

## West Towne Circles Discussion Guide

# Thrive

## Week Four: Lament // Celebration

In a culture surrounded by the impact of COVID-19, it's time for God's church to thrive. No matter how chaotic this world may seem, God has given us everything we need to thrive in our lives, our rhythms, with our resources, and in our relationships. So many of us will view this season that we're in as just a time of survival. But what if God is calling his church to thrive in the midst of chaos? What if God is calling you to become even more alive in him during this time? What if God is inviting his people to a deeper, more meaningful faith in him? We believe he is, and we're excited to discuss this topic over the next several weeks.

This week - we took time to lament and celebrate. We lamented the injustice and suffering that we see around us, while celebrating God's goodness and faithfulness in the midst of it. We know that we're called to "mourn" when it is time to mourn, and "dance" when it is time to dance. We should hold these postures closely together, not just in this time but throughout our lives.

## Reading and Discussion

1. Each of us tend to have either a more "positive" or "negative" personality type. You may be a pessimist or an optimist. Which posture comes more natural for you – celebrating or lamenting? What's healthy about entering into the practice which feels uncomfortable for you?
2. If you feel comfortable, share about a season in your life in which was a season of celebration. In the same way, share about a season that warranted lament.
3. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. What about this passage stands out to you?
4. The last few months have taken a toll on everyone. What has this season felt like for you? What's been your response throughout most of it, and where have you seen God moving in this season?

5. As you close, spend some time praying for each other, and where God is calling each during this season. Some of your group may be in a season of lament, and others may be in a season of celebration. Often - it's a bit of both. Express that sorrow and joy to God through prayer for one another.