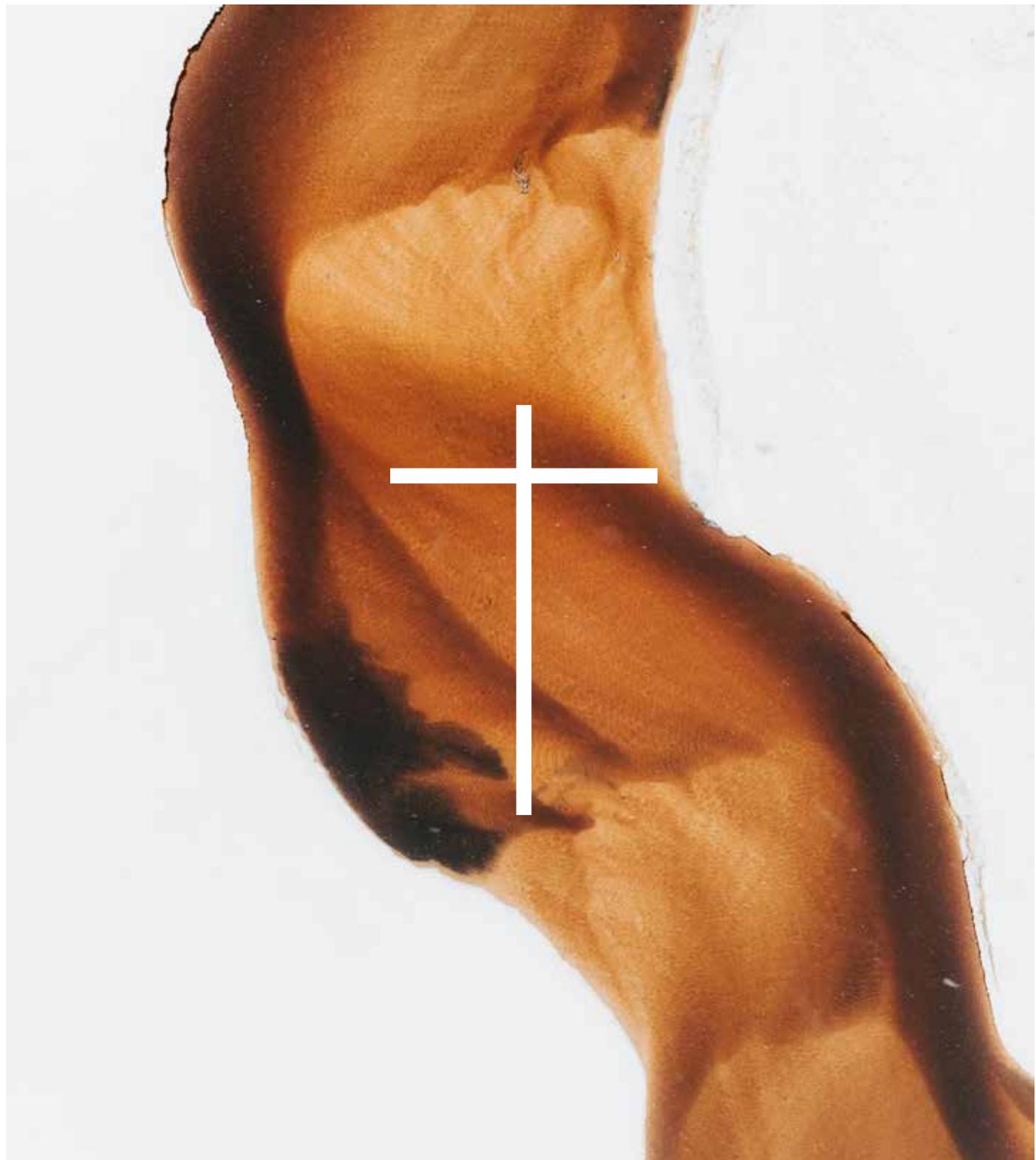
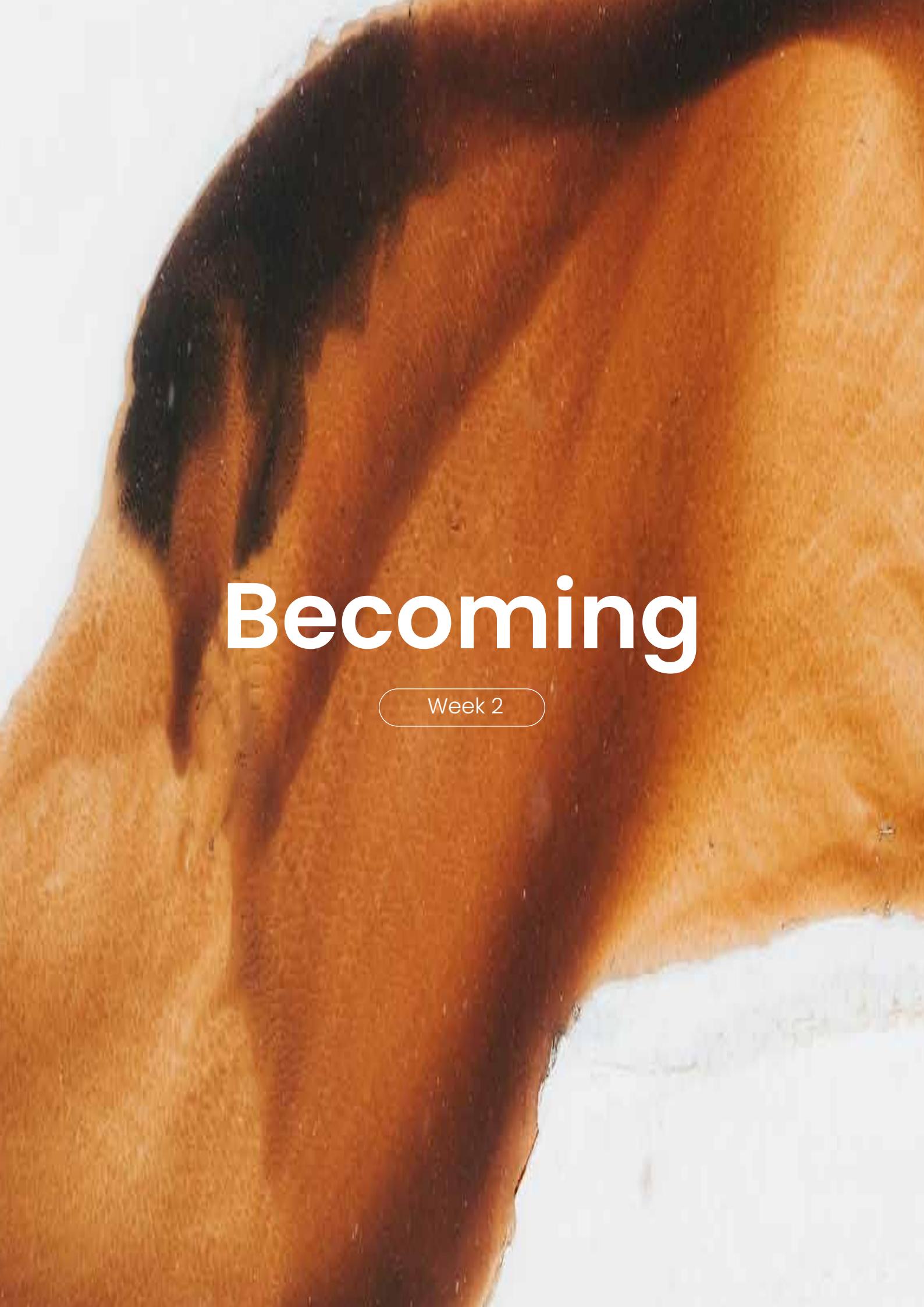




