



Participant's Guide

Tim Dearborn

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

Dynamis Course **Participant's Guide**

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World Vision International

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Acknowledgements

This course has been in process for almost ten years. It feels like a long pregnancy! It began with my wife Kerry and I discussing a dream. We longed for a resource that would help followers of Christ be set free to trust God and participate boldly in the grand adventure of life in God's Kingdom. Often courses on mission seem to focus either 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. Rather, we have the conviction that participation in God's mission is the joyous privilege of all God's people, in all aspects of our lives, all of the time. So we set to bring this dream to life.

Don Posterski, my colleague at World Vision, became a treasured co-labourer in this vision. Together we crafted 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 with members of both University Presbyterian and Bethany Presbyterian churches in Seattle. Hundreds of people have laboured through the participant's guide, offering detailed suggestions for how it could be improved.

All who have helped create this Course are too many to name. To mention a few, I name first my wife, Kerry who is my insightful companion on our journey of faith. Mark Russo, Sheri Campbell, Joy Daniels, Patti Holman, Carol Anderson, Jaci Smith and Dan and Anne Baumgartner invested countless hours crafting this resource. Al Thomas gave selflessly in a first draft of the video, Tim Christianson is the creative genius behind the current version. Allison Gracey invested her expertise in the graphic design and web pages.

Having said that, I deserve full credit for anything unclear, unhelpful or untrue in this course. However, Christ's "*grace is sufficient, for **dynamis** is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, that the **dynamis** of Christ may dwell in me.*" 2 Corinthians 12:9

Tim Dearborn

Welcome

DYNAMIS: Greek noun for *strength, power, ability*. The root for dynamic, dynamo, dynamite. “*Wait for the gift my Father promised...You will receive power (**dynamis**) when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth*” (Acts 1:4,8).

Living the Christian life requires more than conviction and commitment. It is not enough simply to believe the right things. Nor is the quality of our life determined by the sincerity or strength of our faith. Belief, commitment and dedication, all our hard work at obedience and faithfulness, do not keep us from stumbling, doubting and being discouraged. If believing the right things were all it took to live the right way, our lives would look different. We would feel so much better about our journey of faith.

The gospel of Christ is not simply the good **news** of salvation. It is not just a set of ideas and information. As Paul says, “*The gospel is the **dynamis** (strength, power and ability) of God for salvation*” (Romans 1:16). Living fruitfully and hopefully along the journey of faith requires power – the power, strength and ability of God poured into our lives through Christ by the Holy Spirit. **Dynamis** is the word used in the New Testament for this “power”. It appears 116 times!

All people long to live with hope. Hope is nourished in our lives by the power of God. “*Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you may abound in hope by the **dynamis** of the Holy Spirit*” (Romans 15:13). Abounding in hope requires power!

All people long to be filled with peace rather than fear. Peace pervades our lives through the power of God. “*God has not given us a spirit of fear but of **dynamis** and love and self-control*” (2 Timothy 1:7). Walking so that we are controlled by love rather than fear requires power! Not the abusive love of power that we see all around us – dominating, manipulating and exploiting other people – but the life-giving power of love. The journey of faith depends on God’s love, God’s power used God’s way.

What helps those who are poor to overcome their poverty? We do not just need the power of money, education, good skills, or even the ability to work hard. All of those are good, but insufficient gifts. We also need the power of God.

We are called by God to be renewed by the transforming power of the Triune God – Father, Son and Spirit. This course is about encountering the power of God so that we can live fruitfully, faithfully and joyfully in the journey of faith – abounding in the **dynamis** of God.

What to expect from DYNAMIS! Often when we discuss the power of God, we focus on the gifts, fruit or manifestations of the Spirit; and explore what they are and how to receive them. These vital aspects of the Spirit's ministry are well explored by many churches. Rather than pursuing these ministries of the Spirit in our life, the **DYNAMIS course** explores the power of the Spirit to fulfill God's purposes in our life. How do we encounter more fully the power of God to live God's way every day?

The **DYNAMIS course** is for people who are already on the journey of faith in Jesus Christ. It is for people who want to live life well, who want for today and the rest of their lives to count for Christ. This is a course for people who want to discover how to make a difference in the world. We do not want to settle for merely surviving or enduring. We have heard the call to participate in God's mission and wonder what our place might be.

DYNAMIS is not a course on specific forms of mission service. Instead we explore a lifestyle empowered by the Spirit with the ability and strength we need in order to participate in God's purposes with every aspect of our lives, every moment of the day.

Convictions that shape the Course

1. God will not call us to do something without giving us the capacity to do it.
2. We need more than determination and good intentions to do God's will. We need the power of God to do it.
3. To discern the aspects of God's will that we do not know, it is best to obey the will of God we do know.
4. The joyous privilege of participating in God's purposes for our lives is not limited to exceptional saints or to occasional volunteer activities. Rather it is the lifestyle of all God's people – daily and ordinary engagement in the coming of God's kingdom.

The goal of the Course: *To create a dynamic process so we can be led by God's Spirit in the next steps in our journey of faith and live fruitfully according to God's will and ways.*

Suggestions for making the most of the Course

The **DYNAMIS course** is not designed for passive attendance. It assumes active participation. Nor is it a course in which we can simply listen to lectures and observe others' discussion. Rather, it assumes that participants are eager to pursue greater understanding of God's will and ways for their lives, and to discern the next steps in their journey of faith.

There are several keys to making the most out of this opportunity.

1. Participate. Because each session builds on the previous ones, and much of the interaction occurs in the same small groups each week, the experience is enhanced if participants can attend each session. Obviously, things come up and it might be necessary to miss a session. But insofar as possible, set aside the full time for this journey.

2. Keep a Journal. The **DYNAMIS course** provides extensive opportunity for personal reflection through lectures, discussions, the study of Scripture, and various exercises. Participants will find it helpful to keep a journal, and record their insights as they encounter more fully the power of God for their journey of faith.

3. Engage in small group discussions. Over dinner – if that is how your sessions are structured – and then after the large group presentation, the **DYNAMIS course** is based on discussion with the same group of people each session. Learn the names of the people in your group and pray for them during the course. Participate actively in group discussions and activities.

There are few “right or wrong” answers to the questions or activities. Rather, they are designed to help each participant grasp more fully God’s will and ways for his or her life.

