

Practicing a Life of Love

Below is a sample of a very simple “Rule of Life” – an intentional ordering of our lives around God’s purposes in our lives. It is only an example. Each person’s life practice will be different because God has created and called each of us uniquely. Of course, there will be similarities because of our common callings as Christians. But there is no one “right” ordering of life for everyone. Keep in mind this sample is not intended to be a standard, but simply one way to see what might be included. Also remember that you are not creating one set order that will be locked in for the rest of your life. It is best to establish a pattern for the season of life in which you are now living, and then establish a new practice when your life circumstances/season changes. Most importantly: This is meant to be a path to freedom, and not a legalistic “to do” list. Approach this as something joyful you get to do, not a burden you have to do. 😊

SAMPLE

WHAT I AM DOING	WHAT I WANT TO DO
WORSHIP: to love God with every aspect of my life and being	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend worship services weekly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue what I am doing • Honor the Sabbath by “unplugging” on Sunday afternoons • Remember to have fun and rejoice! • Meet with a financial planner • Give \$5 extra per week to church as an offering of gratitude and love for God’s generosity
DISCIPLESHIP: to deepen and strengthen my relationship with God	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the bible 3X/week • Morning devotions most mornings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Read the bible daily, following a <i>Read the bible in a year</i> schedule • Pray with those daily passages using <i>lectio divina</i> • Talk to God like a friend regularly throughout the day • Participate in a bible study group • Learn how to journal and do it
COMMUNITY: to love others by deepening and strengthening my relationships	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Home group • Date night with spouse 2X monthly 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue what I am doing • Learn and practice better listening skills • Lunch with family and/or friends after church on Sundays
MISSION/SERVICE: to serve others using my gifts, skills, and “stuff”	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practice gift of hospitality by greeting visitors in church services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Serve on the Welcome Ministry at church • Make meals for the Kitchen Ministry when asked • Invite someone new to lunch after church 1X each quarter

MY WORKSHEET

WHAT I AM DOING	WHAT I WANT TO DO
<p>WORSHIP: to love God with every aspect of my life and being</p>	
<p>DISCIPLESHIP: to deepen and strengthen my relationship with God</p>	
<p>COMMUNITY: to love others by deepening and strengthening my relationships</p>	
<p>MISSION/SERVICE: to serve others using my gifts, skills, and “stuff”</p>	
<p>WORK: to use my gifts and abilities to reveal God’s glory and to participate with God in His loving, redemptive care for others and the world.</p>	
<p>SELF-CARE: to love and care for myself as God does, living within my God-given human limitations which frees me from the slavery of self-reliance and self-hatred.</p>	