B E C O M I N G



January Teaching Series



Becoming

Week 2

Overview

Many followers of Jesus experience the ache—the gap between who we are and who we long to become in Christ. We try hard to change, but often feel stuck or discouraged. Jesus addresses this ache in John 15, not by calling us to try harder, but by **inviting us to abide**.

Jesus describes Himself as the **true vine**, the Father as the **gardener**, and us as the **branches**. Fruitfulness—Christlike character and love—comes not from effort alone, but from staying deeply connected to Him. “Apart from me you can do nothing.”

Unfruitful branches are not immediately cut off; the Father gently **lifts them up**, repositioning them so they can receive life from the vine. Fruitful branches are **pruned**, not punished, so they can bear even more fruit. Both actions are expressions of God’s love.

Abiding is not automatic. It requires intentional rhythms that help us remain connected to Jesus. The church has historically called these rhythms a **Rule of Life**—a simple trellis that supports spiritual growth and aligns our daily lives with our deepest desire to become like Christ.

Transformation happens not through striving, but through staying connected.

Reading

ABBALOVE

John 15:1-8 NIV

“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. 2 He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful. 3 You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. 4 Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me. 5 “I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. 6 If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. 7 If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. 8 This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples..”

Discussion

What does the word abide or remain mean to you in practical terms?

Where are you tempted to draw life, identity, or security from sources other than Jesus?

What is one habit or practice that helps you stay connected to Jesus?

What is one distraction or attachment that might be pulling you away from abiding?

Where do you sense God inviting you to remain more deeply in Him this season?

