



RENEW

renewing people & places

Devotional Journal

GREENLANE
CHRISTIAN CENTRE



“LORD, I HAVE HEARD OF YOUR FAME;
I STAND IN AWE OF YOUR DEEDS, O LORD.

RENEW
THEM IN OUR DAY,
IN OUR TIME
MAKE THEM KNOWN.”

HABAKKUK 3:2 (NIV)

I've had a green thumb from the time Mum and Dad gave me seeds to grow as a toddler. I loved tilling the ground, planting a seed, and watching it grow and become what it was meant to be. Remarkable things happen when a small seed is planted.

Jesus used a small seed to talk about spiritual things. He said,

"The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches." – Matthew 13:31-32 (NLT).

35 years ago a gospel seed was planted which led to the formation of Greenlane Christian Centre. During these years, thousands of lives have been positively affected through the sacrifices made at that time. Fast forward 35 years and we enjoy shelter from what was planted.

It's time to plant new seeds and look ahead to what is possible in the years ahead as we ask God to grow something in us and through us.

During August, we will consider factors necessary for small kingdom seeds to grow into solid trees! This journal follows the preaching series and provides additional factors, along with a short reading, prayer, and space for you to reflect on through the week.

My hope is that we will stand in awe of our God who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine; that we will have fresh stories to tell of God's awe and fame in our time!

Your Pastor,

Jonathan Dove

Jonathan Dove

The Foundation Factor

Week 1

As Christ followers, we are all called to be on mission with our Lord. By partnering with Christ in ministry to this world, we make renewed choices of sacrifice, putting the interests of others above our own. With the lives of Jesus and His disciples as models for us, we have the opportunity during this season to think through what life is really about and align our choices with God's values, focusing on what will last. Let us prayerfully reflect on the missional life that Jesus and His disciples lived, making renewed choices with every aspect of our lives, in light of eternity that awaits us.



Philippians 3:7-8

Monday

*“But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ.
What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness
of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things.
I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.”*

PRAYER

Ask God to give you a desire for the things that He values, that our life's mission would be aligned with His purposes. Ask God to help you identify any things that are hindering you from enjoying Christ above all, and ask Him to give you the boldness to make some big changes in your life where necessary. Trust that gaining Christ is greater than anything this world has to offer.

JOURNAL

Matthew 9:35-38

Tuesday

“Jesus went through all the towns and villages, teaching in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the kingdom and healing every disease and sickness. When he saw the crowds, he had compassion on them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field.’”

PRAYER

Thank God that He has invited Greenlane Christian Centre to participate in His mission of healing, forgiveness and restoration, and that He has made us to be a community where transformation takes place. Knowing that each of us are the workers Jesus is referring to in these verses, ask God to show you where your “harvest field” is, the place(s) where and the people whom you can love and serve for Christ, and record them below. Pray that we would be a place of renewed workers in this strategic site.

JOURNAL

Micah 6:8

Wednesday

*“He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you?
To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.”*

PRAYER

Ask God to give you a taste for what His values are – that you would desire the things of God. Bold living involves re-aligning our life values with God’s, and then acting upon those God-centered values. Pray for the pastors and leaders of our church that they would make future plans in line with God’s values.

JOURNAL

Philippians 3:20-21

Thursday

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.”

PRAYER

Ask God to renew your desire to live in light of Heaven. Ask Him to remind you during those difficult times that you are first and foremost a citizen of Heaven, and though you may need to make radical choices that bring suffering today, the blessings of Heaven far outshine the blessings of today. Ask Him to give you the boldness and confidence to live in light of Heaven.

JOURNAL

Matthew 6:20-33

Friday

“But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moth and rust do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also... Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes?... So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.”

PRAYER

Ask God to renew your desire to work for what matters in this life, trusting that God will take care of your needs. Ask God to give you the courage to make decisions of love and service for others, since God will take care of you.

JOURNAL

Over the weekend, prepare for worship by thinking about what really matters in light of eternity and praising God for allowing our lives to have significance in participation with His mission.

The Love Factor

Week 2

In His last words to His disciples, Jesus cast a new vision of radical love for their lives. They were to create a community of people who follow him by demonstrating radical love, and by that love people would know that Christianity is real and that Jesus is alive. This is Jesus' Creed for us. Today, as we follow God 2,000 years later, the vision has not changed; God is still calling us as a church to boldly follow Jesus in living missionally in our community. May we have the vision of our Saviour, and trust in Him as we move forward faithfully in what God has in store for Greenlane Christian Centre!



