

WELCOME TO ANIMATE!

This *Facilitator Guide* will help you make the most out of the *videos* and the *Journal*. As you prepare to dive into this session, keep these things in mind:

- You know your group best. Adjust the activities as needed based on the interests, questions, and background of group members.
- Get ready for creativity. The *Journal* is meant to be a right brain experience. Think of the *animate* experience as a journey through the content with many stopping points based on the questions, wonderings, and interests of the group.
- You don't have to know everything. As a facilitator, you don't have to be the expert, or even agree with everything the speakers say. Be ready to spark conversation and see where this takes the group as you explore these ideas together.
- This is not a one-day-a-week commitment. This is an opportunity for you and your group to not only learn about a rich history spiritual practices like prayer and service and worship, but to try these practices for yourselves. Each session includes a set of six daily exercises to use in the week between sessions. These experiences are meant to stretch participants a bit, to push you into some new ideas about how to integrate the concepts in the class into your everyday lives. Each day also includes some journaling space to reflect on the day's experience or write out a prayer or doodle. Yes, this is asking participants to put some extra time into this class. But that's kind of the point.
- Social media can help. Think of ways to use social media and other online tools to keep the conversation going. How about a Facebook group, a Twitter hashtag, or posts on Instagram or Pinterest?

SESSION FLOW IDEAS

To get each session started, try this structure:

- Recap previous *animate* sessions or other learning experiences.
- Talk through the previous week's practice experience.
- Explore the content on the first *Journal* spread.
- View the video.
- Dive into the rest of the *Journal* content together.

SESSION TITLES

PRAYER | ORIENTED TOWARD GOD

FOOD | EATING, WITH JESUS

WORSHIP | SEEKING GOD'S PRESENCE

SACRAMENTS | A TAPESTRY OF TRADITIONS

MONEY | THE JOY OF SHARING

SERVICE | THE NEEDS RIGHT AROUND YOU

COMMUNITY | AN UNEXPECTED FAMILY

ICON WATCH

Look for these icons that guide you in activities.



— GROUP ACTIVITIES WITH QUESTIONS DESIGNED TO HELP ANIMATE CONVERSATION.



— INTRODUCTORY AND OUT-GOING THOUGHTS TO SET-UP THE SESSION AND TO KEEP INTERACTIONS GOING BETWEEN SESSIONS.



— LEADER TIPS: IDEAS TO HELP FACILITATORS FACILITATE.



— ADDITIONAL CONVERSATION STARTERS



FOR BEST RESULTS

- Reproduce the *Facilitator Guide* in landscape format on 11x17 paper.
- Reproduce the *Journal* pages in landscape format on 8.5x11 paper.
- For both resources, use a color copier.

COMMUNITY: AN UNEXPECTED FAMILY
DOUG PAGITT



Doug pushes us to think of community as more than just a nice idea. He invites us to remake our communities by bringing our gifts, our talents, and our ideas with us wherever we go.



THIS FINAL ANIMATE:PRACTICES SESSION WILL BRING TOGETHER A NUMBER OF PRACTICES—SERVICE, PRAYER, MONEY, WORSHIP. INVITE PARTICIPANTS TO MAKE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN THESE PRACTICES AS YOU TALK ABOUT HOW THEY CAN PARTICIPATE IN THE LIFE OF YOUR FAITH COMMUNITY.



