



Discussion Questions



1. Think back to growing up—in your family, school, sports, or early jobs. Can you share a story of a time when you realized you were expected to achieve, perform, or "make things happen"?
2. In what specific area of your life right now—work, parenting, personal goals, or even your spiritual habits—do you most feel the temptation to simply “muscle through” it or rely on pure willpower in order to keep achieving?
3. Read Jeremiah 17:5-8 together. Talk about what you notice about the tumbleweed/dry bush and in what ways that might describe your spiritual life right now. What stands out to you about the image of the tree planted by the water? When or how has that image described you?
4. We talked about the idea that our drive to produce and achieve can actually mess with our ability to have a faith that lasts. Do you agree with that? What do you think the connection is between our drive to accomplish and our spiritual endurance?
5. What is an area or circumstance in your life right now that genuinely does not feel ruled by peace? Rather than trying to fix or solve that situation in your own strength, what is one tangible way you could lean toward a centered soul this week so you can actually receive God's peace?
6. Herbert Alphonso described personal vocation not as our job, but as our unique, unrepeatable identity. When you walk into a room—without trying to perform, fix anything, or impress anyone—what do you believe reliably shows up simply because of who God made you to be? For those in the group who know each other well: Take a moment to speak into each other's lives. What gift, presence, or grace do you reliably experience when that person is in the room?

7. Describe what it looks like (or could look like) for you to enjoy God's presence without anything tangible happening as a result (no agenda, no assignment, no need to be useful). What would you like that to look like in your relationship with God? What could you try this week as a way to "hang out" with God like that?