

# LOVE AND LISTEN

Daily Devotions for Resonate Mission Emphasis Week

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*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17*

## Introduction

We are living in a time of profound uncertainty.

Our day to day lives have been significantly “disrupted” over the past two years.

Systemic racial injustice continues to rear its ugly head in our countries.

Deepening political differences divide families and communities.

We long to “return” . . . but “to what?” And before you say it out loud . . . what is “normal” anyway?

It is a time like no other for God to awaken our imaginations. What does it mean to be the people of God in the world today? What might God be doing in our local neighbourhoods and congregations?

Join us on a journey this year to “love” and “listen” as we seek to trust God and discover and join Spirit in what God is already doing out ahead of us, right where we are, here and now.

In this week of Mission Emphasis, we hope that you will not only participate via these devotions and conversations but know that Resonate Global Mission is committed to walking with you and your church as you follow God on mission in your own community and discover God at work around the globe, *for God so loves the world!*

Thank you for joining us on God's mission– not just this week but every day all year!

More information and resources available at [www.resonateglobalmission.org/missionemphasis](http://www.resonateglobalmission.org/missionemphasis)

# Local Practices for Mission Emphasis Week 2022

Not only do 'Love' and 'Listen' start with the same letter in English, but they also are inextricably linked as Christian practices. To listen attentively, genuinely is to love. To love is to be willing to listen to the other, openly, non-judgmentally, even when it might be inconvenient, awkward or difficult. As we listen in love and love through listening, we discover and participate in what Spirit is already doing for the sake of the world God so loves.

This week we invite you to join us in being attentive to and expressing God's love as we learn (or relearn) and practice listening to Spirit through the text, one another and our neighbours. Along with these daily devotions, we encourage you to participate in one or more of our **virtual 60-minute guided conversations** where we will share stories, reflections and questions as we together seek to discover and join Spirit on God's mission of loving and saving the world. [Sign up here.](#)

## Format

In this devotional series, we'll explore the most familiar Bible verse, John 3:16. Each day, we will DWELL in the text; DIG a little deeper and ponder its meaning and application to our lives and neighbourhoods; finally we will be invited to DO something in response: DWELL- DIG- DO. If you will be using these devotions in hard copy, be sure to have check for the day's videos and songs beforehand so you can watch and listen along.

The daily devotionals may be engaged individually, with a partner or as a household. To facilitate ease of use, most of the time the singular or plural will be used (not both) but please adapt by employing the appropriate pronoun (my/our, me/us) according to who's participating. Whether we are participating on our own or with others, let's remember that we are always in the company of saints both near and far; together we pray *OUR Father...*

## Dwell

The invitation to dwell in the text is ancient, simple, and profound. It's an opportunity to listen to the Spirit through the text, one another, and our contexts. It is also a posture that moves us to not only dwell in the text, but to make space for the text to dwell in us—shape, challenge and guide us.

*Lectio Divina ... is not reading to acquire new information or to learn a critical skill. Rather, it is a form of devotional reading in which we allow God to "read" us and respond to our deepest desire... Most important is how we read— not to understand or control God, but to be understood and formed by God... Spiritual reading, therefore, is slow, deliberate, meditative reading in which we allow the words to penetrate our heart and question our spirit.* Henri J.M. Nouwen, *Discernment: Reading the Signs of Daily Life* 2013.

These questions are intended to guide your daily Scripture pondering:

What words or phrases stand out to you (is the Spirit highlighting)? (You might find it helpful to actually highlight them!) Why do you think?

What are you wondering about as you ponder the text?

What might God be saying to you? To your neighbours?

How might the Spirit be nudging you to respond?

Journal your responses and if/when pondering with a partner/household, share with one another.

Note: Unless otherwise indicated all Scripture texts are quoted from the [New Revised Standard Version](#).

## **DIG**

Having read the text *again for the first time*, some questions and reflections are included for us to 'dig' into and apply the text a little more.

## **DO**

One of our key words for this series is "Listen" but 'listen' means a lot more than just hearing the sound waves in our ears. Watch this short video, [Shema - Listen - Bing video](#) to learn about how from the Bible's perspective, to listen is to obey- to act on what we hear.

Listening thus requires effort and practice. It begins by paying attention to what is being said and to what we observe/see when we *actually* look. It's about 'dwelling' in the word (see above), in the moment, and our neighbourhoods such that we notice, reflect and respond in multiple ways to God's grace, love and missional activity here and now.

In following, the 'Do' section includes suggested action steps and prayer prompts to guide us in responding to and putting into practice what we learned.

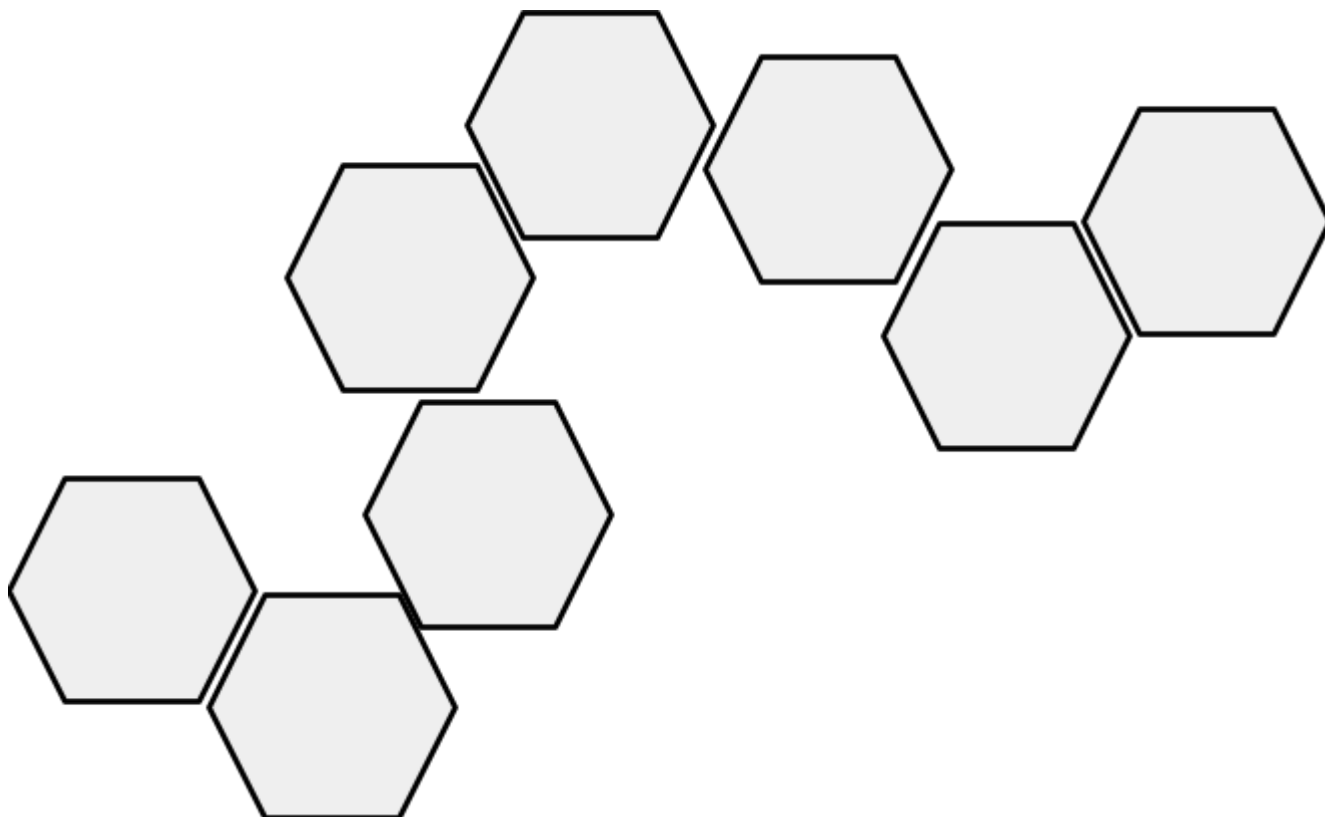
To further help us in our 'listening' each day, there is an invitation to choose a word that reminds us of what we heard during our devotional time, write it on a labyrinth 'stone' and think about it during the day. Stones helped God's people listen and remember...

