



Hello Friends,

As followers of Jesus, we are called to discipleship. To some, this word can be intimidating, confusing, or simply not explained. Discipleship, at its heart, is about aligning our life <u>(priorities)?</u> with the way of Jesus and modeling our lives after him in all that we do. Sometimes we can over complicate this reality, but my desire for this devotional is to re-frame your understanding of discipleship and help you think critically about your own life as you have chosen to enter into relationship with Christ. Each week is broken down into one simple concept as we think about the process of ongoing discipleship in our lives: **cultivate**, **plant**, **nurture**, and **grow**. These seven days are an invitation for you to dive deeper into these ideas through Scripture and intentional questions to examine your own journey and how you can grow closer to Jesus. Every day will be divided into four sections:

- Get Ready An opportunity to prepare ourselves for what God wants us to hear.
- Read the Word A time to dig deep into a specific passage connected to the week's main idea.
- Own Your Thoughts An invitation for you to honestly examine your own life as you wrestle with questions connected to the passage for each day.
- Welcome Change A moment with God to reflect on how you can grow in your relationship with Him.

You may have noticed that the four sections also spell out the acronym **GROW**, which I hope is a simple reminder to you that this devotional is all a part of the growth process as we transform into deeper disciples in Christ.

Feel free to use this guide however best fits you in your life. Print it out, write on it, grab your own journal, or use it as a guided reflection time - it's your choice! Whatever you need to connect more to our God who loves you so incredibly much!

- Ryan Schmall



You may be wondering why I chose to title this devotional, "Revive." Let me explain.

One of my favorite pastimes is growing a vegetable garden. While I knew I could just go to the store and purchase some tomatoes or artichokes, there was something fulfilling about growing my own produce. I enjoyed working hard and watching my plants grow and develop. My family and I always ended up with an abundance of vegetables that we could then share with our friends and neighbors. My dedication to bringing life to this garden ultimately lead to my ability to share that very life with the world around me. This process of gardening beautifully reflects the concept of life. However, as we know from the life of Jesus, an abundant life actually begins with a death.

Death comes first and then resurrection.

Every year when the time came to replant the vegetable garden, there were usually remnants of last year's harvest. To prepare the garden properly so that new life could flourish, I had to get my hands dirty - literally. I had to tear out the old garden to make space for the new one... but the hard work didn't end there. I had to also give my garden the proper attention it needed to flourish such as keeping a watering schedule, looking out for weeds and disease, and protecting it from harsh weather. I knew that this intentional care had to be done in order to revive- to bring new life to where something was dead.

This is the way Jesus pointed us. If you have made the decision to follow Christ, then you have decided to abandon your old self and embrace a new one through Jesus. So what then, is discipleship?

Discipleship is the hard self-work we carry out to enter into the abundant life with Christ that He desperately wants us to experience. It is the revival of ourselves in Christ as we intentionally tend to the lives God has given us.

So, are you ready to begin?



Making the decision to follow Jesus is an intentional reality. It's not something any of us simply stumble into. In fact, a common misconception many hold is that it's a one-time commitment. Rather, planting our lives firmly in the ways of Jesus is an ongoing daily deicison to live our lives fully for him and him alone. I went to a pastoral leadership conference several years ago, and one of the speakers brought this up in these words:

"We aren't just born again. We're born again and again and again..."

Essentially, he was attempting to help us frame our lives as a daily act of surrendering before God. In everything we do, there's an invitation to plant ourselves in the way Jesus calls us to live. When Paul spoke to the church in Corinth in 1 Corinthians 10:31, he encouraged the people to consider every aspect of their lives as an opportunity to embrace living for God. Think about your everyday life for a moment.

Eating dinner Grocery shopping Putting the kids (or grandkids) to bed Doing the laundry Getting together with friends

These may seem to be some of the most mundane, normal, non-spiritual tasks of life, but as we choose to enter into a relationship with Christ, they're actually all opportunities to glorify him Author Rob Bell once said this:

"All of life is spiritual. You don't have a spiritual life. You are a spiritual life."

In that understanding, we are invited to think about the entirety of our lives and how we can plant our whole selves in the ways of Jesus.



plant | \ 'plant \planted; planting
transitive verb 1: to put or set in the ground for growth

Take a moment and remove any distractions that may shift your focus. Turn your cell phone off, find a quiet space, whatever you need! Once you are ready, ask God to help fixate your heart and mind on what He has for you to experience this week.

Read the Word

1 Corinthians 10:23-31

Own Your Thoughts

In this passage, Paul reminds us that we have the freedom to make decisions in our daily routines, however, not every choice is "beneficial" to our ongoing relationship with Christ. He concludes by urging us to do everything for the glory of God. Make a list of all the activities in your life you can think of (eating, paying bills, grocery shopping, gardening, etc.). The list can be as long as you'd like. Examine your list and circle or notate the spaces of life that you struggle to embrace planting yourself in Christ.

