

I join what
God is already
doing

ANTICIPATE



Developing rhythms
in my relationship
with the world

Anticipate

I join what God is already doing

God is active in our world today! He is moving, but we don't always see it, and when we don't see it, we miss out on being a part of it. Anticipating means expecting God's movement and being ready to join what He is doing. In order to do that we need to be sensitive to His voice, aware of His people and discerning in our understanding of His action.

PRACTICES

FOUNDATIONAL TRUTH: God's movement is always in alignment with His truth. As followers of Jesus, God's truth is the basis for our action. We can have confidence that something is God's movement if it aligns with what His Word says. God gives us a number of promises in Scripture that will help us discern if an action is of God. Look up lots of God's promises (feel free to google them), and write them down in a journal. Next to each promise begin brainstorming, "if I believed and applied this promise to my life, I would likely..."

EVIDENCE: How would you know if God was working in a ministry/church/group? If this rhythm invites us to anticipate and join God, then we need to know what to join. Where is the evidence? What are some tell-tale signs God is working somewhere? First of all, look for "fruit" or spiritual outcomes. Ask things like: are people connecting with Jesus there? Are people loving one another well? Is there openness and opportunity? Is Jesus the focus or is it an organization or an individual? Next look for alignment with God's Word and direction. Look for signs that God is working and then figure out how you can partner with the efforts.

INTENTIONAL SPACE: Anticipating God's movement requires space. If you fill every moment of the day with activity, you won't be available to act on what God is doing. Practice slowing down and "plan" for interruptions. Do you notice an interaction that seems out of place? Are you caught off guard by a tug towards someone who looks like they are struggling? Do you feel an unexplainable prompting to pray for someone? Stop, pay attention to what you have noticed, felt, experienced and follow the nudgings of the Spirit. The more you practice listening for His voice, the more you will see His movement!

DIG IN

Read 2 Timothy 4:1-3; Ephesians 5:1-2; 15-17

What do you learn about anticipating and joining God's mission from these verses?

Why must we live our lives constantly prepared and ready to do good in the name of Jesus?

Read 1 Peter 1:13; 3:15-17; Colossians 4:1-6

How do these verses add to your understanding of anticipation and join God's mission? Record any observations or new insights:

What part does God play in our opportunities?

What could potentially keep you from anticipating and joining God's work?

RESPOND

Of the three practices (Foundational Truth, Evidence, Intentional Space), which feels most natural to you? Which stands out as an area for growth? If a practice is natural for you, take it to the next level. If a practice is an area where you would like to grow, make a plan to read more about it, and seek out others who do it well or have incorporated it into their lives. Then, actively and intentionally try out that practice for a month. Write down how you have seen God working in you, and others, as a result of anticipating God's movement through the practice.

This rhythm calls us to live “ready” to act, to engage in other’s stories and be attuned to Jesus. How can you remind and train yourself to listen, lean into, and notice opportunities to be a part of what God is doing in the world?

In addition to a lifestyle of “seeing” opportunities and creating space to act, we also can be involved on a consistent basis. Maybe there is a ministry in the church or in our community where you see God at work. Get involved with the team or group or encourage people who are.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Joining Jesus on His Mission: How to be an Everyday Missionary by Greg Finke

God’s Big Picture: Tracing the Storyline of the Bible by Vaughan Roberts

Radical: Taking Back Your Faith from the American Dream by David Platt

FOR KIDS

Words To Love By by Rick Warren



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