## 'Stone Pathway'

When God's people cross over the Jordan, they are instructed to build an altar of stones to the Lord and to write God's words on them (Deut. 27:2-6, Joshua 8:30-32). When Elijah went 'head-to-head' with the priests of Baal, he made an altar with "twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob" (1 Kings 18: 31, 32). Over and over again God invites his people to remember the Lord's presence and activity, and on a good number of occasions, to do so with stones.

Each day of our journey, we will mark 'a stone,' on our path by writing a word that stood out for us during our devotional time on it and thinking about it during the day.

Hold these words in your heart and mind in the days ahead – how do they speak to you in your everyday relationships and contexts? What questions, challenges or encouragement do they prompt? How might the Spirit be nudging you to respond?



### Daily Themes:

- Day One: For God... *Sends*
- Day Two: For God... *Sent His Son*
- Day Three: For God... *Sends US!*
- Day Four: For God... *So Loves*
- Day Five: For God...*So Loves our Neighbours*
- Day Six: For God...*So Loves the World*
- Day Seven: We "Believe"
- Day Eight: Eternal Life- *Life to the full!*

## DAY ONE: For God Sends

### Dwell

As you begin, pause, take a deep breath, and invite Spirit's leading.

Think about who God is. What Names, titles, descriptions of God come to mind? List them.

Now, focus your attention on the texts. Read them slowly, contemplatively:

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

[God to Moses] Now go, for I am sending you to Pharaoh. You must lead my people Israel out of Egypt." Exodus 3:10

[God to Joseph] God sent me on ahead to pave the way and make sure there was a remnant in the land, to save your lives in an amazing act of deliverance. Genesis 45:7

[God to Gideon] Then the LORD turned to him and said, "Go with the strength you have, and rescue Israel from the Midianites. I am sending you!" Judges 6:14

[God to Ezekiel] Son of man," he said, "I am sending you to the nation of Israel, a rebellious nation that has rebelled against me. Ezekiel 2:3

And the Lord sent Jerubbaal and Barak, and Jephthah, and Samson, and rescued you out of the hand of your enemies on every side; and you lived in safety. 1 Samuel 12:11

Samuel said to Saul, "I am the one the Lord sent to anoint you king over his people Israel; so listen now to the message from the Lord. 1 Samuel 15:1

The Lord sent Nathan to David. 2 Samuel 12:1...

Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" And I said, "Here am I. Send me!" Isaiah 6:8

...for in truth the Lord sent me to you to speak all these words in your ears. Jeremiah 26:15

...the Lord sent prophets to the people to bring them back to him. 2 Chronicles 24:19

There once was a man, his name John, sent by God to point out the way to the Life-Light. John 1:6 (MSG)

Read the verses again with these questions in mind:

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

What are you wondering about as you ponder God's Word?

What might Spirit be saying to you?

How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?

## DIG

What names, titles, descriptions of God did you list above?

Did "Missio Dei", Missionary God, Sending One as God is described in these verses, make your list?

Think about God as the sending God, the Sent and Sending One...

Today, we are becoming more aware of the fact that God is missional. God's very nature, being and action are missional. God sends and goes on mission in person and in place as the verses above and in so many of Scripture's stories, illustrate: God sent Esther to the King's palace, Ruth to Bethlehem, Deborah to Mount Tabor, Jonah to Nineveh, the Israelites to Babylon...

*Who else did God send?*

*If God is Missio Dei, then ...*

(Complete the sentence and ponder the implications).

Journal your reflections and responses and if/when dwelling with a partner/household, share with one another.

*"Mission is not primarily an activity of the church, but an attribute of God. God is a missionary God."*  
David J. Bosch, Transforming Mission, 389–390.

## DO

Pay attention to being sent and sending today. Who sends you- to whom, to do what? Who do you send, to whom, to do what?

How might this reflect the very nature of God?

Describe your neighbourhood, the place where God has sent you... you may want to look out the window, sit outside or go for a walk to develop your description.

Choose your word for the day, write it on your labyrinth (or a real stone) and ponder it throughout your day.

## Prayer Prompts:

*Sending One,*

*Thank you...*

*Show me...*

*Help me...*

*Send me...*

*God who sends in person and place...*

*Divine Mystery, Holy Trinity*

*Extending community*

*In Love making all*

*In grace embracing all*

*Can it be true?*

*You seek us-*

*Eve, Adam, Ruby, Russ.*

*You say, "I love you*

*I AM with you, I AM coming for you,*

*After and before you*

*I AM the Sent and Sending One."*

*You seek us-*

*In the songs all nature sings*

*Through prophets, priests and kings*

*With patience, Presence, all good things.*

*You seek us-*

*Like a shepherd searching for a lamb*

*Like a deer pants for water*

*Like a hen corralling her young*

*Like a groom for his bride*

*Like my heart for Your true love*

*Which finds us,*

*Holds and reminds us*

*Everywhere and evermore*

*You seek us*

*and we find*

*Light in the darkness*

*Joy in the moment*

*Hope for tomorrow*

*Love for our neighbour*

*Peace and completeness:*

*You are the Sent and Sending One.*

## DEEPER:

To learn more about the Sending God check out:

<https://www.missionalchurchnetwork.com/sending-language>

## DAY TWO: SENT HIS SON

### DWELL

As you begin, pause, take a deep breath, and invite Spirit's leading.