Discussion and Reflection Resources

- *Personal reflection questions:* Immediately following the video presentation, it might be helpful for participants to write a few of their own reflections.
- *Discussion springboards:* Depending on a small group’s interests and the time that is available, select from a range of questions provided to guide discussion.
- *Group activity:* If time permits, each session includes opportunities to examine the relevance of the topics for personal and contemporary issues.
- *Concluding reflections:* Suggestions to conclude discussion and for prayer are provided.
- *Diving deeper:* If time permits, there are some additional questions and exercises that could help a group to explore more fully the implications of what was presented.

4. Invest in Personal Study and Homework. Though it is possible to participate without doing any additional preparation, the experience will be improved by investing time outside of class in personal reflection and engagement to help encounter the **dynamis** of God in our daily lives. Following the questions for group discussion are a series of *Personal Application Resources*:

- *Springboards to encountering God’s dynamis in daily life:* Questions and exercises are provided that will take about an hour to complete.
- *Journey of Faith:* In addition to specific exercises for each week, there is one over-

arching exercise that participants are encouraged to work on throughout the **DYNAMIS course**. Using a map, road, image or some other metaphor, participants are encouraged to create a “picture” of their journey of faith.

- The goal is that each week, new insights will be added to help understand more fully one’s journey of faith and gain insights into the next steps God is inviting participants to take. This process is for each participant’s own benefit, so no one needs to worry about being an accomplished artist.
- *Diving Deeper:* For people who are able to invest more time, an additional set of questions and application exercises are provided. These will involve an additional 30 minutes of reflection.

5. Pursue the Next Steps. The purpose of the **DYNAMIS course** is not simply to gain more information about following Christ, but to encounter more deeply the transforming power of God so that we can live more faithfully as Christ’s followers.

At the conclusion of the course there will be the opportunity for participants to draft a one-page summary of the next steps they believe God is calling them to take as they live by the **dynamis** of the Spirit. This can be a set of personal lifestyle mission commitments.

Jesus said, “*Knowing these things, blessed are you if you do them*” (John 13:17). We are called to the grand adventure of participating in God’s mission in the world. May God bless and encourage us as we abound in joy by the power of the Spirit and live as witnesses to the coming Kingdom.

I. Homecoming

Where can we find the love we're looking for?

Central Scriptures	John 14:18-23: <i>"I will not leave you orphaned...My Father and I will come and make our home with you."</i>
	John 13:34-35: <i>"Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another"</i>
Central Conviction	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.
Central Words	Home: literally "mansion" – a spacious and safe place where we can abide in beauty and intimacy, with plenty of room to welcome others

The Christian life does not begin with commands about what we are supposed to be and do in order to be loved by God. It begins with the stunning affirmation that in Christ, we are embraced in God's love. Not just loved and kept at a distance, for in Christ, we receive the gift of a home! By the presence of the Holy Spirit, the Father and Son come and make their home with us. Our lives become the dwelling place of God – God's mansion – a spacious and welcoming place of beauty and intimacy.

Personal reflection. Take a few moments for reflection.

- What is your response to what you have just heard?
- How aware are you of being beloved by God? Does God seem somewhat aloof? Why?
- If you were an orphan, what would it feel like to be adopted into a family? How does this relate to your relationship with God?
- What kind of things typically stand as barriers to our feeling loved by God?
- What contributes to a sense of intimacy with God?

Small Group Discussion. Introductions: Share your names, and, if you would like, why you are taking this course. What is one thing you hope will occur in your life through it?

Discussion Springboards. New Capacity to Love

The following questions are provided to prompt discussion. They are not a checklist that needs to be “completed.” The facilitator of your group can help you select from these what would be most helpful to discuss.

- How do you respond to the assertion that living life fully is not found in tasks or accomplishments, but in receiving God’s love, loving God in return, and expressing that love to others? Why is it often hard to accept that God *really* loves us?
- What are some of the qualities that characterize God’s love for us in Christ?
- When was a time when you were aware of God’s love for you? What contributed to this? When have you felt most safe and sheltered by love?
- What are ways we can better grasp that loving God is a basic purpose for our lives? What stands as barriers?
- Discuss the following statement and share how it impacts you: *“A new commandment I give to you, love one another as I have loved you. By this will all people know that you are my disciples – by the love you have for one another.”* (John 13: 34-5)
- Describe someone you know who lives this kind of love.
- What are implications of the notion that our calling is to live as participants in God’s love for the world?

Concluding Reflections. Read together out loud: *“Our ability to love others flows from our participation in God’s love. ‘A new commandment I give to you, love one another as I have loved you. By this will all people know that you are my disciples – by the love you have for one another’ (John 13:34-5). Paul says in Romans 5:5 ‘God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us.’”*

Pray for one another. Envision as you pray the Holy Spirit standing over each person, pouring into them the love of Christ.

Diving Deeper. Write a brief, personal response to each of the following. Share one response with the group.

- When do you tend to experience most fully God's love? Why?
- Where in your life do you feel "dry" and in need of encountering more fully God's love for you?
- What does it mean to love others with the love you have received in Christ?
- Reflect on the statement, "God loves us first and keeps on loving us first." Write anything you sense God is seeking to say to you.

GROUP ACTIVITY. Turn to the **Group Activity Worksheet** on **page 45**. In the first row of the chart, make a list of two situations you encounter in your daily life (local, national or global situations) where people need to encounter God's love, and experience belonging rather than abandonment, home rather than loneliness.

In the next row, brainstorm what the impact of God's love would look like in each of these situations.

For what would you like this group to pray for you as you begin this journey together?

Personal Application

Encountering the *dynamis* of God in daily life

Springboards: Find a prominent place and post this reminder:

God loves us first and keeps on loving us first every day, throughout the day.

Read | John 3 and John 3:16. Compare these two passages. What insights do you gain from them about how you might participate in God's love for the world?

Reflect: Our privilege is for the Spirit to pour out through us the ***dynamis*** of God's love in Christ.

- Who is someone to whom God might be calling you to love with the love of Christ?
- What might you do this week to love them with Christ's love?

Doodle. Draw, write, color, paint – and bring to your group to show (if you'd like!):

- A portrayal of your present relationship with God.
- A depiction of the things that stand between God and you – and those things that knit you together.

Reflect. Pray. Confess. Find a coloured piece of paper and write the following on it: “Knowing we are loved frees us to live in the midst of the world without being controlled by it. The world’s demands and expectations, cries of suffering and seductive comforts don’t determine our reason for living.”