Practice

ABBALOVE

Create a simple Rule of Life – a life giving trellis that supports your abiding in Jesus. This is not a set of rigid rules, but a relational rhythm shaped by your deepest desire to be with Jesus, become like Jesus, and do what Jesus did. Start small, be specific and consider your life season and personality (ex: 5 minutes daily in prayer or attending weekly sunday worship)

You can also work on a digital version by visiting:
www.practicingtheway.org/ruleoflifebuilder

DAILY

(Examples: Scripture, prayer, silence, gratitude)

WEEKLY

(Examples: Sabbath, worship, community, rest)

MONTHLY / SEASONALLY

(Examples: fasting, retreat, extended prayer, service)

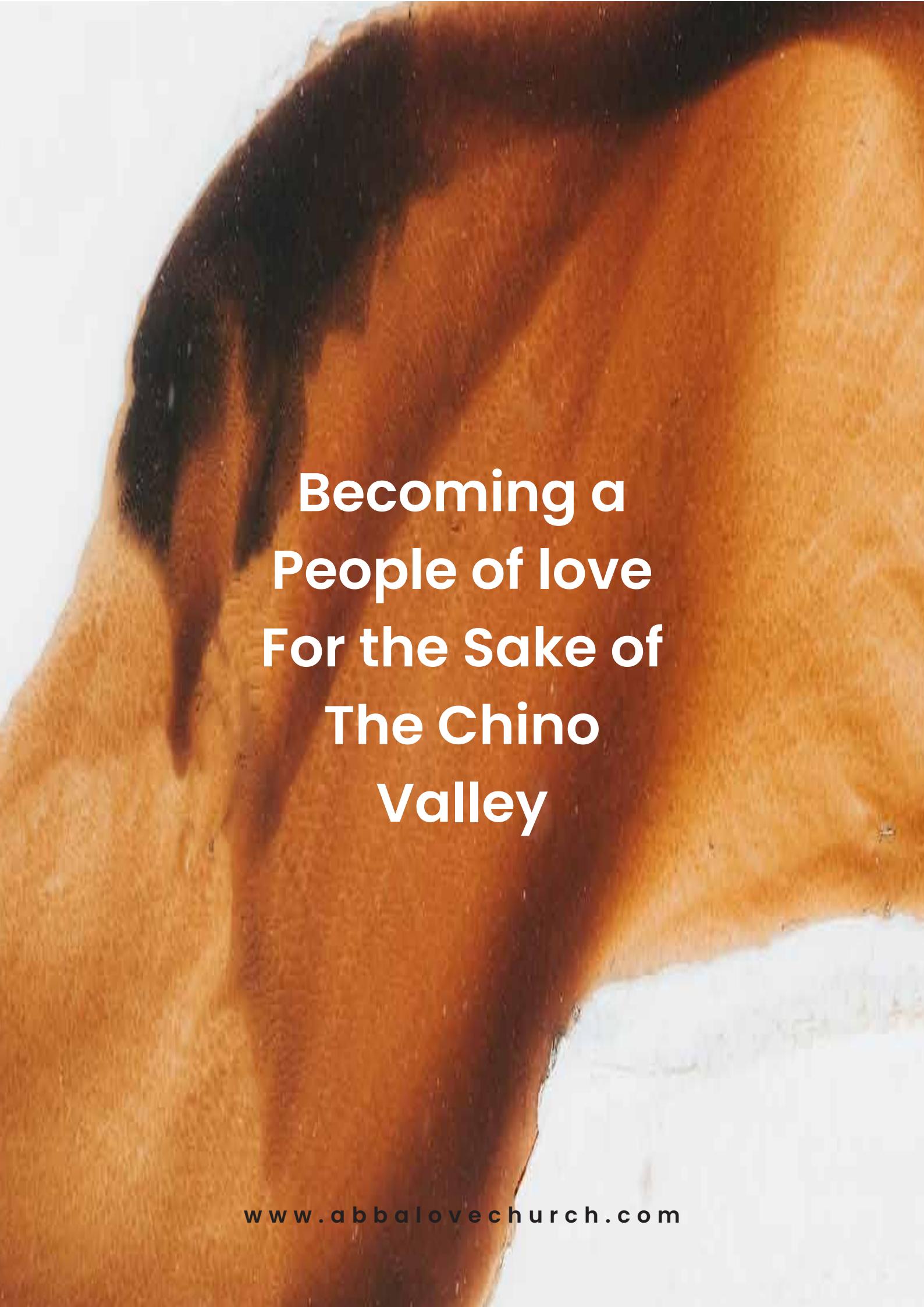
Further Resources

Videos: Becoming Teaching Series - Abbalove Church

Book: Practicing the Way - John Mark Comer

Book: Invitation to a Journey - Robert Mulholland

Book: Renovation of the Heart - Dallas Willard



**Becoming a
People of love
For the Sake of
The Chino
Valley**