What have you been pondering from yesterday's reflections?

What if God is not only the Sending One but the Sent One?

Dwell in the texts. Read them slowly, contemplatively:

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. John 3:16-17*

The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood. We saw the glory with our own eyes, the one-of-a-kind glory, like Father, like Son, Generous inside and out, true from start to finish. John 1:6, 7a, 14 (MSG)

...God showed his great love for us by sending Christ to die for us while we were still sinners. Romans 5:8

[Jesus] told them, "Don't you realize that there are yet other villages where I have to tell the Message of God's kingdom, that this is the work God sent me to do?" Luke 4:43

[Jesus] "He who receives you receives me, and he who receives me receives the one who sent me." (Matt. 10:40; Mark 9:37; Luke 9:48).

Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to complete his work. John 4:34

Jesus answered them, "This is the work of God, that you believe in him whom he has sent." John 6:29

Then Jesus answered them, "My teaching is not mine but his who sent me. John 7:16

Jesus then said, "I will be with you a little while longer, and then I am going to him who sent me. John 7:33

Creator showed his love for us by sending the only Son who fully represents him into this world, so that we could live through him. 1 John 4:9 FNV



Read the verses again with these questions in mind:

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

What are you wondering about as you ponder God's Word?

What might Spirit be saying to you?

How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?

## DIG

After sending numerous prophets, priests, judges and royalty, God sends Himself. Jesus identifies Himself as the One sent by God. Notice how this is expressed in the verses above.

Ponder Jesus as the Sent One:

In John's Gospel, Jesus uses the Greek verb *pempein* to refer to "the Father who sent me" no fewer than 24 times. These references put the focus on the Father, who through this action of sending authorizes and empowers the Son in his mission. In another seventeen passages, however, some form of the verb *apostellein* is used to focus instead on Jesus, as the one who is sent. This verb invests Jesus' acts with the full authority of the Father because he seems to do only what the Father wills.

**Jesus' mission is described as a unique expression of the Father's love for the world.**

"In John 3:16-17, the "sending" relationship between the Father and Son frames Jesus as God's gift for the world. For John, this embodies the nature of God's love for the world (see also John 3:16; 1 John 4:10). The purpose of this giving or sending is to save the world, not to condemn it." [John Painter, "God as Sender, Jesus as Sent", n.p. \[cited 28 Aug 2022\].](#)

Why do you think Jesus came as the sent and sending One?

Clearly one reason is because God loves *so much*. Because God is love. (1 John 4:8,16)

Consider (and discuss) how love and God's missional nature go together?

How would you describe God's love and therefore God's missional nature?

(Here are a few examples to get you started: unconditional, everlasting, personal, extending itself, always about the other, inclusive...)

*For God so loved the world that...*

- (Complete the sentence in your own words, be creative, think expansively)
- Ponder the implications...

*As Jesus unveiled God before a surprised and unready world, so must we. Love is that important. ... Our love must 'come in the flesh', just as God's love did. -- N.T. Wright*

Journal your reflections and responses and if/when dwelling with a partner/household, share with one another.

Choose your word for the day, write it on the next stone in your listening labyrinth (or a real stone) and ponder it throughout your day.

## DO

Pay attention to signs of God's great Love for the world today.

As you have 'dwelt' in the text, listening to Spirit, 'saunter' around your neighbourhood with the same attentive, listening, posture.

*"To "Saunter" means to wander and walk in a slow and relaxed manner. It comes from the French phrase, "a la Sainte Terre" - "to the holy land" and reminds us, that all of our steps are on holy ground."*  
- Brian Draper

As you begin, pause, take a deep breath, invite Spirit's leading and focus your attention on your street.

As you 'saunter,' enjoying a walk in your neighbourhood, consider:

- Who is on the street? What are people doing?
- What surprises you? What raises your curiosity?
- What creates concern or questions?
- What might God be up to? i.e. Where are there signs of God's love at work?
- Is there anything that catches your attention in a way that makes you want to ask more questions or get more information?
- What might Spirit be saying to you?
- How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?

*Upon your return, record and reflect on your observations.*

## Prayer Prompt:

Come, Lord Jesus, God-With-Us, Sent One  
Startle us  
    With Your presence, Your Kingdom come  
    Your love re-arranging, life-sustaining  
    Flesh and blood in our neighbourhoods  
That we might see You  
    Humanly and humbly  
    Authentically and boldly  
    Vulnerably and lovingly  
    Amoing us, With us, One of us.  
Come, Lord Jesus, Sent and Holy One  
Flesh and blood, saving One  
Establish Your Kingdom come

Welcoming, healing  
Abundantly renewing  
Redeeming, forgiving  
Your life giving  
All that we need  
All made right  
World made new,  
Heaven on earth, All in You—  
You are God incarnating  
One-of-a-kind finishing  
Perfecting neighbouring  
**Glory.**

### DEEPER

Watch Missio Dei- Work of the People [Missio\\_Dei.mpg](#)

- a. What stood out for you in this video?
- b. What shifts did it suggest in our thinking and practice of mission?
- c. What questions does it raise for you?
- d. How would you summarize its message?

## DAY THREE: For God Sends US!

Just for fun, correct these verses by replacing the underlined phrases with the correct words.

You are the salt of your favourite dishes. Matt.5:13

You are the light of your own sweet home. Matt.5:14

Go and make Christians teaching them to say the prayer and believe the right things. Matt. 28:19

Come follow Me and I will make you fish for mints on Sunday morning. Luke 5:10

For I have set you an example that you also should do whatever you feel like. John 13:15

Everyone will know that you are my disciples if you have love for yourself and your stuff. John 13:35

What do you think this humorous exercise might be suggesting ?

### DWELL

As you begin, pause, take a deep breath, and invite Spirit's leading.

Think about how you identify yourself in relationship to God. Do you call yourself a believer? A Christian? A disciple of Jesus? A missionary? God's sent one?

