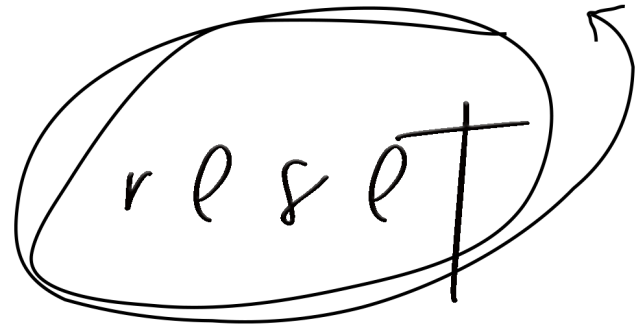


RENEW. REBUILD. RETURN. REVEAL.
RESTORE. REIMAGINE. RESET.
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RENEW. REBUILD. RETURN. REVEAL.
RESTORE REIMAGINE RESET.

Living It Out



Fortnight starting Sunday 6 September

This message and 'Living It Out' introduces the 4 key relationships of your discipleship that you need to be actively and intentionally engaged in, in order to see change and growth in your relationship with Jesus.

READ

- *Transcript of Scott's message*
 - [Click here to download the PDF](#)
 - [Click here to watch the sermon on YouTube](#) [available from Monday 7 September]
 - [Click here to listen to the Podcast](#) [available from Monday 7 September]
- Haggai 2:15-19
- Ephesians 5:1-2

REVIEW & REFLECT

Over the past fortnight we discovered that 'Discipleship' is our lives being renewed **with** Jesus, **for** Jesus and **through** Jesus.

We scratched the surface regarding life as a disciple looking intentional, holistic, communal, selfless and missional:

- *Intentional*: Following Jesus is an active, deliberate choice, everyday
- *Holistic*: Jesus impacts and directs every part of our life, throughout our whole life
- *Communal*: It's personal but not individual, we are disciples together in community - we are not just connected, we are communal - we have a shared life
- *Selfless*: It blesses me but it's not about me, it's a life of serving and sacrifice
- *Missional*: It aches to reveal Jesus, and for the world to be in relationships with Jesus

This fortnight we will look at the 4 key relationships of your discipleship that you need to be actively and intentionally engaged in, in order to see change and growth in your relationship with Jesus.

This fortnight's reflection is one big review activity. We don't expect you to complete this all in one sitting. You might want to focus on and think about one relationship over 1-2 days, and keep coming back to your notes to add more thoughts and revelation. Don't stress if you don't get to finish this over the suggested 14 days - there's a lot to consider, reflect on and process; and we encourage you to take your time.

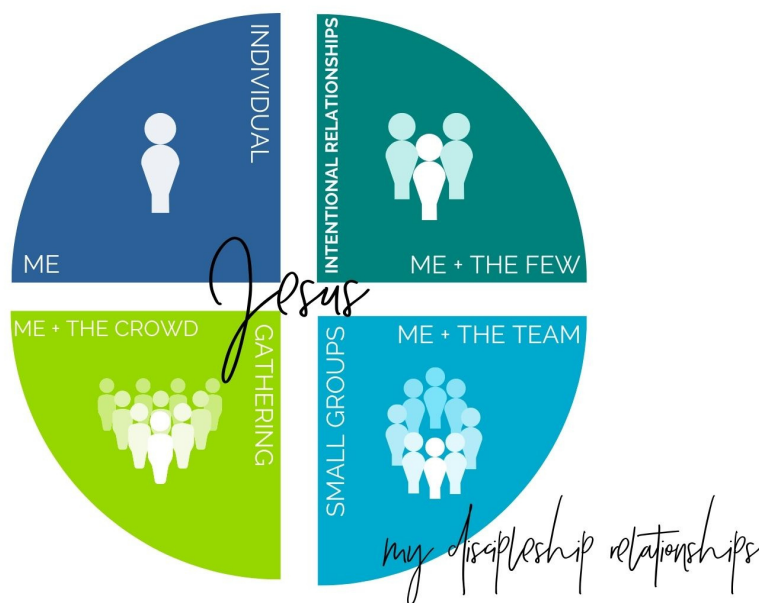
DAY 1 - 5:

Take a piece of paper. Write 'JESUS' RELATIONSHIPS' in the middle of the page, and then divide the page into 4 equal quadrants. Label each quadrant as:

- 'Jesus and the Father'
- 'Jesus and James, Peter, John'
- 'Jesus and the 12 Disciples'
- 'Jesus and the Crowd'

(Alternatively, if you've been using a notebook or journal to reflect on these 'Living It Out' activities, feel free to use that instead to keep your notes and thoughts together all in one place.)