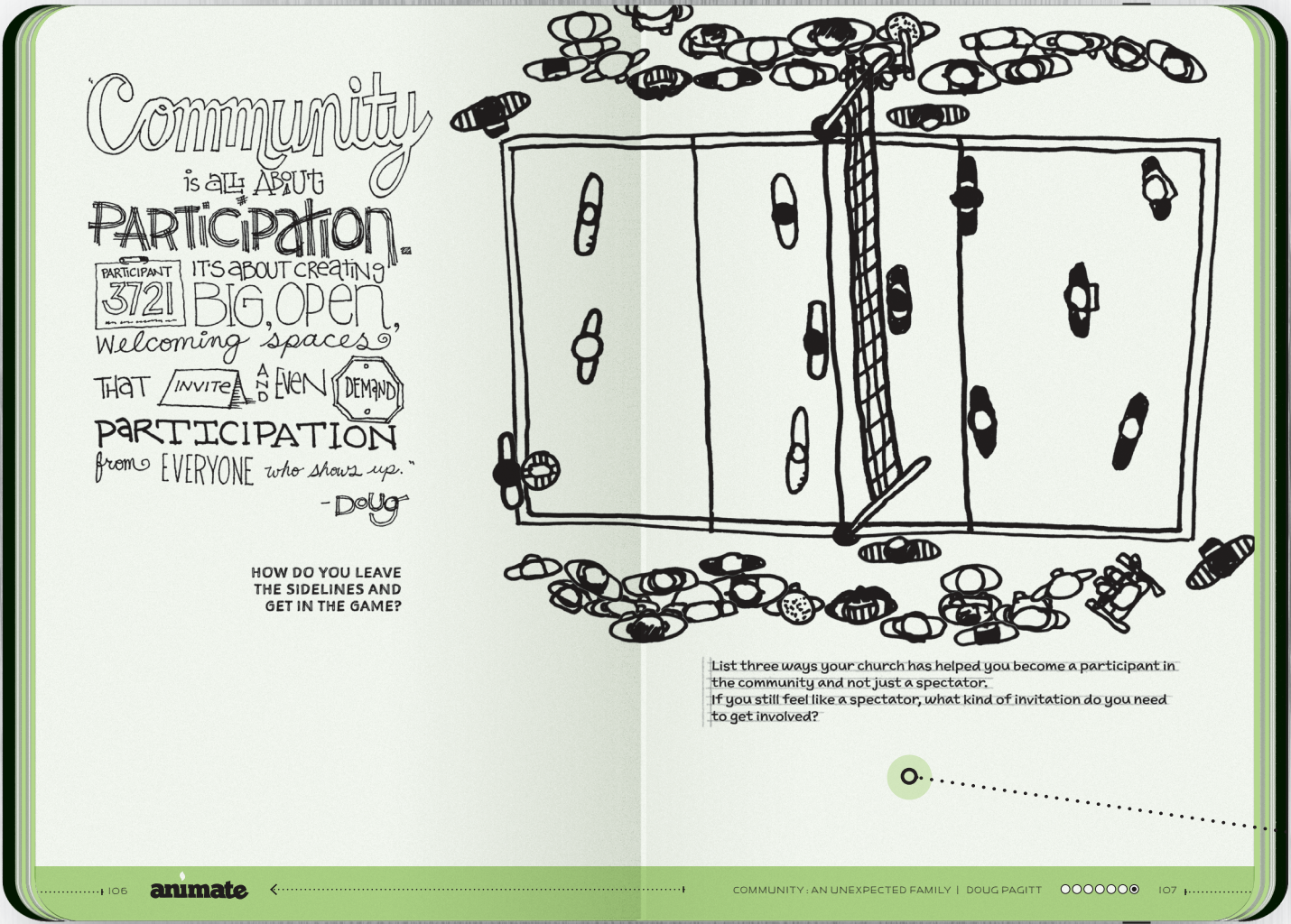
? WHAT HAS BEEN YOUR BEST experience in a community of people? What's been the most challenging?

? WHAT ARE SOME OF THE COMMUNITIES to which you belong? How did you get involved in those communities?

Ask participants to share their responses to this question in groups of three or four.



CONSIDER HANDING THE “FACILITATOR REINS” TO OTHERS DURING THIS SESSION. ASK A DIFFERENT PERSON TO WALK THE GROUP THROUGH A PAGE OR TWO. LET THIS BE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OTHERS TO BRING SOME OF THEIR GIFTS TO THE GROUP AS WELL.



Community
is ALL ABOUT
PARTICIPATION.
IT'S ABOUT CREATING
BIG OPEN,
Welcoming spaces
THAT INVITE A DEMAND
PARTICIPATION
from EVERYONE who shows up.
- Doug

HOW DO YOU LEAVE
THE SIDELINES AND
GET IN THE GAME?

List three ways your church has helped you become a participant in the community and not just a spectator.
If you still feel like a spectator, what kind of invitation do you need to get involved?



WHAT HOLDS YOU BACK from full participation in a community?



IN WHAT WAYS HAS YOUR participation in this course helped you feel more integrated into the life of our faith community?