Focus your attention on the texts. Read them slowly, contemplatively:

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

The Lord now chose seventy other disciples and sent them on ahead in pairs to all the towns and villages he planned to visit later. <sup>2</sup>These were his instructions to them: "Plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out more laborers to help you, for the harvest is so plentiful and the workers so few. <sup>3</sup>Go now, and remember that I am sending you out as lambs among wolves. Luke 10:1- 3 TLB

Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge: "Don't begin by traveling to some far-off place to convert unbelievers. And don't try to be dramatic by tackling some public enemy. Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood. Tell them that the kingdom is here. Matthew 10:5-7 MSG

And he called his twelve disciples together and began sending them out two by two, giving them authority to cast out evil spirits. Mark 6:7

Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you." John 20:21

Jesus talking with the Father: Just as you sent me into the world, I am sending them into the world. John 17:18

To Paul - Yes, I am sending you to the Gentiles ... Acts 26:17b

Go [in your going about your daily life] therefore, make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:19,20

So now I am sending you into all nations to teach them how to walk the road with me. You will represent me as you perform the purification ceremony [baptism] with them, *initiating them into the life of beauty and harmony represented* in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You will then teach them all the ways that I have instructed you to walk in. Matthew 28:19,20 FNV

Read the verses again with our dwelling questions in mind:

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

What are you wondering about as you ponder God's Word?

What might Spirit be saying to you?

How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?

## **DIG**

Notice that Jesus' followers are Jesus' sent ones... I am sending *you*.

What does that mean to you? How might it involve more than simply making a belief statement? (Can you be a Christian and not a sent one?)

How are you living as Christ's sent one? How could you?

What excites you about being commissioned to represent Jesus and God's love for the world? What challenges (or scares) you about living more fully into your identity and calling as Christ's sent one in your neighbourhood?

As you ponder these things, recall that 'the mission' is God's...not ours.

"Fundamentally, our mission (if it is biblically informed and validated) means our committed participation as God's people, at God's invitation and command, in God's own mission within the history of God's world for the redemption of the whole of God's creation." Christopher Wright, *The Mission of God* (63, 67). (23).

How are you hearing *God's invitation and command*? How could you?

How are you discovering and joining Spirit *in God's world for the redemption of the whole of God's creation*? How could you?

Choose your word for the day and write it on a stone on your listening labyrinth.

## DO

Journal about being God's Sent One:

- How does it feel to imagine yourself in this way?
- What are you noticing as you seek to live into this identity in your daily life?
- What might it mean for you to more fully discover and join Spirit on God's mission in your neighbourhood?

Consider how your neighbours see you.

- o What does what they see/know about you tell them about who you are, who God is--What it means to be a Christ follower?


Continue to 'saunter' around your neighbourhood. As you do, ponder these questions...

- What do I want/need to learn about my neighbourhood? About myself? About where God might be at work in my neighbourhood?
- What might God be up to in my neighbourhood?
- How might the practice of good listening help me in seeking to discover and join Spirit on God's mission in my neighbourhood?

PRAYER PROMPT:

*Circle us, Lord  
Those who long to discover You right on our street  
Those who seek Your Image in everyone we meet  
Those who know You walk among us  
with (w)holy beautiful feet  
Your Kingdom come near is our entreat.  
Circle us, Holy Trinity  
Sent and Sending God of love's infinity  
Teaching us of Your Presence and proximity  
Beyond our buildings, boundaries, Your bright litany  
Divine sublimity  
Circle us, that  
Trust might be within, and fear be held at bay  
Listening might come first and assuming have no play  
Welcome might speak up, and prejudice have no weigh  
Mercy might invite and indifference have no sway  
That Grace with beauty and wonder might display  
Your encircling immeasurable goodness this, and every day  
Circle us, Lord and have Your way.*

*DEEPER:*

Watch  The Missional Church... simple

- a. What stood out for you in this video?
- b. Where is your current congregation on the journey towards being a Missional Church? Where are you?
- c. What do you think makes it challenging to make this shift?
- d. What has encouraged you in making this shift?

If you want to learn more/dig deeper into "being sent" in the Bible, check out [Missional Sending Language in the Bible.docx](#)

## DAY FOUR: So Loved

What is love? How would you define/describe it? How might your partner, family, neighbours, friends, answer that question? Why not, ask a few of them!

### DWELL

Jesus often answers that question with a story or parable. Which ones come to mind for you? Today and tomorrow, we pause to ponder what is often called "the Parable of the Good Samaritan" again for the first time.

As you begin, pause, take a deep breath, and invite Spirit's leading. *Dwell* in the text...

Read the passage slowly, contemplatively: What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting- *why not highlight them*)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

### Luke 10:25-37

An expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" <sup>26</sup> He said to him, "What is written in the law? What do you read there?" <sup>27</sup> He answered, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." <sup>28</sup> And he said to him, "You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live."

But wanting to vindicate himself, he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?" <sup>30</sup> Jesus replied, "A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho and fell into the hands of robbers, who stripped him, beat him, and took off, leaving him half dead. <sup>31</sup> Now by chance a priest was going down that road, and when he saw him he passed by on the other side. <sup>32</sup> So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side. <sup>33</sup> But a Samaritan while traveling came upon him, and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. <sup>34</sup> He went to him and bandaged his wounds, treating them with oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. <sup>35</sup> The next day he took out two denarii, gave them to the innkeeper, and said, 'Take care of him, and when I come back I will repay you whatever more you spend.' <sup>36</sup> Which of these three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of the robbers?" <sup>37</sup> He said, "The one who showed him mercy." Jesus said to him, "Go and do likewise."

Read the passage again imagining **Jesus as the 'good Samaritan.'**

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

What are you wondering about as you ponder God's Word?

What might Spirit be saying to you?

How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?



## DIG

Where /who are you in the story?

Where/who, do you think, are your neighbours?

"The pattern is broken by the Samaritan who, contrary to all expectation, does not leave. From then on, each line describes an action (seven in all) on the part of the Samaritan in service to the wounded man. The list is long because the Samaritan must make up for the actions of everyone else. He compensates for their failures in an inverse order." Kenneth Bailey, *Through Peasant Eyes*, 41

What does the Samaritan do (the seven actions) in contrast to/"to compensate for the failures of" the priest and Levite?

What strikes you about the Samaritan and his risky and costly compassion? How much is he willing to risk and to pay? How might these actions describe what Jesus does?

Consider these verses:

*"The Jews answered him, "Are we not right in saying that you are a Samaritan and have a demon?"*  
John 8:48

*For I will restore health to you, and your wounds I will heal, says the Lord...* Jer.30:17

If Jesus is identifying Himself as the good Samaritan, what might be some of the implications?

Consider...

If Jesus comes to *us(you)* as a Samaritan (despised, unclean, foreigner...) than...

If *we're* in the ditch than...

If God so loves than...

"The Samaritan is an unknown stranger. Yet, in spite of the cost in time, effort, money, and personal danger, he freely demonstrates unexpected love to the one in need." Kenneth Bailey, 54

*Doesn't this sound like the kind of love that God offers us?*

How are you receiving God's great love for you in the other, i.e. your neighbour?

