

rhythms



MOSAIC CHURCH DISCIPLESHIP SERMON SERIES

ONE-ON-ONE AND DGROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ABOUT THIS SERIES

Rhythm is important. It functions as the propulsive engine of a piece of music, and it gives a composition structure.

Most musical ensembles contain a rhythm section responsible for providing the rhythmic backbone for the entire group. Rhythms define our lives. The habits we adopt and the patterns we repeat form our daily existence, direct our decisions and feed our motivations. This is true of our physical and emotional lives and also true of our spirituality. We were created for a loving relationship with our Creator that is renewed and strengthened by the rhythms of the Christian life.

In the Christian Life, we need to follow a constant rhythm to fully experience the life God intends for us. These rhythms are in the form of seven core practices that Jesus exemplified which every Christian must commit to doing to see real change, experience growth and fruitfulness.

HOW TO GET THE BEST OUT OF THIS SERIES

As defined by the Lord Jesus Christ himself, "making disciples" or attracting and instructing people to become followers of Christ is the primary mission of the church. As a lifelong process with eternal results, it begins with conversion—repenting of sins and trusting Jesus as the only Savior and Lord—and then continuing on to imitate Him until the disciple becomes more like the Rabbi (teacher) and Master (Lord).

"Rhythms" is our effort to trace the way Jesus lived, His personal rhythms of life; and elements of discipleship Jesus taught to the first disciples. did it and as the Gospel writers recorded it. By design, these lessons were derived from the life of Jesus in the Gospels treated as a synthesized story. That is the reason for having many passages but only from the Gospels included in each lesson as an attempt to give the fullest treatment.

By the time you complete these lessons, you will have taken the step of faith to follow Jesus Christ in the life of obedience, embracing His rhythms. This life-changing step helps you grow as a true and committed disciple of Jesus Christ, following His personal rhythms.

1. Don't miss a worship experience.
2. Join a DGroup or find someone you can discuss these lessons with one-on-one.
3. The best time to start a rhythm is NOW. When you find a suggestion, lesson or command, commit to doing it right away.

OUR GOALS

In this series of studies, our ultimate goal is to know Jesus deeper, grow in our understanding of how He lived and taught, and embrace the rhythms of growth that He has set for us as modern disciples so that we may live on purpose like He wants us to.

By the end of this series, we are hoping that:

1. You can testify of your personal experience of understanding the gospel, repenting of your sins and choosing to follow Jesus as the only Savior and Lord of your life.
2. You can summarize the essence of the gospel so that others can understand it too through you.
3. You can pray to God sincerely from your heart and pray aloud while others listen as you speak to God in your own words.
4. You can read the Bible, appreciate and apply what it says under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.
5. You can manage your finances, your time and your skills as one who is accountable to God who is the source of all that you have.
6. You can serve other people out of your sincere love for God and use the special abilities God gave you.
7. You can personally worship with a joyful and thankful heart and join others gathered for the same purpose.

WEEK 1 :The Importance of Rhythm

The Discipleship Journey

Disciples are people who choose to follow the Lord Jesus. Jesus said, “Come, follow me.” The invitation of Jesus to Simon and Andrew was an invitation to a new life. It was a call to a life of obedience. The master invites us today to follow Him—to a life of total obedience. Discipleship is the process of knowing and obeying the Master. It is a lifestyle that is marked by a single-minded obedience to Jesus, following His example, His rhythms of life. It involves the surrender of our will and submission to His will in our lives. Rhythms define our lives. The habits we adopt and the patterns we repeat form our daily existence, direct our decisions and feed our motivations. We shall look into the Scriptures to know the why, the how, the cost and the rewards of following the rhythms of Jesus as His modern-day disciple.

What is a disciple?

Discipleship is following Christ. It involves ...