Post it some place prominent. As you see it this week consider - are there areas in your life in which you long for the Spirit of God to set you free from being controlled by others’ demands and the world’s comforts?

Journey of Faith. Turn to **pages 46-48** and select the metaphor you would like to use to create a picture of your journey of faith. Begin to draw on **page 49**.

- If it’s helpful, draw a  indicating those times when you have felt particularly close to God and aware of God’s love for you.
- Draw a  at those times in your life when you have really felt at home.
- On the reflection **page 51**, summarize some of your observations about this.

Diving Deeper. *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me into the world, so send I you”* (John 20:21).

- To which person or situation is God sending you this week to express God’s love?
- What specifically do you think God is asking you to do?
- When are you going to do it?
- If you don’t follow through on this, what might be holding you back?
- After you have sought to step out in the power of the Spirit and express God’s love to this person/situation – what happened? Reflect on what you learned through this and you might want to talk about this with your small group.

2. Purpose

Why are we here and where are we going?

Central Scriptures	Micah 6:8: <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>
Central Conviction	Our purpose, in every place and every walk of life, is to participate in God’s work of making life right.
Central Words	Justice: to make things right Mercy: to create the conditions so that others can flourish Humility: to walk alongside others as equals

Why do we spend so much energy trying to learn the aspects of the will of God we do not know, while we do so little to obey those aspects we do know? God has shown us what God’s purposes are for us, what God requires of us, and what a good life looks like. It is really very simple!

Personal Reflection. Take a few moments for reflection on what you’ve just heard about justice, mercy and humility. Describe someone you know who has “made life right” for others?

Small Group Discussion

Carry-it forward from the previous session: Does anyone have any observations or thoughts they would like to share about their experience since the previous session of living in – and expressing God’s love?

Discussion Springboards. Living the good life

The following questions and activities are provided to prompt discussion. They are not a checklist to be “completed.”

- How does this meaning of *justice* compare to the common understanding (and practice) of justice in our society?
- Are there aspects of the description of God’s purpose for our lives that surprise you?

- What strikes you about this understanding of *mercy* – linking it to a womb – a safe place where life is nourished so that a person can flourish?
- How does linking *humility* with *humus* (dirt and soil) impact your approach to people you may not like, of whom you may feel critical, or to whom you may feel inferior?
- What are implications of placing the emphasis on one of the three qualities (justice, mercy or humility), but neglecting the others?
- Discuss practical implications for how to live simultaneously with justice – mercy – and humility.

Concluding Reflections. Meditate silently for a few moments on the passage from Micah, and insert your own name into it.

- How do you feel about this as your desire?
- Invite those who wish to share their thoughts with the entire group.

Pray in unison: *“You have told us what is good and what You require of us – but to do justice, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with You. Grant us grace and wisdom to walk your way and live this good life. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen”*

Diving Deeper. Identify three corners of the room with justice, mercy and humility.

Invite people to go to the corner that represents the quality that has received the greatest emphasis in their Christian experience up to now.

- Invite people to describe why they made their choice.
- Describe the qualities of churches that emphasize one of these qualities but neglect the other two.

Discussion

- Compare this description of what God “requires” of us with the understanding you have had up to this point of God’s purpose for your life.
- Micah describes this as what it means to live a good life. How might this alter your sense of purpose?

GROUP ACTIVITY. Return to the group activity worksheet you began in the previous session on **page 45** exploring areas in our world that need to encounter God’s love. Now develop this further.

- What would be the impact of justice, mercy and humility on each situation? What would we need to do to make these situations “right”?

- What would God need to do to provide us with the **dynamis** – strength, power, ability – needed to engage in these needs?

Prayer: enjoy a few moments interceding for these areas of need in the world and praying for one another.

Personal Application

Encountering the **dynamis** of God in daily life

Springboards. Find a prominent place and post this reminder:

**Our purpose – in every place and every walk of life –
is to be used by God to make life right.**

Review Look at your notes from the previous session. Are there things emerging to which God seems to be directing your attention?

Reflection In your own life, which is easiest and which is hardest for you: justice, mercy or humility?

Read James 1:26-27. According to the criteria outlined in this passage, how “true” is your “religion”? What is your response to this?

If your small group worked on an activity worksheet on **page 45**, develop below an additional column. If not, think about one situation in the world that concerns you, where you see a need for God’s justice, mercy and humility. In other words, what is one area where you desire to see life made right?

- Describe it briefly.
- As you pray about this situation, do you envision any ways God might work through you to express God’s justice, mercy and humility?

Situation	What God might do through me to “make life right”

For what would you like to pray, as you seek the **dynamis** of God to fulfill God’s purposes?

Journey of Faith. Return to your journey of faith picture on **page 49**. Add to it times, situations, places, people in which real mercy was shown – creating space so that you could flourish.

- You might want to note with a **star** ★ times/situations in which you were shown mercy.
- Add your observations about this on the reflection page (**pages 51**) at the end of the workbook.
- If possible, write a note of appreciation to someone involved in that situation (even if it occurred years ago)

Diving Deeper. *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me into the world, so send I you”* (John 20:21).

Consider: The love we have received in Christ is not just a nice feeling. It is **dynamis** – power. God’s love adopts us into God’s family, and in that family we are empowered to live that we might make life right for others, create space so that others flourish, and accept all people as our equals.

Write a brief prayer asking God to show you the implications of what you are learning. Post this prayer somewhere you cannot miss (on your bathroom mirror, on your computer monitor, in your Bible) and **repeat the prayer** daily throughout the week.

3. Changes

What does it take to live life God’s way?

Central Scriptures	Romans 12:1-2 <i>“Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your minds”</i>
	Matthew 28:18-20 <i>“All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me, go therefore and...”</i>
Central Conviction	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.
Central Words	Nous: 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.
	Sacrament: A public declaration of loyalty, affirming that there is no higher authority in our life than the Lord.

Change occurs through God renewing our inner values. God transforms our sense of what is good and meaningful. This results in a complete change of loyalty, so that we are no longer controlled by the world or by others’ expectations. We live in the freedom of having only one Lord.

Personal Reflection. Take a few moments to reflect on what you have just heard about having one authority, one loyalty in your life.

Are there areas in which you long to experience God’s transforming, liberating power in your life, freeing you from other “masters”?

