

REDEMPTION CITY CHURCH

Reflection and Renewal Guide 2020



As we come to the close of another year, it is important to find time in this season to pause for reflection. For many of us, 2020 has been one of the most challenging years in recent memory. We hope this guide can be a resource for you to remember and grieve the hard things about this year, while reflecting on the grace and goodness of our savior, Jesus.

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding; He stores up sound wisdom for the upright; He is a shield to those who walk in integrity, guarding the paths of justice and watching over the ways of His saints. Then you will understand righteousness and justice and equity, every good path.

Proverbs 2:6–9

“The soul is often forgotten beneath the demands of everyday life. It’s easy to get tangled up in a fast paced world, distracted by hustle, and driven to produce. One way to slow the hustle is to practice paying attention to your own life.”

Emily Freeman

“We focus our hearts on seeing God’s work and presence in the past. We hear the Spirit leading us forward. We resubmit to Jesus as King of our lives.”

Brad Watson

In the Church, following Christmas we move into a season known as Epiphany (Manifestation). Epiphany means “to show” or “to manifest”. The manifestation of Jesus to all as Savior is for all of us. It seems appropriate that as we move into 2021, we would make space to reflect and be renewed in how we will live our everyday life to show and manifest the good news of Jesus in our lives.

The manifestation of Jesus in our lives is not something to be over-complicated. The Bible says we are to love God and love others. We pray that as you reflect your heart will be spurred to create a life that participates in God’s redemptive work of being a part of seeing His kingdom come in Philly as it is in Heaven.



Looking Back on 2020



In 2020, I am thankful for:

What am I grieving personally from this last year?

What am I celebrating from this last year?

How has COVID-19 impacted me?

How has my relationship with the Lord been over the last year?

How has my marriage been in the last year?
How have I grown or struggled as a spouse?

Have I made any compromises or shortcuts in my life in 2020? ("end justifies the means" mentality) Even if "it's legal" how do I need to readjust my life in 2021 to reflect holiness?



How has the spiritual, emotional, and mental health of my child(ren) been this year? What factors have contributed to this either positively or negatively?

How strong and healthy have my friendships been in 2020?
How have I grown or struggled as a friend?

How have I lived out my missionary identity this year and the calling to love my neighbor?

Who have I been praying for who doesn't know Christ this year?

How have I sought to share the Gospel with them?

Do I need to forgive anyone? Do I need to ask forgiveness from anyone?



Did I have too much on my plate this year?
Understanding the answer to this question can help us plan sustainable
goals that are gentle on our season in life.

What is unresolved from 2020?

What pains, struggles, and doubts do you carry into next year?

What hopes and dreams do you carry into next year?

"It's not our experience that brings transformation, but it's our
reflection upon experience."

Jan Johnson



How did you grow in the last year?

Spiritually

Personally

Relationally

Professionally



Looking Forward to 2021



What are some regular rhythms I can implement
or grow in to enjoy God more fully in 2021?
(Resource: Rule of Life)

As covid-19 continues into 2021, how would a Gospel
centered perspective help me in everyday life?

How can I connect and serve in the local church?

What intentional steps can I take in 2021 to grow as a disciple-maker?
Who is one person the Lord has put into my life who I can invest in?

How can I be a better friend in 2021? How can I grow
in receiving love from my friends in 2021?

"Sabbath is a Gospel practice because it reminds us that the world doesn't hang
on what we can accomplish, but rather on what God has accomplished for us."

Justin Earley
The Common Rule



How will I practice Biblical Sabbath in 2021?

How can I better love and serve my spouse in 2021? If not married, how can I increasingly support marriages within the RCC family?

How can I better love and reflect Christ in my singleness in 2021? If not single, how can I increasingly support those who are single in the RCC family?

As a parent, what should continue or change in order for my child(ren) to thrive in 2021? What will it look like to disciple my child(ren) faithfully in 2021?

Where do I see brokenness in my community that I could bring the shalom of the Kingdom to in tangible ways?

"Shalom, therefore, does not eschew or diminish the role of the other or the reality of a suffering world. Instead, it embraces the suffering other as an instrumental aspect of well-being. Shalom requires lament

Soong-Chan Rah

Prophetic Lament: A Call for Justice in Troubled Times



How can I love my neighbors and community with more intentionality in 2021? Who are 1 or 2 people I am praying come to know Jesus in 2021?

What are some goals for 2021?

Spiritually

Personally

Relationally

Professionally



Looking to Christ in All of Life



This year has been full of many hard things. Many of us have experienced tremendous trials, grief, and loss. How does the gospel speak into these hard areas and give us hope for 2021?

At the end of 2021, what do you hope to have learned about God and your relationship with Him?

Where can you build in regular time for reflection in your life?
As we make space to focus on Jesus and His past faithfulness to us,
it gives us confidence and assurance in His future faithfulness.

Jesus' life reflects beautifully a life lived out sacrificially and generously. How can you be more generous with your time, energy, and resources in 2021?

Do not be deceived: God is not mocked for whatever one sows, that will he also reap. For the one who sows to his own flesh will from the flesh reap corruption, but the one who sows to the Spirit will from the Spirit reap eternal life. And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up, so then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith.

Galatians 6:7–10

But I do not account my life of any value nor as precious to myself, if only I may finish my course and the ministry that I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the Gospel of the grace of God.

Acts 20:24



Share This

Make intentional space to share this with your spouse, roommate, DNA Group, or close friends so they can see how they can support and encourage you in 2021.



Resources

Reflection Resources

This is a more detailed guide which will help you reflect and examine your life

[Life_Inventory.pdf](#)

This short podcast provides some great insight on the value of personal reflection

<https://emilypfreeman.com/podcast/the-next-right-thing/150-a-guide-for-personal-reflection/>

Developing a Rule of Life.

Learn to prioritize the right things that bring life

Short article about developing a rule of life

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/skip-resolutions-make-rule-life/>

Great sermon on developing a rule of life by Matt Chandler and John Mark Comer

<https://ruleoflife.com/tag/john-mark-comer/>

Application Guide to Developing Rule of Life

<https://practictheway.org/unhurrying-with-a-rule-of-life/workbook>

Ruthless Elimination of Hurry, John Mark Comer

<https://www.amazon.com/Ruthless-Elimination-Hurry-Emotionally-Spiritually/dp/05256530>