· John 6:45 _____

· Matthew 11:29 _____

· John 16:13; John 14:26 _____

Discipleship is making a very important choice. For Jesus, becoming His disciple is *all or nothing*. Jesus encourages us to be consistent and to make Him our priority. We should realize that discipleship entails the following:

· Matthew 10:37-39 _____

· Matthew 6:24 & 10:38 _____

· Matthew 20:25-28 _____

· John 8:31 _____

· Matthew 8:21-22; 4:20 _____

· John 13:1,12-17 _____

Old Rhythms VS New Rhythms

Embracing new rhythms means giving up old rhythms. In order to achieve your goals, some rhythms cannot co-exist. An example would be, over-indulging in food defeats the purpose of physical exercise. Being a disciple involves giving up unpleasant habits and desires that do not please the Master. In the process of yielding to Christ, and choosing to follow His rhythms, we must count the cost. That means, we must realize areas we need to surrender to God and habits we need to replace:

The Cost of Obeying Jesus Christ

· Luke 9:23 _____

· Luke 14:33 _____

What are old rhythms (or things you do you're not proud of, or preventing your spiritual growth) that you need to surrender to experience the growth Christ wants for you?

In the next few weeks, we will be learning about the rhythms of Jesus' own life. They are the rhythms that made Him effective in life, health and ministry. They are rhythms that made a lasting impact on his life and in the life of others. These time-tested rhythms are what He wants His disciples to keep doing.

WORSHIP (Luke 4:16) Resting weekly from work to join in the public worship of the church is an important practice Jesus commands us to emulate.

PRAYER (Luke 5:16) By rhythm of prayer, we mean regular, fixed times of the day. The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing as an attitude, but it does recommend setting special times in the morning and the night as exemplified in the life of Jesus.

STUDY (Luke 4:14-15) Reading and studying of the Word of God regularly alone and with others as exemplified by Jesus are crucial to our growth.

SERVE (John 13:14-17) Loving others like Jesus did involves action. Serving means offering our time, talent and treasure to the church and to our community, as exemplified by Jesus to bring glory to God and keep us grounded.

GENEROSITY (Luke 8:3, Luke 21:1-4, Luke 12:48) Sacrificial giving to support the work of the church and other community needs locally and abroad are important in how God channels blessings.

DISCIPLEMAKING (Luke 19:10, Matthew 28:19-20) Helping someone to meet God, experience His love and learn His commands are central to the life and mission of Jesus for us.

MISSIONAL LIVING (Luke 4:18-19) A life of discipleship is a daily walk of obedience to the will of God. It is being in the world but not of the world. It is yielding to God at all cost. A life of total obedience brings forth joy, peace and happiness that comes from following Jesus.

The Benefits of Discipleship

Read the verses and write what you discover:

John 13:17 _____

John 15:10-11 _____

John 14:27 _____

Matthew 5:12 _____

John 12:26 _____

Jesus tells us that His desire is to give us abundant life (John 10:10). The abundant life that He promises can be found in our obedience to His Holy Word.

As we journey together in following Jesus, we will lead you to obey Him in the areas of sharing the gospel, prayer, studying God's Word, using our money and possessions, serving others and worshipping God. May we all experience the blessed and abundant life that He promises to anyone who chooses to obey.

WRITE YOUR PERSONAL PRAYER ABOUT YOUR COMMITMENT TO FOLLOW JESUS:

WEEK 2 :The Rhythm of Worship

The Priority of our Lives

Luke 4:16 says, *And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read.* This clearly states that one of the most important rhythms in the life of Jesus we need to emulate is his habit of joining the worship life of God's people. As a faithful Jew, Jesus took time to observe Shabbat; resting weekly from work to join in the corporate worship of the community.

Where worship begins.

Read Matthew 22:37 and Deuteronomy 6:5-6. Where does worship begin?

An important commandment

Exodus 23:12, *"Six days you shall do your work, but on the seventh day you shall rest; that your ox and your donkey may have rest, and the son of your servant woman, and the alien, may be refreshed."*

Shabbat is designed as a time of refreshing, and the best place to find spiritual and emotional refreshing is in the presence of God. Read Acts 3:20. What is the purpose of Shabbat?

Jesus our rabbi and Master sets the example for us to prioritize resting and spending time to be refreshed in God's presence through corporate worship. True worship is a celebration of the worthiness of God by which honor is given to His name. As we worship God, we ascribe to Him the glory that is due Him. In worship, we give honor and praise to the One True God. Worship is the praise, adoration and reverence of God. It is expressed in songs, prayers, reading of God's Word, stewardship and service to God. We worship God individually and also as part of the community of believers.

God's divine command in Deuteronomy 6:13/Matthew 4:10 is to _____

How should we worship God?

