

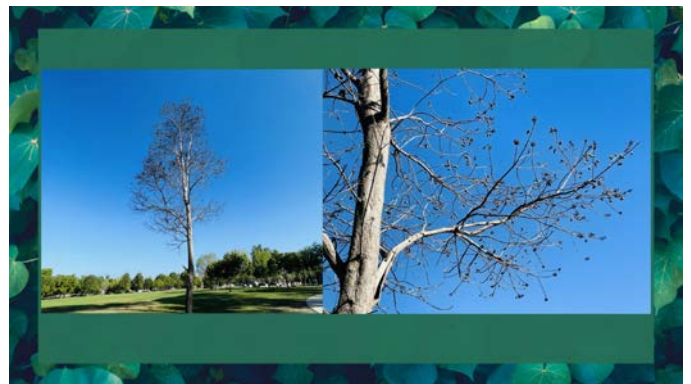
G.O.S.P.E.L.

RULE OF LIFE



What is a “Rule (Trellis) of Life”?

Biblical Discipleship Habits and Practices fueled by the gospel so as to abide in Christ (John 15:5).



As We Begin:

1. Intentional Weekly Application: As you remember and rejoice in the gospel, we are asking you to engage with us each week with a particular practice.
2. Know and memorize each key word/practice...

G.O.S.P.E.L.

RULE OF LIFE



(O)pen: The Practice of Hospitality and Friendship

Our Culture's Rule of Life: The Practice of Isolation and Insulation

What The Gospel Brings About: The Gospel addresses our loneliness, enabling us to be seen, known, and loved by others.

(O)PEN: The Practice of Hospitality and Friendship
(Pages 6-7 in your Booklet)

1. The Biblical Support and Framework
2. The 4 Categories of Practicing Hospitality and Friendship
3. Practicing Hospitality and Friendship

(O)PEN: The Practice of Hospitality and Friendship
(Pages 6-7 in your Booklet)

1. The Biblical Support and Framework

- Creation
- Fall
- Redemption
- Mission
- New Creation

CREATION: Made in God's Image for Community/Belonging

The Trinity as basis for community/belonging:

Genesis 1:26: Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

Michael Reeves: *"Here is a God who is not essentially lonely, but who has been loving for all eternity as the Father has loved the Son in the Spirit. Loving others is not a strange or novel thing for this God at all; it is at the root of who he is."*

Some Unique Words to Share with you:

1. Perichoresis: "Rotation/dance" describing the relationship between the Triune God

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Some Unique Words to Share with you:

1. Perichoresis: "Rotation/dance" describing the relationship between the Triune God
2. "Sehnsucht" (German): Wistful longings which are unattainable ("For which we know not what" - CS Lewis)
3. "Jeong" (Korean): Love, affection, attachment

FALL: The Fracturing of Community: Isolation, Shame and Covering Up (Not Belonging)

Genesis 3:8-10: And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself."

Trevor Hudson: *"We hide ourselves in different ways. We put on a smiling face when we are sad. We try to look confident when we are afraid. We act as if we have it all together when it's all falling apart... We feign interest when we honestly don't care. In the words of the Adam and Eve story, we cover up our nakedness with the fig leaves of pretense. Not surprisingly, our relationships with God and other people are often characterized by a sad superficiality and lack of intimacy. **Pretend people have pretend relationships.**"*

Curt Thompson: *"Shame is the feeling of not being enough and the fear of impending rejection and abandonment."*

Paul Tripp: *"Sin is anti-social."*

REDEMPTION: The Gospel restores our relationship with God and others!

- a) Belonging with God
- b) Belonging with One Another in Christ

Belonging with God (Vertical/Personal):

Romans 5:1: Therefore, since we have been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:1: See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!

Belonging to One Another in Christ (Horizontal/Communal):

a. Beware of the consumersitic and individualistic culture/air we breathe for many of us.

b. Personal Pronouns, y'all!

Example 1:

2 Peter 1:5-8: For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...

Example 2 (Let's read out loud together):

2 Peter 1:5-8: For this very reason, make every effort to add to **y'all's** faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, mutual affection; and to mutual affection, love. For if **y'all** possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep **y'all** from being ineffective and unproductive in **y'all's** knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ...

MISSION: GOSPEL COMMUNITY - The welcome, invitation, and beautiful witness to Belong:

1 Peter 4:8-9: Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show **hospitality** to one another without grumbling.

Hebrews 13:2: Do not neglect to show **hospitality** to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.