Small Group Discussion

Carry-it forward from the previous session: Does anyone have any observations or thoughts they would like to share about their experience since the previous session on participating in God’s purposes to make life right?

Discussion Springboards. For how much change dare we hope? The following questions and activities are provided to prompt discussion. They are not a checklist to be “completed.”

Read Matthew 28:18-20

- Discuss what you think it means to allow Christ’s authority to permeate every dimension of life.
- How does this compare with your previous understanding of these verses?
- What is your reaction to this assertion that the world’s ability to believe we are Christ’s disciples partially hinges on our love for one another? Is it unfair to suggest that the proof to others that God’s will is “good, acceptable and perfect” may hinge on our being changed people?
- How does this impact your understanding of salvation and our role in the world?

Concluding Reflections. Share what it means to live with daily dependence on God for our transformation? What is the desire of your heart?

Conclude by praying together: *Lord Jesus we affirm and submit to your authority over all things. We trust that you are with us always, to the end of the world and the end of time. We confess that we cannot change ourselves and we do not change the world on our own. This transformation occurs as the **dynamis** of God cleanses, renews and empowers us to participate in your transformation of the world.*

Pray for one another this week, that God’s transforming love would pour through us, and that we would prove to those around us that God’s will is good, acceptable and perfect.

Diving Deeper

GROUP ACTIVITY

- Make a list of the kinds of input or “messages” we receive that fill our minds (*nous*) in ways that make it difficult to trust God and live God’s way.
- Discuss what would need to change for us to experience transformation through the renewal of our minds (*nous*).
- Return to the group activity worksheet you’ve been completing on **page 45**, and complete the next row. Discuss what “renewal,” “conversion,” or “being made disciples” would look like for each of those areas.

- Discuss any observations you have from our course so far, and if you wish, any insights you have gained from the exercise of drawing a portrayal of the **dynamis** of God in your journey of faith.

Personal Application

Encountering the **dynamis** of God in daily life

Springboards. Find a prominent place and post this reminder:

**“God loves us so much God accepts us the way we are,
but loves us too much to leave us that way.”**

Review. Look at your notes from the previous session. Are there any things emerging to which God is directing your attention?

Read 2 Corinthians 5:14-21. What does it mean to live as new creations?

Reflect

- What aspects of your own life need the healing touch of God’s transforming love, renewing you in your inmost being (nous)?
- What would it look like for Jesus to have supreme authority in these areas?
- How confident are you about trusting God’s power and authority? Write down specific steps you would like to take to grow in your trust in Jesus.
- What would you like to pray, as you seek the **dynamis** of God to transform your “mind” and help you to live with only Christ as your Lord?

Journey of Faith. Return to your journey of faith picture on **page 49**. Add to it times, situations, places when your life has experienced significant changes. You might want to note these experiences with a **turn ↵**. Add your observations about this on **page 51**.

Diving Deeper: *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me into the world, so send I you”* (John 20:21).

Reflect on your own life—and your involvement in the world. Is there a particular area in which your life touches the world where you would like God to bring transformation through you?

Area in my life and world needing change	What would I like to see God do?

Receive in prayer the following affirmation: *“All things have been made in Christ, for Christ and through Christ...and in him all things are reconciled”* (Colossians 1:15-20).

4. Community

How can we enjoy the journey together?

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

Every person longs for community. We want to belong to a group of people with whom we can enjoy the journey. Jesus may have given us the gift of a home – making our lives the dwelling place of the Father, Son and Spirit – but we want some people to share it with. Common customs, convictions, and interests constitute most communities. The Christian community does not find its unity in our common customs but in our common Lord. Christ is the One who is all and in all.

Personal Reflection. Take a few moments to reflect on what you have just heard about making our lives the dwelling place of the Father, Son and Spirit. What does it mean to live through Christ in community with others?

Small Group Discussion.

Carry-it forward from the previous session: Does anyone have any observations or thoughts they would like to share about their experience since the previous session on bringing every aspect of our lives under the authority of Christ?

Discussion Springboards: How can we create community? *The following questions and activities are provided to prompt discussion. They are not a checklist to be “completed.”*

- When have you felt most deeply “connected” to a group of people? What did it feel like?

- What made this possible?
- Discuss the assertion that the community of Christians is not to be divided by class, culture, gender or ethnicity.
- How can we participate in God’s restoration of community between us?
- How can we share more fully in the lives of those who are poor, suffering or immersed in conflict?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Read John 8: 3-11 Have two volunteers role play a debate between two Pharisees – one arguing for holding to our convictions and the other seeking compassion in regard to the woman.

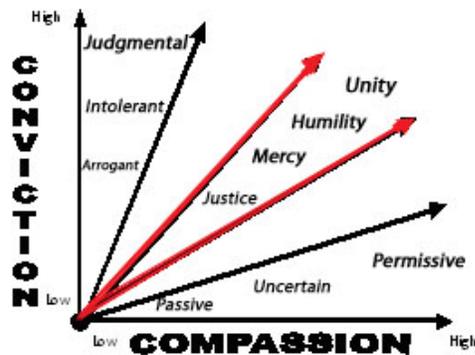
- Discuss how Jesus’ intervention averted a crisis, without de-emphasizing either conviction or compassion.
- How does this scene shed insight on how to implement a balance of conviction and compassion?
- What has to happen for the Church to experience the **dynamis** of God and live as a community of conviction and compassion?

Suggestion for conclusion. Discuss any observations you have from our course so far. Are there any insights you have gained from the exercise of charting the **dynamis** of God in your journey of faith that you would like to share with others? Share where in your life you most need to receive the compassionate power of God – so that you can bring comfort to others.

Conclude by praying together. *“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.”*
(2 Cor 1:3-7)

Diving Deeper

Discuss the following diagram



- What do you think is the relationship between conviction and compassion in creating community?
- What are examples of people or groups who you feel reflect varying combinations of conviction and compassion?
- Is one or another of the virtues dominant in your own life? Are you comfortable with your pattern?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Return to the worksheet you have been completing for the past several sessions on **page 45**. Reflect on each of the areas you have identified that need change.

- In the next row, brainstorm ways that the power of Christian community would make a difference in each one. What would have to happen for this high conviction – deep compassion community of Christians to penetrate these areas of need?
- Pray for both the Church, and for these areas of need in our world.

