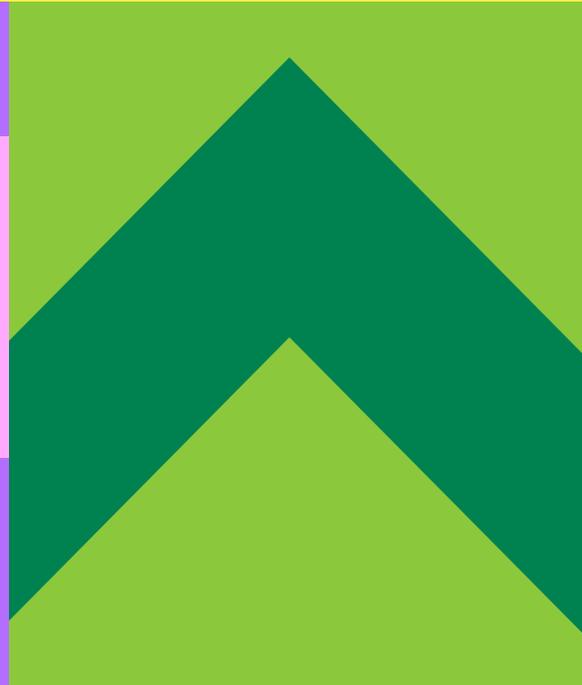


BETTER WORLD FOR ALL





**BAPTIST
WORLD
AID**

**‘See, I am doing a new
thing! Now it springs up;
do you not perceive it?
I am making a way in the
wilderness and streams
in the wasteland.’**

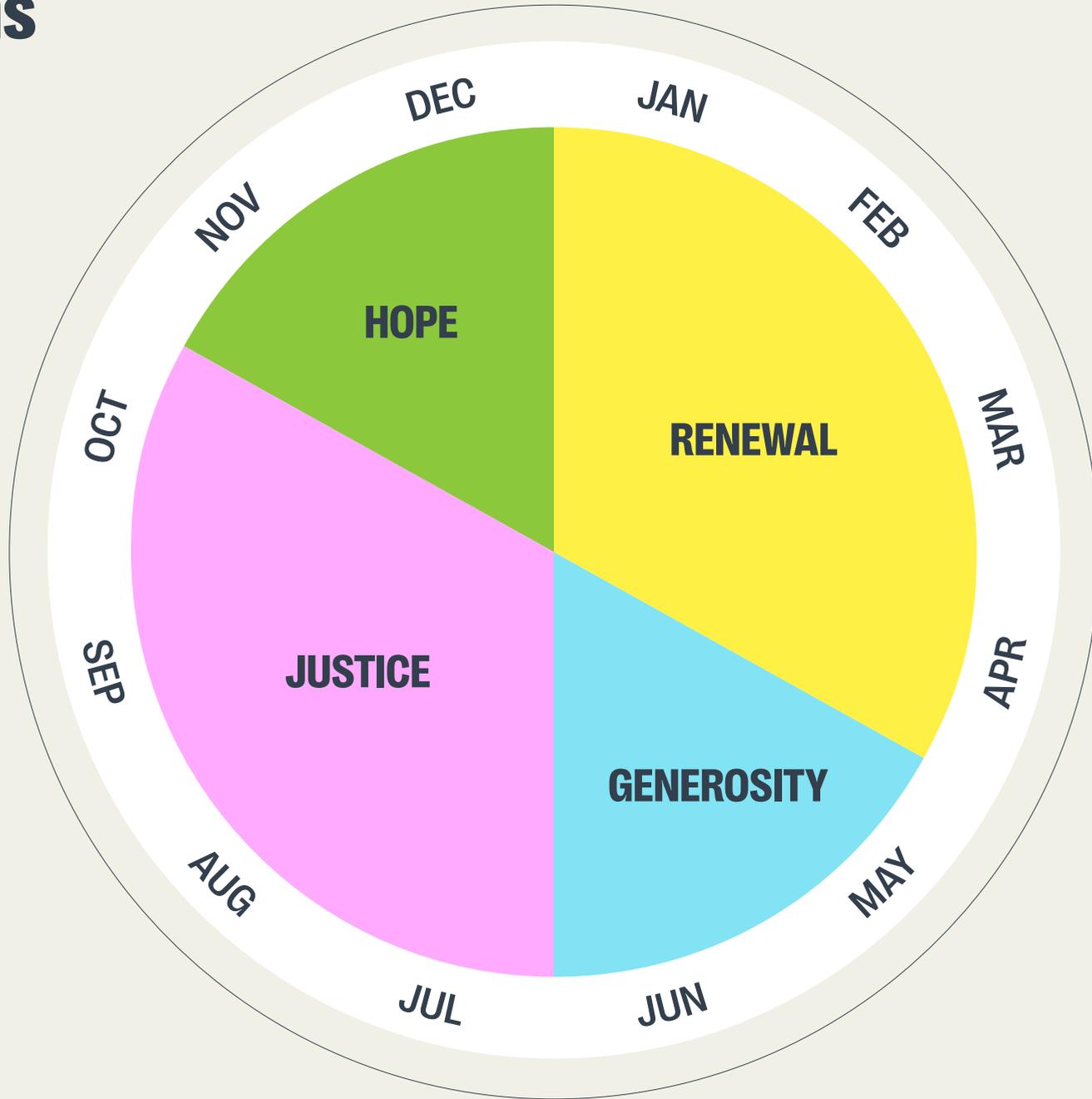
(Isaiah 43:19)

Name

Date

BETTER WORLD FOR ALL

Seasons for a Better World





Season: Renewal

JAN-APR

Rest and Reflection

'I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit in you; I will remove from you your heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh,'

—EZEKIEL 36:26-28

Through Jesus, God has given us new hearts so we can genuinely love him, obey him and love others.