Welcome Change

Reflect on your list. Spend some time praying for God to help reveal to you what planting yourself in each of those areas might look like. If you want to create some accountability, share one or two of your reflections with a close friend.





plant | \ 'plant \planted; planting transitive verb 1: to put or set in the ground for growth

Find a space where you can be present with God without distractions. Find your list or notes from yesterday if you have them. Invite Him to continue to move in your life and reveal His will for you as you draw closer to Him.

Read the Word

Colossians 2:1-15

Own Your Thoughts

In this passage, Paul urges his fellow brothers and sisters in Christ to firmly plant their whole selves in Jesus. For many of us, this journey must start with the way we plant our very minds. It's simple for the world to come and deceive us as we are attempting to follow Christ more closely. Embracing the fullness of what Christ offers each of us begins each day by intentionally planting our thoughts in him. Take some time to consider how you can align your thought patterns on a daily basis with what Jesus calls us toward.

Welcome Change

Pray for God to consume your thoughts as you embark on another day of following Him.





plant | \ 'plant \planted; planting transitive verb 1: to put or set in the ground for growth

Quiet your heart and take a moment to ask God to help you more clearly see His path to growth in your life.

Read the Word

Hebrews 12:1-3

Own Your Thoughts

As disciples of Jesus, we have made the intentional decision to shed the things that were destructive in our lives so that we can fully embrace the new life Christ has for us. If we're honest, we often lose our focus on that goal. This verse compels us to "fixate" our eyes on Jesus. Take a moment and identify 3 areas of your everyday life where your eyes have become fixated on something else. Ask yourself how or why you allowed that to distract you from your true calling.

Welcome Change

As you reflect on the exercise above, invite God to help you identify how you can keep Him the focal point of your life in these specific areas. Make a plan, with God's help, on how you will intentionally keep your eyes fixated on Jesus in these spaces of life.





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Take a moment to ask God to quiet your mind, heart, and soul as you invite Him to continue revealing new ways to plant your life in Him.

Read the Word

Psalm 91

Own Your Thoughts

In this passage, the Psalmist sings praise to the reality of God as our "refuge," or our resting place. In so many areas of our lives, we attempt to find the refuge that, ultimately, only God Himself can provide. We tend to compartmentalize our lives, not leaning into the fact that God is asking for our whole selves, not merely a portion. We cannot partially dwell in Christ. The peace and wholeness of Jesus can only be experienced when we place the entirety of our lives in him. Take a moment and identify how you have compartmentalized your life then take some time to process how you can think more holistically about your life in Jesus.

Welcome Change

Reflecting on the Psalm, write or audibly pray your own prayer of gratitude for Christ's invitation to experience the peace and wholeness that comes from planting our lives in His ways in every aspect of life.





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Spend a moment preparing your heart in prayer, asking God to give you the courage to honestly acknowledge your need for more of Him in your life.

Read the Word

2 Samuel 11

Own Your Thoughts

In this passage, we find David, who's known as a man after God's own heart, making an incredibly unhealthy decision that led to even more unhealthy decisions. Even if you've lived your entire life chasing after God, that doesn't mean you are free from poor choices that disrupt that relationship. We must daily choose to intentionally act in a way that plants ourselves in Christ. In other words, our actions matter. Spend some time searching your own actions. What actions have you engaged in that weren't planted in Jesus? Why did you choose to plant yourself in those ideas or ways? What are actions that you need to shift in order to align yourself more fully with the life Jesus calls you toward?

Welcome Change

IReflect back on the previous exercise and thank God for His profound grace and mercy in your life. Invite Him to inspire your actions today to draw you closer to Him.





plant | \ 'plant \planted; planting transitive verb 1: to put or set in the ground for growth

Spend some time with God reflecting back on the week. Thank Him for His ongoing grace and love in your life as you attempt to plant your whole self in Him. Invite God to continue revealing ways in which you can grow closer to Him.

Read the Word

Amos 5:1-15

Own Your Thoughts

This passage presents a lament from God over Israel's continual shifting focus off of the life they had been called to. Time and time again, Israel struggled to plant themselves in Yahweh. Sound familiar? It should because Israel's is our story. This work of planting is something we must intentionally keep in front of our eyes, minds, and hearts. We easily can plant ourselves in things, ideas, political debates, lustful desires, and even heart stances that are simply destructive to our relationship with Christ. When we think about the wholeness of our lives, we must always ask if what we're planting ourselves in is of man or of Christ. Revisit your notes and lists from this week and take some time to honestly ask yourself how you're doing with this concept and consider how you can continue to grow in this asepct of your relationship with God.

Welcome Change

Reflect on your answers and thoughts to the exercise above. Ask God for His help for you to choose walking in the light as your pursue a deeper relationship with Him.


