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An Advent Reflection

ORDER
from
CHAOS

One Day At A Time



One Day At A Time



Genesis 1

Lectio (Imagine): Read the Scripture (3x's) notice the way each day ends "and there was evening and there was morning . . .". **After the third reading note the words that stick out to you.**

Oratio (Feel): Pray and express your feelings to God about the words that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions, gratitudes, or resistance.

Meditatio (Think): Do you have any questions for God? What questions do you have of yourself? I intentionally ask myself tough questions from what I read in order to uncover the truth of my heart. Did you experience any insight, knowledge, wisdom, vision, or sense of action to take? Write all of this down.

Contemplatio (Be Still): Sit quietly for 5 minutes. Just being in God's presence. Don't try to think, feel, or will anything simply let yourself be in God's Presence. These words have brought you into the very presence of God.

Chaos is mitigated in a one-day-at-a-time approach. We have pointed out how God creates time as sacred, as the place in human history he does his creative work. Now pay close attention to the days. He does each creative work within a day--nothing more and nothing less. A day is sufficient to do what one needs to do. Each day begins with, "and there was evening, and there was morning."

This notion of one day at a time is made practical by Jesus in his famous Sermon on the Mount (Matt. 6:11,25-34). "Give us this day, our daily bread" the term daily only occurs in early Christian literature leaving many to conclude this was a unique teaching of Jesus. The power of one day, the work of God within one day, the call to value today. Order comes into focus one day, at a time. What one thing can you do today to undo some of the chaos?



Today is the day of salvation



2 Corinthians 6:1-2

Lectio (Imagine): Read the Scripture (3x's). **After the third reading note the words that stick out to you.** Pay close attention to the word "Today" and the power of what God can do in one day.

Oratio (Feel): After your scribing session, pray and express your feelings to God about the word or phrase that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions or gratitudes, resistance, or supplications.

Meditatio (Think): Do you have any questions for God? What questions do you have of yourself? I intentionally ask myself tough questions from what I read in order to uncover the truth of my heart. Did you experience any insight, knowledge, wisdom, vision, or sense of action to take? Write all of this down

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Chaos comes in many disorderly shapes and confusing sizes and it can prolong its presence in our lives through procrastination. When we look at the chaos we don't know where to start, how to start, what to start with but we can know when to start . . . NOW, TODAY. Paul quotes from Isaiah as he challenges the people of Corinth to see God's grace as a Today-Power ignited in us as we "co-labor" with God. He prays for them that they would not futility sit on this power but that they would go to work.

Imagine God at work with you in your undoing of the chaos.

Salvation is a word for deliverance and the word picture is one of God delivering the land from the abyss, the waters from the abyss, the stars and sun from the abyss. And this is what God will do with your Day today as he co-labors with you

3.

Being ok with small unnoticeable progress



Genesis 1

Lectio Divina. Read Genesis 1 and note the way each day ends and begins. It begins with a speech act and ends in a reflection.

Lectio (Imagine): Read the Scripture (3x's). After the third reading note the verse that sticks out to you.

Oratio (Feel): After your scribing session, pray and express your feelings to God about the word or phrase that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions or gratitudes, resistance or supplications.

Meditatio (Think): Do you have any questions for God? What questions do you have of yourself? I intentionally ask myself tough questions from what I read in order to uncover the truth of my heart. Did you experience any insight, knowledge, wisdom, vision, or sense of action to take? Write all of this down

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Notice how each day begins with "And God said . . ." and ends with "and there was evening and there was morning the ____ day" and notice how from the third day forward God ends each day with "and God saw that it was good" . . . the first two days do not bear that description.

I think this is teaching us that when we (God and us) first start undoing the chaos there may be some days when we still cannot see anything good yet. Where we still feel the disorderliness and that is ok. We just take it one day at a time. The fact that things are being separated, untangled, categorized and prioritized is enough for today. Just because you don't feel good about it yet doesn't mean that its futile and wasted. We have a week in this work. (Read Zechariah 4:10). Keep speaking the start to the day

4.

Stopping at the end of the Day



Genesis 1

Lectio Divina.

Lectio (Imagine): Read the Scripture (3x's). After the third reading note the verse that sticks out to you and Scribe the verse three times.

