



The Art of Formation Discussion Guide

Wk. 4 Discussion:

Begin with prayer

5 min

Check In

30-35 min

Spend a few minutes catching up on life with one another. Try to casually move into the check in time. By this week there should be a bit more familiarity with the prompts. However, it's too soon to expect everyone to remember each of them. Continue to practice grace and patience as your community adopts this new practice.

- Fruit: what has been bringing you joy lately?
- Thorn: what have you been struggling with lately?
- Vine: how have you seen or been connecting with God lately?
- Bud: what are you looking forward to?

Discuss this week's practice

25-30 min

- Describe some of the pains, failures, or wounds that have shaped your life. How have they shaped you?
- Which thorns seem more impactful to you: the ones you earned | the ones you were given | the ones that gave you something | the ones that took something away?
- What has hurting taught you?

Open your bibles together

20-25 min

- Read Gen. 3:17-19
- Thorns in Genesis are a consequence of sin in the world that makes doing what we are called to do difficult. How has pain kept you from or motivated you towards doing what you believe you are called to do?
- Read Matt. 13:22
- The thorns in Jesus' parable of the soils are a sign that we need to repent from the ways we've allowed the world to influence us. How has pain shown you that you were heading the wrong way?



- Read 2 Cor. 12:6-9
- Paul says that the thorn that he experienced came from God to humble him. How has pain reminded you of your need for God?

Prayer for healing for one another

10 min

- Encourage the person who's assigned over prayer request to get them at this time

Talk about the coming week's practice

5 min

Encourage everyone to keep up with the practice throughout the week and look for fruits, thorns, vines, and buds.