	"But immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, and the stars will fall from the sky, and the <b>powers</b> of the heavens will be shaken,
<u>Mt 24:30</u>	and then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of the sky with <b>power</b> and great glory.
<u>Mt 25:15</u>	"And to one he gave five talents, to another, two, and to another, one, each according to his own <b>ability</b> ; and he went on his journey.
<u>Mt 26:64</u>	Jesus said to him, "You have said it yourself; nevertheless I tell you, hereafter you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of <b>Power</b> , and coming on the clouds of heaven."
<u>Mk 5:30</u>	Jesus, perceiving in Himself that the <b>power</b> proceeding from Him had gone forth, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My garments?"
<u>Mk 6:2</u>	And when the Sabbath had come, He began to teach in the synagogue; and the many listeners were astonished, saying, "Where did this man get these things, and what is this wisdom given to Him, and such <b>miracles</b> as these performed by His hands?"
<u>Mk 6:5</u>	And He could do no <b>miracle</b> there except that He laid His hands upon a few sick people and healed them.
<u>Mk 6:14</u>	And King Herod heard of it, for His name had become well known; and people were saying, "John the Baptist has risen from the dead, and that is why these <b>miraculous powers</b> are at work in Him."
<u>Mk 9:1</u>	And He was saying to them, "Truly I say to you, there are some of those who are standing here

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	who shall not taste death until they see the kingdom of God after it has come with <b>power</b> ."
<u>Mk 9:39</u>	But Jesus said, "Do not hinder him, for there is no one who shall perform a <b>miracle</b> in My name, and be able soon afterward to speak evil of Me.
<u>Mk 12:24</u>	Jesus said to them, "Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures, or the <b>power</b> of God?"
<u>Mk 13:25</u>	And the stars will be falling from heaven, and the <b>powers</b> that are in the heavens will be shaken.
<u>Mk 13:26</u>	"And then they will see the Son of Man coming with clouds with great <b>power</b> and glory.
<u>Mk 14:62</u>	And Jesus said, "I am; and you shall see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of <b>Power</b> , and coming with the clouds of heaven."
<u>Lu 1:17</u>	"And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and <b>power</b> of Elijah, to turn the hearts of the fathers back to the children, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."
<u>Lu 1:35</u>	And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the <b>power</b> of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy offspring shall be called the Son of God.
<u>Lu 4:14</u>	And Jesus returned to Galilee in the <b>power</b> of the Spirit; and news about Him spread through all the surrounding district.
<u>Lu 4:36</u>	And amazement came upon them all, and they began discussing with one another saying, "What is this message? For with authority and <b>power</b> He commands the unclean spirits, and they come out."
<u>Lu 5:17</u>	And it came about one day that He was teaching; and there were some Pharisees and teachers of the law sitting there, who had come from every village of Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem; and the <b>power</b> of the Lord was present for Him to perform healing.
<u>Lu 6:19</u>	And all the multitude were trying to touch Him, for <b>power</b> was coming from Him and healing them all.
<u>Lu 8:46</u>	But Jesus said, "Someone did touch Me, for I was aware that <b>power</b> had gone out of Me."
<u>Lu 9:1</u>	And He called the twelve together, and gave them <b>power</b> and authority over all the demons, and to heal diseases.
<u>Lu 10:13</u>	"Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the <b>miracles</b> had been performed in Tyre and Sidon which occurred in you, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.
<u>Lu 10:19</u>	"Behold, I have given you authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions, and over all the <b>power</b> of the enemy, and nothing shall injure you.
<u>Lu 19:37</u>	And as He was now approaching, near the descent of the Mount of Olives, the whole multitude of the disciples began to praise God joyfully with a loud voice for all the <b>miracles</b> which they had seen,
<u>Lu 21:26</u>	men fainting from fear and the expectation of the things which are coming upon the world; for the <b>powers</b> of the heavens will be shaken.
<u>Lu 21:27</u>	"And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with <b>power</b> and great glory.
<u>Lu 22:69</u>	"But from now on the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the <b>power</b> of God."
<u>Lu 24:49</u>	"And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with <b>power</b> from on high."
<u>Ac 1:8</u>	but you shall receive <b>power</b> when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and even to the remotest part of the earth."