· John 4:23-24 _____

· Matthew 15:7-9 _____

· Matthew 22:37 _____

True worship is not the repetition of rituals. Worship is not only the singing of fast and slow songs but true worship requires our wholehearted and reverent devotion to the King. Our worship of God is best demonstrated when we trust and obey Jesus. Worship is an expression of our love for God. That is why corporate worship happens on the day of rest—where we acknowledge that we don't always have to work to meet our needs; we must also pause, believing that even when we don't work on Shabbat, God will provide for our needs even as He replenishes our strength.

Hindrances to Worship

True worship goes beyond mere form. The Lord is not concerned with outward rituals but He is more concerned with the attitude of our hearts. The Bible speaks about things that hinder our worship.

Unforgiveness · Matthew 5:23-24. Why is unforgiveness a hindrance to your worship?

Anxiety/Worry/Concerns · Matthew 6:33-34. Why does anxiety keep us from worshipping God fully?

Busyness · Luke 10:38-42. Do you skip worship / shabbat because of work? Why is this unhealthy in relation to Matthew 6:33-34?

Embracing the Rhythm of Worship.

Identify the enemies of corporate worship in your own life?

How did Jesus prioritize corporate worship?

- *He loved the Father more than anything.* As the Son of God, part of the Trinity, The Father, Son and the Holy Spirit together embody ultimate love.
- *It was formed by habit.* Jesus, in His human form was raised by two faithful parents who prioritized corporate worship, and strict observance of Jewish worship festivals.
- *By choosing to set an example for us.* In His human form, His profession was a carpenter/stone mason like His human father, Joseph, but He did not let His busyness or the motivation to make more money overtake His desire to worship. We must remember that when we prioritize God, we will never lack anything (Matthew 6:33-34).
- *He understood that rest (shabbat) is a gift.* In His human form, Jesus also got tired of work and ministry, He knew that spending time with the Father afforded Him the physical rest He needed to replenish His strength.

The importance of Shabbat (rest)

1. We all need time to unplug from a very toxic world.
2. Spending time with God, family and friends in worship is good for our overall health.
3. Recharging our souls in God's presence is important to our spiritual growth.
4. It teaches us that even if we don't work all week, we can trust God to provide for our needs.

How can you prioritize corporate worship in your very busy North American life?

What old rhythms must I surrender to form this new rhythm of worship?

WRITE A PERSONAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AS YOU EMBRACE JESUS' RHYTHM OF WORSHIP.

WEEK 3 :The Rhythm of Prayer

The desire of Jesus for His disciples is to have constant fellowship with Him. As part of God's family, we are given the wonderful privilege to call on God and communicate with Him at all times. Jesus, the Son of God often withdrew from the crowds to have fellowship with the Father in prayer.

Prayer life of Jesus

Matthew 14:23 _____

Luke 5:16 _____

Luke 6:12 _____

Mark 1:35 _____

John 6:15 _____

This powerful rhythm of Jesus was His secret weapon! Jesus never did anything that He didn't pray for or about, He never made decisions, took actions or trips without bathing them first in prayer. Prayer is the believer's way to fellowship with God through Jesus Christ. As we come to God in prayer, we express our love for Him in adoration, thanksgiving and intercession. When we pray, we are drawn nearer to God to know His will for our lives. Scripture stresses the vital role of the Holy Spirit in stimulating and guiding prayer.

From the verses mentioned above, why do you think prayer is important rhythm in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ ?

Embracing the rhythm of Prayer

What do the following verses teach us about prayer?

· Luke 11: 5-10 _____

· Luke 6: 28 _____

· Luke 2:37 _____

What does prayer develop in the life of a disciple of Jesus Christ?

· John 15:7-8 _____

· Matthew 6:7 _____

· Matthew 26:41 _____

Prayer is not merely asking God for our needs. It is a demonstration of trust and faith on how God will accomplish His will in our lives.

God's promises in prayer

God promises to hear and respond to the prayers of His people, when they pray in the name of His Son and according to His will.

o God expects His people to make requests to Him in prayer (Matt 7:7-11).

o God promises to answer prayers offered in the name of Jesus Christ (Matt 21:22; John 14:13-14; 15:7, 16; 16:23-24).

o God requires His people to come with confidence in His promises. (Mark 11:24; Matt 18:19).

