

# QUESTIONS FOR OUTCOMES (EXAMEN)

Socrates once said, “The unexamined life is not worth living.” While this may seem a bit strong, there are certainly passages in the Bible that would support this idea. Psalm 139:23–24 says: <sup>23</sup> “Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. <sup>24</sup> See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting.” The Psalmist is asking for input and surrendering to the answer he receives from God.

Personal reflection is a critical part of the Christian life. In 2 Corinthians 13:5, Paul (speaking to a community of Christians) urges the Corinthians to “examine themselves to see whether we are in the faith” and to “test ourselves.” The purpose of routine reflection is not to compare ourselves to others. It certainly isn’t to make us feel bad about ourselves. It helps us to clarify how we’d like to develop our own faith. It provides clear action steps. It invites help and accountability in our lives.

Take some time to answer the questions below. It would be helpful to write out your answers and then, in a year from now, review your answers and write out new responses.

## **I am pursuing a deeper relationship with God**

- In what ways in the past year have you clarified your commitment to Jesus?
- What habit or practice helped you to develop your relationship to God this past year?
- What is your fondest memory with God from this past year?

## **I am centering my identity in Christ**

- What is an area of your life that became more Christlike this year?
- When did someone mention that you showed great faith this year?
- What was your most vivid Christian moment this year?

## **I am modeling my character after Christ**

- How often do you read the Gospels to discover who Jesus is?
- Is there a story or teaching of Jesus that has changed the way that you live your life this year?
- What significant change have you seen in your life in the past year that stems from your relationship with Jesus?

## **I am growing in authentic community**

- During the past year, how did you support someone in the midst of great need?
- Who has been able to help you to carry a personal burden this year?
- Who taught you the most about the Christian life this year?

## **I am influencing others to Christ**

- How has your faith given you a deeper love for all people?
- How have you served your neighbors, coworkers, peers, or family members this year?
- How confident and comfortable were you in faith conversations this past year?