<a href="#">Ac 2:22</a>	"Men of Israel, listen to these words: Jesus the Nazarene, a man attested to you by God with <b>miracles</b> and wonders and signs which God performed through Him in your midst, just as you yourselves know--
<a href="#">Ac 3:12</a>	But when Peter saw this, he replied to the people, "Men of Israel, why do you marvel at this, or why do you gaze at us, as if by our own <b>power</b> or piety we had made him walk?
<a href="#">Ac 4:7</a>	And when they had placed them in the center, they began to inquire, "By what <b>power</b> , or in what name, have you done this?"
<a href="#">Ac 4:33</a>	And with great <b>power</b> the apostles were giving witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.
<a href="#">Ac 6:8</a>	And Stephen, full of grace and <b>power</b> , was performing great wonders and signs among the people.
<a href="#">Ac 8:10</a>	and they all, from smallest to greatest, were giving attention to him, saying, "This man is what is called the Great <b>Power</b> of God."
<a href="#">Ac 8:13</a>	Simon believed; and after being baptized, he continued on with Philip; and as he observed signs and great <b>miracles</b> taking place, he was constantly amazed.
<a href="#">Ac 10:38</a>	"You know of Jesus of Nazareth, how God anointed Him with the Holy Spirit and with <b>power</b> , and how He went about doing good, and healing all who were oppressed by the devil; for God was with Him.
<a href="#">Ac 19:11</a>	And God was performing extraordinary <b>miracles</b> by the hands of Paul,
<a href="#">Ro 1:4</a>	who was declared the Son of God with <b>power</b> by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness, Jesus Christ our Lord,
<a href="#">Ro 1:16</a>	For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the <b>power</b> of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.
<a href="#">Ro 1:20</a>	For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal <b>power</b> and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse.
<a href="#">Ro 8:38</a>	For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor <b>powers</b> ,
<a href="#">Ro 9:17</a>	For the Scripture says to Pharaoh, "For this very purpose I raised you up, to demonstrate My <b>power</b> in you, and that My name might be proclaimed throughout the whole earth."
<a href="#">Ro 15:13</a>	Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the <b>power</b> of the Holy Spirit.
<a href="#">Ro 15:19</a>	in the <b>power</b> of signs and wonders, in the <b>power</b> of the Spirit; so that from Jerusalem and as far as Illyricum I have fully preached the gospel of Christ.
<a href="#">1Co 1:18</a>	For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the <b>power</b> of God.
<a href="#">1Co 1:24</a>	but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the <b>power</b> of God and the wisdom of God.
<a href="#">1Co 2:4</a>	And my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of <b>power</b> ,
<a href="#">1Co 2:5</a>	that your faith should not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the <b>power</b> of God.
<a href="#">1Co 4:19</a>	But I will come to you soon, if the Lord wills, and I shall find out, not the words of those who are arrogant, but their <b>power</b> .
<a href="#">1Co 4:20</a>	For the kingdom of God does not consist in words, but in <b>power</b> .
<a href="#">1Co 5:4</a>	In the name of our Lord Jesus, when you are assembled, and I with you in spirit, with the <b>power</b>

