

Discernment in Common

DISCERNING DESIRES

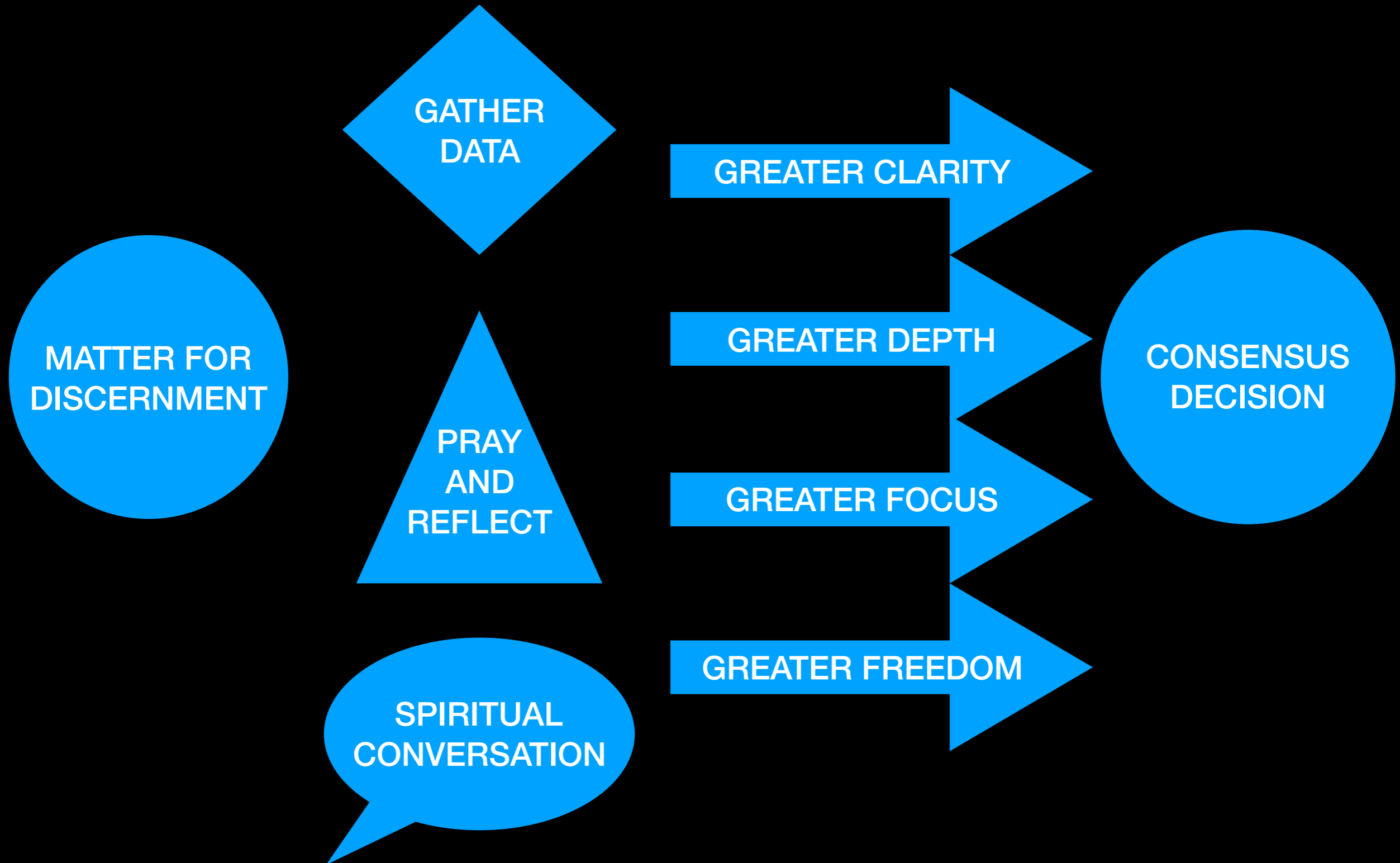
A large iceberg floats in a blue ocean under a blue sky with scattered white clouds. The visible tip of the iceberg is a small, sharp peak, while the submerged portion is a much larger, jagged mass. The water is clear, showing the texture of the ice below the surface.

