

# DISCUSSION GUIDE || February 11 & 12, 2026

## REMEMBER

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- Our faith is not just meant to be *believed*, it's meant to **be lived**. Our belief informs our behavior.
- Our **5 Core Practices** are TNC's summary of Christian living and our intention to live it together
- Core Practice 4 (GROW DISCIPLES): We commit to make time for God and others for transformational relationships to grow.
- We were made *from* relationship (God as Trinity), *for* relationship (to partner as image-bearers), and we are made *by* relationship (being with God and within community forms us).
- There's a rhythm that God baked into our partnership with God (and modeled by Jesus) of **fruitful work** and **intentional rest**. We disengage in order to more fully engage the world around us.

## REFLECT on our **practice**

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1. *What are some of the ways you regularly practice creating space for intentional connection with God and connection with other people?*

## READ Genesis 1.26–2.3

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## REFLECT on the **passage**

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2. *What word, phrase, or observation is the most interesting to you from this familiar passage? Why?*
3. *What does it mean for humans to be made in “God’s image and likeness?”*  
*What are the implications for yourself and others?*
4. Barbara Brown Taylor said in *Leaving Church*, “Stop for one whole day every week, and you will remember what it means to be created in the image of God, who rested on the seventh day not from weariness but from complete freedom. **The clear promise is that those who rest like God find themselves free like God**, no longer slaves to the thousand compulsions that send others rushing toward their graves.” *What is the relationship between creating space and this kind of freedom?*  
*Or, what does this kind of rest teach us or do for us?*
5. Look at **Mark 2.23-28**. *What is Jesus teaching us (and these leaders) about the Sabbath here?*
6. Create space to pray for our church—for a) **healthy rhythms individually** and for b) **hospitality toward newcomers and neighbors as a community**. *What else can we pause and pray for right now?*

ANNOUNCEMENT: Our **Ash Wednesday Service** is next week, Feb. 18 @ 7pm

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