Journal about being *so loved* by Jesus, the rejected outsider, Who saves you.

How does it feel to imagine yourself in the ditch, perhaps in contrast to how you have previously understood this parable?

What are you noticing as you seek to recognize and receive God's love in this way?

Choose your word for the day and write it on your listening labyrinth.

## DO

'Listening' in our neighbourhoods is about being fully present with our neighbours so that we can discern what God is up to and join Spirit there. In Go Local (a Resonate initiative), we recognize that there are four neighbourhood places where we can engage this listening practice:

At home: In our own front yards/ verandahs/steps balconies	On our block/ street/lane
In community spaces like the coffee shop, park, school, grocery store, library	In neighbourhood groups like the soccer team, book club, local volunteer association

Try to spend an hour in one or more of these places today, perhaps with a neighbour, family member or friend.

What do you notice? What catches your attention, makes you wonder?

What might Spirit be celebrating? – lamenting?

Consider the parable in the context of your neighbourhood:

Who might be deemed the outsider? How are you and your neighbours reacting to them?  
What if Jesus is at work in and through *them*?

Where do you see evidence of God's love through 'the Samaritan'? How are you responding and joining in? How could you?

What might God be saying to you?

How might you discover more of God's love for God's world right where you live?

### **Prayer Prompt**

For God so loves...

Me, you, our neighbours

Even when we're in the ditch, the bar,  
Selfish, fearful, proud, self righteous,  
Despite our compromised position

For God so loves

Me, you, our neighbours

No matter the cost, the effort, the time

The risk, the suffering, the mess, distress,  
Despite our earthly imposition  
For God so loves  
Me, you, our neighbours  
He comes in flesh and blood  
Eating and drinking, living  
Ordinary, everyday, among us  
True humanity's composition  
Embodying Divine Love's gracious mission  
For God so loves  
Me, you, our neighbours.

*Creator-Spirit-Son, thank you that You are a God of love- that You are love.*

*And that Your love is ... [insert your own words]*

*Thank you for loving me and calling me Your Beloved child in whom You delight.*

*Help me to love You with my whole being and in all that I think, say and do in my everyday life and neighbourhood.*

*Help me to love my neighbours as You love me—in authentic relationship --not just platitudes.*

*Help me also to receive my neighbours at any and every moment, as those who bear Your image and are equally loved by You. Amen.*

““God so loved the world” is not a statement of quantity (so very much) but a reference to *how* God enacted love. God loved the world *in this way*... The first reading puts the focus on us and how much we are valued. The second, more accurate reading places the attention on the giving nature of God and God's love which is boundless, selfless, and gracious.” [John 3:16 : a fresh look \(outword.blogspot.com\)](http://outword.blogspot.com)

#### **DEEPER:**

Watch this video [Transforming\\_Through\\_Love\\_Pt\\_Two.mp4](#)

Check out how Jesus echoes verses in Hosea 6:1-10 in this parable.

## DAY FIVE: For God so Loves our Neighbours

### DWELL

As you begin, pause, take a deep breath, and invite Spirit's leading.

Look back at the words on your "stones." What might God be saying to you?

Focus your attention on the text. Read the passage again for the first time, slowly, contemplatively:

### Luke 10:25-37 MSG

<sup>25</sup> Just then a religion scholar stood up with a question to test Jesus. "Teacher, what do I need to do to get eternal life?"

<sup>26</sup> He answered, "What's written in God's Law? How do you interpret it?"

<sup>27</sup> He said, "That you love the Lord your God with all your passion and prayer and muscle and intelligence—and that you love your neighbor as well as you do yourself."

<sup>28</sup> "Good answer!" said Jesus. "Do it and you'll live."

<sup>29</sup> Looking for a loophole, he asked, "And just how would you define 'neighbor'?"

<sup>30-32</sup> Jesus answered by telling a story. "There was once a man traveling from Jerusalem to Jericho. On the way he was attacked by robbers. They took his clothes, beat him up, and went off leaving him half-dead. Luckily, a priest was on his way down the same road, but when he saw him he angled across to the other side. Then a Levite religious man showed up; he also avoided the injured man.

<sup>33-35</sup> "A Samaritan traveling the road came on him. When he saw the man's condition, his heart went out to him. He gave him first aid, disinfecting and bandaging his wounds. Then he lifted him onto his donkey, led him to an inn, and made him comfortable. In the morning he took out two silver coins and gave them to the innkeeper, saying, 'Take good care of him. If it costs any more, put it on my bill—I'll pay you on my way back.'

<sup>36</sup> "What do you think? Which of the three became a neighbor to the man attacked by robbers?"

<sup>37</sup> "The one who treated him kindly," the religion scholar responded.

Jesus said, "Go and do the same."

Reread the passage, guided by these dwelling (listening) questions...

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

What are you wondering about as you ponder God's Word?

What might Spirit be saying to you?

How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?

## DIG

Notice Jesus' instructions (imperatives).

The lawyer has asked about eternal life, but Jesus widens the discussion to include **all of life now**; a present result of a present action: It's not about 'the after life' but life today! (Present tense, verses 28 and 37) Jesus is saying:

*Do this now and now you will live.*

*Do this and you will come alive!*

*Do this and you are living.*

How might loving God and our neighbours bring us to life; *be life*?

How have you/your congregation experienced the life-giving significance of keeping the great commandment?

What makes loving God and neighbour so important, so central to being who God has already called and made us to be, and to discovering, pointing to and participating in God's mission?

The verb 'do' is also a present imperative meaning "Keep on doing" --

"It's a command for an open-ended ongoing lifestyle of unlimited and unqualified love for God and people." Kenneth Bailey, *Through Peasant Eyes*, 37.

Notice how Jesus identifies love of God and neighbour as one commandment:

'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength...' And 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." Mark 12:29-31

How do Jesus' life and teachings illustrate this? For example, in this parable, loving neighbour takes precedence over keeping the 'religious laws' as we also discover when Jesus' heals on the sabbath, forgives rather than throwing a stone, interacts with women, tax collectors and 'other sinners', and so on.

*How might you live this commandment more fully?*

Pause for a couple of minutes of personal reflection (listening)...

*I learned that...*

*I sensed God saying...*

*I will...*

*For Jesus, everything is shaped toward becoming people who love God and who love others, and nothing less than a life absorbed in love is sufficient to describe what a Christian is for Him. Scot McKnight, One.Life- Jesus Calls We Follow, 47.*

Choose your word for the day and write it on your 'stone' labyrinth.