	of our Lord Jesus,
<a href="#">1Co 6:14</a>	Now God has not only raised the Lord, but will also raise us up through His <b>power</b> .
<a href="#">1Co12:10</a>	and to another the effecting of <b>miracles</b> , and to another prophecy, and to another the distinguishing of spirits, to another various kinds of tongues, and to another the interpretation of tongues.
<a href="#">1Co12:28</a>	And God has appointed in the church, first apostles, second prophets, third teachers, then <b>miracles</b> , then gifts of healings, helps, administrations, various kinds of tongues.
<a href="#">1Co12:29</a>	All are not apostles, are they? All are not prophets, are they? All are not teachers, are they? All are not workers of <b>miracles</b> , are they?
<a href="#">1Co14:11</a>	If then I do not know the <b>meaning</b> of the language, I shall be to the one who speaks a barbarian, and the one who speaks will be a barbarian to me.
<a href="#">1Co15:24</a>	then comes the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and <b>power</b> .
<a href="#">1Co15:43</a>	it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in <b>power</b> ;
<a href="#">1Co15:56</a>	The sting of death is sin, and the <b>power</b> of sin is the law;
<a href="#">2Co 1:8</a>	For we do not want you to be unaware, brethren, of our affliction which came to us in Asia, that we were burdened excessively, beyond our <b>strength</b> , so that we despaired even of life;
<a href="#">2Co 4:7</a>	But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the surpassing greatness of the <b>power</b> may be of God and not from ourselves;
<a href="#">2Co 6:7</a>	in the word of truth, in the <b>power</b> of God; by the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and the left,
<a href="#">2Co 8:3</a>	For I testify that according to their <b>ability</b> , and beyond their <b>ability</b> they gave of their own accord,
<a href="#">2Co 12:9</a>	And He has said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for <b>power</b> is perfected in weakness." Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the <b>power</b> of Christ may dwell in me.
<a href="#">2Co12:12</a>	The signs of a true apostle were performed among you with all perseverance, by signs and wonders and <b>miracles</b> .
<a href="#">2Co 13:4</a>	For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the <b>power</b> of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we shall live with Him because of the <b>power</b> of God directed toward you.
<a href="#">Ga 3:5</a>	Does He then, who provides you with the Spirit and works <b>miracles</b> among you, do it by the works of the Law, or by hearing with faith?
<a href="#">Eph 1:19</a>	and what is the surpassing greatness of His <b>power</b> toward us who believe. These are in accordance with the working of the <b>strength</b> of His might
<a href="#">Eph 1:21</a>	far above all rule and authority and <b>power</b> and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this age, but also in the one to come.
<a href="#">Eph 3:7</a>	of which I was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His <b>power</b> .
<a href="#">Eph 3:16</a>	that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be <b>strengthened</b> with <b>power</b> through His Spirit in the inner man;
<a href="#">Eph 3:20</a>	Now to Him who is able to do exceeding abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to the <b>power</b> that works within us,
<a href="#">Php 3:10</a>	that I may know Him, and the <b>power</b> of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death

<a href="#">Col 1:11</a>	<b>strengthened</b> with all <b>power</b> , according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience; joyously
<a href="#">Col 1:29</a>	And for this purpose also I labor, striving according to His <b>power</b> , which <b>mightily</b> works within me.
<a href="#">1Th 1:5</a>	for our gospel did not come to you in word only, but also in <b>power</b> and in the Holy Spirit and with full conviction; just as you know what kind of men we proved to be among you for your sake.
<a href="#">2Th 1:7</a>	and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with His <b>mighty</b> angels in flaming fire,
<a href="#">2Th 1:11</a>	we pray for you always that our God may count you worthy of your calling, and fulfill every desire for goodness and the work of faith with <b>power</b> ;
<a href="#">2Th 2:9</a>	that is, the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all <b>power</b> and signs and false wonders,
<a href="#">2Ti 1:7</a>	For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of <b>power</b> and love and discipline.
<a href="#">2Ti 1:8</a>	do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, or of me His prisoner; but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the <b>power</b> of God,
<a href="#">2Ti 3:5</a>	holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its <b>power</b> ; and avoid such men as these.
<a href="#">Heb 1:3</a>	And He is the radiance of His glory and the exact representation of His nature, and upholds all things by the word of His <b>power</b> . When He had made purification of sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high;
<a href="#">Heb 2:4</a>	God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various <b>miracles</b> and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.
<a href="#">Heb 6:5</a>	and have tasted the good word of God and the <b>powers</b> of the age to come,
<a href="#">Heb 7:16</a>	who has become such not on the basis of a law of physical requirement, but according to the <b>power</b> of an indestructible life.
<a href="#">Heb 11:11</a>	By faith even Sarah herself received <b>ability</b> to conceive, even beyond the proper time of life, since she considered Him faithful who had promised;
<a href="#">Heb 11:34</a>	quenched the <b>power</b> of fire, escaped the edge of the sword, from weakness were made strong, became <b>mighty</b> in war, put foreign armies to flight.
<a href="#">1Pe 1:5</a>	who are protected by the <b>power</b> of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.
<a href="#">1Pe 3:22</a>	who is at the right hand of God, having gone into heaven, after angels and authorities and <b>powers</b> had been subjected to Him.
<a href="#">2Pe 1:3</a>	seeing that His divine <b>power</b> has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence.
<a href="#">2Pe 1:16</a>	For we did not follow cleverly devised tales when we made known to you the <b>power</b> and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of His majesty.
<a href="#">2Pe 2:11</a>	whereas angels who are greater in might and <b>power</b> do not bring a reviling judgment against them before the Lord.
<a href="#">Re 1:16</a>	And in His right hand He held seven stars; and out of His mouth came a sharp two-edged sword; and His face was like the sun shining in its <b>strength</b> .
<a href="#">Re 3:8</a>	'I know your deeds. Behold, I have put before you an open door which no one can shut, because you have a little <b>power</b> , and have kept My word, and have not denied My name.
<a href="#">Re 4:11</a>	"Worthy art Thou, our Lord and our God, to receive glory and honor and <b>power</b> ; for Thou

