

Overcoming the Monotony of Life

Have you ever battled the monotony of life? For me, it seems like I do the same thing every Monday, the same thing every Tuesday, the things required on Wednesdays, etc. Life can become so routine. Does your life ever feel like a loop? Wake up, go to work, eat, sleep, repeat. Even for the faithful, the rhythm of daily routine can dull our sense of purpose. We pray, we serve, we strive, yet sometimes it feels like we are just treading water. Where is God? Why am I not spiritually uplifted? What has happened to my joy in Christ? The monotony creeps in quietly, numbing our joy and dimming our spiritual zeal. But should monotony be considered an enemy? Or an invitation?

Monotony often masquerades as safety. Routines give us structure, predictability, and control. But when repetition becomes disengagement, we lose touch with the sacredness of the present moment. The Israelites wandered for forty years, not because God had abandoned them, but because they had stopped seeing Him in the manna, the cloud, the fire. Familiarity bred forgetfulness.

Jesus, on the other hand, embraced the ordinary. He broke bread, walked dusty roads, washed feet. His miracles often began in mundane moments—a wedding, a fishing trip, a quiet conversation. He didn't escape monotony; He infused it with meaning.



To overcome monotony, we must reawaken our sense of wonder. That begins with attention— noticing the unnoticed. The sunrise, the laughter of a child, the scent of coffee, the many colors of creation. These are not hindrances to your day; they are invitations to gratitude. Also, we need to learn to challenge the way we think. Instead of "What do I have to do today?" ask "Where might God surprise me today?" There are other ways to help. Take a different route to work. Call someone unexpectedly. Read a psalm out loud. Remember that God is with you. Jesus promised, "I will never leave you nor forsake you" (Hebrews 13.5). Can you engage in His presence? At this moment, what does Jesus see me doing? Is there any way I can incorporate Him into my routine? Can I do my work and show the joy of my Savior being by my side? Can I sit in silence and meditate upon Him and His love? Routine doesn't have to be monotonous—it can become some of the most rewarding moments of our day. Think about it!

Gary

When No One Is Watching

Genesis 39.1-6

- 1) Imagine you have been taken from your home to a foreign land. You have been made a slave and work under a powerful master. No one from your past knows where you are. No one is watching. And then, temptation walks in—not subtle, not accidental, but persistent and seductive. How would you respond?
- 2) Do I do things in secret that are totally opposite the faith I proclaim?

From Joseph, We Learn...

I) _____ Is Who You Are When No One Is _____.

- A) Joseph was all alone in Egypt.
 - 1) He had been sold into slavery by his brothers (Gen. 37.12-28).
 - 2) The _____ was with Joseph and made all he did _____ (Gen. 39.2).
- B) Potiphar's wife tried to seduce Joseph.
- C) Do we face similar temptations today?

II) _____ Is _____.

- A) Potiphar's wife did not tempt Joseph just once—she pursued him *“day after day”* (v. 10).
- B) How did Joseph respond to her sexual advances?
 - 1) Joseph refused to violate Potiphar's _____.
 - 2) Joseph knew some things did not belong to him.
- C) How do I handle constant temptation?

III) To _____ Our Escape Routes.

- A) Joseph did not negotiate—he _____.
- B) Do you have escape routes set up for your temptations?
 - 1) Fleeing may feel _____—but it is actually _____ in motion.
 - 2) Sometimes, the most courageous thing you can do is run.

IV) To Count The Cost Of _____.

- A) Joseph saw the act of betrayal not only against Potiphar, but as _____ against _____.
- B) Today, compromise often comes disguised as convenience, pleasure, or opportunity.
- C) Temptation never shows you the bill upfront.

V) To _____ Our Identity In _____.

- A) Joseph was a slave, but he didn't act like one.
 - 1) Joseph lived as a child of God.
 - 2) Am I doing the same?
- B) Do not let your _____ define who you are.

VI) To Trust That God Sees And Rewards _____.