## **DO**

Faithful Jews have said the 'Shema' (Hear O Israel...) every morning for centuries. In light of that practice, repeat what has been called the Jesus Creed (the Great Commandment-see above, Mark 12:29-31) throughout your day.

What would happen if you were to say it every morning? How might this practice impact your day? How might you live it out?

As you hang out in your neighbourhood today (in any or all four places, (see Day Four, DO), have a conversation with a few neighbours about what makes a good neighbour.

Be sure to listen well and to take note of (remember/journal about) their responses.

As Jesus unveiled God before a surprised and unready world, so must we. Love is that important. ... Our love must 'come in the flesh', just as God's love did. -- N.T. Wright

We have no choice but to live out the command of God with those near and quite specific neighbors with whom we share our human existence. I cannot evade the command of God that comes to me through the neighbor who shares my space and whose life I am bound up in common personal and social identity. Anderson, *The Shape of Practical Theology*, 146-47.

Prayer Prompt: "[Litany for Neighbors](#)"

Christ, you taught us the keys to life,

**The greatest commandments:**

Love God with heart, soul, mind, and strength;

**Love our neighbors as ourselves** (Mark 12:30,31).

We are asked to love Love

**And to serve Love.**

Teach us what this means, oh God,

**And help us to do it well.**

So fill us with love, oh God,

**That we don't have room for anything else.**

Let us be enlarged and expanded

**And awakened by Love.**

Let our eyes never veer from Love,

**Our hearts never stray from Love,**

Our minds be fixed on Love,

**Our bodies dedicated to love's service.**

And as we do the work of learning to accept and love ourselves,

**Let us also accept and love our neighbors.**

Let care and concern for our neighbors well-being and highest good

**Be the hallmark of our work.**

For these are our neighbor and our family:

**The poor, the lonely, the sick, the prisoner**

The underdog, the misunderstood, the ones who long,

**The far-away and the beggar at our gate,**

The flawed and the downtrodden

**The familiar and the alien.**

Love is who and Whose we are.

**And love is what we do.**

**Amen.**

### **DEEPER:**

Watch and reflect on this short video: [Love - Bing video](#)

What did you learn about the key word, love, in this presentation?

How is this similar/different to the way you usually use it and have understood it?

What might be some of the implications of this understanding for you?

How might you act on it/live it more fully (i.e. keep the command!)?

If you would like to learn more about the Jesus Creed, check out:

 [Module Three: THE JESUS CREED: Love Your Neighbour](#)

## DAY SIX:

### DWELL

As you begin, pause, take a deep breath, and invite Spirit's leading. *Dwell* in the text, reading the passage slowly, contemplatively:

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

#### **John 3:16-18**

<sup>16</sup> "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

<sup>17</sup> "Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. <sup>18</sup> Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Read the passage again, guided by these dwelling (listening) questions...

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

What are you wondering about as you ponder God's Word?

What might Spirit be saying to you?

How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?

### DIG

Today, let's ponder "the world" used 3 times in two verses. What do you think that includes?

The word in Greek is kosmos, or, as we spell it in English, cosmos.

For God so loves the cosmos --the whole world, the universe! God is about the salvation, the restoration, the redemption of all things, a new earth and heaven—and we get to witness and bear witness to it!

“...we know that this is truly the Savior of the world.” John 4:42

*For the mission of God is as universal as the love of God and as Psalm 145:13 reminds us, "The Lord is faithful to all his promises and loving toward all he has made." Christopher Wright, 393.*



*God's mission is the redemption and restoration of both humanity and his whole creation completely, in every realm of life, whether spiritual or social.* [Mike Aubrey](#)

What might be the implications for you/us of God's mission being about all of creation, for God so loves *the world*?

What signs of God's great love for the world--including your neighbourhood, have you noticed this week?

What might your neighbourhood look like if God's dream/desire for it was fulfilled? List some words that come to mind (like inclusive, safe, abundant, beautiful, harmonious, flourishing...)

The discipline of nurturing good places means inhabiting them, believing in them, investing in them and doing everything we can to make them fully human. ...investing both resources and energy in order to create a community of shalom; a community of completeness and wholeness in which people individually and collectively experience health, prosperity, security and spiritual renewal. Simon Carey Holt, *God Next Door*, 132

How might you discover and participate in nurturing that kind of 'good place' right where you live?

How might you, in your everyday life and neighbourhood, grow in loving God's whole world like God does, such that others 'will know'?

And [Jesus] said to them, **"Go into all the world and proclaim the good news to the whole creation"**. Mark 16:15

*As You have sent Me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.* John 17:18

What have you heard God saying? How will you respond?

Choose your word for the day and write it on your 'stone' labyrinth.

## DO

Pay attention to *your world* today. What are neighbours talking about/concerned about? Where might creation, human and non-human, be groaning?

Have a conversation or two with some neighbours about their ideas of the ideal neighbourhood. You might even ask them, "If there is a good God, what do you think God's dream for our neighbourhood would be?"

As you imagine your community as one that reflects God's Kingdom come near, what quality of that 'good place' do you feel most drawn to? How might Spirit be at work, *making it so*? Undertake one small action towards joining in with God's good work of *making it so*.

For example, if you feel drawn to pointing to...

- *God's abundance* then share some of your abundance with your neighbourhood– by joining your neighbourhood Buy Nothing Group or giving some of your garden produce to your neighbours. Better yet, with the help of a few other neighbours, have a produce exchange or host a 'bring what you've grown' front yard party!
- *God's gift of beauty* then thank your neighbours for their beautiful garden, join with other neighbours to clean up litter at your neighbourhood park.
- *God's welcome and acceptance* then be sure to connect with and include neighbours who are often excluded, or left on the margins.

*Our purpose, our very being as God's people is for the sake of the reconciliation and healing of the whole world, God's Kingdom on earth. What, then, does the reign of God, manifested here and now in our midst, look like?* Angie Ward (Editor), Kingdom and Country, 31.

Prayer Prompt:

Write a Japanese Haiku poem as you reflect and pray today. A Haiku poem follows a pattern of three lines with 5-7-5 syllables. For example:

God so loved the world  
Every creature, all people  
Always, everywhere

How do I love my neighbours  
My community, God's place  
Like you do, Jesus?

God reigns here and now  
In flesh, tangible grace  
God loves my neighbours

Your dream, Your mission,  
Beauty, Shalom, Abundance  
Make it so, dear Lord.

## **DEEPER:**

Listen to this well known chorus [He's got the whole world in his hands](#) and receive it as an invitation to reflect and pray. Sing/write additional verses that express your prayers and ponderings at this time.

Ponder the first two paragraphs (Preamble) of "[Our World Belongs to God.](#)"

1. As followers of Jesus Christ,  
living in this world—  
which some seek to control,  
and others view with despair—  
we declare with joy and trust:  
Our world belongs to God!