Prayer is a privilege given by God to His children. God wants us to come to Him regularly in prayer as a sign of surrender, trust and faith in Christ our Lord.

The Practicalities of Prayer

Scripture teaches believers on how, when, and where to pray. Prayer is not a play of words but an attitude of the heart. God wants us to come to Him as we are.

- o Prayer should be expressed simply (Matt 6:7-8).
- o Prayer should be expressed humbly (Luke 18:9-14).
- o Prayer should not be ostentatious (Matt 6:5-6; Matt 14:23).
- o Prayer can be offered at any time (Mark 1:35; Luke 2:37).
- o Prayer is not confined in any single space (John 4:21-24; Luke 5:16).
- o Prayer may be accompanied by fasting (Matt 17:21; Mark 9:29).

The rhythm of prayer

Like the Lord Jesus, we must embrace the rhythm of prayer. It is a gift of the Father to His children to have direct access to Him, We must take that privilege and really make the most out of it! Faithful Jews are required to pray three times a day, not just during meal times (Daniel 6:10). The example that Jesus gives us is, He always prayed every morning for an extended time with the Father. He also prayed at certain times throughout the day just like the other Jews. But he also spent time prayer at night!

Make it purposeful and practical.

What time/s of the day are you most effective and most awake? _____

How long can you spend time talking to God? 5 minutes _____ 10 minutes _____ 30 minutes _____ 1 hour _____

Find time to accompany your prayer with fasting (skipping a meal or two) 1x/week _____ 2x/month _____ 3x/month _____

Structure of prayer.

Based on the Lord's Model Prayer (Matthew 6:9-13), here's a good structure for your prayer time:

Adoration: Worship God, just tell Him how much you love and honor Him.

Confession: Ask for forgiveness; acknowledge your weakness and struggles.

Thanksgiving: Give thanks for all the blessings you received. Name them one by one, if possible!

Supplication: Present your requests, concerns, struggles, etc.

Always end your prayer in the name of Jesus! He is our authority!

What old rhythms must I surrender to form this new rhythm of prayer?

WRITE A PERSONAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AS YOU EMBRACE JESUS' RHYTHM OF PRAYER.

WEEK 4 :The Rhythm of Study

Luke 4:14-15 says,

16 He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, 17 and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written: 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” 20 Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him.

For Jesus, the written Word was very important. It was part of His rhythm. His based all of his life, ministry and teachings on the revealed Word of God—which, during His time was the Old Testament. But also, everything He said and taught is Word of God which became part of the completed Bible—the Old and the New Testament. He is the fulfilment of the Old Testament, that is why in John 1:1, Jesus is referred to as the Word—the ultimate revelation of God and the completion of God’s Holy counsel. That is why, He both honored the written Word and exemplified it because He is the fulfilment of it.

The Bible is God’s Word. It is *inspired* by the Holy Spirit. It was given in trust to the church to remind His people of God’s teachings. The Holy Scripture protects God’s people from error and empowers them to grow in holiness. It must be obeyed and revered.

What do we mean by Inspiration of God’s Word?

Read Matthew 22:41-45. The Pharisees were talking to Jesus about the Law (the Word of God). Jesus in the same forum asked them in return about the Scriptures. His purpose was not to win a debate but to draw from them what they know about what the Scripture teaches concerning the Messiah.

What does “speaking in the Spirit” in verse 43 mean?

Why do we have God’s Word?

What does John 20:30-31 say about the reason why God’s Word was written and given to us?

How does God’s Word help believers grow in their spiritual life?

John 20:31, “*But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*”

Why is the Word important in our growth and our gatherings?

The Word of God is sufficient for life and doctrine. As we search and study the Scriptures, the Lord has provided the Holy Spirit to teach believers all the things about God (John 14:26). The Holy Spirit shall also be the one who will open our hearts and minds to understand God’s Holy Word.

What does God’s Word teach us?

John 1:1 _____

Matthew 4:4 _____

John 8:40 _____

Matthew 8:8 _____

Luke 8:21 _____

How to study the Word of God?

Personal.

The Scripture is from God and is true. It is God's Holy Word for His people to obey and use as a guide for living. As the Lord's disciples, we should consistently meditate, study, and live out the Word of God. The Holy Spirit is God's promised gift who will faithfully fulfill His task of illuminating our minds and hearts to make the Word alive and relevant to us today.

