

Recreation and Celebration

God... richly provides us with everything to enjoy 1 Tim. 6:17

Our Scriptures teach us that our God is one of joy who is generous that we might enjoy all that he has made. As you consider God's many gifts, which ones renew and enliven you? These include recreation, rest (daily and weekly), reading, the arts, food and drink, and exploring God's creation. Regular rhythms of joy-inducing activities are essential to a life of delighting in God (Ps. 37:4).

My Rule of Life:

Scripture

Community

Prayer

Recreation and Celebration

Consider Taking these Two Next Steps:

One – Attend the **Rule of Life Workshop** on Oct.6 at 9 or 10:30 am

Two – Read *The Common Rule* by Justin Whitmel Earley

MY TAKEAWAY



Jesus' Way of Life

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9/15/2019

"Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise." John 5:19-20

Recap from last week:

Last week we looked at the time-tested approach to discipleship that involves three important aspects: Vision, Intention, and Means (VIM).

VISION:

Following Jesus begins with a robust vision of God and life with him. Most of us carry incomplete or flawed understandings of who God is. As a result, we do not desire him. At best, we view him as a means of achieving something we want. But if our vision of him were enlarged and corrected, we would begin to realize that he is the pearl of great price, the one our hearts long for.

INTENTION:

We don't drift our way into this qualitatively vigorous life. This endeavor, as with all worthy endeavors, begins with a decision of the heart to go after it – to seek him whole-heartedly. Practically, this means we open up our calendars and rearrange our priorities and schedules. Squeezing him into an already packed life will only lead to frustration. Instead, we decide to give him first consideration.

MEANS:

Discipleship is being with another person in order to become capable of doing what that person does and become like that person is.

We need a practical way to be with Jesus everyday of our lives (what Jesus called the abiding life in John 15).

The Way of Jesus with the Father

¹⁷*"My Father is working and I am working... So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of his own accord, but only what he sees the Father doing. For whatever the Father does, that the Son does likewise. ²⁰ For the Father loves the Son and shows him all that he himself is doing. And greater works than these will he show him, so that you may marvel. John 5:17-20*

The Way of the Early Disciples with Jesus

Dear brothers and sisters, pattern your lives after mine, and learn from those who follow our example. Phil. 3:17 (NLT)

We need a way to experience a rich interactive relationship with Jesus everyday of our lives. A *Rule of Life* does that. A *Rule* or *Rhythm of Life* consists of Spirit-empowered practices and relationships that generate the joy, peace, and freedom necessary to live the life God has called you to live.

This morning let's consider the following four areas of a Rule of Life:

Engaging Scripture

"I find my delight in your commandments which I love..." Ps. 119:47

We regularly engage God in his word because through it we hear his voice, learn his ways, and are nourished for the coming day.

Transformative Community

"...let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works..." Heb. 10:24-25

The early church community practiced a Rule of Life together. They met regularly to learn, worship, and enjoy life with one another (Acts 2:42-47). Gathering regularly for corporate worship, and finding a group (2 or more) that stirs you to love and good works is essential for your transformation in Christ.

Life-giving Prayer

"...pour out your heart before him; God is a refuge for us..." Ps. 62:8

Prayer is like exploring a vast coastline. Just when you think you know what it's about, there is something new to experience just around the corner. Prayer incorporates praise, confession, thanksgiving, silence, asking, and so much more. It is fired by the Holy Spirit and gut-level honesty.