

Everyday Ordinary - Part 1 - "Creating a Week"

Romans 12:1 (MSG)

1 So here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering.

John 14:17-20 (NIV)

17 But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. 18 I will not leave you as orphans; I will come to you. 19 Before long, the world will not see me anymore, but you will see me. Because I live, you also will live. 20 On that day you will realize that I am in my Father, and you are in me, and I am in you.

Galatians 5:24-25 (NIV)

24 Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. 25 Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.

Romans 1:16-17 (NET)

16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is God's power for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. 17 For the righteousness of God is revealed in the gospel from <u>faith to faith</u>, just as it is written, "The righteous by faith will live."

Key Points

- Personal devotion is your willingness to give your allegiance to Jesus in every matter of what it means to be a human being.
- So much of our experience in this world isn't spectacular— but quite ordinary.
- We celebrate our calling by honoring the mundane and giving it the value it requires.
- Destination thinking is the mirage that fulfillment lies somewhere else.
- We don't have to be somewhere other than where we are to find and live the life God created us to live.
- The reality of a life with God exists in the everyday ordinary.
- The menial things are the most important places to live out our faith; faithfulness in the small stuff builds the foundation for everything else.
- . Jesus invites us to remain, abide, and dwell.
- The small moments that make up our day matter more than we realize.
- Your everyday, ordinary life matters extraordinarily. It's the very place where God wants to meet you, bless you, and grow you.
- We're called to surrender A.L.L. (our Actual Lived Life).
- Make time to see what you can offer and will contribute.

<u>READ</u>

Open your time together by reading the scripture passages on Page 1. Then, take a moment to consider what you just read:

- Read Romans 12:1. How should our faith influence the way we approach each day?
- Read John 14:17-20. What are the implications to our everyday, ordinary moments when we recognize the Holy Spirit resides within us?
- Read Galatians 5:24-25 and Romans 1:16-17. What does it look like to "keep in step with the Spirit" and experience the power of the Gospel from "faith to faith"?

REFLECT

"Transformation is actually carried out in our real life, where we dwell with God and our neighbors. First, we must accept the circumstances we constantly find ourselves in as the place of God's kingdom and blessing. God has yet to bless anyone except where they actually are." -Dallas Willard

"So much of life, unavoidably, is just maintenance. Things need upkeep or they fall apart. We spend most of our days and much of our energy simply staving off inevitable entropy and decay." **-Tish Harrison Warren**

- What does it mean to be human in this world?
- Read the quotes from Dallas Willard and Tish Harrison Warren. Where does the transformation of our hearts and souls take place?
- Your everyday, ordinary life matters extraordinarily. Do you agree with this statement? What makes you answer in the way that you do?

RESPOND

- Where are you suffering from destination thinking?
- How is this approach influencing the way you live out your faith in your present circumstances?
- How can you celebrate your calling as a Christ follower by honoring the mundane moments of your life?

<u>PRAY</u>

Close your time together with prayer requests. Ask how you can pray, support, and lift one another up. Pray over these requests either collectively or by breaking up into prayer partners.