	didst create all things, and because of Thy will they existed, and were created."
<u>Re 5:12</u>	"Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive <b>power</b> and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing."
<u>Re 7:12</u>	"Amen, blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and <b>power</b> and might, be to our God forever and ever. Amen."
<u>Re 11:17</u>	"We give Thee thanks, O Lord God, the <b>Almighty</b> , who art and who wast, because Thou hast taken Thy great <b>power</b> and hast begun to reign.
<u>Re 12:10</u>	And I heard a loud voice in heaven, saying, "Now the salvation, and the <b>power</b> , and the kingdom of our God and the authority of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren has been thrown down, who accuses them before our God day and night.
<u>Re 13:2</u>	And the beast which I saw was like a leopard, and his feet were like those of a bear, and his mouth like the mouth of a lion. And the dragon gave him his <b>power</b> and his throne and great authority.
<u>Re 15:8</u>	And the temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His <b>power</b> ; and no one was able to enter the temple until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.
<u>Re 17:13</u>	"These have one purpose and they give their <b>power</b> and authority to the beast.
<u>Re 18:3</u>	"For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed acts of immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the <b>wealth</b> of her sensuality."
<u>Re 19:1</u>	After these things I heard, as it were, a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and <b>power</b> belong to our God;

## Evaluation Form

### Dynamis Course Evaluation

We're grateful for your participation in the Dynamis Course and appreciate you taking some time to offer your response to it. Your comments will help us shape the future of this course. I've included the possibility for you to provide your name, but that is optional if you wish to be anonymous. May God continue to bless and encourage you.

**1. Name (optional)**

**2. If you feel like God has used this course in your life in particular ways, please offer a brief summary:**

**3. If any insights or ideas stand out as particularly helpful or challenging, please list them:**

**4. 7 week, 2 hour evening format (choose one)**

\_\_\_\_\_ The right length      \_\_\_\_\_ Better if fewer sessions      \_\_\_\_\_ Better if more sessions

**5. Session format (select 1 in each line)**

Less	Right amount	More
Overall balance	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lecture	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Personal reflection	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Group activities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

**6. If you were to describe this course to someone who was considering taking it in the future, what recommendations, and if appropriate, cautions would you give?**

**7. Other comments or suggestions:**





## Materials to copy for Participants

### Key thoughts

<p><b>Homecoming:</b> God loves us first and keeps on loving us first everyday, throughout the day</p>	<p><b>Purpose:</b> Our purpose, in every place and every walk of life, is to be used by God to make life right</p>
<p><b>Changes:</b> God loves us so much God accepts us the way we are, but God loves us too much to leave us that way.</p>	<p><b>Community:</b> The world will believe we are Christ's disciples by our love for one another.</p>
<p><b>Generosity:</b> We don't give because of abundant resources but because of abundant grace.</p>	<p><b>Confidence:</b> When the world looks at us they should be able to say, 'So that's what the future will look like!'</p>

## Encountering the Dynamis of God in Daily Life

**SUNDAY** In Christ we are drawn into the embrace of God's love. God gives us the gift of a home.

**MONDAY** As we live in this love, God empowers us to contribute toward life being made right for others.

**TUESDAY** Abiding in Christ means we have no other masters. Christ's authority and power bring change to every aspect of our lives – and every part of society.