Personal Application

Encountering the *dynamis* of God in daily life

Springboards. Find a prominent place and post this reminder:

**The world will believe we're Jesus' disciples
by the love we have for one another. John 13:35**

Review your notes from the previous session. Are there any things emerging to which God seems to be directing your attention?

Read 2 Cor. 1:3-7. How does receiving God’s comfort strengthen us to respond with compassion toward others?

Reflect. What is God saying to you about receiving God’s *dynamis* to live with greater conviction and deeper compassion, both to enhance your experience *of* and contribution *to* community in your world?

Journey of Faith. Return to your journey of faith picture on **page 49**. Add to it times, situations, places when your life has experienced significant changes.

- You might want to note with a **circle plus** ⊕ times and situations when you have felt particularly included and welcomed in a community of people.
- Add a **plus sign** + for those situations in which you’ve felt like you have responded appropriately with both strong conviction and tangible compassion.
- Add a **minus sign** - for those situations in which you’ve not responded appropriately.
- Add your reflections about this on **pages 51**.

Diving Deeper. *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me into the world, so send I you”* (John 20:21).

The “Father of mercy and God of comfort” wants to give you the capacity to live with conviction and compassion.

Receive this week the promise that God will strengthen you to respond appropriately:

- at home* – relating to family members and housemates
- on the streets* – responding to people who beg from you
- at church* – relating to an emotionally needy or socially awkward person
- at school* – responding to a ‘trouble-maker’ or someone who’s mean to others
- at work* – relating to an overly-confident or controlling colleague

5. Generosity

What difference can we make in the world?

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

What is required to be the kind of community that is empowered by the Spirit to participate in God’s deep change coming to the world? - generous applications of grace! Generosity is grace-in-action. God is a generous God – creating, providing, giving. Our lives flow from the super-abundance of God’s generosity. Since we are created in the image of this God, we too are created to be generous. It’s part of our nature.

Every human being wants to give.

Personal Reflection. Take a few moments for reflection on what you have just heard about giving as an act of justice. What questions and issues does this raise for you?

Small Group Discussion

Carry-it forward from the previous session. Topics we’ve discussed so far include:

1. *God’s love for us* – drawing us into relationship with God and giving us the gift of a home.
2. *God’s purpose for our lives* – empowering us to make life right for others.
3. *God’s power to change our lives* – transforming our personal lives and societies under the authority of Christ to reflect God’s coming Kingdom.
4. *God’s gift of community through us* – uniting us in our differences into a new kind of community that demonstrates to the world the love of God.
 - Discuss what among these ideas has struck you most.
 - What has been particularly encouraging? What has been challenging?

- What questions do you have about what we've explored so far?

Discussion Springboards. Giving as grace-in-action

The following questions and activities are provided to prompt discussion. They are not a checklist to be "completed."

- Brainstorm common motives for charity.
- What difference does our motive for giving make?

**We don't give
because of
abundant
resources but
abundant grace**

Read 2 Corinthians 8: 1–5, 9, 13–14

- How did the Macedonian Christians approach giving to the needs of others?
- What do you think "a fair balance" has to do with generosity?
- How does this impact your understanding of charity?
- What qualities do you hope would characterize your own generosity?
- What do you think God wants to characterize the generosity of your church?
- What do you need in order to receive the **dynamis** to live this way?
- When you think about the needs in your lives, communities and world about which we've spoken during the past weeks, what would an outpouring of God's generosity look like?

Concluding Reflections. Pray together for an outpouring of God's Spirit of generosity on your lives and the Church.

Diving Deeper

- Discuss any observations you have from our course so far, and if you wish, any insights you have gained from the exercise of charting the **dynamis** of God in your journey of faith.
- Return to the worksheet on **page 45**. What might God be calling you to do to be channels of God's generosity in these situations?

- Work together to draft a “giving covenant”. To what commitments do you think God is calling the Church so that we live more fully as a community of generosity? Keep in mind that giving involves more than money – it’s our time, attention, labor and resources.

Personal Application

Encountering the *dynamis* of God in daily life

Springboards. Find a prominent place and post this reminder:

“Let justice flow down like water and righteousness like an everflowing stream.”
Amos 5:24

Review your notes from the previous session. Are there things emerging to which God seems to be directing your attention?

Journey of Faith. Return to your journey of faith picture on **page 49**.

- Add to it times, situations, places when your life has experienced generosity.
- You might want to note with a **dollar sign \$** times or situations in someone was exceptionally generous toward you (it need not involve money).
- Consider sending a note to that person expressing your gratitude.
- Write on **page 52** reflections on your experiences.

Create a picture on the next page of hearts, homes and the world flooded with generosity.

Write a short prayer expressing what you would like God to do in your life to nourish even more fully a lifestyle of generosity.

Diving Deeper. *“Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me into the world, so send I you”* (John 20:21).

Read Amos 5:24. Envision God’s generosity flowing through you into the world. What is your reaction to this?

- How does this shape your attitude and approach to giving?
- What, if anything, holds you back from generosity?
- What attitudes and actions do you believe God wants to be expressed in your generosity, contributing to a “fair balance” in the world?

Receive: Remind yourself this week that you are standing in the overflowing, abundant stream of God's goodness. Pray daily, trusting that God will flood your life with all you need to live God's way and express to others the abundance of God's life-making right justice and mercy.

6. Confidence

How can we live boldly in threatening times?

Central Scriptures	Jeremiah 29:11: <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>
	Romans 5:1-5: <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>
	Revelations 21:1-5: <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>
Central Conviction	We live with confidence in the midst of present problems, manifesting signs of the certain future in the complexities of today.
Central Words	Hope: to be made strong in the present because our lives are firmly anchored through Christ, assuring a good and joyous future.

In Christ, something more determinative than the place and time of our birth has occurred. We experience a new creation, a new birth. Now, the Gift of the Spirit restores our capacity to dream and live with vision.

Personal Reflection. Take a few moments to reflect on the following statement:

*We receive the **dynamis** of the Spirit so that we can manifest in the complexities and challenges of the present signs of the coming Kingdom. In the power of the Spirit we live at the intersection of heaven and earth. When we pray the Lord’s Prayer – we pray for God’s will to be done and for God’s Kingdom to come here, on earth, now – as it is in heaven. When the world looks at us they should be able to say, “So that’s what the future will look like!”*

Small Group Discussion

Carry-it forward from the previous session: Try combining all the topics of the previous sessions into one sentence.

