



r e s e t

REVIVE. RENEW. RESTORE.

January 7-14

GET DETAILS AND DOWNLOAD THE RESET GUIDE

connectchurch.com/reset

Commit everything you do to the LORD.
Trust Him, and He will help you.
– Psalm 37:5

hello 2024

As we say goodbye to 2023, let's embrace the opportunity for renewal and growth in our faith. May the coming year be a journey of deepening our connection with God, seeking His wisdom, and trusting in His guidance. Let's set our hearts on pursuing a closer relationship and allowing His love to shape our lives. In the midst of challenges, may our faith be unwavering and our hope be anchored in God's promises. Let's commit to making 2024 a year of spiritual growth, community, and unwavering faith together

Happy New Year, Connect Church family!!

RESET

It is the beginning of the new year and a lot of us are thinking about our lives and things we want to do better. And so we make resolutions – to lose weight, read more, save money, or start a business. We've all been there. But for most of us we fail at our resolutions. In fact one recent study says that, by February, 80% of people have abandoned their resolutions. Despite our best intentions, we make unrealistic goals, we lack accountability, we don't track and /or review our progress, and we fail to complete our resolutions.

So what does that mean for us at Connect Church as we start the new year? We want to dedicate our year to the Lord. We want to make resolutions that will honor God, impact His kingdom, and help spread the gospel of Jesus Christ. But we also know that most resolutions fail.

That is why we are starting the new year with Reset. RESET is our church-wide prayer challenge for the Connect family to corporately and collectively seek God for revival, restoration, and renewal. It is a time to refresh our relationship with God. It is a time to get back on track with His purpose, His vision, and His priority.

*The steps of a man are established by the LORD,
when he delights in his way - Psalm 37:23*

We hope you will join your Connect Family for The Reset 2024. This booklet will help you along the way. Alright, let's get started!

How to RESET

In this guide, we have ideas to help you prayerfully, spiritually, and practically RESET your life.

Step 1: Commit

- Join your Connect Family with prayer and challenges Sunday, January 7 - 13.
- Join us for our First Wednesday Prayer Night on Wednesday, January 10 at 6 PM.

Step 2: Reflect

- Take time to reflect on your spiritual life as you enter the new year. Use the questions in this guide to help you take inventory of the past year.

Step 3: Follow

- Use your Reset guide as a tool to help you navigate your personal journey.

DAY ONE

Sunday, January 7

Connecting with God

As we begin our week of Reset, we want to start by Connecting to God. But why God? Well, God gives us our standard of living. His Word conforms our hearts, transforms our minds, and informs our decisions. 1 Peter 1:15 says, “But like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves in all your conduct.” (Conduct in this verse commands us to be set apart from the world by our godly character and moral courage.). And we have everything in His Word we need to live a life that pleases God (see 2 Peter 1:3-4).

During our Experiencing God study this past Fall, we talked a lot about a God-centered life. Blackaby defined a God-centered life as one that places confidence in God and chooses holy and godly living.

Connecting with God is Easy

The good news is that connecting to God is actually easy. We can connect to God at any time, place, or reason. In Jonah 2, we see that Jonah prayed to the Lord his God from the belly of the fish, 2 saying, “I called out to the Lord, out of my distress, and he answered me; out of the belly of Sheol I cried, and you heard my voice.”

God is always there for us. He is not far away, nor is He unknowable, as some would say. The Bible says in Hebrews 4:15, “For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.” And because of that truth, we are commended in the next verse to “draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.” God sees. God knows. God cares, so we can and should connect with Him.

Connecting to God is an ongoing journey, and it requires dedication, prayer, and a sincere desire to align our lives with God’s will.

Some ways we can connect with God:

- 1. Seek God First:** Prioritize your relationship with God above all else. *But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness... Matthew 6:33 (NIV)*
- 2. Study the Bible:** Regularly read, study, and meditate on the Bible to understand God's word and His plans. *All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness... 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (NIV)*
- 3. Prayer:** Maintain a consistent prayer life, seeking God's guidance, strength, and wisdom. *Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. - Philippians 4:6 (NIV)*
- 4. Obey His Commands:** We must respond by putting the commands of God into practice in all areas of our lives. *Luke 6:47-48 (NIV) - As for everyone who comes to me and hears my words and puts them into practice, I will show you what they are like. 48 They are like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that house but could not shake it, because it was well built.*
- 5. Avoid Sin:** Strive to live a life free from sin and seek forgiveness when you fall short. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9 (NIV)*
- 6. Trust in God's Plan:** Trust that God has a plan for your life, even when circumstances are challenging. *Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)*

⁹This is my prayer for you: that your love will grow more and more; that you will have knowledge and understanding with your love; ¹⁰ that you will see the difference between what is important and what is not and choose what is important; that you will be pure and blameless for the coming of Christ; ¹¹ that your life will be full of the many good works that are produced by Jesus Christ to bring glory and praise to God.