**WEDNESDAY** Living in God's love is something we share with others. Community in Christ isn't defined by our similarities or preferences, but by our Saviour. This community is nourished by high convictions and deep compassion. The Spirit empowers us to become a welcoming and transforming community for others.

**THURSDAY** The community of Christ is characterized by radical generosity, for God is a generous God. This is an act of justice, for "charity" contributes to a fair balance by putting grace into action.

**FRIDAY** We live with confidence whatever may come, manifesting signs of the certain future in the complexities of today.

**SATURDAY** Because of God's steadfast love and faithfulness, we live boldly in the journey of faith. The life of faith is an adventure – walking with the God who will do far beyond all we can imagine.

## Good News of Great *Dynamis*: Overview of each session

### I. Homecoming

<b>Central Scriptures</b>	<b>John 14:18-23:</b> <i>“I will not leave you orphaned...My Father and I will come and make our home with you.”</i>
	<b>John 13:34-35:</b> <i>“Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another”</i>
<b>Central Conviction</b>	The journey of faith is our participation in God’s great love. Rather than a quest to find the love we are seeking, it is a joyous adventure to live more fully the love we have received.
<b>Central Word</b>	<b>Home:</b> literally “mansion” – a spacious and safe place where we can abide in beauty and intimacy, with plenty of room to welcome others

### 2. Purpose

<b>Central Scripture</b>	<b>Micah 6:8:</b> <i>“He has told you what is good and what the Lord requires of you – but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God.”</i>
<b>Central Conviction</b>	Our purpose, in every place and every walk of life, is to participate in God’s work of making life right.
<b>Central Words</b>	<b>Justice:</b> to make things right <b>Mercy:</b> to create the conditions so that others can flourish <b>Humility:</b> to walk alongside others as equals

### 3. Changes

<b>Central Scriptures</b>	<b>Romans 12:1-2</b> <i>“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds”</i>
	<b>Matthew 28:18-20</b> <i>“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me, go therefore and...”</i>
<b>Central Conviction</b>	God loves us so much that God accepts us the way we are, but God loves us too much to leave us that way. The Gospel is not just the good news of forgiveness, but of transformation. We are commissioned to be agents of change in every aspect of life.
<b>Central Words</b>	<b>Nous:</b> Our “minds”, not merely the centre of rationality, but the deepest part of ourselves where we hold onto and encounter what we value as most meaningful and important. <b>Sacrament:</b> A public declaration of loyalty, affirming that there is no higher authority in our life than the Lord.

## 4. Community

<b>Central Scriptures</b>	<b>Colossians 3:9-11</b> <i>“In that renewal there is no longer Greek and Jew... slave and free; but Christ is all and in all!”</i>
	<b>Matthew 6:10</b> <i>“Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven”</i>
	<b>Matthew 6:33</b> <i>“Seek first the Kingdom of God and all its justice”</i>
<b>Central Conviction</b>	The quality of our community is not created by our common culture, tastes and ethnicity – but by our common life in Christ
<b>Central Words</b>	<b>Ekklesia “church”</b> : a gathering of citizens to conduct the affairs of the community <b>Koinonia “fellowship”</b> : a gathering of people for mutual support and encouragement

## 5. Generosity

<b>Central Scripture</b>	<b>2 Cor. 8:1-5, 9, 13-14</b> <i>“It’s a question of fair balance.”</i>
<b>Central Conviction</b>	Generosity is an act of justice. Giving contributes to a fair balance by putting grace into action
<b>Central Words</b>	<b>Giving</b> : grace-in-action <b>Fair balance</b> : the goal of giving