Discussion Springboards. *The following questions and activities are provided to prompt discussion. They are not a checklist to be “completed.”*

- List words and images in the Bible that describe our ultimate future.
- How does this impact your sense of hope as you face problems and difficulties in your life now?

- Describe a time when you felt particularly optimistic and hopeful about the future. What contributed to this sense of expectancy?
- How can we provide the world with signs or evidence of the good future God is bringing?
- What are the implications for God's purposes for our own lives and our church community?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Divide into two groups and compose a verse that expresses the hope conveyed by the Scripture passages below to the tune of the well-know songs *Amazing Grace* and *Joy to the World*. Write your verse clearly on a large sheet of paper.

Group One: Amazing Grace

“Pray then this way: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name. Your kingdom come. Your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we also forgive our debtors. And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.” (Mt. 6:9–13).

“See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more...And the one who was seated on the throne said, ‘See, I am making all things new...’ ‘To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.’...On either side of the river is the tree of life...and the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.” (Rev. 21:3–7; 22:2).

Group Two: Joy to the World

“Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they?...Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What will we eat?’ or ‘What will we drink?’ or ‘What will we wear?’ For it is the Gentiles who strive for all these things; and indeed your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But strive first for the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” (Mt 6:26, 31–33).

“Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we will also bear the image of the man of heaven...Listen, I will tell you a mystery!...For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed. For this perishable body must put on imperishability...Then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: ‘Death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?’... “But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Cor. 15:49–57)

Concluding Reflections

- Enjoy singing together *Joy to the World* and *Amazing Grace*, using traditional as well as your new verses.
- Pray for people you know and situations in the world, where people are having difficulty maintaining hope.
- Read in unison the following affirmation from the book of Acts. Peter proclaimed this, quoting from the prophet Joel, on the day God poured the **dynamis** of the Spirit out on the followers of Christ. Pray that this week God will give you the **dynamis** to live with vision and to dream dreams for a better future.

“In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and your daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams. Even on my servants, both men and women, I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.”
(Acts 2:17-18)

Diving Deeper

- Discuss any observations you have from our course so far, and if you wish, any insights you have gained from the exercise of charting the **dynamis** of God in your journey of faith.
- What is your response to these portrayals of our hope?
- If the first casualty of spiritual and socio/economic poverty is hope, what is involved in restoring people’s capacity to dream for a better future for themselves and their children?
- For what would you like the group to pray?

Personal Application

Encountering the **dynamis** of God in daily life

Springboards. Find a prominent place and post this reminder:

**When the world looks at us they should be able to say,
“So that’s what the future will look like!”**

Review your notes from the previous session. Are there things emerging to which God seems to be directing your attention?

Journey of Faith. Return to your journey of faith overview on **page 49**. Add to it times, situations, places when you have experienced hope.

- You might want to note with an **anchor**  times or situations when you felt particularly confident or filled with hope.
- Write reflections about these experiences on **page 52**.

Next Steps. We're coming toward the end of our journey together. **Set aside extra time** this week to review our course and pray about your future. What next steps is God calling you to take in your own journey of faith?

Review your portrayal of your journey of faith up to now on **page 49**, and the summary of your reflections on **pages 51-52**.

Draw a new portrayal (map, river or whatever), portraying what you believe God is calling you to on **page 50** – one that extends your journey into the future. The Spirit of God has given us the power to dream dreams and live with vision.

- Where are you going?
- What do you believe God wants to characterise your life?
- Envision as far into the future as you dare – a few months, years, or even until the end of your life.

Pray that God will guide you, as you refine this into specific guidance that will shape the next steps in your journey of faith.

Examine pages 51-53: “*Next Steps on the Journey of Faith*”.

Begin drafting a **one-page summary** of the commitments to which you believe God is calling you (on **page 53**), describing how you believe God wants the **dynamis** of the Spirit to shape your life.

Also begin drawing a **picture** on **page 54**. Not the chart of page 50, but an image that visually expresses the future to which God is calling you during the coming years. You may want to refine this one-page summary and this picture after the next session in the course.

The goal is that by the end of our course, you will have a drawing describing what you believe God is calling you to during the next years, and a one page summary of the commitments you believe you are called to make as you walk in the **dynamis** of the Spirit.

Conclude by praying: “*God, I trust that you are at work in me to will and to act according to your good purpose.*” (Phil 2:13). “*I claim the promise that your grace is sufficient for me, for your power is made perfect in weakness. Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me.*” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

7. Surprises

How do we prepare for the unknowns ahead?

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

Knowing the God with whom we walk, and knowing our ultimate destination gives us confidence in life’s surprises. Everyday we remind ourselves that God is faithful and choose to trust God with thanksgiving in all things.

Personal Reflection Take a few moments for reflection on the following statement:

If we do not live our lives intentionally, it is likely we will live them accidentally.

Small Group Discussion

Carry-It forward from the previous session:

In the last session we spoke of God desiring to give us the power for God to manifest through us signs of the coming future. Share some implications of this perspective.

Discussion Springboards. We live boldly because God is utterly trustworthy The following questions and activities are provided to prompt discussion. They are not a check list to be “completed.”

- Invite anyone who wishes to share something that has occurred in their life that they did not anticipate. It may have either been painful or delightful. What are ways that God has used it for good in their life?
- What helps us to live with confidence in God’s steadfast love and trustworthiness, in the midst of uncertainty?

GROUP ACTIVITY

Take turns reading aloud the following passages:

“There was a man named Cornelius, a centurion of the Italian cohort...Cornelius replied [speaking to Peter], ‘Four days ago at this very hour, at three o’clock, I was praying in my house when suddenly a man in dazzling clothes stood before me. He said, ‘Cornelius, your prayer has been heard and your alms have been remembered before God. Send therefore to Joppa and ask for Simon, who is called Peter.’...Therefore I sent for you immediately, and you have been kind enough to come. So now all of us are here in the presence of God to listen to all that the Lord has commanded you to say.’ Then Peter began to speak to them ‘I truly understand that God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him.’ (Acts 10:1,30–35).

