



Uncomfortable: The Awkward Beauty of Biblical Community

A 28-Day Devotional for Audacity Church

I'm so glad you're taking this 28-day journey with us through Uncomfortable: The Awkward Beauty of Biblical Community.

This devotional is designed to help you walk deeper with Jesus and with others. We believe discipleship isn't just learning about Jesus — it's becoming like Him. Apprentices of Jesus learn to say what He said, do what He did, and walk in His ways. That's what this journey is about.

Community can be awkward. It stretches us, challenges us, and reveals things in us that comfort often hides. But when we lean into the uncomfortable, we discover the beauty of God's design — that life with Jesus is never meant to be lived alone.

Over the next four weeks, we'll explore four truths:

- It's All About Jesus
- People Are the Mission
- The Awkward Parts Are the Best Parts
- You Shouldn't Do Life Alone

Each day includes a short reflection, a practical application, and a rhythm of prayer designed to help you pause, breathe, and listen for God's voice. Whether you're walking through this with your City Group, your family, or on your own, my prayer is that you'll encounter Jesus and rediscover the power of community built on His love.

Let's lean in — even when it's uncomfortable — and trust that God will use it to make us more like Jesus.

Love. Serve. Go,

— Pastor Ronnie Baker

WEEK 1 – IT’S ALL ABOUT JESUS

Big Idea: Biblical community is centered on Christ, not comfort.

Day 1 – Held Together

Scripture (ESV):

“And he is before all things, and in him all things hold together.”
— *Colossians 1:17*

Full Passage for Reference: Colossians 1:15–23

Reflection:

Everything in life finds its meaning in Jesus. He isn’t just part of creation — He holds all of it together. When Jesus is at the center, our relationships have direction, our community has purpose, and our hearts find peace. Without Him, even our best efforts fall apart. But when we make Him the center, everything finds its rightful place.

Application:

Ask yourself: *What’s holding my life together right now — comfort or Christ?* Recenter your heart on Jesus before you begin the day.

Prayer:

Jesus, hold my life together as You hold the universe together. Be at the center of my thoughts, my relationships, and my church.

Challenge:

Pause three times today and say aloud, “Jesus, You are my center.”

Pray

Pause to be still, breathe slowly, and re-center upon God's Presence.

Rejoice and Reflect; choose to rejoice in God’s generous provision.

Ask, what do I need right now? Is there something I am missing or that I am anxious about?

Yield, is there something from the Scriptures, a particular word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for me today...

Day 2 – The Cornerstone

Scripture (ESV):

“Built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone.”

— *Ephesians 2:20*

Full Passage for Reference: Ephesians 2:19–22

Reflection:

A building is only as strong as its cornerstone. Jesus isn't an accessory to our faith — He's the foundation. When we build our lives and community on Him, we find alignment, stability, and strength. When we build on preferences, we crumble.

Application:

Examine your relationships. Are they built on shared convenience or shared commitment to Christ?

Prayer:

Lord, help me build my life on the solid foundation of Jesus. Let my relationships reflect Your truth and grace.

Challenge:

Tell someone today, “We’re standing on Jesus together.”

Pray

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Day 3 – Christ Before Comfort

Scripture (ESV):

“And he is the head of the body, the church. He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in everything he might be preeminent.”

— *Colossians 1:18*

Full Passage for Reference: Colossians 1:15–23

Reflection:

Jesus doesn’t share His throne with anyone or anything. He leads His church and defines its mission. When we put comfort before Christ, we lose our power. But when He is preeminent — first and above all — our community becomes unshakable.

Application:

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas where you’ve prioritized comfort over calling.

Prayer:

Jesus, be first in my life, my relationships, and my church. Teach me to choose obedience over ease.

Challenge:

Take one small step today that places Christ’s mission above your comfort.

Pray

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Day 4 – Reconciled

Scripture (ESV):

“He has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him.”

— *Colossians 1:22*

Full Passage for Reference: Colossians 1:21–23

Reflection:

Before Jesus, we were distant from God — separated by sin. Through His cross, Jesus reconciled us to the Father and to one another. Community begins with reconciliation — vertical and horizontal. As Christ has reconciled us, we are called to pursue peace with others.

Application:

Is there someone you need to forgive or reconcile with? Ask God to begin healing what’s broken.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for reconciling me through Jesus. Help me extend the same grace to others.

Challenge:

Reach out to one person you’ve been distant from. Take the first step toward peace.

