# Questions for Small Group Discussion

## Welcome & Overview (Wednesday, Dec 1 | 10:30am)

1. How are you showing up today?
2. What are you intentionally leaving behind today (personally or professionally) so you can focus on the content and relationships at this conference?

## Leading Well – Tom Nelson (Wednesday, Dec 1 | 1:30pm)

1. As you look back on this challenging year, what can you point to in your life and organization that can only be explained as evidence of God's manifest presence and his supernatural intervention?
2. Why is it so important to distinguish the different between leadership adequacy and leadership compentency? How might you better navigate this difference in your organization's values and culture?
3. How might God be guiding you to search for him in every scenario you face in a deeper way?
4. What are some obstacles in your leadership journey that are hindering you from following the Good Shepherd more closely and joyfully? A tendency to free solo? A lack of support from others? Not having enough time?
5. How are you being intentional about deepening your integrity and growing your skill in leading?

## When You Lose Your Why, You Lose Your Way – Rich Stearns (Thursday, Dec 2 | 8:15am)

1. If you're a leader in a secular context like Microsoft of P&G, losing your "why" seems more likely. But what might it look like to lose your "why" as a leader of a Christian ministry?
2. Being a leader of character and wanting successful outcomes are both positive attributes. But can you see ways in which the drive for success can become idolatrous? What might happen in organizations that elevate success over faithfulness? Can you think of any recent examples?
3. Take a look at these 17 leadership vallues/qualities. What are the one or two that you most resonate with? What are the one or two you most struggle with in your own leadership? (Surrender, Sacrifice, Trust, Love, Excellence, Humility, Integrity, Vision, Courage, Generosity, Perseverence, Forgiveness, Self-Awareness, Balance, Humor, Encouragement, Listening)
4. Take some time to share the emotions and challenges you faced as a leader over these past two years. Be vulnerable and authentic. What did God show you in the midst of this?

## Resilient Resistance: Loving Justice, Walking Humbly – Rebecca DeYoung (Thursday, Dec 2 | 10:15am)

1. Self-Examination Homework:

Keep an anger journal for a week or two. Then set it aside. Go back and prayerfully discern

* what sorts of issues or behaviors typically make you angry
* what sorts of circumstances and physiological states make you vulnerable to anger (what contexts and circumstances make you more prone to anger)
* how you usually express anger (internalized resentment, insults,…)
* what the effect of your anger is on yourself and others
* what your anger’s emotional and spiritual roots might be (fear, sorrow, lack of trust, desire for control)
* how your anger reflects your larger relationship with God

Look for patterns. You might also arrange your recorded episodes of anger on a better-to-worse continuum. What do you see when you take an honest look in the mirror? Prayerfully lay your heart before God and ask him to transform what needs changing.

1. Vocational Discernment: Think about your calling: where has God called you to serve others in humility and with joy, to speak truth and call to account, to address injustice with hopeful and constructive change, to cultivate mercy and gentleness? What places of service does your hunger and thirst for righteousness lead you? Where is God calling you to be faithful (resilient) and how has God equipped you for resistance?
2. Spiritual Gifts and Roles: What abilities and spiritual gifts [see below] has God given *you* for *this* work? How can you use those powers for good with both Christlike humility and hope?

*Administration, teaching, encouragement, prophecy, preaching, benevolence, advocacy, presence alongside those who suffer, discernment of spirits, wisdom/wise planning, fear of the Lord, counsel, giving testimony, healing, giving & generosity, devotion to prayer, attentiveness to the marginalized, peace-making/reconciliation, listening*,\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

1. Works of Mercy. Meditate on the (traditional) spiritual and corporal works of mercy [listed below]. How do they constructively address injustice and its victims, in short- and long-term ways? How do they embody hope and humility? How do they translate into your daily life, work, and service as a follower of Christ?

*Feeding the hungry Instruct the ignorant*

*Giving water to the thirsty Counsel the doubtful*

*Clothe the naked Admonish the sinful*

*Shelter the homeless Bear wrongs patiently*

*Visit the sick Forgive offenses willingly*

*Visit the imprisoned Comfort the sorrowful*

*Bury the dead Pray for all*

1. Daily Rhythms & A Rule of Life:

What daily (weekly/monthly) regular spiritual practices enable you to carry out your calling without excessive frustration, burnout, or despair? Where are you physically and spiritually most vulnerable? Do you need more silence and solitude? More sleep? Where do prayer and fasting, listening and meditation on Scripture, and practices of lament, encouragement, and gratitude fit in your daily or weekly rhythms of life?

<https://renovare.org/about/ideas/spiritual-disciplines> [*here is a list to start from*]

1. Christ and the Church:

What is your image of God—wrathful judge and punisher of sin, distant all-powerful sovereign, forgiving father, faithful friend, loving parent, exacting accountant, \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?

When you contemplate Christ as a wounded healer, what does this image mean to you? Where are you holding on to hurts that only Jesus can heal?

What (Scriptural) prayers, practices, and communities of lament help you lay those wounds at the foot of the cross?

Where have you experienced healing? How does your work or role offer an opportunity to follow the church’s call to be a “field hospital for the wounded”?

1. Control and a Cruciform Life:

Where do you struggle spiritually with control? In what relationships, interactions, or circumstances does this usually reveal itself? When do you prefer to take the reins, and when you do resist trusting God?

What Scriptures and prayers form and frame your confidence in God’s providential care? What spiritual practices might train you in a greater posture of receptivity to the Spirit’s movement, dependence on God’s provision, and submission to Christ?

When you imagine imitating the gentleness and humility of Christ—in what ways does it look weak, unwise, or unappealing? How does it challenge your picture of strength and love?

1. Communities of Virtue:

What does it look like to cultivate communities of faithful, hopeful, humble justice-seeking in the middle of a messed-up world? How do your families, friendships, churches, workplaces, and community (worship and service) enact this pattern and model these virtues? If they don’t, are there historical models of humble and hope-filled justice-seeking that inspire you? Who has encouraged or mentored you along the way? How can you contribute to shaping your community (workplace, family, church, neighborhood or city) in virtue?

1. Role Models:

Which people in your life serve as a beautiful model of handling anger or seeking justice or walking humbly? What have they taught you? What do they help you see in yourself? What do they reveal about God to you? How can you imitate their example? The next time you are confronted by challenges, what kind of formation and options for faithful response could they help you envision?