“A Samaritan woman came to draw water, and Jesus said to her, ‘Give me a drink.’...The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?’...Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, ‘Give me a drink,’ you would have asked him, and he would have given you living water.’ The woman said...‘Where do you get that living water?’...Jesus said to her, ‘Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water.’...Just then his disciples came. They were astonished that he was speaking with a woman....Then the woman left her water jar and went back to the city. She said to the people, ‘Come and see a man who told me everything I have ever done! He cannot be the Messiah, can he?’...Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman’s testimony.” (John 4:7–15, 27–29, 39).

Discuss together

- What do the passages tell us about God’s ways?
- What are some implications for how we are to live in the midst of surprises and uncertainties?
- What can help us to trust God in all circumstances?

Concluding Reflections. God does not necessarily show us the map depicting all the details of the road ahead, but God has given us clear guidance for how to make the most of the rest of our lives and live according to God’s will and ways. God gives us the **dynamis** to live fruitfully and creatively, in the midst of uncertainties and difficulties.

- Invite people to share things that have been clarified through our time together about God’s purposes for their life, and the next steps of faith to which God is calling them.
- Some may want to share the summary on **page 53** of how they believe God wants the **dynamis** of the Spirit to shape their daily life.
- Others may want to share their picture on **page 54** of God’s vision for their future.

- Discuss if people in your group would like to have a reunion in a few weeks or months, to “catch up” with one another, and share what has been happening in their journey of faith.
- Conclude by praying for one another, claiming the *dynamis* of God in each other’s life, and praising God for God’s steadfast love

Personal Application

Encountering the *dynamis* of God in daily life

Find a prominent place and post this reminder. Reflect on each conviction by reciting one each day of the week.

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.

Journey of Faith:

- **Add a symbol** for times when you've either experienced or done things you never would have anticipated, had surprising experiences, had encounters with God in unexpected ways, been led by God to do things you never would have imagined.
- **Write and reflect** on these experiences.
- **Review** the **one-page summary** of your personal commitments (on **page 53**) and the picture of God's vision for your future (on **page 54**) that you began after the previous session.
- **Revise** them so they become helpful summaries that can guide you over the coming months. The goal is for you to have a drawing portraying what you believe is God's vision for your own immediate future, and a one-page summary of the commitments to which God is calling you as you walk in the **dynamis** of the Spirit.
- **Pray** over these summaries and keep them someplace where you can see them as reminders (your refrigerator, bathroom mirror, inside your Bible).
- **Share** them with a few people who are closest to you, and invite them to pray for you. We need the support and encouragement of others as we enjoy the journey of faith in the **dynamis** of God.

Group Activity Worksheet

Situation needing to experience God's love		
What the outpouring of God's love would look like		
What justice, mercy and humility look like		
What community of conviction and compassion looks like		
What God might be calling me to be and do in response		

Portraying the *dynamis* of God in the Journey of Faith

Draw a portrayal of your journey of faith. Approaches others have found to be helpful as ways to visualize their life of faith up to this point include, portraying their journey as:

- **A river** – strong currents and slow trickles? When did your life seem slow and tranquil? When did it seem turbulent? When was it barely a trickle or even a dry desert, and when was it a full, powerful current? When were you flourishing and when were you struggling?
- **A song** – high and low notes, harmony, solos and dissonance?
- **An EKG** – rhythmic and steady, stressed, rapid, pounding?
- **A map** – wide plains, steep passes, twists and turns? When did your life go through broad, wide-open plains? When did you go up steep mountain passes? When was the road narrow with lots of twists and turns? When did it seem congested? When were you traveling with company you enjoyed? When were you traveling alone?
- **A mosaic** – lots of colour, seeming chaos, patterns discerned after-the-fact?

What kind of picture for your journey of faith seems right for you? Begin drawing your journey of faith up to today. You can make it as simple or elaborate as you'd like, black and white, or colour. As you reflect on our discussion each session, add a symbol (see tips below) for times or places when you've experienced something that relates to that week's topic.

Tips:

- Add key dates if it feels helpful/appropriate.
- The picture you draw can be for any period of your journey with Christ. Focus on a period that God seems to be bringing to mind. There is no right or wrong answer. Details will continue to be added each week.

We will add details to this portrayal of our journey following each session, following the themes of our course, using the symbols below.

Reflect on your journey each time you add new aspects to the portrayal. What can you learn from this about the power of God in your journey of faith? What would you like to see characterize your response of faith in the future? Use the attached summary sheet to make notes.

During the final sessions, based on this review of where and how God has led us up to this point – we will seek to anticipate what God wants to characterize the flow of our life in the months and years to come.

Useful, easy symbols to use may include:

Homecoming Draw a **heart**  along the course of your journey of faith, indicating those times when you have felt particularly close to God and aware of God's love.

Draw a **house**  at those times in your life when you have really felt "at home".

Purpose Note with a **star**  times/situations in which someone showed you real mercy – creating space so that you could flourish.

Changes Put a **turn signal**  at turning points where God changed or redirected your life in a significant way.

Community Place a circle with a plus in it  at those times in your life when you have felt particularly included and welcomed in a community of people.

Place a **plus sign**  at situations in which you've felt you have responded appropriately with both strong conviction and tangible compassion.

Mark with a **minus sign**  situations in which you've not responded appropriately.

Generosity Mark with a **dollar sign**  times when someone was exceptionally generous toward you (it needn't have been financial).

Confidence Mark on the chart of your life's journey with an **anchor**  a time or times in your life when you have felt particularly confident and filled with hope.

Surprises Place an **exclamation point**  at times when you've either experienced or done things you never would have anticipated, had surprising experiences, encounters with God.





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



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

Large empty rectangular box for notes or reflections.

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

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

Next Steps in the Journey of Faith

As a summary of all we have explored during this journey, now is the opportunity for you to write a brief affirmation on the next page, of the qualities and commitments that you hope will characterise your reliance on God's *dynamis*—and your participation in God's mission in the world.

