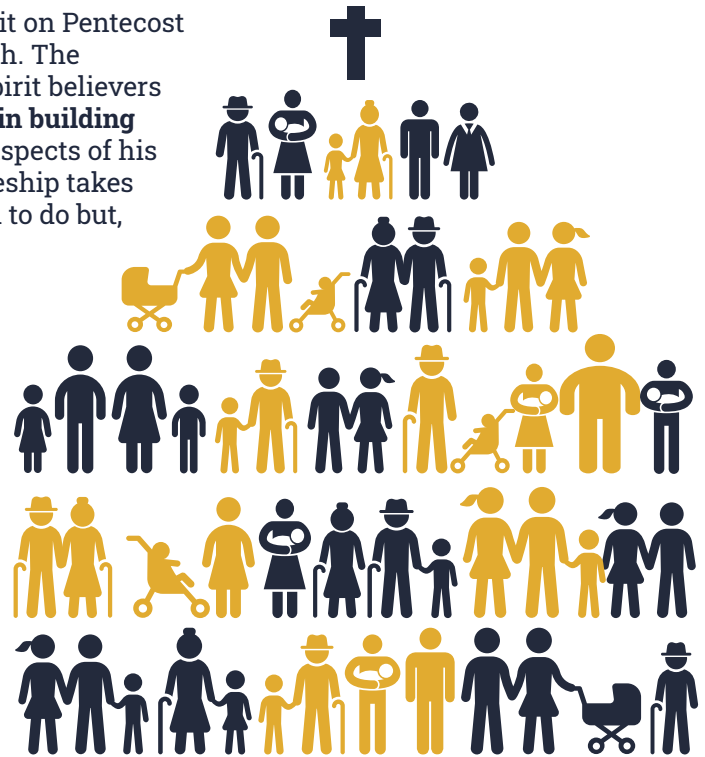


What is the meaning of Ordinary Time?

Ordinary Time begins with the arrival of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost and marks the beginning of the New Testament church. The significance of Pentecost is that by the power of the Spirit believers enter into a season of **active participation with Jesus in building the church**. It directs our focus to joining Jesus in all aspects of his redemptive work. In Ordinary Time, the call to discipleship takes center stage, emphasizing not only what we are called to do but, more fundamentally, who we are called to be.

Ordinary Time



How can we commemorate the significance of Ordinary Time as a congregation? (Choose one of the practices below, or make your own.)

- ❑ **Sermon Series on Discipleship:** As the longest season (about six months), it is an opportunity for strategic, specific discipleship. Provide practical insights and actionable steps for following Jesus as the body, here and now.
- ❑ **Connect Groups:** Personalized discipleship happens in the safe environment of connect groups.. Members can witness the practical application of faith in the lives of others, providing inspiration and sharing their spiritual growth. Emphasize connect groups during Ordinary Time.
- ❑ **Love Avenue Events:** Sharing the love and light of Christ is living out the mission of the Church. Engaging in relationship building and community service projects that reflect the values of discipleship, embodies the transformative impact of ordinary acts of kindness.

How can we participate in Ordinary Time with Jesus? (Choose one of the practices below, or make your own.)

- ❑ **Read the gospels:** A focused study of the Gospels to delve into the specifics of Christ's mission and explore ways to actively participate in ministry can be transformative. Read through a Gospel each month, and ask, "Who is Jesus in this story?"
- ❑ **Rest:** Taking time off from productivity can be an act of resistance. In moments of rest, we entrust ourselves to God's care as he orchestrates eternity to draw us closer to him. Create intentional rhythms to rest, reflect, and recharge. Use this time to connect with God in prayer and contemplation.
- ❑ **Try new things:** Normalize trial and error. Loving our neighbors will always require risk, but there's no innovation without risk. Confess when you mess up, try again, and leave the outcome to the Holy Spirit.