- Philippians 1:9-11

DAILY CHALLENGE

Carefully re-read Philippians 1:9-11 and identify the 5 different aspects of his prayer for the church. Then begin to pray this prayer for yourself and for your Connect family. See the answers below.

DAY TWO

Monday, January 8

Connecting with Family

In a world filled with distractions, demands, and constant connectivity, the concept of family often competes for our attention. We often focus on spreading God's love beyond our homes, but sometimes, we forget that our first ministry is within the walls of our own families.

Our challenge today is connecting with your family and strengthening familial ties. It begins with intentional actions:

- Setting aside dedicated time for family
- Engaging in heartfelt conversations
- Actively participating in each other's lives

Everyday Discipleship is an important part of strengthening your family.

Deuteronomy 6:1-9 is the example we should follow as a family.

These are the commands, decrees and laws the Lord your God directed me to teach you to observe in the land that you are crossing the Jordan to possess, ² so that you, your children and their children after them may fear the Lord your God as long as you live by keeping all his decrees and commands that I give you, and so that you may enjoy long life. ³ Hear, Israel, and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the Lord, the God of your ancestors, promised you. ⁴ Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. ⁵ Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. ⁷ Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. ⁹ Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

The passage doesn't tell us there is a specific time or place for imparting faith; instead, it paints a picture of seamless integration. Faith discussions are a part of daily life—during meals, travels, bedtime stories, and morning routines. It's in these ordinary moments that we can make extraordinary connections with God.

Let's reflect on our priorities—are we investing enough time and effort into nurturing our family relationships? Are we truly present when we're with our loved ones, or are we preoccupied with other matters?

DAILY CHALLENGE

Connect with you family and be reminded of how much you love them.

- Make the phone call to a family member you haven't talked to in a while.
- Play a board game with your kids without any distractions.
- Spend time with your spouse doing something special.

*Lord, bless my family and children.
Give them hearts that follow after you.
Give my family the strength to not be
afraid. Give them the courage to stand
up for what is right. Produce within them
an attitude of integrity, giving their
lives to giving you glory. Protect each
family member under the shadow of
your wings.*

*Lord, help us to find our strength in you.
Increase our unity and peace as we seek
to follow after you.*

Amen

DAY THREE

Tuesday, January 9

Connecting with Co-Workers

Connecting with a coworker can be as easy and straightforward, or as tricky and complicated as we make it out to be. But suppose we step back and look at how we connect with friends outside of our work. In that case, we can discover what contributed to those relationships growing. Then, we can apply those same techniques to our coworkers.

We tend to make connections where there is:

1. Routine in schedule
2. Shared interest or circumstance

These two things are the foundation for the most meaningful connections we make with others. Whether at the gym, coffee shop, church, school, etc., the connections you make begin with these two points (whether we realize it or not). So, in the workplace (where we spend an amount of time that rivals that of the time we spend with our families), the foundation is already there for connections to be made! But initiating the connection is often the most challenging part of most things.

A simple truth toward making these connections in the workplace

Have the mindset of the 2 greatest commandments. We are commanded, not merely suggested, but commanded to "love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength" (Mark 12:31). And then we are given the second commandment, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself" (Mark 12:32).

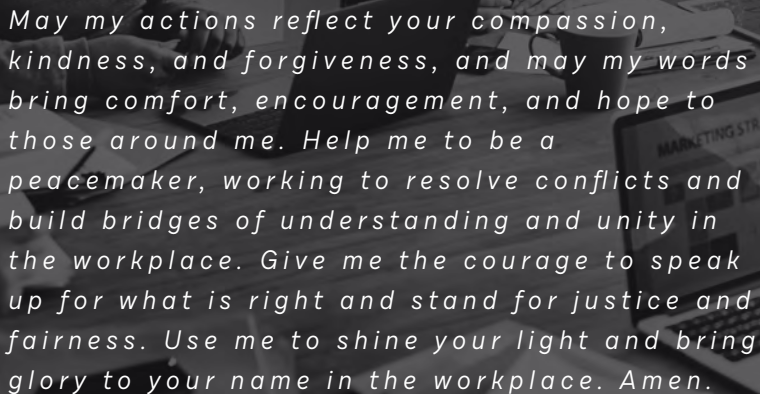
The order in which the commandments are listed is critical to living these truths with our Coworkers. When (if) we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength, that will absolutely change how we love others who are also created in His image. This is a change in mission, mindset, and perspective. But God's foundational love gives us security to connect with others (even when there is anxiety over these connections).