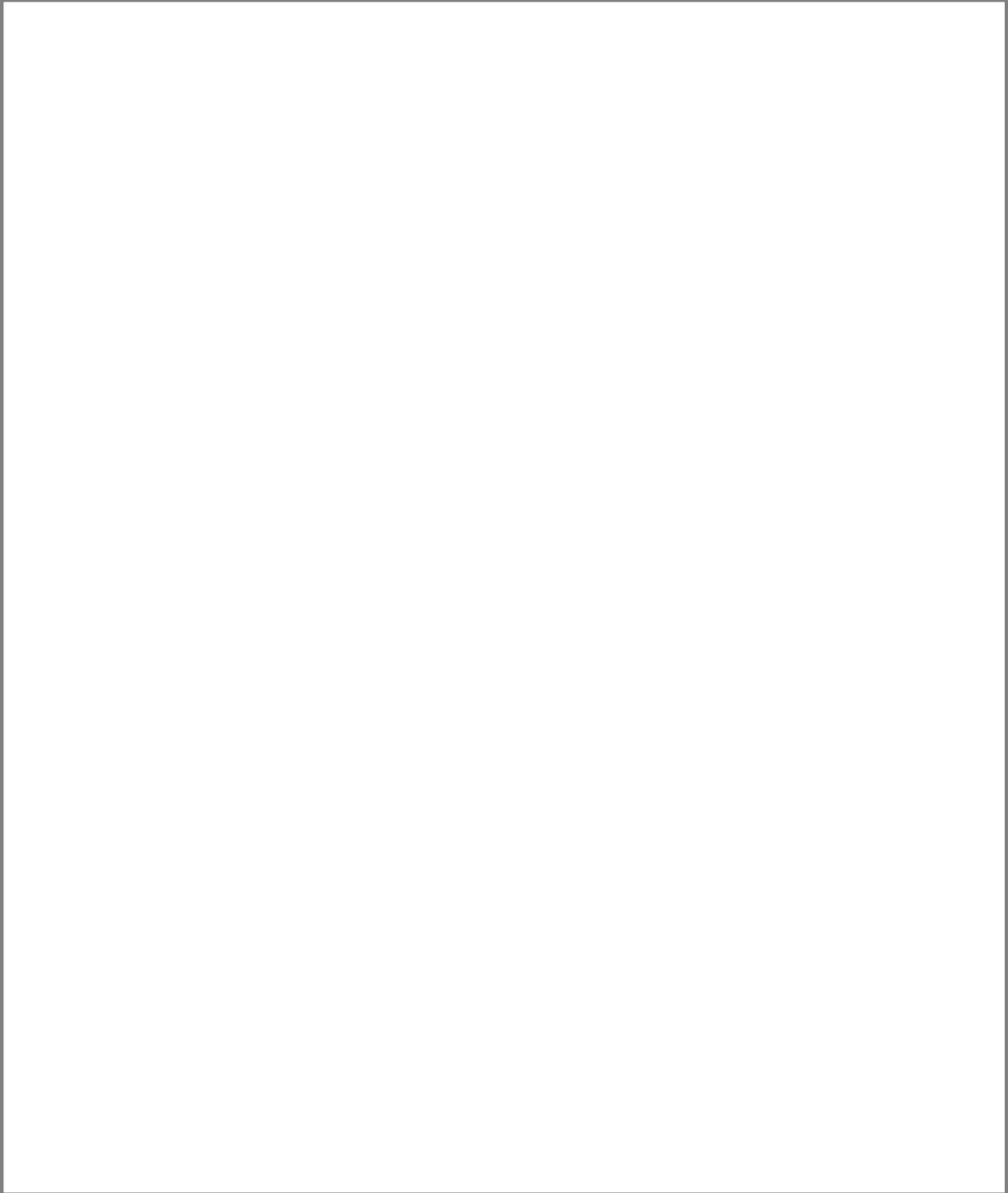
- What are the qualities that you believe God wants to have characterise your life?
- What are the commitments you will make to integrate those qualities into your attitudes and actions?
- What specific steps will you take each week to move these truths from your head, to your heart, and to your hands and feet?

Next Steps in the Journey of Faith
Living with the *Dynamis* of God:
Personal Commitments and Vision

	Qualities I believe God wants to have characterise my life	Commitments I will make to integrate these qualities into my attitudes and actions	Actions I will take each week to allow God to give me the <i>dynamis</i> to live these commitments
Home-coming			
Purpose			
Changes			
Community			
Generosity			
Confidence			
Surprises			

Drawing God's Dream for the Future

Having explored how God has worked through your life in the past – and what are some of the commitments you feel called to make for the future – now, draw a picture of what you believe God would like to characterize the coming years in your life. Try to portray what difference the *dynamis* of God will make.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for drawing a picture of what the user believes God would like to characterize the coming years in their life.

What other participants are saying about the Dynamis Course:

*“This course needs to be offered with a warning. **Beware.** It changed my entire understanding of God’s purposes for my life.”*

“Grace descended from my head to my heart. More deeply than ever before I’ve come to realize the depth of God’s love for me.”

“I’ve always thought of mission as something only a few super saints could do. I now see that God can use even me in the world. My life is real ordinary. But even in my mundane work and service I now see how this can connect with God’s great purposes.”

“My life has been rocked by the realization that I’ve been worshipping a false trinity of security, prosperity and pleasure. I pray that the Holy Spirit will come and knit my life into communion with the Father and Son.”

“Stories. Stories. Stories of faith from around the world. That’s what has struck me most deeply. To see how God has carried people through challenges and suffering that are beyond anything I’ve ever encountered inspires me to trust God with the difficulties I face.”

“I don’t think I’ll ever forget new insights into key words of the faith: justice as making life right, mercy as a womb which offers a safe place for others to flourish, humility as walking on level ground with everyone I meet. These truths have changed how I live each day.”

“I hoped that God would use this course to help me discern his purposes for the next years of my life. He did far more than that! I was looking for guidance about a job. God gave me a complete reshaping of my sense of purpose.”

**Following Christ takes more than good intentions
We need strength, power and ability.**

We need *Dynamis!* “The gospel is the **dynamis** (strength, power and ability) of God for salvation”
(Romans 1:16).

***Dynamis* is a 7-session course for all God’s people to create a lifetime lifestyle of
participation in God’s Mission**

The *Dynamis* course includes:

- 7 fast-paced 25 minute video presentations
- Guides for leaders and participants with reflection and discussion questions, and activities for small groups
- Suggestions for personal reflection to discern God’s vision for our lives
- Worksheets to create an overview of our journey of faith and a summary of the next steps to which God is calling us

**The *Dynamis* Course is a ministry of
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in agreement with World Vision International**

Tim Dearborn is responsible for the Christian formation of World Vision International’s staff around the world. Previously, he has served as a professor at Seattle Pacific University, Fuller Theological Seminary, Regent College, the French Evangelical Seminary and the University of Aberdeen, and as a Presbyterian minister. He has written six books on spirituality and mission.