2. From the beginning,  
through all the crises of our times,  
until the kingdom fully comes,  
God keeps covenant forever:  
Our world belongs to God!  
God is King: Let the earth be glad!  
Christ is victor: his rule has begun!  
The Spirit is at work: creation is renewed!  
Hallelujah! Praise the Lord!

Reflect and journal about your own life and attitude in relation to the world:

- Which of the two attitudes do you personally lean towards more, the control or the despair? How does that affect your engagement with God's work in the world? Bring any confession you might have to the Lord in prayer.
- How do you affirm that God is King, Christ is victor, and the Spirit is at work? What evidence do you see in your neighbourhood that "God has not abandoned the work of his hands"?
- As you encounter the "crises of our times," what difference does it make that "Our World Belongs to God"?

## Day Seven: BELIEVE

### DWELL

As you begin, pause, take a deep breath, and invite Spirit's leading.

**What do you believe?** (Pause and answer that question in your own words.)

*Dwell* in the text, reading the passage slowly, contemplatively guided by these dwelling (listening) questions...

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

What are you wondering about as you ponder God's Word?

What might Spirit be saying to you?

How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

### **John 3:16-18 (NRSV):**

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

"Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world but in order that the world might be saved through him. Those who believe in him are not condemned, but those who do not believe are condemned already because they have not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

Dwell in the passage again in a different translation:

### **John 3:16-18 First Nations Version (FNV):**

"The Great Spirit loves this world of human beings so deeply he gave us his Son—the only Son who fully represents him. All who trust in him and his way will not come to a bad end, but will have the life of the world to come that never fades away, full of beauty and harmony. <sup>17</sup>Creator did not send his Son to decide against the people of this world, but to set them free from the worthless ways of the world. <sup>18</sup>"The ones who trust in him are released from their guilt, but, for the ones who turn away from him to follow the ways of this world, their guilt remains. This is because they are turning away from the life of beauty and harmony the Great Spirit offers through his Son.

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

What are you wondering about as you ponder God's Word?

What might Spirit be saying to you?

How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting)? Why do you think they are catching your attention?

## DIG

'Believe' is used four times in this short passage.

What do you think it *actually* means?

The verb in Greek, *pisteuó*, is not simply about making a statement about that which we affirm, sanction or mentally concur with.

To "believe" implies trust, reliance on and having confidence in, such that we act accordingly.

What do you believe? Consider how you answered that question. How might your answer change with this understanding of the word in mind?

What might be the implications of belief being more than a declaration-- for you? -- for your neighbours?

How do you trust and act on your faith/confidence in Jesus (i.e. follow Him)?

How do you share it? What in your ordinary everyday life bears witness to your 'belief' in God's great love for the world?

How might Spirit be at work out ahead of you inviting you to discern and participate in all that points to God's mission and love for the world?

What have you heard God saying? How will you respond?

Choose your word for the day and write it on your 'stone' labyrinth.

*John 3:16 is a beautiful verse, understood this way--that God's act of sharing Jesus with us comes out of love, and that all who participate in that love through loving both God and one another follow in the Way of Jesus, which is the Way of eternity--to love Jesus so much that you imitate Him and follow His Way. To believe in His message so much that you follow it. [Frank Lesko, What Makes a Christian?](#)*

## DO

As you 'saunter' and connect with neighbours. listen for how people talk about what they believe. How do their actions demonstrate their 'beliefs'?

How do your actions demonstrate your 'beliefs' (what you trust in)?

As Spirit leads, take one simple step towards moving from strangers to acquaintances to relationship with a neighbour or two. For example, ask for 'a cup of sugar,' (be the humble, vulnerable one, Luke 10:3-8), go for a walk or a coffee together; participate in a block social or other gathering/event.

At the end of the day, think back (write down) all that you did. Reflect on what you felt, thought, and said as well.

How do you think 'your day' bore witness to your 'believing'?

What on your list are you... Thankful for? Regretting? Surprised by? Wondering about?

Consider where and how Spirit was at work, i.e. where you and others experienced goodness, joy, justice, grace, etc.

Where are you discerning Spirit's nudging?

What could you do in response? When will you do it?

## Prayer Prompt

Lord, today I...

Thank you for...

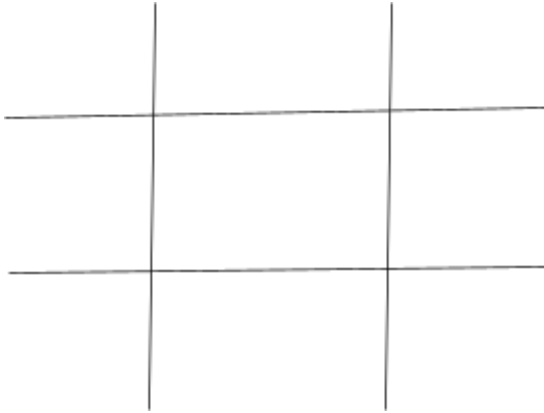
Help me to...

I pray for my neighbours... (name and/or picture them)

Write (and pray) a circle prayer 'around' your neighbourhood such as the one below. Add your own near/far (afar) pairs:

*Circle our neighbourhood, God-With-Us  
Circle... (name specific neighbours or households), Lord  
Keep hope near and hopelessness afar,  
Keep peace near and conflict afar,  
Keep health near and ill-health afar,  
Keep love near and loneliness afar,  
Keep joy and gratitude near and selfishness afar,  
Circle us Lord with your grace and favour  
That Your Shalom and goodness might flourish.  
Circle our neighbourhood, Lord,*

*Show us Your Kingdom Come.*



**DEEPER:**

Draw a tic-tac-toe outline on a piece of paper, as a representation of your micro-neighbourhood, i.e. your block, cul-de-sac, complex or apartment building floor. In the middle square write the names of all those in your household. The other eight boxes represent your closest neighbours. Write whatever you know about them in each box, e.g. their names, family background, work, hobbies, how long they have lived there, etc. Perhaps all you know is

that they have a dog named Max. That's okay, and anything else. This is an awareness and reflection exercise. Pray for each household, your neighbourhood and for the Spirit to teach and show you more of what God is up to and how you can join in right where you live. Put it in a prominent place (on your fridge?) and add to it as you get to know your neighbours more!

## DAY EIGHT: Eternal Life

### DWELL

As you begin, pause, take a deep breath, and invite Spirit's leading.

What is 'eternal life'?