Here are new rhythms for personal Bible study:

- Ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you read and study Scripture. Pray for wisdom and guidance that you may understand it correctly and apply it appropriately.
- Make sure you have a notebook and pen for you to write your reflections, questions and comments as you read.
- Every portion of the Bible you read is called a passage. Here's a 4-step pattern by which you can study God's Word for yourself:

Step 1: Observation—What does the passage say?

Step 2: Interpretation—What does the passage mean?

Step 3: Application—What will I do about what the passage says and means?

Step 4: Prayer—Write down a prayer in relation to what God is teaching from the passage.

In Community (Church/DGroup).

When the church gathers for worship, there's always an element of teaching/preaching. This is because worship is a dialogue between us and God. When we sing, pray and give, we are communicating to God. But when we listen to the Word of God, the Lord is communicating with us. Often, we easily forget what we hear during a sermon, so, here's how you can make the most of your personal worship at church.

Here are some new rhythms to embrace when you come to worship:

- Always come with a sense of expectation that the Lord has a Word for you.
- Tell God: "Please fill me with Your Spirit and open my heart to Your Word."
- Use your Bible/Bible App and try to follow along.
- Bring your notebook and pen (or your smart phone "notes") and take notes from the preaching.

What old rhythms must I surrender to form this new rhythm of studying God's Word?

Identify the best time of your day to have a personal Bible reading time and commit it to God:

Time of the Day: _____

WRITE A PERSONAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AS YOU EMBRACE JESUS' RHYTHM OF STUDY.

WEEK 5 :The Rhythm of Serving

All disciples of Jesus Christ are called to follow Jesus not only on His journey, but to follow Jesus in His life and work. One of the rhythms Jesus taught His disciples is the rhythm of serving. All throughout Jesus' ministry, He was fueled by one important factor: God's Love. Everything Christ did was fueled by love, and always felt compassion for people. He wants us to operate in the same way, fueled by love:

John 13:34-35, "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. 35 By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

Christians are called to serve others.

We are called to give our lives as an act of service because Jesus served them (read Matthew 25:34-40). Our service flows out of being served by Jesus because His life was a life of service (read Matthew 20:28). We can learn how to serve others by how Jesus served us.

John 13:14-17 "Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

What was the context of this command?

The ultimate goal of good works.

Matthew 5:16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.

Jesus tells His disciples that our good works point to God. When we do good, we glorify the Father. Our good works also point to the authenticity of our salvation. We do good to people because:

1. We love God.
2. We want others to know God loves them.
3. We want other have a relationship with God and become part of His family.

Here are four rhythms of how Jesus served .

1. Go to People to Serve Them. Jesus served us by coming to Earth. Now, was He serving us from Heaven? Of course He was, but His ultimate act of service was dying on the cross to pay for our sins. He could only do that by coming to us. He could only die by becoming human, by taking on flesh (Philippians 2:6-7). Sometimes when people need to be served they can come see us or we can invite them. Often though, we need to go to people to serve them. There are times when being available is not enough. Like Jesus, we need to go to people to serve them.

2. Serve Others Despite Being Uncomfortable. When Jesus came to Earth to save us, He did so despite it being uncomfortable. He left His perfect, sinless home in Heaven. He left a perfect environment where no one sinned against Him, He was never hungry, and the temperature was perfect. He came and was poor with us (II Corinthians 8:9). Often if we want to serve people, we need to be uncomfortable. We need to get messy. Why is that? Because, when people need to be served they are often in a mess. A spiritual, financial, physical, mental, relational, or mental mess. So if we are to serve people like Jesus served us, plan to be uncomfortable.

3. Connect with People You Serve. What Jesus did not do is come down to Earth for the weekend, bear the horrific weight of the cross, and go back home. He came to live with us and be with us. Often people are happy with driveby ministry. They want to come and sit with someone for a couple minutes for a "one and done" timeframe. The reality is often serving means staying with people. More time and effort require follow-up to build a relationship.