This reflects 4 key relationships Scott introduced in the sermon, but you'll be looking at them in the context of Jesus' example:



Now, we invite you to read one of the Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke, John). The Gospel of Mark should only take 1.5 hours to read, so you might like to choose that one. As you read, pay close attention to what Jesus does or doesn't do in each of these key relationships and write your findings in each quadrant to each of these questions:

- What did Jesus focus on in each of these relationships?
- Who was included in each relationship? Who was not?
- What was Jesus' attitude towards the people involved in each relationship?
- What did Jesus talk / teach about in each relationship?

A quick note about the Gospels:

The Gospels were written by disciples (although not necessarily by 'The Disciples'), for disciples, and for disciple-making. Each Gospel focuses on a different aspect of Jesus' being:

- **Matthew:** Matthew was written for people who were already familiar with the Law and the Prophets. Matthew takes great care to show how Jesus fulfils the prophecies.
- **Mark:** Mark is the shortest Gospel. It reads like a short story and is a declaration of Jesus' work and focuses on Jesus being the Son of God. Mark focuses on Jesus being the suffering servant.
- **Luke:** Luke is the longest Gospel, and the most detailed. It was written by a non-Jew, for non-Jews, and seeks to arrange the details of Jesus' life and ministry in as accurate order as possible.
- **John:** John's Gospel focuses on Jesus' miracles to emphasise the divine nature of Jesus.

You might like to watch this 10min video for a quick overview of each Gospel:

<https://youtu.be/RaucATa9ufQ>

DAY 6 - 10:

Take another piece of paper. Write 'MY RELATIONSHIPS' in the middle and then divide the page into 4 equal quadrants. Label each quadrant as:

- 'Just Me'
- 'Me and a Few'
- 'Me and the Team'
- 'Me and the Crowd'

Consider Scott's brief description of these 4 key relationships (see the box below), as well as your own experiences, and write your thoughts in each quadrant to each of these questions:

- What do you expect to get out of this relationship?
- What do you expect to give to this relationship?
- What is the goal of this relationship?
- What sort of change would you expect to see if this relationship was being truly productive and effective?
- Who might be involved in this relationship?

1. **Individual Practices:** "Just Me" (the Primary relationship) - you in community with the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit
2. **Intentional Spiritual Relationships:** "Me and a Few" (key relationships) - mutually committed to share deeply and encourage godliness, wisdom and faithfulness in one another on a semi-regular basis
3. **Small Groups:** "Me and the Team" (committed relationships) - fellowship, equipping and championing one another to practice the way of Jesus in all of life, but always with the purpose aligned to the mission of making disciples
4. **Church Gathered:** "Me and the Crowd" (collective relationships) - gathered in worship, alignment around the Word and vision, and shared identity as God's people

DAY 11 - 14:

Compare your lists (Jesus' example vs. your own expectations / assumptions / biases of each relationship) and consider:

- Where are they similar / the same? Where are they different?
- How has this changed your view of each of these relationships and how they contribute to your discipleship?
- How has this changed your view of discipleship in general?
- Was there anything that surprised you about Jesus' example of these relationships?
- Which of these relationships are you already involved in / pursuing?
- Which of these relationships do you sense God encouraging you to start pursuing / devoting more time to?

PRAY

Resetting takes intentionality. It takes time for it to become a natural daily rhythm.

But you can't do it alone - at least not to the best of your abilities. You need the accountability of intentional spiritual relationships; the encouragement and safe place to practice in a Small Group; the corporate worship and celebration of our large gatherings - all which help push you closer and closer to Jesus and to build the desire to spend time with him every day.

Holy Spirit, come fill the temple of my life. You are present but my heart has been absent. I reset my heart today, return to you and know that as I do, you will draw near to me. I'm sorry for how I've been so distracted by other things, and have been too easily satisfied by substitutes. Restore in me a vision for life with you that outshines all else, and help me to draw near to you with all my heart each day.

APPLY

If you are in a Small Group, think about a question or area that challenged / encouraged you and what you plan to do then share it next time your group meets.

If you aren't in a Small Group, share this with one or two people who can keep you on track.