It is easy for us to fear making meaningful connections with our coworkers. It can be easy to shrink back and stay to ourselves at our work. But the Lord has a plan and purpose for your interactions. So, love others in light of the love for the Lord. He will establish your steps and lead you. It will be refreshing to your soul, and you will never regret doing so when He is the driving motive (Prov. 3:5-8).

DAILY CHALLENGE

Some Ways to Help You Connect With Your Coworkers

1. Pray and ask the Lord for opportunities to make connections, recognizing it may take time to cultivate connections. Ask also for the strength and help to act on these opportunities presented to you.
2. Ask a coworker, "How are you?" or "Do anything interesting this weekend?". Make this a habit every few days to cultivate this connection.
3. Thank the Lord for opportunities presented and acted on, and ask that He will help cultivate a meaningful connection for His namesake.



May my actions reflect your compassion, kindness, and forgiveness, and may my words bring comfort, encouragement, and hope to those around me. Help me to be a peacemaker, working to resolve conflicts and build bridges of understanding and unity in the workplace. Give me the courage to speak up for what is right and stand for justice and fairness. Use me to shine your light and bring glory to your name in the workplace. Amen.

Amen

DAY FOUR

Wednesday, January 10

Connecting with Friends

Today, we gather to explore a theme that is woven throughout the fabric of our lives: Friendship. As we dive into the Word of God, let us be inspired to deepen our connections, pray for one another, and uplift each other in love. In John 15:12-13 (NIV) it says: ¹²My command is this: Love each other as I have loved you. ¹³ Greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends.

Reflecting on these verses, we are reminded of the deep love that Christ demonstrated for us. As we consider our friendships, let us strive to embody Jesus's sacrificial love.

Friendship is a gift from God, reflecting His love for us. In John 15:12-13, Jesus lays out a powerful commandment: to love one another as He has loved us. The depth of this love is illustrated by the willingness to lay down one's life for friends. While most of us may not be called to physically lay down our lives, we are called to sacrificially love and support our friends.

Consider the friendships in your life. How can you demonstrate Christ-like love in your interactions with your friends? It may involve sacrificing your time, extending forgiveness, or offering a helping hand in times of need. Take a moment to reflect on the friendships you have been blessed with and consider how you can better embody the love of Christ in those relationships.

In 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NIV), Paul encourages the Thessalonians believers to be a source of encouragement for each other. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing.

**Friendship is a gift from God,
a reflection of His love for us.**

Our friendships should be characterized by mutual support, uplifting one another in our faith journeys, encouraging each other daily, as life can be challenging, and building one another up with kindness and hope.

We have been meditating on Philippians 1:9-11 listed here again:

⁹ And this is my prayer: that your love may abound more and more in knowledge and depth of insight, ¹⁰ so that you may be able to discern what is best and may be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, ¹¹ filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ—to the glory and praise of God.

The Apostle Paul offers a beautiful prayer for the Philippians in these verses. This verse holds a powerful message for our friendships. Paul prays for their love to abound, not just in emotion but in knowledge and depth of insight. As we think about our friendships, let us consider how to cultivate a love rooted in understanding, wisdom, and discernment.

DAILY CHALLENGE

Take a moment to pray for a friend today. Spend some time with the Lord, asking for His guidance, protection, and blessings in their life. After spending some time praying over a friend take some time and make a commitment to connect with a friend today or (this week if today is not possible)—whether it's through a heartfelt conversation, a simple act of kindness, or a shared moment of prayer.

I challenge you to do more than send a text but truly find time for some face-to-face conversation, or get outside and play a game of basketball, something intentional that will build true friendship.

DAY FIVE

Thursday, January 11

Connecting with Someone New

Every day we step out of our houses, we come into contact with new people. It could be while walking the dog, at the gym, at our place of employment, at the local grocery store, or while putting gas in our cars. We also meet new people at our church. But how many of us can genuinely say we connect with new people and have meaningful interactions? How many of us go beyond our comfort zones and actually have conversations with new people beyond the typical surface interactions? You know, beyond the usual one-liners, “Hey, what’s up?”, “How was your week?” and our favorite one, “How bout them “Cowboys!” Do we genuinely connect and have encounters with people that will cause them to see and follow Jesus?