Pray

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Day 5 – Worship Together

Scripture (ESV):

“For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell.”

— *Colossians 1:19*

Full Passage for Reference: Colossians 1:15–20

Reflection:

When we gather to worship, we realign our hearts to the truth that Jesus is enough. Worship recenters us on who He is — the fullness of God in human form. As we lift Him up together, our differences shrink and unity strengthens.

Application:

Let your worship today become your witness. Let every act — work, kindness, service — bring glory to Jesus.

Prayer:

Jesus, be glorified in my worship today. Unite Your church around Your presence.

Challenge:

Send a message of encouragement to someone from your City Group, reminding them how you see Jesus at work in them.

Pray

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Day 6 – Faith That Holds

Scripture (ESV):

“If indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard.”

— *Colossians 1:23a*

Full Passage for Reference: Colossians 1:23

Reflection:

Faith isn't about perfection; it's about perseverance. Staying steadfast in Christ anchors us through the storms of life. When our community stays grounded in the Gospel, we become unshakable together.

Application:

Take a few minutes today to thank God for the ways He's kept you steady through difficult seasons.

Prayer:

Lord, help me remain steadfast in faith and anchored in hope. Strengthen my heart to trust You through it all.

Challenge:

Write down three ways God has proven faithful to you this week.

Pray

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Day 7 – The Center That Never Shifts

Scripture (ESV):

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”

— *Hebrews 13:8*

Full Passage for Reference: Hebrews 13:1–8

Reflection:

Everything around us changes — people, culture, opinions — but Jesus never does. His truth, love, and presence remain constant. When our community centers on Him, we can stand firm in any season.

Application:

Spend a few moments reflecting on how Jesus has remained faithful to you through change.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for being unchanging in a world that constantly shifts. Help me to anchor my heart in Your constancy.

Challenge:

Invite someone to City Group or Sunday service — help them find the same center that never shifts.

Pray

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WEEK 2 – PEOPLE ARE THE MISSION

Big Idea: The Gospel calls us to radical love.

Day 8 – Welcomed In

Scripture (ESV):

“Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.”
— *Romans 15:7*

Full Passage for Reference: Romans 15:1–7

Reflection:

Jesus welcomed us when we were at our worst — not when we had it all together. His welcome was radical, unconditional love. When we receive that kind of grace, we become people who welcome others with open hearts. Every handshake, every invitation, every seat saved on a Sunday can be an act of Gospel hospitality.

Application:

Be intentional in how you welcome people into your life today — at work, at home, and in our church.

Prayer:

Lord, help me love others the way You loved me — without hesitation or condition.

Challenge:

Reach out to someone new this week. Invite them into your circle or your City Group.

Pray

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Day 9 – Love Without Limits

Scripture (ESV):

“Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.”
— *1 Corinthians 13:7*

Full Passage for Reference: 1 Corinthians 13:4–7

Reflection:

Real love doesn't quit when it's hard. It bears the weight, believes the best, and endures through disappointment. The love of Jesus has no expiration date, and that's the same love we're called to live out. Radical love refuses to let fear, failure, or frustration define its limits.

Application:

Think of someone who has been difficult to love lately. Pray for them — and ask God to soften your heart toward them.

Prayer:

Jesus, fill my heart with Your love that bears all things and endures through every season.

Challenge:

Do one practical act of kindness for someone who doesn't expect it.

Pray

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Day 10 – God Loves the Outsider

Scripture (ESV):

“And Jesus answered them, ‘Those who are well have no need of a physician, but those who are sick. I have not come to call the righteous but sinners to repentance.’”

— *Luke 5:31–32*

Full Passage for Reference: Luke 5:27–32

Reflection:

Jesus spent time with people who didn’t fit in — the broken, the outcast, the ignored. He saw what others missed: every soul is valuable to God. Radical love sees the outsider and moves toward them, not away.

Application:

Ask God to show you someone in your life who feels unseen or forgotten. Be His hands and feet to them today.

Prayer:

Father, open my eyes to see people the way You see them — valuable, loved, and redeemable.

Challenge:

Invite someone to coffee or lunch who might be on the outside looking in.

Pray

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Day 11 – Found People Find People

Scripture (ESV):

“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

— *Matthew 28:19*

Full Passage for Reference: Matthew 28:18–20

Reflection:

When Jesus rescued you, He also invited you into His mission. The Gospel isn't something we hoard — it's something we share. Found people find people. Evangelism isn't about perfection; it's about love that can't stay quiet.

