

# Getting ready...

*healthy rhythms for  
those who follow Jesus*

A Devotional on Investing in Your World  
Week #2- November 11-18

## **INVESTING- Service in God's Kingdom**

As we continue to pray for those in our circles of influence, God also calls us to invest in these individuals and communities in all aspects of our lives. Over this week, we will look at rhythms and routines that will help us invest in this earthly kingdom as well as in the kingdom of God, so that his kingdom will come and his will will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

### **Monday**

Listening. Jesus listened to God in prayer to know his Father's will. We listen to God because through the Gospel we are now aware of our ongoing need for Him. We listen 'backward' by regularly interacting with God's Word—the Story and the Son. We also listen 'forward' to hear what God is saying to us today. Specifically we believe that when he has called us by his Spirit, he then sends us with his Spirit to a broken and needy people. As you read these passages, who is Jesus sending you to reach?

### **Scripture**

[John 16:7-15](#)

### **Walking it out...**

Not only do we have the Spirit speaking to us, but the people in our community are telling us what they believe and why. We need to ask questions and listen. If we are to be prepared to give an answer for the hope we have, we must spend less time just preparing answers and as much time listening for the questions. Listening to others first is prerequisite for gospel engagement. We should be listening constantly to know which story they believe in and where God's story intersects with their story.

### **Our Prayer**

Father, Give me ears to hear and listen to you through your word and your Spirit. Let me obey you with my whole heart, listening for where you are at work in other's lives and sharing your story with them. In Jesus' name, amen.

**Song-** We are Listening, Sojourn Music

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UHZtJ9E8hag>

## **INVESTING- Service in God's Kingdom**

### **Tuesday**

There are over 6 million who call South Florida home, but when surveyed one of the greatest complaints of those living here, is that they feel isolated, lonely and alone. God knew that we needed others. The very first story about God says, "it is not good for man to be alone." When Jesus came to dwell with us, one of his first acts was to establish a community of believers, the disciples. We are not created to invest in our world alone. Community is God's plan. Read these passages and think through how we are to live in this new kind of community.

### **Scripture**

[John 15:12, Hebrew 10:24-25, 1 Peter 1:22](#)

### **Walking it out...**

Community is God's plan to change the world. Jesus modeled it for us when he changed the world. But changing our world begins with changing me, and changing you. What are some areas around you that need real community? Who are some people you know that are feeling alone? isolated? lonely? What can you do right now to begin a revolution of community in their lives?

**Song-** All the Poor and Powerless, by Sons and Daughters

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=516Qg\\_1AUok](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=516Qg_1AUok)

## **INVESTING- Service in God's Kingdom**

### **Wednesday**

Meals are a daily reminder of our common need for God and his faithfulness to provide both physically and spiritually. Jesus called us to remember him and his sacrifice for us through a meal. When we eat together, we commune around this truth.

In every part of the world hunger is a daily reality – whether they have plenty or lack – we all get hungry more than once a day. God gave Adam and Eve the opportunity to demonstrate their faith through the eating of food. They choose to eat unto (for) themselves out of unbelief and rebellion. God has likewise given every person in every part of the world a regular reminder of their need and an opportunity to eat unto themselves in unbelief and rebellion or unto God in faith and with thanksgiving.

### **Scripture**

[Luke 7:34](#); [Acts 2:46-47](#); [Colossians 3:23](#); [Romans 12:13](#)

### **Walking it out...**

Whatever we do, whether we eat or drink, we do it unto God. Every meal really is a demonstration of the gospel. We come hungry (a real need) and our need is graciously met (Whatever we have is from God). Since we eat three times a day, we get a gospel reminder over and over again IF we eat unto God. How would you eat differently if your eating was informed by the Gospel and because of God in faith?

Who we eat demonstrates who we love. This is why Jesus was called a friend of sinners – he ate with people who were dirty, unreligious, and visibly or sociably unacceptable. The way we eat is one of the most powerful displays of God's love and acceptance of sinners. How often do you eat with those who don't believe what you do? How should your Group shape its life around eating together at the table with unbelievers?

**Song-** Tasting Forgiveness by Robbie Seay Band

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zgU2YljmzaY>

## **INVESTING- Service in God's Kingdom**

### **Thursday**

God desires that all people would be blessed through Jesus. And now, as his Body, we believe we live out this mission as we bless others. We intentionally seek God's direction for who he would have us tangibly bless each week. We all have talents, resources and time. Some of us believe we have earned these things and therefore we are entitled to them. This leads to greed and selfishness stemming from pride and causes fights, quarrels, divisions and anxiety. When we believe that all we have is from God's gracious hand – gifts given not due to our own work – then we selflessly share what we have for the sake of others leading us to acts of service, sacrifice and love.

### **Scripture**

[Genesis 12:1-3; Ephesians 1:22-23; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 2:12](#)

### **Walking it out...**

God's reason for blessing His people has always been so that those who don't know Him and his grace might see Him at work in and through us and that they would come to Him through our lives. We must direct our eyes outward and begin to believe that He has given us everything for life and godliness. He has resourced us with all that we need to bless others who don't know Him yet. We must give him our talent, resources and time in serving and blessing our community. What does our community really need and how has God blessed us(you) to display the good news of Jesus to them?

### **Song- All I Owe by Matthew Smith**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSKePO44Hg8>

## **INVESTING- Service in God's Kingdom**

### **Friday**

As we look around your world, maybe even your neighborhood, maybe even your own house, it is not long before you realize that this place is broken. There are whole groups of people who have been trampled upon and others that are doing the trampling. God is a God of justice, and will make all things right, and is including us in the process.

### **Scripture**

[John 1:14; Philippians 2:5-11](#)

### **Walking it out...**

Fully God—fully human, Jesus took on the posture of a servant. He gave his life, even unto death, so that others could experience salvation, peace and restoration. Jesus said, “I am among you as one who serves...” All those who follow Jesus are called to serve in the same humility. For us this means joyful submitting to God, leadership and to each other, as we serve whomever God brings into our lives. Who in your world is in need of this restoration? How can you invest in them?

**Song-** Missions Flame by Matt Redman

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EWy98uB4B3E>

### **Saturday Wrap-up**

We've spent a week focused on praying for our world, and a week on how to invest in the lives around us. To wrap up the past couple of weeks, think though this We do Whatever He leads us to do, Whenever He tells us and Wherever He wants us to do it (W3).

## **INVESTING- Service in God's Kingdom**

INVITING- Joining God in His Mission

Monday  
Recreating  
    Scripture

Tuesday  
Celebrating  
    Scripture

Wednesday  
Witness  
    Scripture

Thursday  
Community Sharing  
    Scripture

Friday  
First steps  
    Scripture

Saturday Wrap-up