



DOXA CHURCH

GOSPEL RHYTHMS

MINISTRY TRAINING SERIES 5/17/15

Jeff Vanderstelt

A Way of Life

The life of a gospel community does not consist of a few scattered events throughout a week or month, but rather an ongoing flow of movement within the everyday rhythms of a local context. The gospel affects all of life – everything we do – because God is at work redeeming all things to himself.

As gospel missionaries, we realize that all of life is the mission field and we are always living as sent ones to a particular culture or context. We don't live in a context and remain distant or disconnected from the culture. Gospel missionaries are those who join in the flow of life with everyone else, engaging in the activities of the culture they are sent into with gospel integrity, not falling to the left (syncretism) or to the right (separatism) (1 Peter 2:11-12).

So, what are the everyday rhythms of life we should engage in, and how do we do this with gospel intentionality?

Eat

We regularly eat meals with others to invite them into the community of God.

(Lev. 23:1-44; Matt. 6:11; 26:17-30; Acts 2:46-47; Rom. 12:13)

Listen

We set aside regular times to listen to God both backward and forward, and to listen to others.

(Mark 1:35-37; John 14:25-26; 16:7-15; Heb. 1:1-3; Rom. 1:20)

Story

Everyone's life is shaped by a dominant story, and ours is the Story of God

(Gen. 1:1-2; Ps. 1:1-6; John 1:1; 2 Tim. 3:16-17)

Bless

We intentionally bless others through words, gifts, and actions.

(Gen. 12:1-3; Eph. 1:22-23; 2:8-10; 1 Peter 2:12)

Celebrate

We gather together to celebrate God's extravagant blessings.

(Lev. 23:1-44; Acts 2:42-47; Heb. 10:24-25)

ReCreate

We take time to rest and work, play and create, with the intention of bringing about restoration to people and places.

(Gen. 1:1-2:3; Deut. 5:12; Mark 2:23-28; Col. 3:23; Heb. 4:1-13)

Next Steps for Identifying Everyday Rhythms...

1. Consider where God has placed you and where you are already spending a majority of your time.
2. Ask God to show *people of peace* or open doors for the gospel.
3. Take time to identify the already existing rhythms you are engaged in there, as well as the ones that need engagement or need to be established.
4. Use the Identity Grid below to clarify how you might be more intentional in the everyday rhythms.

NOTE: If you are leading a missional community toward collective rhythms, you will need to identify a collective missional focus.

Missional Focus:

FAMILY

Eat – *How often, where & when?*

Listen – *How will we commit to listen to God's Word & Spirit?*

Story – *How will we get acquainted with God's and each other's?*

Celebrate – *What occasions should we celebrate together and how?*

Bless – *How will we tangibly express our love for one another?*

ReCreate – *How can we create space to rest and play together?*

SERVANTS

Eat – *How will we serve others through meals?*

Listen – *How will we make space to listen to each other?*

Story – *In light of the stories we know, what would good news look or sound like?*

Celebrate – *Where is the servant towel needed, or celebration lacking?*

Bless – *How might we demonstrate Jesus' rule and reign in tangible ways?*

ReCreate – *What needs restoring and how might we bring that about?*

MISSIONARIES

Eat – *How often should we eat with those we are trying to reach?*

Listen – *How will we commit to listening in prayer for those God is sending us to?*

Story – *How will we get acquainted with their stories & introduce them to God's Story?*

Celebrate – *What celebrations should we join and what would "better wine" look like?*

Bless – *How should bless them in tangible ways?*

ReCreate – *What recreation can we engage in with them or invite them into?*