



take stock

# take stock

Friends, it's time to take stock, to give thanks, and to start fresh.

This week we're taking stock.

We all know that the pandemic brought to a halt, even just for a little while, things we used to take for granted; amateur sport, family gatherings, the daily commute, work from the office, live theatre and music, travel to Western Australia.

But God has also used it to provide an unprecedented opportunity. It's almost a cliché to talk about how busy modern life is. But for just a little while its momentum has, if not stopped, at least temporarily slowed down.

This gives us a chance to pause, and to reflect.

And we want to take it.

Jesus' ministry is marked by times where he withdrew to isolated places for reflection and prayer. Jesus refused to allow constant, unconsidered busyness, even with good things, to dominate his life. We believe he patterned something good for us here.

The pace of life is building up again.

Before it hits full speed, we want to help each other to seize this moment, to pause, to reflect, and to ask ourselves questions. We want to create a space where we have time to take stock. And we want to use these reflections to help us respond together.

So let's take some time this week, to notice what has changed.





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朋友们，又到了我们总结旧的一年，献上感恩并开始新的一年。  
这一周我们先做总结。

众所周知，新冠疫情使我们很多事情都停滞了，尽管影响不一而足，但我们过去认为理所当然的事情现在也变得很难。业余的户外运动，和家人团聚，每天的通勤，去办公室工作，去听音乐会，到西澳旅行。

但是神也利用疫情提供了一个前所未有的机会。谈论我们的现代生活有多么的忙碌几乎是陈腔滥调。但在很短的时间里，疫情的发生使我们的忙碌，虽然没有消除，至少是暂时放缓了。

疫情给了我们机会喘口气，思考自己的生活。  
我们愿意抓住这个机会。

在耶稣在世的时候，他曾多次退到无人的地方进行思考和祷告。耶稣拒绝让持续的、未经考虑的忙碌支配他的生活，即使是与好事有关的忙碌。基督为我们树立了非常好的榜样。

现在生活的节奏又开始加快。

在生活恢复全速运转之前，我们要帮助彼此抓住现在的机会，暂停，思考，回答一切问题。我们希望生活中留下，让我们反思总结的空间。我们希望利用这些反思来帮助我们一起作出回应。

因此，让我们在这一周，花些时间留意什么在改变。





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**Alright friends, let's take stock together.**

弟兄姐妹们，让我们一起反思，总结。

*What have you learned about how God has equipped you to impact the world for good?*

你学到了什么？神如何装备你去影响世界，使之向善？

*What spiritual disciplines flourished, or perhaps came unstuck?*

哪些属灵纪律在你身上得到了体现，又有哪些难以做到？

*What changed about the opportunities you found to share your faith?*

你在传福音，和别人分享你的信仰方面有什么变化？

**Kids,** *what is one thing you missed about not being able to come to church last year?*

*What's one thing you're excited about being able to do again?*

**Youth,** *what have you learned about yourself that you could use for Jesus and the good of the world?*

*How has your time with God gone over the last two years? What's been easier? What's been harder?*

*What was different about the chances you had to talk about Jesus with people this year?*





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## a prayer

Aba, Father, thank you for embedding rest and reflection into your creation. Show me how to follow Jesus' example of this more fully. Open my eyes to see more truly how you have been at work in the world and my life over the past couple of years. Humble and uplift me as you bring clarity and revelation.

