



Jesus became flesh and moved
into the neighborhood.

(John 1:14 Msg)

Tired of being a wall-flower?
You can learn the rhythms of an
incarnational lifestyle!

Jesus showed us that you can't love someone from a distance. To really connect you must be able to move into their world. The best example of this was when God became man and moved into our neighborhood (John 1:14 Message)

For us being Incarnational^{*} can be a lot like a dance. It may feel awkward and even scary to start with. We might even choose to stand against the wall and never hit the floor. But anyone who has ever taken the first step forwards knows that it gets easier as you learn to move with the rhythm.

This four week series is all about learning to embrace some essential lifestyle rhythms. Learning these rhythms will enable us to more naturally connect with people more intentionally.

This series will focus on 7 rhythms over 4 weeks.

Week 1 (week of September 28 – October 4)

Pray – One of the most essential yet difficult rhythms for any Christ-follower to get comfortable with is learning to bring God into everything we do through prayer. Once established though, it helps us to stay focused on our mission to be salt & light.

Shine – Learning to pray without stopping can't help but form the integrity of how we think, feel and act. The rhythm of Shine reminds us that it is our Christ-like integrity that makes us shine in a dark world.

Week 2 (week of October 5 – 18*)

** thanksgiving*

Bless – It's so easy to get caught up in the rhythms of our Christian community that we don't even have time or opportunity to be around people far from God! The rhythm of blessing helps us to look for opportunities to develop and utilize everyday experiences as a platform to connect with people in loving ways!

Connect – It's just as tempting to get into the rhythm of doing good things for people – and think that is enough! The connecting rhythm helps us to develop the natural habit of being open to and pursuing actual friendships with people far from God!

Week 3 (week of October 19 – 25)

Share – When we find ourselves in real relationships with people we need to be comfortable sharing more than our character and love – we need to be comfortable with explaining what our faith means to us in simple and natural language.

Coach – When we have developed relationships with someone far from God and they have crossed the line of faith they have begun a challenging journey that they shouldn't have to go alone. We need to learn the rhythm of coaching, coming alongside people and giving them the encouragement and equipping that will help them mature in their faith.

Week 4 (week of October 26 – November 1)

Partner – All of these 6 rhythms are not easy to get comfortable with and are even easier to not practise regularly – especially if we do not have a broader support network that can keep us on target. The final rhythm of partner helps us to prioritize regular networking with people who can help us stay focused on our mission. Those networks can utilize existing life groups, or can employ neighborhood, work or hobby relationships.

^{*} A fancy word, incarnation literally means the embodiment of a deity or spirit in some earthly form. In this case, we mean people like you and I allowing people to see God at work in us which requires us to be in the midst of people far from God.