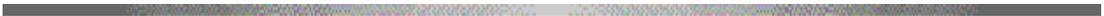
## 6. Confidence

<b>Central Scriptures</b>	<b>Jeremiah 29:11</b> : <i>“I know the plans that I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your well-being and not for harm, to give you a future and a hope.”</i>
	<b>Romans 5:1-5</b> : <i>“...and hope does not disappoint us, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.”</i>
	<b>Revelations 21:1-5</b> : <i>“See the home of God is among people...God will wipe away every tear...death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will cease...See I am making all things new.”</i>
<b>Central Conviction</b>	We live with confidence in the midst of present problems, manifesting signs of the certain future in the complexities of today.
<b>Central Words</b>	<b>Hope</b> : to be made strong in the present because our lives are firmly anchored through Christ, assuring a good and joyous future.

## 7. Surprises

<b>Central Scriptures</b>	<b>Psalms 90</b> <i>“Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love, so that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.”</i>
	<b>Ephesians 3:20-21</b> God, <i>“by the power at work within us is able to accomplish far more than all we can ask or imagine”.</i>
<b>Central Conviction</b>	The life of faith is an adventure – walking with the God who will do far beyond all we can imagine
<b>Central Word</b>	<b>Hesed</b> : God’s steadfast love and faithfulness; the assurance that what God has promised God will do.

<b>Group Activity Worksheet</b>		
<b>Situation needing to experience God's love</b>		
<b>What the outpouring of God's love would look like</b>		
<b>What justice, mercy and humility look like</b>		
<b>What community of conviction and compassion looks like</b>		
<b>What generosity would look like</b>		
<b>What God might be calling me to be and do in response</b>		





## Portraying the Dynamis of God in my Journey of Faith



aware of God's love



felt at home



received mercy

↵ turning points

⊕ felt included

+ expressed, or - didn't express conviction and compassion

\$ received generosity



felt hopeful

! surprises

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Portraying dynamis in my journey of faith

<b>Reflections on journey of faith</b>		<b>Reflections on lessons learned</b>
<b>Summary of the course of my life up to now</b>		
Twists and turns, highs and lows of the course of my life up to now		
<b>Homecoming</b>		
 felt God's love		
 felt at home		
<b>Purpose</b>		
 received mercy		
<b>Changes</b>		
 turning points		
<b>Community</b>		
 felt included		
<b>+/-</b> did or didn't show conviction, compassion		

Generosity		
\$received generosity		
Confidence		
 felt hopeful		
Surprises		
! surprising experiences, events, encounters		



<b>Next Steps in the Journey of Faith</b> <b>Living with the <i>Dynamis</i> of God:</b> <b>Personal Commitments and Vision</b>			
	<b>Qualities</b> I believe God wants to have characterise my life	<b>Commitments</b> I will make to integrate these qualities into my attitudes and actions	<b>Actions</b> I will take each week to allow God to give me the <b><i>dynamis</i></b> to live these commitments
Home-coming			
Purpose			
Changes			
Community			
Generosity			
Confidence			
Surprises			

## Additional Resources at [www.dynamiscourse.com](http://www.dynamiscourse.com)

The **Dynamis course** website is filled with resources that can assist your leadership of the course.

In addition to samples of the first session, and background about the course, the website has sections that are only accessible for those who have registered for the course. Upon registration you will receive an email describing how to access this site.

### Free downloads for people who have registered for the Dynamis Course:

- Lecture Power Point presentations: 7 Power Points that could be used to accompany the video presentations, or if you should choose to develop your own presentations and not use the videos
- Worship Power Point presentations: 7 Power Points with liturgies and other worship resources that could be used in opening and concluding worship each session
- Publicity materials that could be adapted for your own use
- Additional copies of worksheets
- Links to other materials that have been written by Tim Dearborn

### Dynamis course networking:

- Through a link on Facebook, you can join a **Dynamis** virtual community and post suggestions for how to improve or use the material; pose questions about how to lead the course; share stories and ideas with other leaders and participants; find out who is offering the course in your area.
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