RECAP

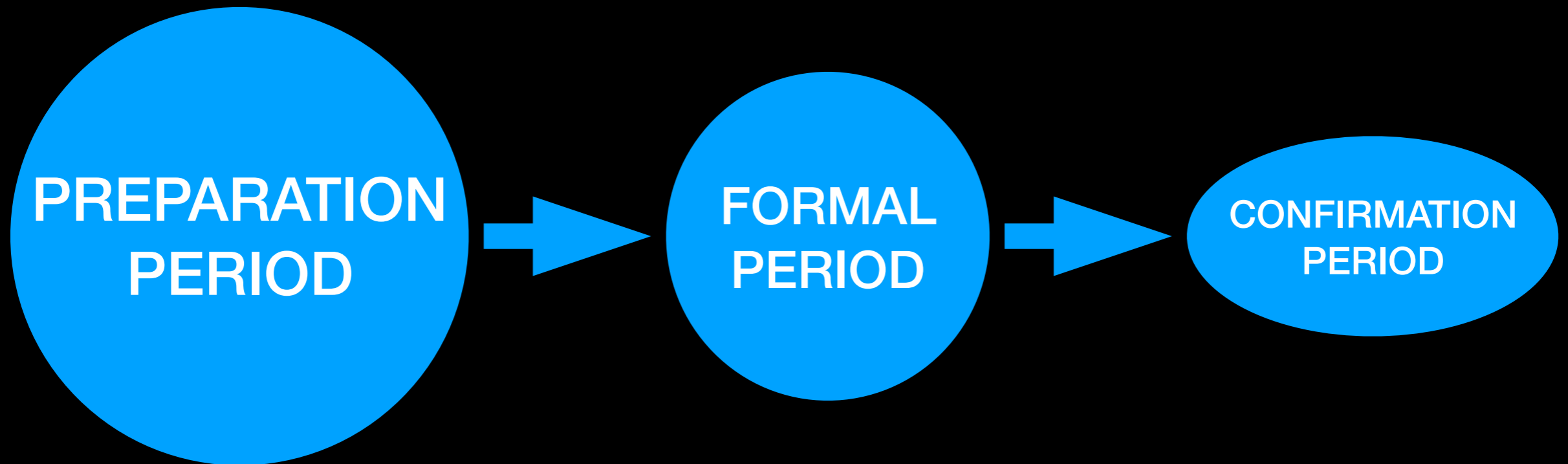
**From the first two days,
what is my TAKE-AWAY
for my personal growth?**

for my school?

PROCESS INTENSIVE



PROCESS INTENSIVE



What we do before formal discernment is as important as the formal discernment itself.