4. Serve People Physically and Spiritually. We could look at dozens of passages concerning this. Jesus came to serve people both physically and spiritually (not that our spirit and bodies are split). But He fed, healed, and comforted. He also called to repentance, disciplined, and proclaimed the Gospel to people. Often churches and/or Christians become unbalanced in this and pick one side or another. If we are to serve people like Jesus served us, we need to care about them spiritually and physically.

How do you serve people?

Do you go to them, or wait till they come to you?

Do you serve them in a mess, or only when it is easy?

Do you stay with the people you serve or do drive by ministry?

Do you care about people's physical and spiritual nature, or just one?

Here are four good places to start a new rhythm:

Is your heart struggling to love others? Ask Jesus for a heart change. Be open to Him working, stretching, and changing your heart. This may bring out some things you need to address and work on, but it will be worth it! He can change your heart, soften the edges, and teach you to love others with kindness and compassion.

How can you grow more in your love for others? _____

Take a look at your schedule. Are you too busy that you have no time for others? Are you keeping things on your list because of appearances? Allow Him to free up your time. Ask Him to show you each day what needs to be done and what can be set aside.

What areas in your life can you free up some time in order for you to serve others? _____

Begin placing others first in your day today. Think about the needs of others and how you can place them before your own. Do you see a struggling mom at the store? Let her get in line before you. Does your neighbor need help with his lawn? Take care of it for him.

What things can you do for or give to some people today? _____

Listen to God, and do what He says. Follow God's prompting and leading when going about your day. If you feel like you should stop and serve, do it. This doesn't necessarily mean you take on every opportunity presented to you. Pray. Ask God, then listen and do what He says.

What might God be asking you to do more for others in His name? _____

What ways can you better serve others like Jesus has served you?

Find opportunities where you can serve God in the church.

Find opportunities where you can serve others in our city or even internationally.

WRITE A PERSONAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AS YOU EMBRACE JESUS' RHYTHM OF SERVING.

WEEK 6 :The Rhythm of Giving

A true disciple of Jesus Christ acknowledges that all good gifts are from God. God is our faithful provider and the source of all that we possess. Inasmuch as He provides for what we need, Scripture tells us that we are to be steadfast in our stewardship of God's resources.

Jesus, our Provider

As we desire to follow God in all His ways, disciples should also learn how to trust in the area of resources. The Bible tells us that Jesus is the source of all that we have. Let us check the following verses and study what Scripture has to say.

Matthew 6:28-30 _____

Mark 10:29-30 _____

What Jesus teaches about Wealth

Jesus consistently spoke about money. In fact, he spoke more about the topic of money than baptism! He spoke about how we can obtain wealth, its use and its place in the life of a believer. Let us discover what the Gospel says about it.

Matthew 25: 27 _____

Matthew 26:14-15 _____

Matthew 6: 24 _____

Matthew 25:20-21 _____

The Tithe

In the Old testament, to tithe means to give a tenth of everything that they had because it is the Lord's. In practice, they offer their tithe in the temple. If tithing is an Old Testament practice, should modern day disciples tithe?

Y____N____Why?

The New Testament does not expressly command Christians to tithe. However, the tithe is a good measure of how much we can give to God, which means it is a good starting point. As a good Jew, Jesus gave His tithe faithfully and quietly. That is the example we follow. He did rebuke people who tithed for show.

What Jesus said about Giving

Study the following verses and write what Jesus teaches us about giving.

Matthew 6:21 _____

Where do the majority of your treasure (paycheck) go? _____

Luke 21:1-4 _____

What kind of giving does Jesus favor? It has nothing to do with the amount. _____

Matthew 5:23-24 _____

What is Jesus more concerned about here? _____

Luke 20:25 _____

Is it right to withhold your tithe or taxes for any reason? _____

NOTE: Here in Canada, every tithe you pay to the church is tax deductible. That means, at the end of the fiscal year, you will receive a receipt from the church. And you can file that receipt together with your T4, and a percentage of your tithe will be deducted from your taxes which often results in tax refunds.

Jesus on the Parable of the Talents

Jesus taught the disciples in the Parable of the Talents how we should use the resources that were given to us. Let us study the passage. Read Matthew 25:14-30.

In Matthew 25:14-18 what did the master give and ask his servants to do? What does the parable teach us about God?

How did the master commend those who utilized their talents well? What should we do with the resources God gives for our use?

Jesus on Utilizing our Resources

What does Jesus say about how we should use the resources He has given?