Being a preacher’s kid, I remember how my dad always said that when we see or come across new people we should see them with a big “L” on their foreheads! I know that sounds crazy, lol. He explained that the “L” on their forehead signifies that for every new person we encounter, we should assume that they are “Lost” and in need of the hope of Jesus our Savior. Our desire should not be for them to be lost in their hopelessness but to find hope in Jesus.

Paul reminds us in Philippians 1:21-22 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. While we continue to live on earth, we should allow Christ to live in and through us. The result will be that those we meet will have an encounter not only with us but with Christ. Verse 29 reminds us that to believe in Christ is the first step, but then we must labor and suffer for Him. We should live our lives in such a sacrificial way that we connect and love people by meeting physical, emotional, and spiritual needs.

Those we meet will not only have an encounter with us but with Christ.

DAILY CHALLENGE

So here is the challenge, Connect with someone NEW by meeting a need! Be like the good Samaritan in Luke 10 who had pity on the man who was robbed and beaten to the point he was half dead. The good Samaritan tended his wounds and provided the man with whatever was needed for that moment. He had such a sacrificial heart.

1. We can meet the needs of others physically by
 - feeding them,
 - providing transportation,
 - clothing
2. We can meet the needs of others emotionally by
 - being with them in their time of loneliness, celebration, or loss.
3. We can meet their spiritual needs by
 - praying,
 - providing bible teaching
 - providing spiritual counsel

So that's it! That's the challenge. Connect with someone new by meeting a need. The harvest is ripe!

Heavenly Father, I pray for godly influences to come into the lives of the lost souls who are searching for truth. Surround them, Lord, with people who will speak Your truth with love and compassion. Give them godly examples to follow, who will inspire and encourage them on their spiritual journey.

In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen

DAY SIX

Friday, January 12

Connecting with a Church Member

Being known is one of the deepest desires in life. To know and to be known. Not only as a face you say hello to but as a person. To laugh and cry with those around you whom you have walked through the ups and downs of life with.

As our reset is coming to a close and we gather together tomorrow as a church, how will you engage with someone else? This week is the year's focus for us as a church with a connection with God and those around us. It seems like a simple task, but as you may have found this week, it takes some effort and can be uncomfortable. Unity is a crucial part of our life within the faith.

I hope you have read the whole book of Philippians this week to see the constant theme of community: gathering as the saints, supporting one another, and how we affect the community around us. The purpose of the church is not to be a family for an hour a week. It is not to have your few friends and a lot of acquaintances. But it is to encourage those around whom the LORD has placed in our midst to encourage! I have said many times, and it is true, you will not be best friends with everyone. But we can make an attempt to know people beyond a hello.

DAILY CHALLENGE

So, as we prepare today for gathering tomorrow and worship the LORD together, here is the challenge:

- Spend some time this Sunday with someone within the church who you do not know well. Maybe it is someone you only see on Sundays or even someone in your life group.
- Ask someone about their life, go out to lunch, or plan something.

DAY SEVEN

Saturday, January 13

Reset our Connection with God

*When You said, "Seek My face," my heart said to You, "I shall seek Your face, Lord."
- Psalm 27:8*

God desires to have an intimate relationship with us. We sometimes overlook and/or underestimate just how much God wants to fellowship with us.

One of my favorite words to describe the relationship God desires with us is the Hebrew word "Hesed." It means lovingkindness or "God's covenant-love for His people." This Psalm clearly shows that God wants us to seek His face and connect with Him daily.

This passage reveals that He is requesting something more than a moment. He wants a deep connection that only comes by seeking God's face, and not just His hand. One writer described it as the difference between texting and face-timing. God does not merely want us to send him texts; He wants us to spend time face to face. This is the more intimate relationship.

We can find comfort in knowing that when we reach out to Reset Our Connection with Him, He will not turn His back on us.

Psalm 28:1-2 gives us confidence that he will not turn a deaf ear. *"I pray to you, O LORD, my rock. Do not turn a deaf ear to me. For if you are silent, I might as well give up and die. Listen to my prayer for mercy as I cry out to you for help, as I lift my hands toward your holy sanctuary."*

Prayer is the connection point God has given us to have a real-time fellowship with Him.

DAILY CHALLENGE

Let's spend more time connecting with God and His people!

REFLECT

Spiritual Inventory Questions

Take time to reflect on your spiritual life as you enter the new year? This spiritual inventory can help us discern what areas of our life need the most attention.

How would you describe your walk with God over the last year?

**What does the way you spend your time reveal about your priorities?
What adjustments do you need to make?**

REFLECT

Spiritual Inventory Questions

What is one joy and one struggle in your life and ministry right now?

How do you feel you would most like and most need to grow in 2024?