*Dwell* in the texts with that question in mind::

This is eternal life: that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom [God has] sent. John 17:3

I have come bearing the plentiful gifts of God; and all who receive Me will experience everlasting life, a new intimate relationship with You (the one True God) and Jesus the Anointed (the One You have sent). John 17:3 The Voice

#### **John 10:10b**

I came so everyone would have life, and have it fully. [CEV](#)

I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of. MSG

My purpose is to give them a rich and satisfying life. John 10:10b [NLT](#)

My purpose is to give life in all its fullness. John 10:10b [TLB](#)

I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. [ESV](#)

I came that they may have *and* enjoy life, and have it in abundance [to the full, till it overflows].  
[AMP](#)

I came to bring them life, and far more life than before. [Phillips](#)

God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. 1 John 4:9

God showed his love for us when he sent his only Son into the world to give us life. 1 John 4:9 CEV

As you dwell once more in our theme passage, consider how the above verses and these translations/paraphrases describe what has often been translated 'eternal life.'

#### **John 3:16-18**

"This is how much God loved the world: He gave his Son, his one and only Son. And this is why: so that no one need be destroyed; by believing in him, anyone can have a whole and lasting life. God didn't go to all the trouble of sending his Son merely to point an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help, to put the world right again. Anyone who trusts in him is acquitted; anyone who refuses to trust him has long since been under the death sentence without knowing it. And why? Because of that person's failure to believe in the one-of-a-kind Son of God when introduced to him. *Eugene Peterson, The Message*



God loved the whole world in this way: selflessly giving his only son so that all those who trust in and rely on him won't be lost or ruined but will share in the life of God's new paradigm. God didn't send his son, his emissary, his very self, into the whole world to put the cosmos on trial, but in order that the whole world might be saved from ruin and restored to health through him.

[Paraphrase by Matte Downey](#)

*<sup>16</sup>This, you see, is how God loved the world: by giving his only, special son, so that everyone who trusts in him should not be lost but should share in the life of God's new age. <sup>17</sup>After all, God didn't send the son into the world to judge the world, but so that the world could be saved by him." Paul Nuechterlein, Girardian Lectionary*

God gave his son "so that everyone who believes in him should not be lost but should share in the life of God's new age." *N. T. Wright, John 3:16, New Testament for Everyone*

What words or phrases stand out to you (is Spirit highlighting) especially with regards to our opening question, *What is eternal life?*

What are you wondering about as you ponder God's Word?

What might Spirit be saying to you?

How might Spirit be nudging you to respond?

## **DIG**

If "eternal life" doesn't mean life after death in a heavenly realm beyond our space and time, what does it mean?

Read the verses again, and underline all the phrases describing this life in Christ.

How might 'eternal life' be about knowing (being in a relationship with) God (John 17:3)?

How might it be about a 'rich and satisfying' life in God's new age, here and now, full and flourishing?

The phrase, "eternal life" has often been misunderstood in recent church history, as Biblical scholars and theologians like NT Wright explain:

There we are, think average Christian readers. This is the biblical promise of a timeless heavenly bliss.

But it isn't. In the many places where the phrase 'zoe aionios' [eternal life] appears in the gospels, and in Paul's letters for that matter, it refers to one aspect of an ancient Jewish belief about how time was divided up. In this viewpoint, there were two "aions" (we sometimes use the word "eon" in that sense): the "Present age," 'ha-olam hazeh' in Hebrew, and the "age to come," ha-olam ha-ba. The "age to come," many ancient Jews believed, would arrive one day to bring God's justice, peace, and healing to the world as it groaned and toiled within the "present age." You can see

Paul, for instance, referring to this idea in Galatians 1:4, where he speaks of Jesus giving himself for our sins "to rescue us from the present evil age."

In other words, Jesus has inaugurated, ushered in, the "age to come." But there is no sense that this "age to come" is "eternal" in the sense of being outside space, time, and matter. Far from it. The ancient Jews were creational monotheists. For them, God's great future purpose was not to rescue people out of the world, but to rescue the world itself, people included, from its present state of corruption and decay. (NT Wright, How God Became King: The Forgotten Story of the Gospels pp. 44-45)

What might be the implications of this understanding of 'eternal life' – for you, –for your neighbours, –for what it means to participate in God's mission?

How have you seen and experienced God *rescuing the world itself*?

How have you seen and experienced 'eternal life'- rich and satisfying, whole and lasting, full, abundant, flourishing, God's new paradigm?

How will you continue to discover, join in and share God's new paradigm with your neighbours?

Choose your last word for this devotional labyrinth, write it on a stone and reflect on all the words that you have added as you have participated in this "Listen and Love" journey as part of Resonate's Mission Emphasis Week, 2022.

**PRAYER PROMPT:**

What are you up to, Spirit of the living God?  
Alive in us, enlivening us  
In new - or are they old? - And profound ways  
We are not the same.  
Thank You gracious One  
Thank You prevenient One  
When it comes right down to it, it's all about You!  
You're the motivator and the motivation  
You're the driver.  
Drive us, yes, Lord, continue to drive us  
To be whom You have already made and called us to be  
Your people  
For the sake of the other  
For the sake of our neighbours  
And neighbourhoods  
The redemption of all things -  
    Creatures, sky and earth,  
    households and neighbourhoods  
That's what You long for,  
    That's what You came and died for.  
That's what You are doing

and have done!  
Life to the fullest! Life in abundance! Your new age come!  
Alert us and our neighbours to *it*  
As we walk our blocks  
As we share a drink together  
As we garden, work, play,  
Enjoying the places where you have sent us  
Listening and learning  
Caring and discerning  
Lord, reign  
Reign on high  
And right where we live,  
Yes, right on our blocks, however big or small...  
However desolate, dirty or dull  
Whether dazzling, delicate or indiscriminate  
Reign in grace and love  
Reign in and through us all...  
Reign in the dark of night  
and the light of day--  
For You are God - the Life, the Truth, the Way!  
Triune One, Your Kingdom come-  
Your will be done. Hallelujah!

## DO

Pray...

Continue the journey of discovering and joining the Spirit on God's mission as you practise listening to and loving God and neighbour.

Consider participating in Resonate's Go Local initiative- learning communities in which we together seek to engage in practices such as those that have been introduced in this devotional. Indicate your interest here: <https://forms.gle/yNdfmR8f5HFPSaicA>

## DEEPER:

Watch [Is the Gospel of John Really About Eternal Life? | N.T. Wright](#) to learn more about 'eternal life.'

*Maybe you didn't know it, but my hope and prayer are that you do now: The Kingdom of God, in flesh and blood, has moved into your neighborhood, and you have been invited to receive it, to enter into it—with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength—and to participate in it by your attentive presence and love, just like Jesus.* Karen Wilk, Kingdom and Country, 35.