Spend some time reflecting on how God has changed your heart. What would it look like for you to live this week with a 'heart of flesh'?

Relationships

'Do not lie to each other, since you have taken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator.'

—COLOSSIANS 3:9-10

Following Jesus means putting on a new self: an identity built in the image of God as our Creator.

Colossians 3:12-14 lists the qualities of our 'new self' (e.g. compassion, kindness, humility and love). How can you embody these qualities in your relationships? And in the way you care for people around the world?

Work and Action

'For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.'

—EPHESIANS 2:10

It's amazing to think that Jesus saved us by grace for a purpose. God has prepared 'good works' for us to do, as he includes us in his plan for restoration.

What opportunities for work has God placed in your life? How does knowing that you were intentionally 'created in Christ Jesus to do good works' shape your attitude to work?

Keep in mind that work isn't only a paid job; it can be any task you put your hands and mind to, including service, volunteering or advocacy.

Prayer

'Those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.'

—ISAIAH 40:31

Are you feeling burdened or weary? Take heart: God promises to renew and strengthen those who put their hope in him.

Spend some time bringing before God all the burdens or concerns you are carrying, and ask him for the strength to 'soar on wings like eagles'. Pray for Baptist World Aid's local Partners – that they might be strengthened as they care for vulnerable communities.



Season: Generosity

MAY-JUN

Rest and Reflection

‘Listen, my dear brothers and sisters: Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?’

—JAMES 2:5

God seeks out those who are poor and vulnerable. He especially calls them to be rich in faith and inherit the kingdom.

How does this compare with the way our world views those living in poverty? How can you reshape your thinking to be more in line with God?

Relationships

‘In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: who being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage.’

—PHILIPPIANS 2:5-6

Although Jesus is worthy of all praise, he willingly humbled himself, even to death on a cross, to serve us.

Read and reflect on Philippians 2:3-11. How can you reflect the same servant-heartedness and generosity in your relationships with others?

Work and Action

‘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,’

—2 CORINTHIANS 9:7

It’s not the size of the gift that counts, but the heart of the giver. To meditate on this further, you might like to read Jesus’ parable in Mark 12:41-44.

Reflect on what your own attitude towards generosity has been this year. Are there times you have been a reluctant giver? How can you be a cheerful giver?

Note: giving is not limited to financial support – it also includes giving your time, talents and resources.

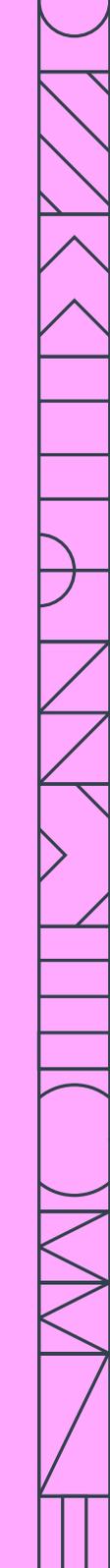
Prayer

‘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.’

—1 CHRONICLES 29:14

In this prayer, David acknowledges that everything he has comes from God’s own hand.

Spend some time thanking God for all the things he has blessed you with, and the generosity of God’s people in supporting Baptist World Aid. Reflect on how knowing all things come from God’s hand shapes your generosity.



Season: Justice

JUL-OCT

Rest and Reflection

‘Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne; love and faithfulness go before you.’

—PSALM 89:14

Spend some time meditating on two of God’s defining characteristics: justice and love. How do they work together?

As image bearers of God, how can we reflect His justice and love in everyday life? And in the way we support people in need?

Relationships

‘Woe to you Pharisees, because you give God a tenth of your mint, rue and all other kinds of garden herbs, but you neglect justice and the love of God. You should have practiced the latter without leaving the former undone.’

—LUKE 11:42

Jesus has strong words for those who claim to be his followers but fail to love God and treat others justly.

In your relationships, how can you be a true reflection of Jesus? Are there ways you can advocate for justice in everyday life?

Work and Action

‘Learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow.’

—ISAIAH 1:17

God calls us to seek justice and advocate for those who are vulnerable and face oppression.

What are some ways you can proactively seek justice for people both near and far? How can you invite others to join you?

Prayer

‘You, Lord, hear the desire of the afflicted; you encourage them, and you listen to their cry.’

—PSALM 10:17

When we see injustice in our world, one response is to lament: to cry out to God, ask him to act swiftly and affirm our confidence in him.

Using Psalm 10 as a guide, write your own lament to God, bringing before him all the injustices you see (perhaps include injustices you’ve learnt about through Baptist World Aid).



Season: Hope

NOV-DEC

Rest and Reflection

‘The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned.’

–ISAIAH 9:2

When Jesus, the Son of God, was born into this world, he offered all of humanity hope and salvation.

Spend some time reflecting on how the Good News of Christ’s birth restores our fallenness and brings hope to this world.

Relationships

‘Like cold water to a weary soul is good news from a distant land.’

–PROVERBS 25:25

Words of hope offer great refreshment to those who are struggling or who are discouraged.

As a follower of Jesus, how can you use your words to bring hope to others, especially to those who are vulnerable and in need?

Work and Action

‘Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. In this way they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age, so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.’

–1 TIMOTHY 6:17-19

Many see ‘the good life’ as accumulating wealth and possessions, but the Bible challenges us to think differently.

How does putting your hope in God impact the way you view wealth? How does it affect the way you act towards change in this world?

Prayer

‘I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in his holy people, and his incomparably great power for us who believe.’

–EPHESIANS 1:18-19

Paul prays that his brothers and sisters may know the hope God has called them to.

Spend some time praying that others would know and experience God’s hope – both spiritually and physically – especially those in need around the world.