PROCESS INTENSIVE

SELF

OTHERS

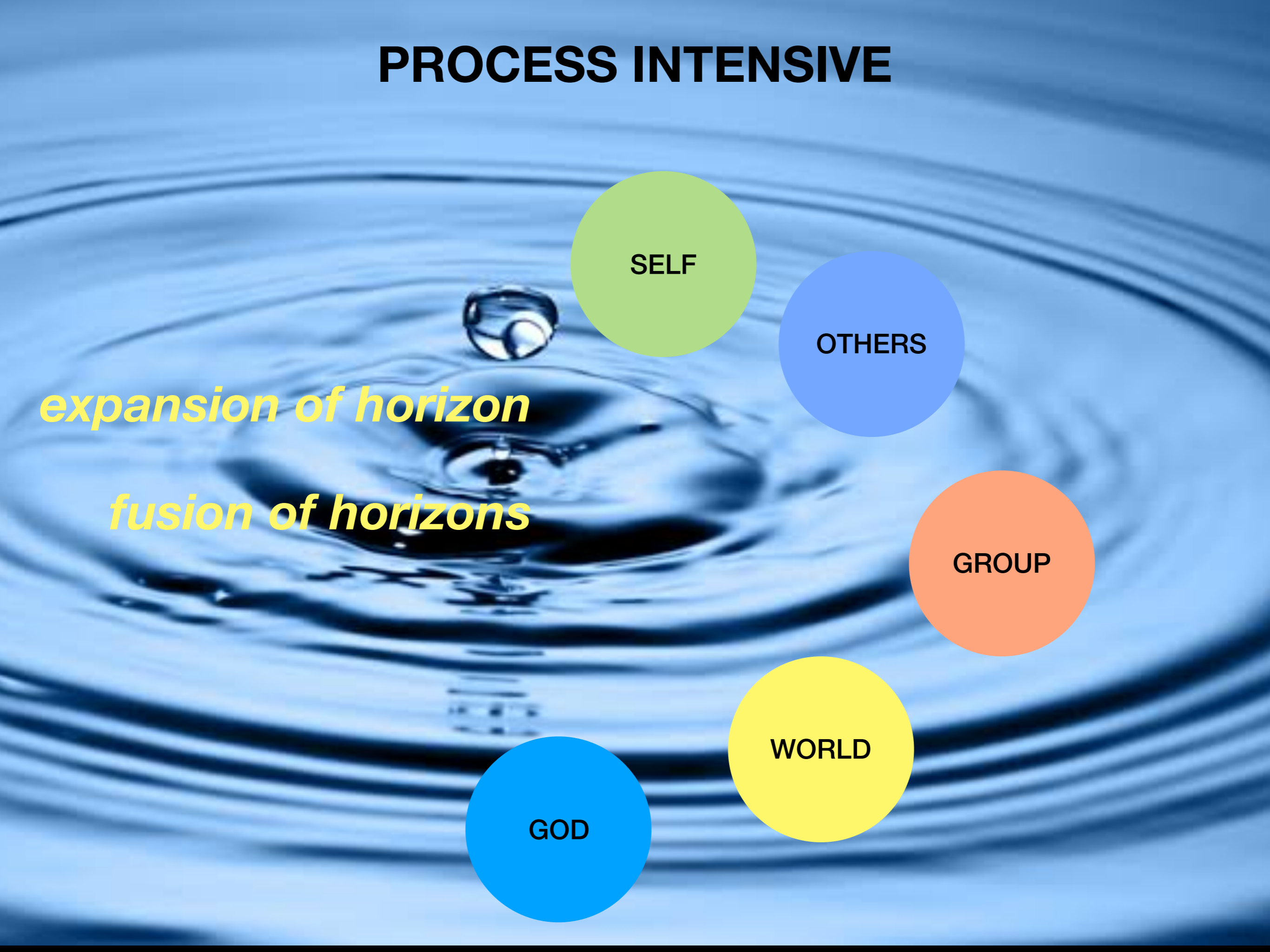
GROUP

WORLD

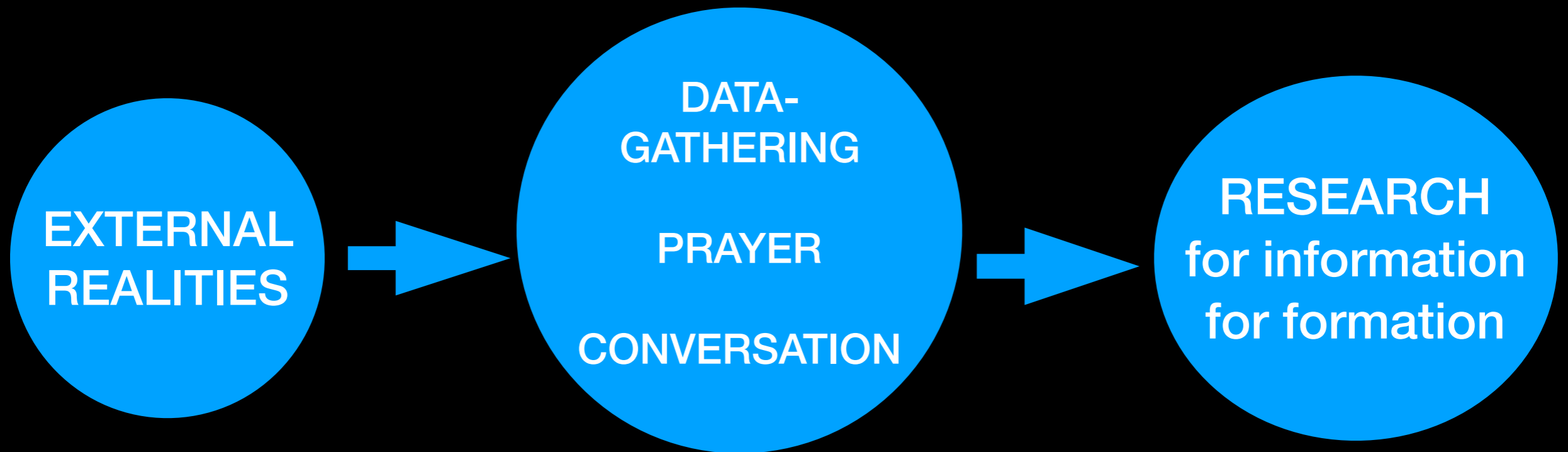
GOD

expansion of horizon