Application:

Ask God for one opportunity today to share your story or faith naturally with someone.

Prayer:

Lord, make me bold in love and confident in grace. Help me live so others see You through me.

Challenge:

Write down one person's name who doesn't know Jesus — and begin praying for them daily.

Pray

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Day 12 – A Bigger Table

Scripture (ESV):

“But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind.”

— *Luke 14:13*

Full Passage for Reference: Luke 14:12–14

Reflection:

Jesus challenges our comfort zones with a radical kind of hospitality. The Kingdom of God has a bigger table than our preferences. We don't invite people to impress them — we invite them to bless them. Love doesn't draw lines; it extends tables.

Application:

Ask yourself: Who needs a seat at my table this week?

Prayer:

Lord, expand my heart and my home. Help me make space for people who need Your love.

Challenge:

Invite someone into your home, your city group, or your circle this week.

Pray

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Day 13 – Presence Over Preference

Scripture (ESV):

“Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves.”

— *Philippians 2:3*

Full Passage for Reference: Philippians 2:1–4

Reflection:

Radical love puts others first. It listens before speaking, values presence over performance, and seeks unity instead of agreement. When we value people over preference, the Spirit of Jesus is revealed through us.

Application:

Slow down and listen today. Give your full attention to the people around you — especially those who can’t repay you.

Prayer:

Jesus, help me to see others as You see them — worthy of time, grace, and love.

Challenge:

Spend intentional, uninterrupted time with someone who needs to feel valued today.

Pray

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Day 14 – Love Like Jesus

Scripture (ESV):

“A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another.”

— *John 13:34*

Full Passage for Reference: John 13:34–35

Reflection:

Jesus redefined love. It's not based on worth or similarity — it's based on His example. Love like Jesus is costly, intentional, and enduring. When the church loves this way, the world takes notice.

Application:

Ask yourself: *What would Jesus' kind of love look like in my relationships today?*

Prayer:

Jesus, help me love like You — sacrificially, humbly, and joyfully.

Challenge:

Send a message, call, or write a note of encouragement to someone God brings to mind.

Pray

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WEEK 3 – THE AWKWARD PARTS ARE THE BEST PARTS

Big Idea: Biblical community isn't about comfort—it's about growth.

Day 15 – Iron Sharpens Iron

Scripture (ESV):

“Iron sharpens iron, and one man sharpens another.”
— *Proverbs 27:17*

Full Passage for Reference: Proverbs 27:17–19

Reflection:

Growth is never painless. Sparks fly when iron meets iron, but the friction produces sharpness. In the same way, God uses people to refine us. Relationships that challenge us often shape us the most. Biblical community invites accountability, correction, and encouragement — all wrapped in love.

Application:

Ask yourself: *Who sharpens me spiritually?* If you don't have someone, pray for that relationship to form.

Prayer:

Lord, surround me with people who make me more like You. Give me the humility to receive correction and the courage to offer it with love.

Challenge:

Thank someone who has spoken truth to you, even when it was uncomfortable.

Pray

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Day 16 – Embrace the Awkward

Scripture (ESV):

“Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor.”

— *Romans 12:9–10*

Full Passage for Reference: Romans 12:9–21

Reflection:

We all crave smooth relationships, but authenticity is often awkward. Genuine love goes beyond politeness — it’s real, raw, and risky. Awkwardness means we’re being honest instead of hiding. When love is genuine, God uses those imperfect interactions to deepen connection and maturity.

Application:

Don’t run from awkward moments; see them as opportunities for growth. Speak truth gently and listen humbly.

Prayer:

Jesus, help me love sincerely — with honor, humility, and courage.

Challenge:

Have one honest, uncomfortable conversation this week that could lead to growth.

Pray

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Day 17 – Growth Through Tension

Scripture (ESV):

“Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness.”

— *James 1:2–3*

Full Passage for Reference: James 1:2–4

Reflection:

Tension tests us, but it also strengthens us. Growth rarely comes through ease — it comes through endurance. Every challenge is a chance to let God produce something lasting in us. Awkwardness and tension in relationships can become tools God uses to shape Christlike patience.

Application:

View today’s tension through the lens of transformation. Let discomfort push you toward deeper dependence on God.

Prayer:

Father, thank You for using every season and every struggle to make me complete in Christ.

Challenge:

Journal one way God is using an uncomfortable situation to grow your faith.

Pray

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Day 18 – Authentic Over Polished

Scripture (ESV):

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus his Son cleanses us from all sin.”