- A) How was prison a reward (Gen. 39.21)?
- B) The results from doing the right thing may not seem fair.
- C) Obedience is rewarded _____.

Conclusion: Do you need God's help in your life today?

Good morning WH! I guess you have probably already seen, as I have, the Christmas lights and decorations already springing up in your neighborhood. My nephew recently stated in a blog post that this just seems so totally “wrong”, as in his opinion, no decorations should be placed before Thanksgiving, because Thanksgiving was totally about the 3 “F”s – Food, Family & Football! While I have enjoyed those three immensely in the past, I thought about going into this Thanksgiving holiday with a different perspective and purpose.



The holidays bring a unique rhythm we don't experience at any other time of year. Work slows down. Schools take a break. Families gather around tables, living rooms, and traditions that have been carried from one generation to the next. In these moments, God often opens doors that are harder to find during the busyness of everyday life- doors that lead to connection, reconnection, and even the rebuilding of relationships that have weathered some strain.

Family relationships can be beautiful, but they can also be complex. Sometimes misunderstandings linger. Sometimes distance or busyness has created gaps. Sometimes old wounds still ache quietly beneath the surface. But the holiday season, with its emphasis on gratitude, generosity, and togetherness, creates natural opportunities to soften hearts and draw closer again.

This year, consider approaching your holiday gatherings with spiritual intentionality. Look for quiet moments to check in with someone you haven't talked to in a while. Offer a word of encouragement to a family member who may feel overlooked. Ask thoughtful questions. Listen more than you speak. Be willing to let go of an old grievance. Extend grace in the same measure you hope to receive it.

Paul reminds us in Ephesians 4:32 to “be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, *as God in Christ forgave you.*” That verse becomes especially meaningful when applied around holiday tables.

You may not be able to fix everything, and not every relationship will be instantly healed—but small steps matter. A gentle tone. A sincere apology. A shared memory. A prayer offered together. These simple moments can plant seeds that God will continue to grow long after the decorations are put away.

As you enter this holiday season, may God use your family time to strengthen connections, restore bonds, and build bridges that lead to deeper love and unity. Pray about it and give those action verbs underlined above a try—You'll be blessed!

-- Les Keele

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MORNING WORSHIP (10 AM)

Welcome - Brandon Duncan

Song Leader - Matt Sloan

Song - Soldiers of Christ Arise

Song - Shout to the Lord

Song - As the Dear Thirsts

Opening Prayer - Joe Gentry

Scripture - Genesis 39.1-6

Song - Alas! and did my Savior Bleed

Lord's Supper - David Birdow

Prayer for Contribution - David Birdow

Song - Ten Thousand Reasons

When No One Is Watching - Gary Williams

Song - Do You Know My Jesus

Announcements - Les Keele

Shepherd's Prayer & Dismissal - Chuck Meyer

Our Code for Tithe.ly

Giving



QR Code for

Attendance



Attended Nursery: After communion, we have an attended nursery available for ages birth to 3 years and a mother's nursing room.

Single-side in-ear mono earbuds with personal receivers are available for those with hearing difficulties. Please see the sound booth at the back of the auditorium for assistance.

DAILY BIBLE READINGS

Monday, November 17

Ezekiel 43-44; Acts 6

Friday, November 21

Joel 1; Acts 10

Tuesday, November 18

Ezekiel 45; Acts 7

Saturday, November 22

Joel 2-3; Acts 11

Wednesday, November 19

Ezekiel 46-47; Acts 8

Sunday, November 23

Amos 1-2; Psalm 142; Acts 12

Thursday, November 20

Ezekiel 48; Acts 9

Last Week

Bible Class	109	Wednesday	103
Worship	183	Contribution	\$14,192.47
PM Worship	43	Budget	\$14,216.88

Times of Assemblies

Bible Class:	9:00 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:00 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	5:00 PM
Wednesday Evening:	7:00 PM