fusion of horizons

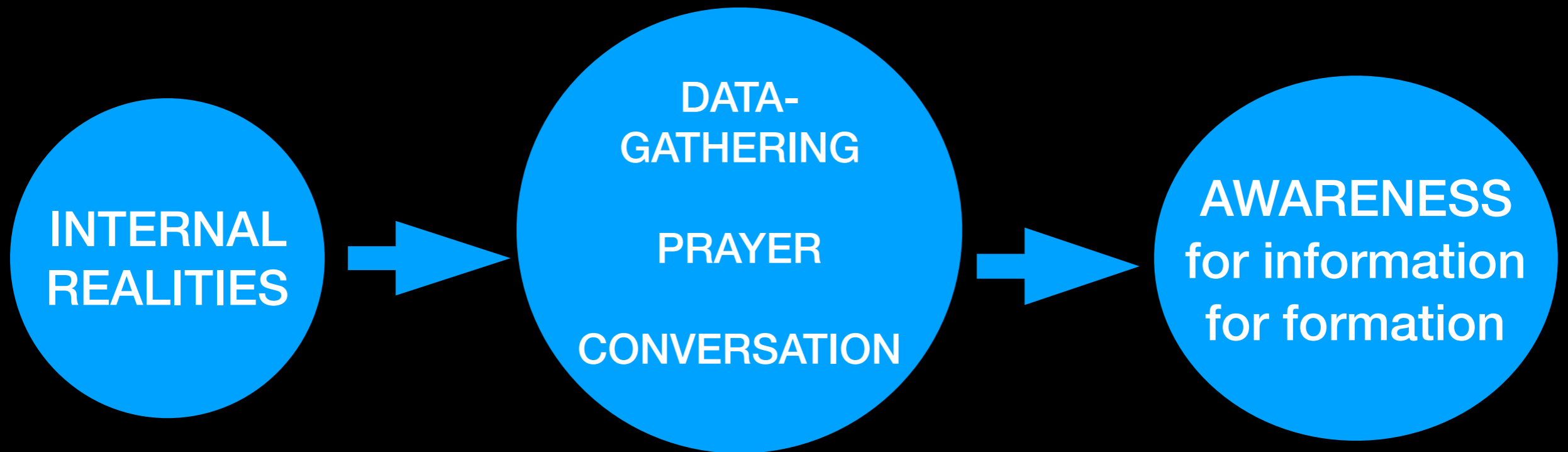


PROCESS INTENSIVE



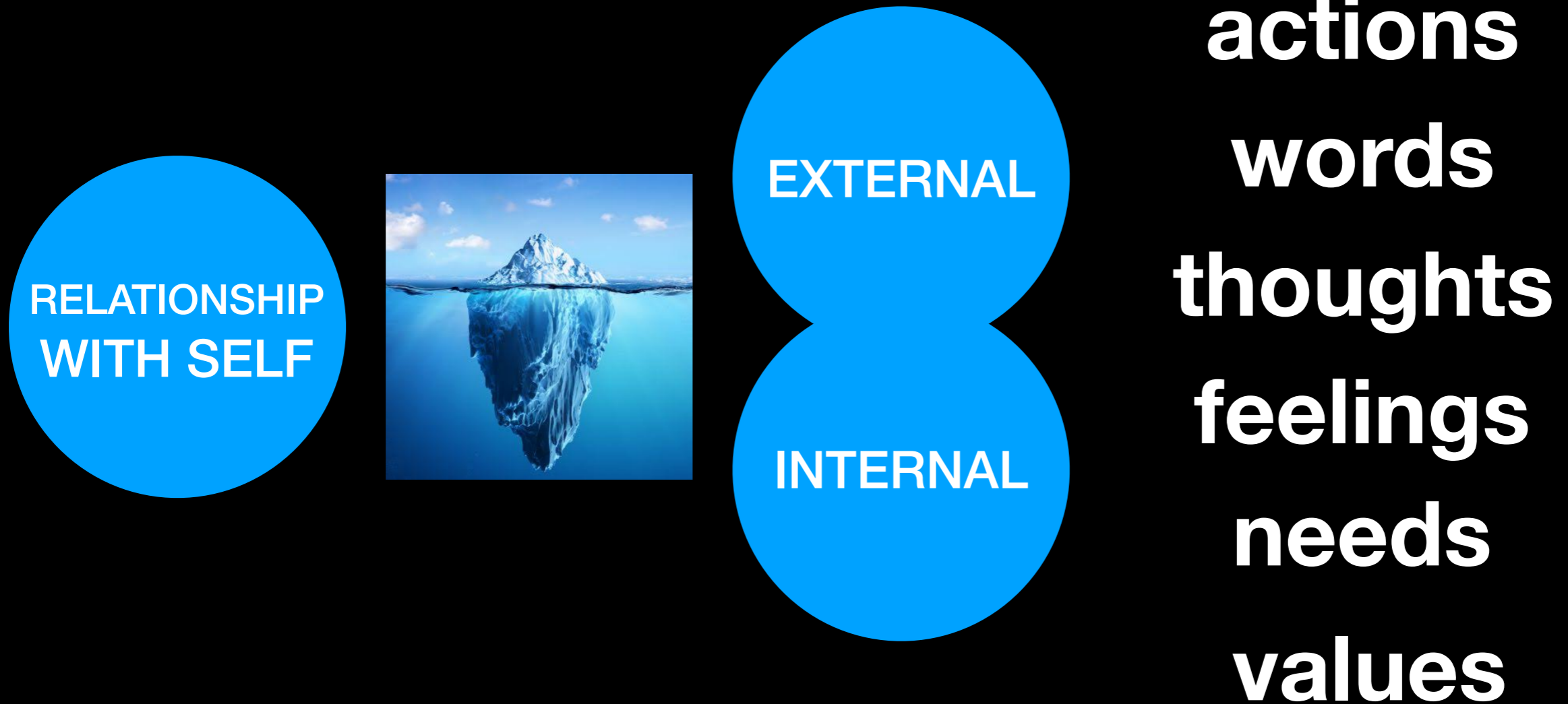
CONTEMPLATIVE DISPOSITION
take a “long, loving, look at the real”

PROCESS INTENSIVE



CONTEMPLATIVE DISPOSITION
take a “long, loving, look at the real”

