

Rhythms of Renewal Bible Reading Plan

August 28-29 "Serve" John 13:1-7

It was just before the Passover Festival. Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to leave this world and go to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end. The evening meal was in progress, and the devil had already prompted Judas, the son of Simon Iscariot, to betray Jesus. Jesus knew that the Father had put all things under his power, and that he had come from God and was returning to God; so he got up from the meal, took off his outer clothing, and wrapped a towel around his waist. After that, he poured water into a basin and began to wash his disciples' feet, drying them with the towel that was wrapped around him. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, "Lord, are you going to wash my feet?" Jesus replied, "You do not realize now what I am doing, but later you will understand."

How have you been blessed by serving others? How have you been blessed by others serving you?

September 4-5 "Restore" Mark 6:30-31

The apostles gathered around Jesus and reported to him all they had done and taught. Then, because so many people were coming and going that they did not even have a chance to eat, he said to them, "Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest."

Does life sometimes take a lot out of you because it is hard? What is one actionable step you could take to nurture and support your physical body, to make time for your own restoration as an act of love and stewardship, and seek renewal by giving back to yourself?

September 11-12 "Rest" Isaiah 58:13-14

*"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath
and from doing as you please on my holy day,
if you call the Sabbath a delight
and the LORD's holy day honorable,
and if you honor it by not going your own way
and not doing as you please or speaking idle words,
then you will find your joy in the LORD,
and I will cause you to ride in triumph on the heights of the land
and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob."
For the mouth of the LORD has spoken.*

How have you struggled to take part in Sabbath as a source of rest, worship, and delight? What is one actionable step you could take to make Sabbath a treasured part of your life rhythms?

September 18-19 "Connect" Galatians 5:13-14

You, my brothers and sisters, were called to be free. But do not use your freedom to indulge the flesh; rather, serve one another humbly in love. For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

How has the value of connecting with others suffered in your life? Following Jesus cannot happen without connection and community. How does connecting with others realistically look for you right now?

September 25-26 "Create" Genesis 2:8-9, 15-17

Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed. The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die."

Do you consider yourself to be creative? If so, how are you giving yourself time to live into that? If not, consider that God has given us all an innate desire and ability to create. How can you expand your understanding of "create" and live into that desire and ability?