— 1 John 1:7

Full Passage for Reference: 1 John 1:5–10

Reflection:

Walking in the light means walking in honesty. It's easy to fake perfection, but real community happens when we drop the mask. When we bring our struggles into the open, we discover the cleansing and connection that come from grace. Authenticity breeds intimacy.

Application:

Be brave enough to be honest. Confess a struggle or share a weakness with someone you trust.

Prayer:

Lord, help me walk in the light. Give me courage to be real and grace to receive truth.

Challenge:

Share a piece of your story with someone in your City Group this week.

Pray

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Day 19 – The Messy Middle

Scripture (ESV):

“If possible, so far as it depends on you, live peaceably with all.”

— *Romans 12:18*

Full Passage for Reference: Romans 12:16–21

Reflection:

Community often exists in the messy middle — between disagreement and grace, between offense and forgiveness. Peace isn’t always easy, but it’s always worth pursuing. Living peaceably requires humility, patience, and the willingness to be misunderstood for the sake of unity.

Application:

Ask yourself: *Am I contributing to peace or tension in my relationships?* Choose humility today.

Prayer:

God, give me Your peace and help me extend it wherever I go.

Challenge:

Reach out to someone you need to make peace with — even if it’s awkward.

Pray

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Day 20 – Awkward but Holy

Scripture (ESV):

“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”

— *John 13:14*

Full Passage for Reference: John 13:1–17

Reflection:

Jesus modeled humility in one of the most awkward moments imaginable — washing His disciples’ feet. Love that serves often feels uncomfortable at first, but it becomes holy in obedience. When we serve with humility, we reflect the very heart of Christ.

Application:

Look for one simple way to serve someone today — even if it feels inconvenient or unnoticed.

Prayer:

Jesus, give me a servant’s heart. Let me love others through humility and grace.

Challenge:

Do one anonymous act of kindness for someone today.

Pray

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Day 21 – Growth Is Greater Than Comfort

Scripture (ESV):

“I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”
— *Philippians 3:14*

Full Passage for Reference: Philippians 3:12–14

Reflection:

Paul pressed forward, not backward. Growth always requires movement — and movement requires discomfort. When we choose progress over passivity, we experience the transforming power of God. Spiritual maturity is not found in comfort but in surrender.

Application:

Ask God where He’s calling you to grow. Don’t stay where you are — press forward in faith.

Prayer:

Lord, I choose growth over comfort. Strengthen me to pursue the upward call in Christ Jesus.

Challenge:

Try a new spiritual practice this week — fasting, solitude, or a prayer walk — to stretch your faith.

Pray

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WEEK 4 – YOU SHOULDN'T DO LIFE ALONE

Big Idea: We were created for connection.

Day 22 – Not Good Alone

Scripture (ESV):

“Then the Lord God said, ‘It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for him.’”

— *Genesis 2:18*

Full Passage for Reference: Genesis 2:18–25

Reflection:

From the beginning, God designed us for connection. Loneliness wasn't part of His plan. We reflect God's relational nature when we share life with others. Isolation may feel safe, but it's a counterfeit version of the life God intends. True life and transformation happen in community.

Application:

Take one intentional step out of isolation. Send a message, make a call, or join a group.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for creating me for connection. Help me to reach out when I feel alone and to welcome others who feel forgotten.

Challenge:

Message your City Group or a close friend and tell them how grateful you are for their presence in your life.

Pray

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Day 23 – Built for Fellowship

Scripture (ESV):

“And they devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.”

— *Acts 2:42*

Full Passage for Reference: Acts 2:42–47

Reflection:

The early church didn’t just attend services — they shared life. They prayed together, ate together, learned together, and cared for one another’s needs. Community wasn’t a program; it was a pattern of life. We grow best when we devote ourselves to the same rhythm of shared faith and fellowship.

Application:

Don’t rush out of community. Linger, listen, and lean in. God moves in relationships that take time.

Prayer:

Father, help me to be devoted to Your people and to the fellowship of believers.

Challenge:

Share a meal this week with someone from your church family.

Pray

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Day 24 – Carry Each Other’s Burdens

Scripture (ESV):

“Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”

— *Galatians 6:2*

Full Passage for Reference: Galatians 6:1–5

Reflection:

We were never meant to carry life alone. When we share each other’s burdens, we live out the love of Jesus. The law of Christ is love expressed in compassion and shared weight. Community is not about comparison but about care — stepping into one another’s struggles with empathy and prayer.