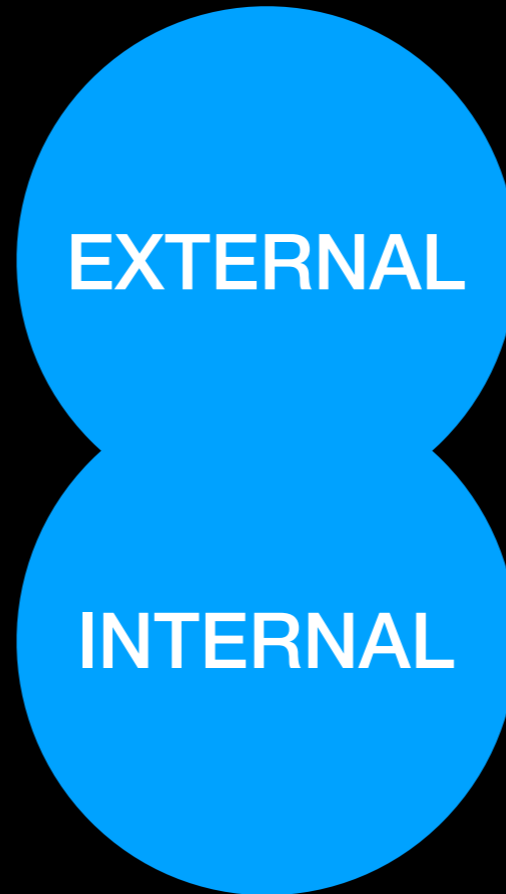
SELF-AWARENESS



To NOTICE...to NAME...to CLAIM...to EXPRESS

GROUP-AWARENESS

RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE
GROUP

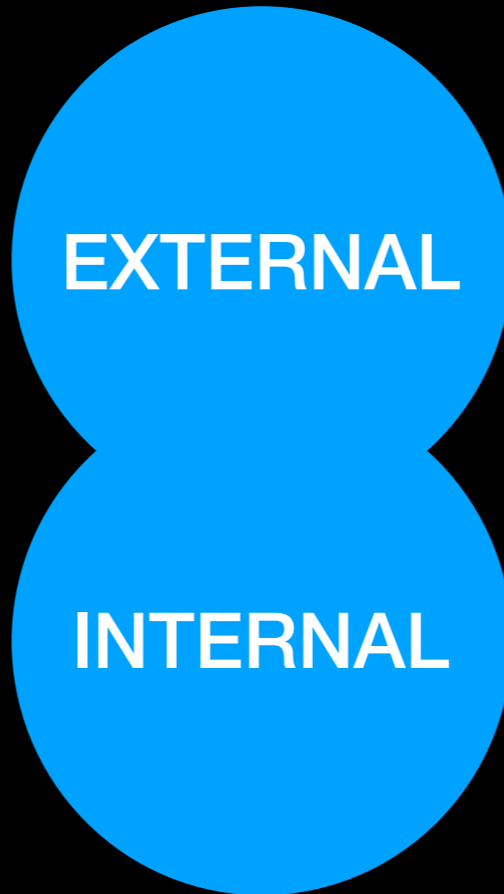


actions
words
thoughts
feelings
needs
values

To NOTICE...to NAME...to CLAIM...to EXPRESS

GOD-AWARENESS

RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD

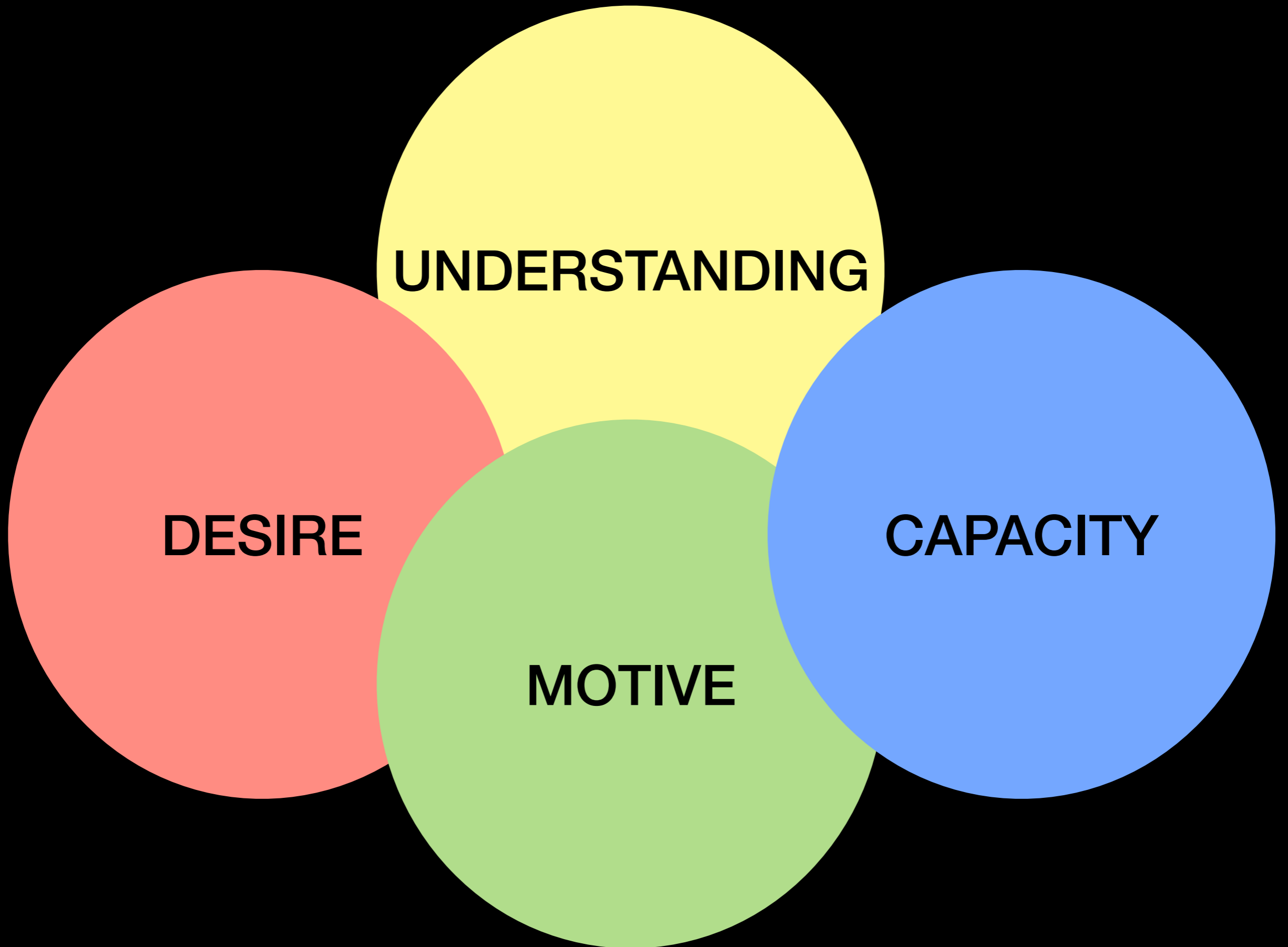


actions
words
thoughts
feelings
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values

To NOTICE...to NAME...to CLAIM...to EXPRESS



If you are going to hire a new teacher, what would you want to know about the applicant in order for you to make a good decision?



UNDERSTANDING

DESIRE

MOTIVE

CAPACITY



DESIRE

Notice one desire that you had yesterday.

If you are going to tell someone about your desire, what are you going to say about it?



DESIRE

“What was it?”

I noticed it.

I named it.

I claimed it.

I expressed it.



DESIRE

“How did I become aware of it?”

I sensed it. (physical senses)

I thought about it.

I felt for it.

I spoke about it.

I did something about it.

It was something I needed.

It was something I valued.



DESIRE

“How important was it?”

I wanted it so bad in the morning. **INTENSITY**

It kept on coming back to me. **FREQUENCY**

By evening, I forgot about it.

DURATION

Individual Reflection

- Take your worksheet, “Awareness Exercise on the Conversation.”
- As you review your notes, notice what desires are evoked in you? If you have not yet noted it down, you may do it now.
- Then, reflect on what inspired them? Did they occur as an insight? Were they something you deeply felt? Were you moved by some needs that you saw? Were you moved by a value that you want to pursue?