MISSION: GOSPEL COMMUNITY - The welcome, invitation, and beautiful witness to Belong:

What is Biblical hospitality?

Hospitality is 1) generously and regularly sharing your time, space and things 2) with an open heart and attitude 3) seeking to turn strangers into brothers and sisters and friends 4) out of gratitude and joy for Jesus' radical hospitality to us. (Eric Kapur)

Bethany Jenkins: *"People are almost always loved, not argued, toward faith...it usually starts with community. We first get to know some Christians. Then coming to faith seems plausible—in spite of our initial objections. Sometimes [coming to faith] takes years. When we build authentic, hospitable relationships with our [neighbors], we begin to embody the truth of the gospel with our lives...in our relationally broken culture, being a true friend is a rare thing."*

NEW CREATION: A transglobal, multiethnic, multilingual, multi cultural, multi generational community restored and belonging in Christ!

Revelation 7:9-10: After this I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"

New Creation: Takeaways

- Faith and Hope (Hebrews 11:1)
- The Eternal and Perfect Perichoresis!
- "Sehnsucht" and "Jeong" met in Christ!

CS Lewis, Till We Have Faces:

"It almost hurt me...like a bird in a cage when the other birds of its kind are flying home...to find the place where all the beauty came from—my country, the place where I ought to have been born. The longing for home."

(O)PEN: The Practice of Hospitality and Friendship (Pages 6-7 in your Booklet)

1. The Biblical Support and Framework

2. The 4 Categories of Practicing Hospitality and Friendship

The 4 Categories:

a. Friendship

Jesus and the 12 Disciples (Matthew 10:1-4, John 15:15 - Friends)

✦ **Confidants, Colleagues, Comrades**

- a. Confidants (3 - Peter, James, John)
- b. Colleagues (8 of 12 Disciples)
- c. Comrade (Judas)

The 4 Categories:

- a. Friendship
- ✦ b. **Church**

People visiting Church: *"I'm looking for community."*

Response: One cannot "find" community, because it isn't something to be discovered. Community is never found, only built. (Eugene Park)

Don't be an architect, rather be a builder.

✦ Dietrich Bonhoeffer: *"Those who love their dream of a Christian community more than they love the Christian community itself become destroyers of that Christian community."*

The 4 Categories:

- a. Friendship
- ✦ b. Church
- c. **Marriage**

From Scotty and Darlene:

- *"Gospel intrigue, not irritation"*
- *"How have I missed your heart?"*
- *"Not repenting less but repenting quicker"*
- *"Outdo one another in showing honor" (Romans 12:10): out-love, out-serve one another in the gospel*

The 4 Categories:

- Friendship
- Church
- Marriage
- Family**

Family:

- Younger Kids: Don't confuse busyness with meaningful connection. Be intentional with connecting and with spiritual formation. (Prov 22:6)
- Older/Teen Kids: Pray and engage the heart and look for those gospel moments. (Col 4:2-3 - praying for an open door for the word)

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- 3. Practicing Hospitality and Friendship**

Practicing Hospitality and Friendship:

- Remember and experience the gospel of God's friendship/community. Gospel IN (John 2/ Perichoresis) to Gospel OUT.

Practicing Hospitality and Friendship:

2. (TOOL): **G.R.A.C.E. Guided Sharing**

- What am I **grateful** about?
- What did I **realize** about myself? God? Others?
- What **action step** did I take to pursue my calling as a disciple today?
- What **challenge** did I face today?
- What did I **enjoy** today?

Practicing Hospitality and Friendship:

3. Put away your phone/electronic device for 1 hour each day to meaningfully connect and be present.

Justin Earley: *"Think of all the ways we now use our smartphones to fracture presence: working while vacationing, checking emails on a date, taking calls while playing with our kids, interrupting our dinner with news notifications, posting a conflict instead of talking to someone about it, taking pictures of people in distress instead of helping them, curating our whole lives on a media feed in order to be "with" everyone except the ones we are actually next to. These are all ways of fractured presence, and they do real harm, both to us and our neighbors."*

Practicing Hospitality and Friendship:

4. Fight loneliness by intentionally pursuing relationship this week.

- a. Phone call/catching up/connection
- b. A meal with someone this week

Summary: The Practice of Hospitality and Friendship

As you experience the incredible reality that God has blessed you with every heavenly blessing in Christ:

1. Practice G.R.A.C.E. with someone this week (try daily or at least a few times this week)
2. Put away electronic device 1 hour each day to be present
3. Intentionally pursue relationship this week

What's your takeaway? What is the Lord showing you, teaching you, convicting you, revealing to you?