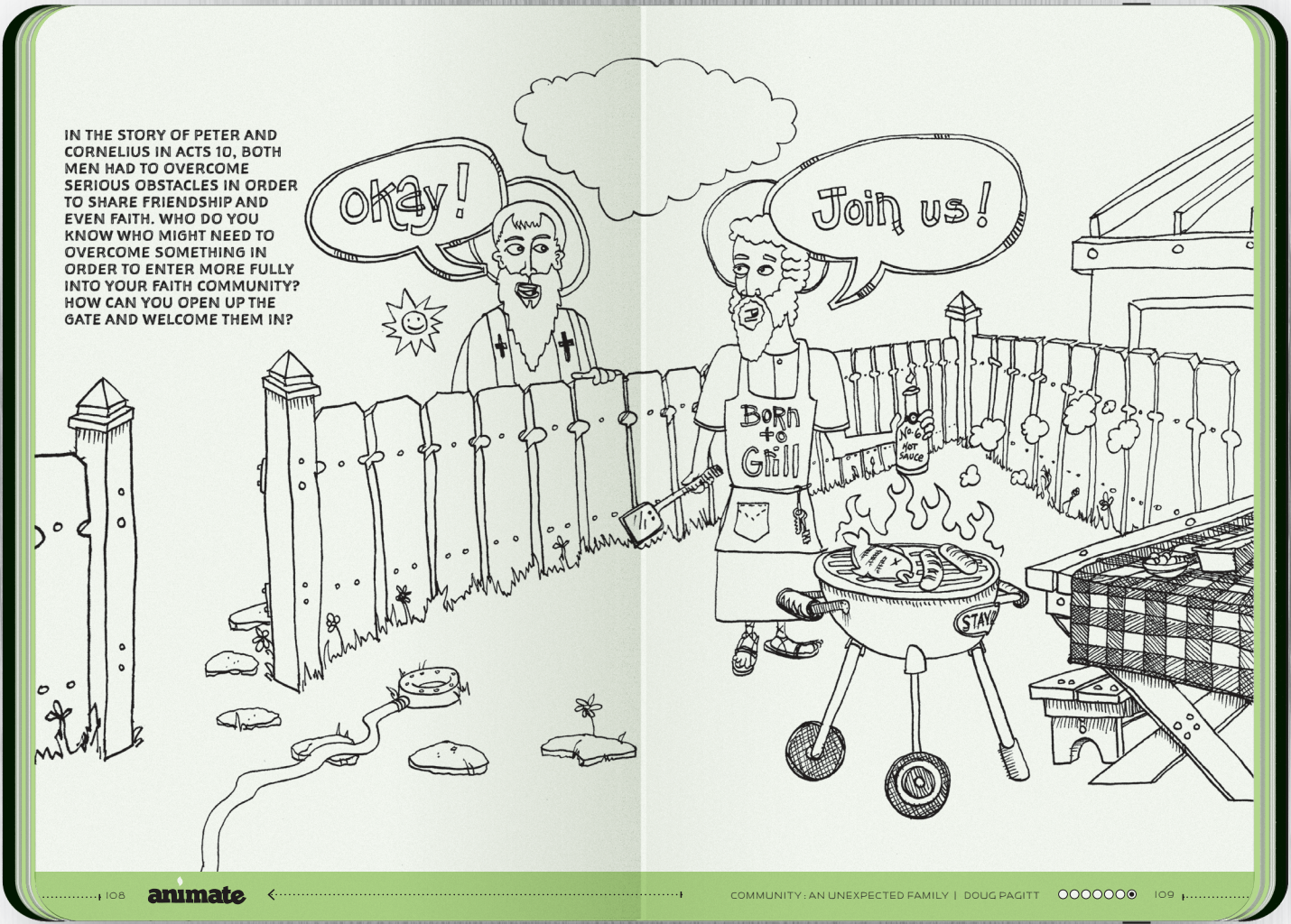


Ask two or three people to share their responses to these questions.