- Further reflect: How much do you consider them important for you? How strong do you feel for them? Have they been present to you for some time? How often have you been in touch with them?

Small Group Sharing

- Each one shares 1-2 desires in your list that you feel most important. Give a brief description of them.
- After listening to the expressed desires, as a group, identify which desires are similar or shared by the group and express each of them clearly in one sentence.
- For the other desires that are not shared by the group, also express each of them clearly in one sentence.
- For the desires that are not clear yet the group somehow feels may be of value, try to express them as well.
- Write down all the desires in one manila paper. Label those which are shared by the group, those which are not, and those which are not fully clear.
- Post them on the glass door as before.

More on DESIRES

- Our desires are motivated differently: by experiences, by ideas, by feelings, by needs, by values. It is important in our discernment to be conscious as much as we can of the complex factors that influence and fuel our desires.
- In the process of communal discernment, it is important to recognize not only my own desires but the shared desires of the group, not only the shared desires but also the different as well as conflicting desires, not only the clear desires but also those that have yet to be clarified.

More on DESIRES

- In communal discernment, it is important that the participants have the capacity to share in the desire for the *common good* and the *pursuit of universal human values* and to be constantly working against the instinct of selfish interest.
- More importantly, the individual and the group must be attuned to those desires that are of God. One develops a sensitivity to God's desires by cultivating familiarity with God through a life of faith.