Luke 12:48 _____

Luke 12:33 _____

Luke 8:3 _____

Jesus taught His disciples about giving. Like the servant who used his master's resources well, He is teaching us to please the Lord in how we use the resources He has blessed us with. This is called stewardship. All our treasures belong to God and we are just stewards of His blessings. The more we learn to better manage the blessings He gives us, the more He blesses us with more treasures to manage and enjoy. Jesus is not against enjoying the blessings He gives us. In fact, enjoying His blessings is a part of His plan for us to live an abundant life.

Is tithing or giving a part of your rhythm yet? Y____ N____ Why? _____

In God's economy, it is in giving not keeping that leads to receiving.

In Luke 6:38, Jesus made a promise: "Give, and you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full—pressed down, shaken together to make room for more, running over, and poured into your lap. The amount you give will determine the amount you get back."

From God's viewpoint, he only gives us what we are able to manage.

In Luke 16:10, Jesus said, "Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much, and whoever is dishonest with very little will also be dishonest with much."

You are blessed to be a blessing.

2 Corinthians 9:8, And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.

Will you commit to a new rhythm of trusting God with your finances? How do you plan to start?

WRITE A PERSONAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AS YOU EMBRACE JESUS' RHYTHM OF GIVING.

WEEK 7 :The Rhythm of Disciple-making

All disciples of Jesus Christ are called to the fellowship of believers to love and serve God and one another. “Come, follow me” was what Jesus said to Peter and his brother Andrew. They were to follow Jesus not only on His journey, but to follow Jesus in His life and work. This rhythm of making disciples was what Jesus fully exemplified that encompassed all of the other rhythms. In making disciples, Jesus taught his *talmidim* (Hebrew: learners/disciples) everything He knew—from how to pray, to how to lead others to God, and everything in between. In fact, told His disciples to perpetuate this rhythm until He comes again!

Matthew 4:19

"Come, follow me," Jesus said, "and I will make you fishers of men."

John 13:14-17

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you. I tell you the truth, no servant is greater than his master, nor is a messenger greater than the one who sent him. Now that you know these things, you will be blessed if you do them."

Mark 10:41-45

"Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many."

Matthew 28:19-20

"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

The first disciples.

Read John 1:35-42.

Fishers of Men

What was Jesus' invitation for Peter and his brother Andrew in Matthew 4:19? What was their response?

A Community of Disciple-makers

Matthew 28:19-20 is called the Great Commission. What is the Great Commission all about? Is the task of making disciples only for some?

Steps of Disciple-making based on Matthew 28:19-20

1. Evangelism. Telling the good news of Jesus, and by the power of the Spirit, leading someone to confess and receive Jesus as Lord—being born again in the Spirit. This is a one-time experience. How did you come to faith in Jesus?_____

2. Baptism. This one-time experience is the actual first step of becoming as full-fledged disciple. Baptism symbolizes following Jesus in His death, burial and resurrection, being raised into new life. When were you baptized and who baptized you?_____

3. Teaching to Obey. This is a life-long process of learning to become more like Christ by growing in His love, embracing His rhythms, learning to serve, being filled with Spirit, and walking in obedient faith. This involves being part of a church community,

...a learning community and learning how to make disciples.

4. Disciplemaking. This is a life-long assignment from Jesus to replicate what has happened to you personally—from being on the receiving end and onto the giving end. As you are growing in your being a disciple, you are also helping someone become a new and growing disciple. Who is discipling you? _____

Who are you discipling? _____.

Someone once said, “If you’re not discipling someone, are you in fact a disciple or just a church attendee?” What do you think of this statement?

Where do I begin?

At Mosaic Church, during baptism, we make it a point to have the person who has had the most impact on their spiritual life to baptize the candidate! If you invite someone to church and that person receives Christ and decides to get baptized, you get to baptize them! But your role does not end there. Your role as a disciple maker had just begun. The command of Jesus is for you to teach that individual to obey the commands of Christ. How do you even begin on this disciple-making journey?

1. Pray for people in your life who do not have a relationship with Jesus yet.
2. Invite someone to church and encourage them to receive Christ as their Lord.
3. Gently encourage them to follow Christ in baptism. Never give up on them.
4. Use this material/discussion guide to help them know the rhythms of discipleship.
5. Encourage them to pray for people they can start discipling.
6. Continue that discipleship friendship for life!