John 13:33-35

Monday

“My children, I will be with you only a little longer. You will look for me, and just as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come. A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.”

PRAYER

Ask God to continue His work of transforming our church into a community of radical love, a people who love one another and those who live in our community. Ask God to renew our faith as we seek to follow Jesus.

JOURNAL

Luke 10:25-37

Tuesday

“But he wanted to justify himself, so he asked Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbor?’...

‘Which of these three do you think was a neighbor to the man who fell into the hands of robbers?’ The expert in the law replied, ‘The one who had mercy on him.’

Jesus told him, ‘Go and do likewise.’”

PRAYER

Ask God to reveal to you a “neighbour” in our church and another in our community to whom you can show renewed and radical love. Record these people below. Ask God to begin showing you how you can love them the way Jesus has loved us. Pray that God would continue to make Greenlane Christian Centre a “neighbour” to our community and around the world.

JOURNAL

Philippians 2:5-11

Wednesday

“Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.”

PRAYER

Thank God that Jesus lived a mission of selfless love for all of us. Ask God to give you the same desire and capacity to love others as Jesus had, empowered by the Holy Spirit.

JOURNAL

Ephesians 4:1-2

Thursday

“As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.”

PRAYER

Ask God to give you boldness in living a radical life of love, a life of following Jesus and loving like Jesus.
Ask God to give you gentleness and patience, especially with those closest to you.

JOURNAL

Ephesians 3:20-21

Friday

“Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.”

PRAYER

Thank God that He hears our prayers, and that He answers them! Praise God that He gives us graces we do not even ask for! Ask God to make us a church who prays to Him boldly, confident that every answer we get is straight from Him!

JOURNAL

Over the weekend, prepare for worship by asking God how He wants you to best “love one another” as family and friends here at Greenlane Christian Centre.

The Sacrifice Factor

Week 3

Before God takes us to our destination, He takes us on a journey. The journey prepares us for the destination. Before we can see and experience the next step God has for Greenlane Christian Centre, He wants to prepare us, to transform us into the Church that will fulfill His mission. This week we will look at how God prepares us on the journey, specifically how He transforms us through giving to become the kinds of people who radically and sacrificially follow Him with everything, even our finances.



2 Corinthians 8:1-7

Monday

“And now, brothers and sisters, we want you to know about the grace that God has given the Macedonian churches. In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability. Entirely on their own, they urgently pleaded with us for the privilege of sharing in this service to the Lord’s people. And they exceeded our expectations: They gave themselves first of all to the Lord, and then by the will of God also to us. So we urged Titus, just as he had earlier made a beginning, to bring also to completion this act of grace on your part. But since you excel in everything — in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you — see that you also excel in this grace of giving.”

PRAYER

Ask God to give you the same desire to give sacrificially that the Macedonian believers had, who considered it a privilege to give generously, in light of the great opportunity to serve God and others.

JOURNAL

2 Corinthians 9:8-11

Tuesday

“And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. As it is written: ‘They have freely scattered their gifts to the poor; their righteousness endures forever.’ Now he who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will also supply and increase your store of seed and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God.”

PRAYER

Praise God that He uses our gifts to accomplish His ministry, to meet the needs of others. Praise God that when He calls us to give, He gives us the opportunity and ability to do so.

JOURNAL

2 Corinthians 9:7

Wednesday

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

PRAYER

Lord, may my ministry of giving rest in Your hands. I know you don't need my money, but you want my heart and my devotion, and you want to grow my faith through renewed giving. Help me surrender my heart to you and see Your will for my financial involvement in this project.

JOURNAL

1 Chronicles 29:14-17

Thursday

“But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. We are foreigners and strangers in your sight, as were all our ancestors. Our days on earth are like a shadow, without hope. LORD our God, all this abundance that we have provided for building you a temple for your Holy Name comes from your hand, and all of it belongs to you. I know, my God, that you test the heart and are pleased with integrity. All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you.”

PRAYER

Thank God for all that He has given you; acknowledging that everything you have is a gift from Him. Pray for faith, hope and confidence that He will provide for all your needs and the renewed courage to give generously.