Oratio (Feel): After your scribing session, pray and express your feelings to God about the word or phrase that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions or gratitudes, resistance or supplications.

Meditatio (Think): Do you have any questions for God? What questions do you have of yourself? I intentionally ask myself tough questions from what I read in order to uncover the truth of my heart. Did you experience any insight, knowledge, wisdom, vision, or sense of action to take? Write all of this down

Contemplatio (Be Still): Sit quietly for 5 minutes. Just being in God's presence. Don't try to think, feel, or will anything simply let yourself be in God's Presence. These words have brought you into the very presence of God.

"Today turn your attention to the times the word "good" is used. Do you see the rhythms? Notice how once we are in day three the goodness of order is emerging and we get a sense of God reflecting with satisfaction on the days work and what was accomplished. Notice the abundance of goodness that comes from day-to-day work and notice how there is both a momentum and fulfillment in each days work. Do you have these kind of rhythms? And end to your day? A time to reflect on the goodness that has come from the day?

5.

Let us make mankind in our image



Genesis 1:26-31

Lectio (Imagine): Read the Scripture (3x's). After the third reading note the verse that sticks out to you.

Oratio (Feel): After your scribing session, pray and express your feelings to God about the word or phrase that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions or gratitudes, resistance or supplications.

Meditatio (Think): Do you have any questions for God? What questions do you have of yourself? I intentionally ask myself tough questions from what I read in order to uncover the truth of my heart. Did you experience any insight, knowledge, wisdom, vision, or sense of action to take? Write all of this down

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What do you think it means, in the context of Genesis 1, that man is created in the image of God? If all we have is this chapter in the Bible what would we know about ourselves? And what does this mean to our chaos and disorder? Does it mean that we can reflect this order in our own world?

Notice how God blesses the human. What does God's blessing consist of? (1) Words of affirmation ("and God blessed them saying"), (2) Fruitful and productive lives. (3) Multiplying. (4) Replenishing the earth. (5) To rule and provide oversight. (6) Abundance gifts of provision.

Say out loud, "I am blessed with [list of the blessings of Genesis 1]."

6.

And God rested



Genesis 2:1-3

Lectio (Imagine): Read the Scripture (3x's). After the third reading note the verse that sticks out to you .

Oratio (Feel): After your scribing session, pray and express your feelings to God about the word or phrase that stuck out to you. This could include your desires, confessions, questions or gratitudes, resistance or supplications.

Meditatio (Think): Do you have any questions for God? What questions do you have of yourself? I intentionally ask myself tough questions from what I read in order to uncover the truth of my heart. Did you experience any insight, knowledge, wisdom, vision, or sense of action to take? Write all of this down