IF THERE HAVE BEEN DOCTRINAL OR THEOLOGICAL CHALLENGES IN YOUR COMMUNITY, THIS SESSION IS A GREAT TIME TO TALK ABOUT THEM. DISCUSS HOW THESE ISSUES CAN BOTH PUSH PEOPLE OUT OF A COMMUNITY AND HELP THOSE INSIDE THE COMMUNITY FEEL MORE SECURE. HOW DO YOU FIGURE OUT WHICH ISSUES TO HOLD ON TO AND WHICH ONES TO LET GO?

WHAT FENCES MIGHT BE standing between your faith community and people who might want to be part of it? How can your community work to pull down those fences?

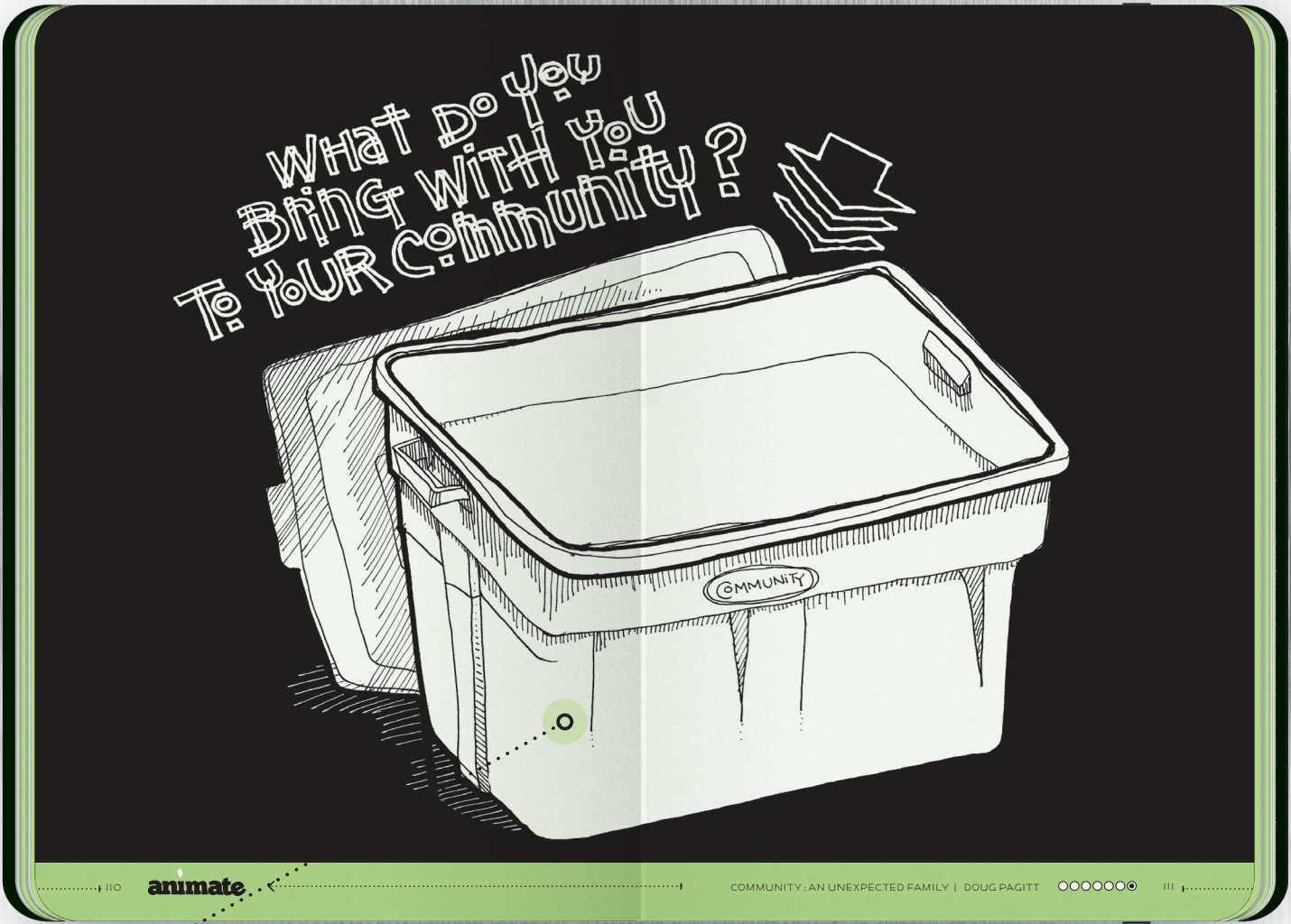


WHAT HESITATIONS DID YOU have before you became part of this community? How did you get past them?