JOURNAL

2 Corinthians 9:6

Friday

*“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.”*

PRAYER

Remember that the generous giver will be given increasing means to give. We will be blessed and rewarded in accordance with how we use the resources He has given us. Reflect on how God has blessed you in abundance as you have responded in obedience to Him. If you have not yet taken that renewed step of faith, consider trusting God’s Word and respond to His call to give generously.

JOURNAL

Over the weekend, prepare for worship by thinking about how you can be a part of God’s mission through sacrificial and generous giving. Everything we have is a gift from God, and through renewed giving God will show Himself faithful and grow our faith on the journey.

The Faith Factor

Week 4

God loves to use ordinary people like you and me to do extraordinary things for His mission. Though we tend to think that God uses people with perfect faith and natural abilities, in reality God is looking to use people who are available to Him.

Will we trust God enough to place our lives in His hands and be used by Him? During this week we will discover what the Faith Factor looks like, and how others demonstrated it in the Bible. This is renewed faith, and this is what the heroes of the Bible embodied. They were not perfect, they made mistakes, but they took a leap of faith and trusted Him, and He used that faith to accomplish His mission.

Prayerfully consider how we can take a leap of faith right now!



Hebrews 11:1-2

Monday

*“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.
This is what the ancients were commended for.”*

PRAYER

The biggest barriers to renewed Faith are doubt and fear. Ask God to reveal to you areas in your life where you don't trust God, and instead you trust in someone or something else. List these areas you would like to trust God in more fully below. Pray for our church during this season, that we would continue to have renewed faith during a time of financial and faith stretching, where we are placing our church's future plans in His hands.

JOURNAL

Matthew 17:20-21

Tuesday

“I tell you the truth, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

PRAYER

Praise God that He is not looking for spiritual superstars, but rather for ordinary people who make themselves available to Him. Ask God to help you picture circumstances in your life that could use a renewed leap of faith, and then give you the courage to make that jump.

JOURNAL

Hebrews 11:3

Wednesday

*“By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had
marched around them for seven days.”*

PRAYER

Praise God that when He asks us to trust Him, He goes before us, promising to do what He said. Ask God to give you the faith of those people who marched around Jericho, trusting Him enough to take that step, no matter how crazy the instructions may sound.

JOURNAL

1 Samuel 17:23-50

Thursday

“As he was talking with them, Goliath, the Philistine champion from Gath, stepped out from his lines and shouted his usual ...When the Israelites saw the man, they all ran from him in great fear... David said to Saul, ‘Let no one lose heart on account of this Philistine; your servant will go and fight him.’... ‘The LORD who delivered me from the paw of the lion and the paw of the bear will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine.’ Saul said to David, ‘Go, and the LORD be with you.’ David said to the Philistine, ‘You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the LORD Almighty...this day the LORD will hand you over to me.’”

PRAYER

Ask God to give you the faith of David during this season—that you would not let your shortcomings, nor the obstacles in your way hinder you from a renewed decision to follow God. Pray for our church, that each of us would take a leap of renewed faith during this season, trusting God to go before us and take our act of faith and move mountains.

JOURNAL

Matthew 14:27-33

Friday

*“But Jesus immediately said to them: ‘Take courage! It is I. Don’t be afraid.’
‘Lord, if it’s you,’ Peter replied, ‘tell me to come to you on the water.’ ‘Come,’ he said.
Then Peter got down out of the boat, walked on the water and came toward Jesus. But
when he saw the wind, he was afraid and, beginning to sink, cried out, ‘Lord, save me!’
Immediately Jesus reached out his hand and caught him.
‘You of little faith,’ he said, ‘why did you doubt?’”*

PRAYER

Ask God to help you identify any places in your life where you doubt God’s goodness and His ability to care for you. Pray that God would give you the courage to take a step of faith in those areas, and overcome any doubts with faith. Ask God to make Greenlane Christian Centre a church that takes steps of faith, and experience God’s provision when we go out on a limb and get out of the boat.

JOURNAL

Over the weekend, prepare for worship by thinking about how you can trust God with more of your life, and what step of faith He may be calling you to take. Praise God that He uses ordinary people to accomplish extraordinary tasks, as we with messy pasts, offer our lives to Him.

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