

**CREATION
FEST**

**RHYTHMS
OF
FAITH**
Creation

**A RHYTHMS GUIDE BY CREATION FEST
MARCH 2023**

RHYTHMS OF FAITH

This summer at Creation Fest, we will be exploring Rhythms of Faith. To enable you and your community to join us in this journey, we are launching monthly rhythm guides to explore a particular aspect of what it means for us to walk in daily rhythms. In our first guide, we'll be exploring the Rhythm of Creation.

WHEN YOU GIVE THEM YOUR BREATH, LIFE IS CREATED, AND YOU RENEW THE FACE OF THE EARTH.

PSALM 104:30, NKJV

Our prayer is that these guides would enable you to find new ways to rest deep in the rhythm of the created and creating God, the one who has designed us for relationship and is walking daily with us.



A RHYTHMS GUIDE PREPARED BY

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MISSION LEAD FOR CREATION FEST UK

RHYTHMS OF CREATION

in Scripture

The first chapters of Genesis speak of a creating God who made us for relationship. The first and primary rhythm of creation is that we would know God, the one who called light out of darkness (Gen. 1:3), form out of void (Gen. 1:9), life out of barrenness (Gen. 1:11). The original rhythm of creation is to be with God. In the New Testament, Jesus calls out his followers as those who are to be with him (Mark 3:14), in an invitation to intimacy and friendship.

The named beauty over creation is that it was very good (Gen. 1:31) and humanity was created in the image of the God of life and love (Gen. 1:26) and entrusted with the gift of stewardship and care over all of creation (Gen. 1:29-30). The story of Scripture begins with creation given to humanity and reminds us of the corruption and violence (Gen. 6:11) that humanity knows as we walk in sinful rebellion, and the God who is forever longing and pursuing the restoration (Isaiah 49:8) of even the desolate places towards beauty and goodness in our lives now and forever (Psalm 23:6).

As Christians, our call is to see the established beauty of God's work over our lives and all we create (Psalm 90:17) and to bring restoration (Isaiah 58:12) to places of desolation in the natural and relational brokenness of our world. We learn to follow the way of Jesus through reading the Word of God, which is alive (Hebrews 4:12), by learning to listen to the Spirit of God (Isaiah 30:21), and by attending to the presence of God in nature (Isaiah 55:12). In the endless creativity of God, he meets us in many ways, and the rhythm of creation invites us to encounter and know the love of the God who created us for relationship in a new or deeper way.

RHYTHMS OF CREATION

Ways to practise

ALL THINGS NEW

Starting in Genesis and working through the Scriptures, 'All Things New' by our friend Pete Hughes will take you on a journey into the very heart of God and His relentless passion to redeem lives, heal the nations, rewire the culture, and bring renewal to all of creation.

ALL THINGS NEW RESOURCES

As we immerse ourselves in the greatest story ever told we find our ultimate sense of belonging, our purpose in the present and our hope for the future. We become actors in this unfolding drama, pushing forward God's purposes for the world and joining His mission to make all things new. Consider embarking on this series yourself or with your community.

TAKE A PRAYER WALK IN NATURE

The regular rhythm of taking prayer walks in nature is part of our regular working patterns at Creation Fest. We will often take this time in silence, in conversation with Jesus, or simply to notice the beauty of our world and take time to pray and soak in the rhythm of creation and the God who created it.

DELIGHT IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

Create space each day to linger on the beauty of a God who created you. Take time throughout this month to appreciate something different about knowing God through creation. Delight in your fingernails, the way a scar heals, the miracle of birth and new life. Look up the 50 verses that speak about the creating and creator God. Meditate on one as you walk, wash the dishes, or lie in bed. Replace thirty minutes of entertainment (social media or Netflix) with thirty minutes of attending to the presence of God.

RHYTHMS OF CREATION

Ways to practise

WITH FAMILIES

Exploring the rhythms of faith with our families is one of the most important parts of our spiritual journey. Future months will tie in more closely with our overarching theme, but this month we suggest you consider following along with the Lent Devotion series from our friends at Imagine Ministries:

IMAGINE MINISTRIES LENT DEVOTION SERIES

These guides will give you 40 short conversations and Scripture readings to engage with your family over the dinner or breakfast table to spark faith conversations and are appropriate for all ages.

PARTNERS WHO CELEBRATE

Explore your identity in Christ and listen to Orphan no More

ORPHAN NO MORE

Catch a wave with Christian Surfers!

CHRISTIAN SURFERS

Buy Ethical with Yes Friends!

YES FRIENDS

Walk and pray in your local community using the guided prayers from Lectio 365

LECTIO 365

Eat and Shop Local with local farmers, businesses, and shops

BOOKS TO READ

'All Things New' by Pete Hughes

'Even the Sparrow' by Jill Weber

'Sacred Rhythms' by Ruth Haley Barton

'Stewards of the Earth' (Best of Christianity Today) from Lexham Press



IMAGINE

Imagine
Life kept in step
With our creator
Imagine the freedom, joy, hope
Of knowing we are
Unimaginably loved.

Imagine the rhythms of faith
Creation, rest, resilience
Scripture, prayer, mission, community
Unpacked in green fields
Near the wild sea
With good friends.

Imagine. And join us if you can,
3-6 August 2023
To explore life in a rhythm of faith.

RHYTHMS OF FAITH

At Creation Fest this summer, our week will open with a teaching on the Rhythms of Creation on the Thursday as we consider what it means to live in relationship with the God who loves us, longing for the new creation and working towards restoration in what God has given us. See you there, 3-6 August 2023 and find out more at creationfest.org.uk.

3-6 AUGUST 2023
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