



BELOW THE SURFACE

## **Below The Surface**

## **Part 2 - "Living From What's Below"**

Small Group Material

July 2nd, 2017

Participant Guide

**Bottom Line:** *The best way to express God's work is to share God's work.*

**Study Verses:** *Psalm 86:11, Galatians 6:4-6 (The Message), Romans 8:28*

### **Key Points**

- *We learn His ways in order to trust His ways.*
- *We bring ourselves and our stories together not to impress each other, but to express God's image - His character, His grace, and His love.*
- *We need to connect authentically in relationships that are based on our dependence upon God and each other.*
- *Togetherness isn't first about effectiveness, but rather expression.*
- *Self-assessment is not just knowing where you are, but knowing what God is doing in you where you are.*
- *Authentic encounters require authentic people, effort and trust.*
- *Don't just show up...avail yourself. First to God then to others.*
- *Think redemption not solution.*
- *We enter into a generous common life by serving as an expression of His character and extension of His heart.*
- *When we see things from His perspective, His purpose comes into focus.*
- *We have to think differently about what is good. (Romans 8:28)*

## ENCOUNTER

- "I'll get myself right, then God will love me and use me." Over the years how have you wrestled with this lie and in what ways has this kept you on the sidelines?
- What does it look like to become independently dependent on God?
- How does our perspective of our problems change when we begin to think redemption rather than solutions?

## FORMATION

- Read Psalm 86:11. What causes a heart to be divided? How does our growth and transformation lead us to places where faith is required?
- Read Galatians 6:4-6 (The Message). What is self-sufficient maturity and how does exhibiting this quality enable us to enter a generous common life?
- Read Romans 8:28. Do you believe that God works everything out for our good? Why or why not? What makes the circumstances one is going through "good"?

## EXPRESSION

- We tend to be more concerned with impression (how am I viewed by others) rather than expression (how do others see God in my actions and words). Where are you most prone to focus on impression instead of expression?
- If you change what you see, you will change what you do. Where are your eyes currently set? What areas of your life are in need of a perspective shift?
- There are four corners of connection: (1) no connection (2) bad connection (3) pseudo connection (4) real connection. In the relationships that hold the most influence on your life, what corner are you residing in and how is your current connection level influencing your growth?