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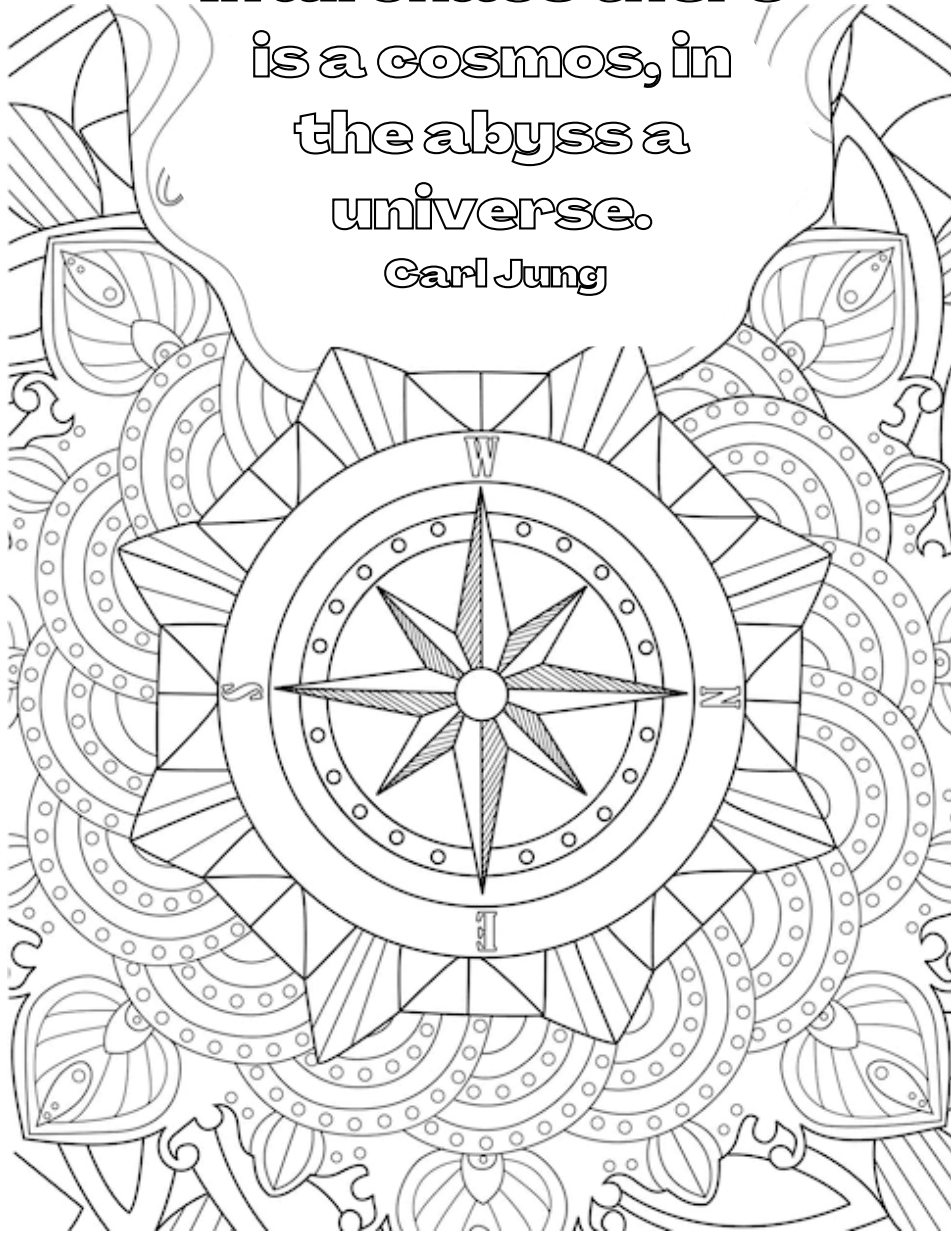
Why does God rest? What does that say to us? Our chaos frequently begins when we do make our days of rest sacred and holy. Order comes from rest.

Do you have a day of rest? Are you intentional with that day? Do you plan it out and make it a time for your body, soul and mind to get the rest it needs. Our emotions need rest too.

What is Sabbath? Its the art of doing nothing. Of playfulness and enjoyment. A day when you can enjoy, in the Presence of God, all that you worked on for that week.

Calendar your rest day. Add it to the calendar. What would bring you joy and refreshment on this day?

In all chaos there
is a cosmos, in
the abyss a
universe.
Carl Jung



OPPORTUNITIES To Love and Beloved



December CALENDAR

Coming Up

- 18th @10a B'fast Sandwiches
- 13th @6:30p Sanctuary Yoga Tuesdays
- 14th @6:30p Communal Prayer Night Wednesday
- 24th @ 6:30p YWAM street ministry hot cocoa and caroling Saturday



HELP NEEDED
socks, hats, hygiene, Christmas cookies
for the homeless Christmas Eve event
food/drinks for football Sunday



COMMUNAL PRAYER REQUEST



COMMUNAL PRAISE BOARD

See prayer cards on the table to submit a personal prayer or praise.

December Month-to-Date



Budget	Tithe & Offerings	Outstanding
\$17,930.23*	\$9,888.00	\$-8,042.23

Vision. Our vision for the next 18 months (12/23) is to have each operation financially self-sustaining.

Building: for the building to be self-sustained (mortgage, utilities) thru residential and event rentals.

Church: for the offerings/tithes to fund our social impact missions of anti-human trafficking in Nepal, homelessness in SF, recovery to those in need, and monthly neighborhood events as well as operational costs.

Pastoral: for Jeff's content creation (e-course sales, coaching) to pay his salary and other future salaries.