



# Formation

Deep down, we all know it's possible to believe all the right things and yet for our lives to look nothing like Jesus. We can feel stuck between where our lives are and the life God is calling us to. Often our challenge is not that we're not *wanting* or *trying* to be like Jesus, rather, we don't know *how* to be like him.

The reason is: we're all being *formed* – whether we like it or not. Things like the values of the city we inhabit and the people who surround us – all shape the person we are and what we do. Together we want to learn how to intentionally live life with Jesus, so we can become more like him and do the things he is calling us to do.

## Key Texts

Romans 12:1-2; 2 Corinthians 3:18; 1 Peter 1:14-16

## Start (45 mins)

- **Food:** we suggest a simple recipe to get the evening started! Gathering people around food – no matter how simple – is a great way of feeling at home and in community with others.
- **Welcome:** during the meal you might want everyone to introduce who they are, how long they've been in London, and how they got connected with Christ Church London. This is especially helpful for any new people who've started attending this term.
- **Pray:** take 5 minutes to pray for your community and our church as we enter this new season. Pray that God might speak to each of us as we seek to follow Jesus together. It's always great to leave some space of silence (2 mins) for us to bring our hearts before God, confessing our sins, thanking him for the cross, and asking for his Holy Spirit to speak and guide us on our journey.

## Introduction (5 mins)

Set the scene for the evening. You might want to read the session introduction above as a way to set conversation in context and help people prepare. It's helpful to recap the previous session to include anyone who is new.

## Watch Video (20 mins)

Value 2: Formation

## Questions & Reflections (15–20 mins)

Feel free to use any questions that feel appropriate for your group. Some suggestions are below. For groups bigger than eight, you might want to break into smaller groups to foster more conversations.

1. As you look back on life, who or what has had the greatest impact in shaping who you are so far? (e.g. beliefs about myself, God, and the world, or my habits, desires, and goals).
2. What are the things that can, or are, forming us right now in the wrong ways?
3. What strategies can we employ as a community to commit to formation when we don't feel like it?
4. Are there any helpful ways to measure how we're doing in seeking to become more like Jesus?

## Pray (10 mins)

Invite people to pray. This could either be all together or in the groups you've been in for discussion. This could be a chance to pray for one another personally, pray for the community, the church, or our city. You may find it helpful to change this weekly depending on what topics / themes we're covering.