Application:

Ask someone, “How can I pray for you this week?” Then listen — and follow through.

Prayer:

Jesus, give me a heart that sees and shoulders the burdens of others.

Challenge:

Commit to praying daily this week for someone in your community. Check in midweek to encourage them.

Pray

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Day 25 – Stay Connected

Scripture (ESV):

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.”

— *Hebrews 10:24–25*

Full Passage for Reference: Hebrews 10:19–25

Reflection:

Faith flourishes in connection. When we meet together, encourage each other, and spur one another on toward love and good deeds, we strengthen the body of Christ. Isolation weakens our faith, but fellowship multiplies our strength.

Application:

Recommit to consistent community — both Sunday worship and weekly connection.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the gift of the church. Help me to stay connected and encourage others to do the same.

Challenge:

Invite someone who’s been distant to rejoin church or City Group this week.

Pray

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Day 26 – The Gift of Accountability

Scripture (ESV):

“Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow.”

— *Ecclesiastes 4:9–10*

Full Passage for Reference: Ecclesiastes 4:9–12

Reflection:

Accountability is not control — it's care. We all need people who help us stay aligned with God's truth when we drift. When we fall, godly friends help us rise again. True accountability protects, restores, and strengthens our walk with Jesus.

Application:

Identify one person you can be open and accountable with — someone who loves you enough to challenge you.

Prayer:

Lord, thank You for the people who lift me up when I fall. Help me to be that kind of friend to others.

Challenge:

Reach out to someone who has encouraged you in your walk with Christ. Thank them specifically.

Pray

Pause to be still, breathe slowly, and re-center upon God's Presence.

Rejoice and Reflect; choose to rejoice in God's generous provision.

Ask, what do I need right now? Is there something I am missing or that I am anxious about?

Yield, is there something from the Scriptures, a particular word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for me today...

Day 27 – Strength in the Circle

Scripture (ESV):

“Oil and perfume make the heart glad, and the sweetness of a friend comes from his earnest counsel.”

— *Proverbs 27:9*

Full Passage for Reference: Proverbs 27:9–10

Reflection:

Godly friendships refresh the soul. In a culture that values independence, biblical friendship is a quiet rebellion — choosing presence, loyalty, and truth. True friends celebrate, challenge, and comfort. Their counsel brings clarity and their faith brings strength.

Application:

Celebrate the friends who help you walk faithfully with Jesus. Let them know how much they matter.

Prayer:

Jesus, thank You for the friends who bring joy and wisdom into my life. Help me to be that kind of friend in return.

Challenge:

Send a message or post celebrating your City Group or a friend who strengthens your faith.

Pray

Pause to be still, breathe slowly, and re-center upon God's Presence.

Rejoice and Reflect; choose to rejoice in God's generous provision.

Ask, what do I need right now? Is there something I am missing or that I am anxious about?

Yield, is there something from the Scriptures, a particular word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for me today...

Day 28 – Better Together

Scripture (ESV):

“That they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me.”

— *John 17:21*

Full Passage for Reference: John 17:20–26

Reflection:

Before the cross, Jesus prayed for our unity. Our oneness is not optional — it’s essential to our witness. When the church lives as one body under one Savior, the world sees a living picture of the Gospel. We are better together, not because we’re the same, but because Christ is the center.

Application:

Be a unifier. Wherever there’s division, choose peace and grace.

Prayer:

Lord, make us one as You and the Father are one. Let our unity reveal Your glory to the world.

Challenge:

Pray for unity in Audacity Church and among all the churches in your city today.

Pray

Pause to be still, breathe slowly, and re-center upon God's Presence.

Rejoice and Reflect; choose to rejoice in God’s generous provision.

Ask, what do I need right now? Is there something I am missing or that I am anxious about?

Yield, is there something from the Scriptures, a particular word or phrase that the Holy Spirit is highlighting for me today...

Thank you!

Biblical community is rarely comfortable, but it is always beautiful.

When Jesus is the center, people are the mission, awkward moments become sacred, and life together becomes a living witness to the Gospel.

Remember:

- You weren't created to walk alone.
- The awkward parts often lead to the deepest growth.
- Radical love is the evidence of true discipleship.
- Jesus still holds all things — and all people — together.

May this journey make you more like Him.

May our community be marked by grace, truth, and courage.

And may the awkward beauty of biblical community continue to shine through Audacity Church and beyond.

Love. Serve. Go,

– Pastor Ronnie