

SERMON SERIES: Renewed

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Sermon Title

“Renewed Rhythms”

Introduction

This week, we finished our series called **RENEWED** to try and tackle a seemingly simple question: *What would happen if we pursued the renewal of our mind through a fresh commitment to prioritizing God's Word in our life and relationships?* Everyone of us has rhythms in our day. For some it means getting up at the same time everyday, drinking coffee from the same mug, and scrolling through the same apps. For others, it may be your drive to work, listening to the same songs and driving the same route. Sometimes, without even realizing it, our lives fall into these rhythms and when that happens, it's easy for us to lose sight of where God is in our day. But when we approach our rhythms with a RENEWED heart and mind, and invite God into that by walking with Jesus and remaining in Him, we get to experience even newer and greater things throughout our lives. To get started this week, answer this icebreaker question with your group:

- What is a rhythm or routine that you have that you find essential to your day? What happens to your day and your mood when you are unable to be in that rhythm?

Seek the Word

Read John 15:1-8 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- What does it mean to “remain in Jesus,” and how does this passage describe the relationship between Jesus– the vine– and us, the branches?

Read Galatians 5:22-25 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- Have you ever, or do you sometimes now, view the fruit of the Spirit as a checklist of things to do in order to be a better person? Why is that?
- How does the fruit of the Spirit reflect the character of God, and in what ways does that change the way we live to bear His image?

Read Romans 12:1-2 aloud, then answer the questions below:

- Reflecting on your rhythms and patterns, what stands out to you about how they relate to the patterns of this world? What could you do to *renew* those patterns, and transform them to be more like Christ?

Go Deeper

Take a moment and make a list of your daily rhythms (write them down or make a mental list). Out of this list, which rhythm is the most important to you? Which can you most likely do without in your day? And looking at the fullness of your routines and rhythms, how can you invite God into those to renew them and improve your walk with Jesus?

Talk About It

- What does it mean for your life to remain in Jesus? What is one practical way that you can focus on remaining in Jesus, especially during challenging times?
- What rhythms of your life bear the most good fruit (quality, not necessarily quantity)? In what ways could you seek to bear more fruit in your life, such as love, joy, and peace, in your interactions with others?
- Reflect on the process of Renewal that you have been on over these last few weeks. Share with the group some of the things that you have seen God do in your life and the lives around you, as well as areas that you wish for continued renewal moving forward.

Wrap Up

Reminder: It is easy to feel comfortable in the rhythms and routines of our lives. When we find the things that seem to work for us, we stick to them and find peace with them. But all too often, we can allow those things to actually lead us further away from our walk with Jesus, especially when we do not focus our eyes and hearts on Him. Yet, because of His abounding love and grace, He calls us back to Him and asks that we *remain*. He commands for us to not conform to the patterns of this world, but be *transformed* by the RENEWING of our minds. When we pursue this wholeheartedly, we embrace the character of God and allow His image to be what we present to the world. Then, and only then, can our rhythms and routines be acts of worship that draw us nearer to Him.

Challenge: This week, choose one area of your life where you feel out of rhythm with Jesus. Commit to spending 10 minutes (or more) each day in prayer and reading Scripture specifically focused on that area, asking God to help you remain in Him.

Prayer: Close your group time by praying together, asking God to help each member remain in Jesus and bear much fruit. Pray for the strength to renew your minds and for the Holy Spirit to guide you in your daily rhythms. Ask for His joy to be complete in each of you as you seek to live in step with His Spirit.