Mystery – The Mystery of Life
Weekend Discussion Questions
March 7-8, 2015

Community:

1. There's something intuitive that we all know—in many cases, for new life to happen, something else has to die first. What are some examples of that in nature?

2. What are some examples of that in our life experience?

Core:

1. Take a little time to reflect on this series as a group—what are some of the ways that the "mystery" of Christ in you has been made clearer?

2. Think about the phrase – "**To repent is to rethink our strategy for life now that the option (the reality) of the Kingdom is near (Christ is in us, God is near)."** What are some times when you've known you needed a new strategy for your life? What were the circumstances, relationships, feelings that lead you there?

3. Jim quoted another author who said, "I not only want to have faith IN Jesus, I also want to have the faith OF Jesus." What does that mean?

4. Think back to the story of Abraham's covenant with God—why do you think that God used circumcision as a sign of the covenant between them? What did it signify?

5. Read John 12:24. Why do you think that Jesus tells his disciples this?

6. Think about some of the initiation rituals around the world: What are some the things that must be given up to pass from childhood into adulthood for men and women? What would happen if there were no death (nothing lost or given up) when you move into adulthood?

7. Reflect on initiation when you read Colossians 2:9-12. What does it mean when Paul says that in Jesus the whole fullness of God dwells bodily?

8. What does Paul mean when he says that by Jesus you were circumcised with a circumcision made WITHOUT hands? How does it impact you, personally, to have experienced a non-physical circumcision in Christ?

Challenge:

1. Read Colossians 2:13-14. What does it mean for you, in your everyday life, to be "made alive together with God"?

2. Once you've been made alive in Christ, how do you continue to live that out, and experience it to a greater extent?