Overcoming Fear

The number one enemy of disciple-making is fear. This is where the Holy Spirit comes in.

2 Timothy 1:7 *...for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.*

Ask the Holy Spirit to replace your fears with boldness, your feeling of inadequacies with Godly confidence, and then start obeying Jesus! The Holy Spirit works in our obedience—He begins His work the moment we step in faith. We won’t see Him work if we don’t take that step.

What are your reservations do you what God to address? _____

Will you commit to a new rhythm of discipleship? How do you plan to start?

WRITE A PERSONAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AS YOU EMBRACE JESUS’ RHYTHM OF DISCIPLESHIP.

WEEK 8 :The Rhythm of Missional Living

If God has forgiven you and entered your life, two of your primary jobs on earth are:

- Love God and our neighbors (Matthew 22:37-39)
- Tell people about Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20)

You are ambassadors sent by God to reach your neighbors, coworkers, family and the world in His name (2 Corinthians 5:20). The central plot of life on earth is God's rescue mission. He is going to win, but the miracle is that He has invited us to be a part of it. This rhythm of Jesus involves embracing the vision He has for you in light of God's ultimate kingdom purpose! This is called "missional living"—living your life for God's purpose.

The three elements of embracing the rhythm of missional living.

Surrender: Jesus is not just your Savior, but the King of your daily life. Are you willing to go, do, say and give whatever He asks of you, no matter the cost? What does it mean to surrender to Christ's purpose for you?

Vision: Knowing God will use many Christians to reach the world, don't try to do everything yourself. Instead, understand the part you need to play and how you fit into God's rescue mission, which influences even the minor decisions you make each day. What is God's vision for you?

Team: Since the enemy likes to divide and conquer, stay in close fellowship with other "surrendered" followers of Christ who share the same "vision." Spur each other on, pray, plan and achieve together. Do you have a community of missional people who have committed to following God's kingdom agenda?

Missional living starts with a servant's heart.

In Matthew 20:26-28 as Jesus was speaking to His disciples, what was the reason Jesus stated why He came? How can one be great amongst the disciples of Christ?

What did Jesus mean when He said, "I came to serve, not to be served?"

Jesus calls all those who believe in His name to serve. If we want to be great in the sight of God, we have to be a servant of the One True God. John 13:14-17 not only teaches us to serve but also to have the right attitude in doing so. How does Jesus want us to emulate Him? Why is humility an integral virtue of a servant?

How does Jesus describe those who serve Him in John 15:15? What does it mean to be a friend of God?

Jesus also warned the disciples about how the world will relate to them. What does John 15: 20b say?

The Lord Jesus called His disciples by name. He chose them, just as He chose us. It is a privilege to be called a friend of God and to walk the path that He took. However, in God's economy, the way to authentic servanthood is not how much one achieves, but in maintaining the attitude of humility and dependence upon Him. As we serve, let us fully rely on God for enabling power.

Missional Living means being sent.

Embracing the rhythm of missional living involves three elements:

Environment: where you are is where God has placed you. Your role in that environment—whether that's a school, home, work-place, gym, etc., is to be the light that points people to Jesus. Being careful how we live is important for Christ's light to truly reflect on us. Name the places where God placed you: _____

Friendships: We must first see our neighbors, coworkers, and lost loved ones as true friends and people we enjoy being with. Every living person your eyes see is someone Jesus died for. Living missionally is understanding that everyone needs to know the love of Jesus, know His good news and go to heaven. You cannot reach people until you see them as friends who you want to see in heaven. Name some people you will pray for to point to Jesus or invite to church: _____

Curiosity: When we actually care about others, we want to know more about them. We wonder about their families, their work, their interests, their history, their own spiritual beliefs. As we pursue missional relationships, we must not rush in to conversations with all the answers, but rather listen to our friends and hear what life is like in their shoes. Our genuine curiosity will be felt and they will know we value their perspective and experiences. Name people who you want to make friends with and share the Gospel with: _____

What do you need to change in order for you to embrace a missional living?

WRITE A PERSONAL PRAYER OF COMMITMENT AS YOU EMBRACE JESUS' RHYTHM OF MISSIONAL LIVING.