Break in to three groups. Have one group read Acts 10:1-16, another group read vs. 17-33, and the last group read vs. 34-48. Ask each group to summarize their part of the story and share it with the larger group. What does this story tell us about community?



AS YOU WRAP UP THIS SESSION, PLAN A TIME TO GET TOGETHER AGAIN IN A MONTH OR SO TO SEE HOW EVERYONE'S DOING, TO CATCH UP, AND TO CHECK IN ON YOUR EFFORTS AT LIVING OUT THESE NEW PRATICES.

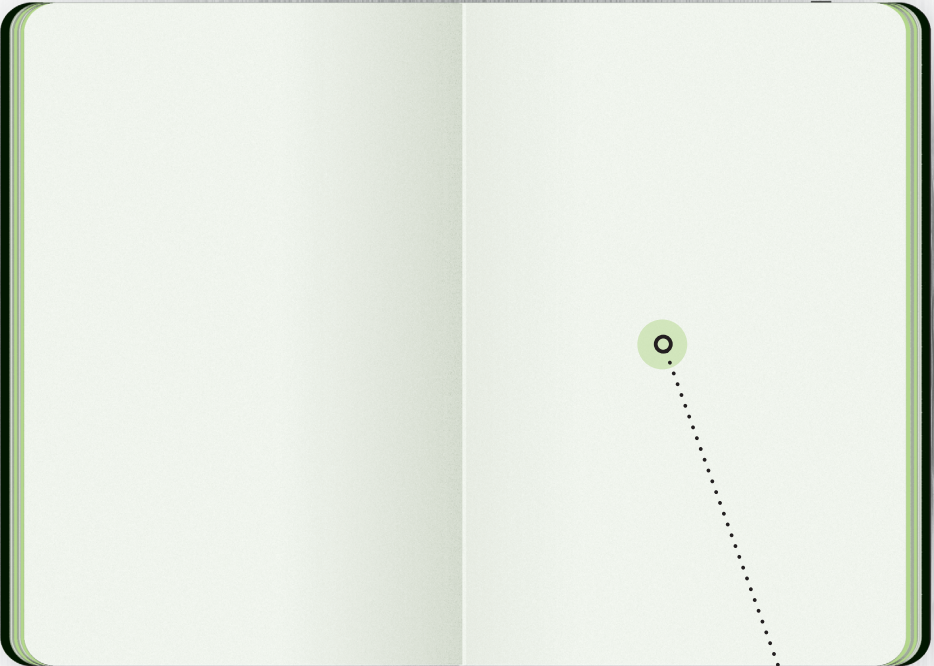
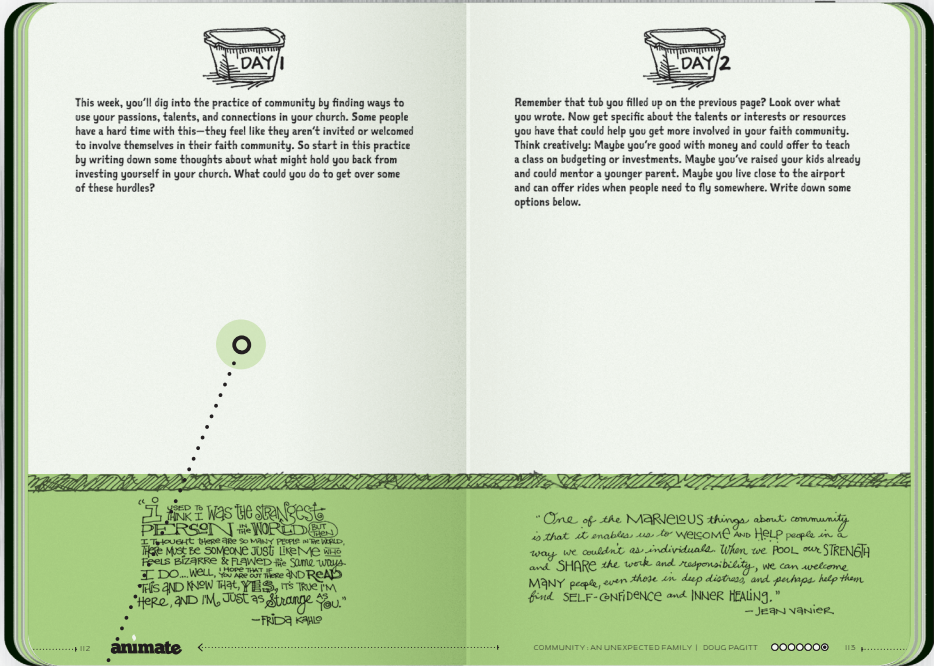


WHAT EXCITES YOU ABOUT life in this community? What challenges you?



WHAT GIFTS, INTERESTS, PASSIONS, or ideas do you have to share? Write them inside the tub.

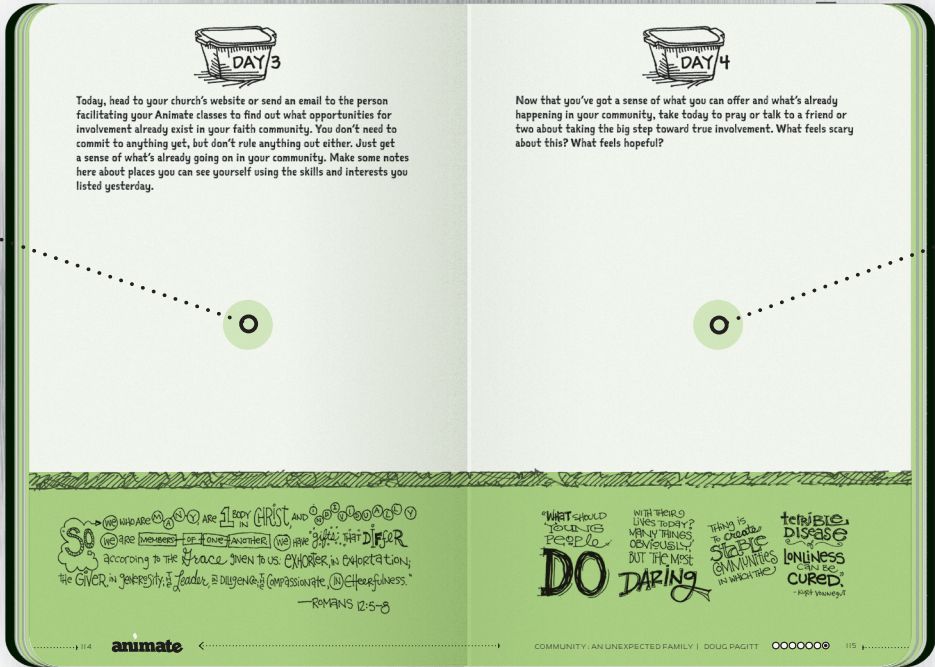
Celebrate the conclusion of Animate:Practices with a time of reflection. Ask participants to talk about the practices that have been most meaningful. What have they tried that's been new? What do they think might be sustainable in their lives?



LAY OUT A CHALLENGE FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE GROUP TO COME TO NEXT MONTH'S REUNION WITH AT LEAST ONE IDEA FROM THIS DAY'S PRACTICE.



GATHER THE NAMES AND CONTACT INFO YOUR GROUP MIGHT NEED FOR THIS PART OF THEIR PRACTICE. IF YOU'VE GOT A COMMON COMMUNICATION SPACE, POST THIS INFORMATION THERE SO PARTICIPANTS CAN FIND IT.



SEND AN EMAIL TO THE GROUP THANKING THEM FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION. LET THEM KNOW YOU'RE EXCITED TO SEE WHERE THESE SESSIONS LEAD THEM, AND LET THEM KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DISCOVERED DURING THIS PROCESS.



MAKE A NOTE TO YOURSELF TO CHECK IN WITH YOUR GROUP'S PARTICIPANTS PERIODICALLY. IF YOU SEE THEM MAKING AN EFFORT TO GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY, NOTICE IT. IF THEY SEEM TO BE STRUGGLING, NUDGE THEM FORWARD WITH ENCOURAGEMENT AND SUGGESTIONS FOR OTHER KINDS OF INVOLVEMENT.