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WORSHIP
DESIGN STUDIO
WDS

**THE
CHANGE MAKERS**

Guided Journal



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This journal is an accompaniment to the Worship Design Studio worship series, "The Changemakers," created in collaboration with

The Changemaker Initiative.

<https://worshipdesignstudio.com/changemakers>

This journal can be used independently from the worship series or any church gathering. It can be used privately or shared with a friend or in a small group setting.

May the content in this journal inspire you to create changes that make the world a better place!

Introduction

Welcome to a journey of “risking something big for something good.” This guided journal is designed to be a source of support and inspiration as you embark on this “Changemakers” experience. Whether you are utilizing the journal with others or simply on your own as a devotional practice, I hope you find meaning in the scriptures, question prompts, and prayers. We are grateful to Kim Jones, Karen Kehlet, Kathi McShane, and Lindsey Bell-Kerr from The Changemaker Initiative (<https://thechangemakerinitiative.org>) for their collaboration in these materials.

The content in this journal is inspired by four weeks of worship and the six weeks of small group study published by The Changemaker Initiative and included in the downloads for the worship series. You can use this journal as a companion to spark group discussion or as a solo devotional resource if you are moving through these materials on your own.

May you be inspired to look around you, discern what you feel passionate about, and dream of how to be a Changemaker – no matter how small the scope – for the good of all!

Many blessings on your journey.

Peace & Passion,
Dr. Marcia McFee
Creator and Visionary
Worship Design Studio



Session One: Risk-Taking

A Changemaker is a risk-taker, someone who puts their faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Jesus was a Changemaker. The Good News is... so are we. Made in the image of God, sharing in the purposes of Jesus, empowered by the Spirit, we are the “assets” we’ve been looking for. Our wealth lies in the Compassion, Collaboration, Creativity, and Empowerment that sustains us through change, for change, for the sake of a better world. This journey is about creating new ideas, flying to new heights, and risking something big for something good.

He took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed them, broke the loaves into pieces, and gave them to his disciples to set before the people. He also divided the two fish among them all. Everyone ate until they were full. They filled twelve baskets with the leftover pieces of bread and fish. About five thousand had eaten.

– excerpt from Mark 6: 30-44

Words of Reflection

We will be exploring the four aspects of being a changemaker. This story from the Gospel of Mark exemplifies these in Jesus’ ministry. His action begins with him having **compassion** for the hungry crowd. He **collaborates** with the disciples and with God to bring them all food, and he **creatively** encourages collaboration among the small groups of people as well as the disciples. Ultimately, he **empowers** everyone to participate in the solution.

What does it mean to follow Jesus?

How do you feel about the four aspects (compassion, collaboration, creativity, empowerment) of being a changemaker in your own life and personality? Which ones feel already “on board” and which ones need some development for you?

The following is a Changemaker Blessing by Lindsey Bell-Kerr, coach and instructor at The Changemaker Initiative. Feel free to read this often, circling and underlining, and journaling about the parts that feel particularly important to you.

Blessed are the changemakers.
 Blessed are you who are not asleep
 to the world's pain and suffering.
 Blessed are you who lament for the way things are.
 Blessed are you who know, to the depth of your bones,
 that this is not how things are meant to be.
 Blessed are you for not believing the lie that
 this is how they will always remain.
 Blessed are you who know that things can change,
 who long for things to change.
 Blessed are you whose life's ambition is to bring the change
 that is justice and mercy for all.
 Blessed are you who know that God has always employed the faithful acts
 of ordinary people to heal and change this world.
 Blessed are you who know that change begins today,
 change begins with us,
 and that we are blessed to be the changemakers.
 Amen!



Session Two: Compassion

Changemaking starts with compassion. Jesus tells his disciples, “Take a look.” As people of faith who want to make a difference, we must start with compassion: with connection, with seeing and “suffering with.” The source of this deep compassion, and the source of strength to be a part of the change, is God’s love.

“ . . . A Samaritan, who was on a journey, came to where the man was. But when he saw him, he was moved with compassion. The Samaritan went to him and bandaged his wounds, tending them with oil and wine. Then he placed the wounded man on his own donkey, took him to an inn, and took care of him. . . .”

- excerpt from Luke 10: 25-37

Words of Reflection

The world is changing. We see it everywhere. We feel it in our bones.
It seems to happen so much faster now than it used to.

The world is changing.

And also, the world needs to change. Children are hungry. Systems are unjust.

People are afraid. There are people on the streets who won't make it a day longer.

The world needs to change.

It is God's desire that the world would change and become more like a holy commonwealth of just peace in which all have what they need.

And we are the changemakers.

We are called to work alongside the Holy Spirit.

We are called to follow the way of Jesus.

A Changemaker is a risk-taker, someone who puts their faith into action to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Why might compassion be essential to changemaking?

Scan the QR code or visit this URL if you are viewing on a digital device to hear a song by Bobby Jo Valentine called “Edge of the World.”



If nothing held you down, where would you go, and who would you be? Have you ever had to be brave in order to make a change?

**Holy One, by the power of the Spirit,
 open our ears anew to your Word today.
 Free us of our cynicism and our certainty
 so that we may embrace fresh possibilities and grow in our faith.
 May these stories show us the way
 to become compassion-driven changemakers, like Jesus,
 in whose name we pray. Amen.**



Session Three: Collaboration

Jesus didn't do this work alone, and you can't, either. The key thing Jesus did when starting ministry was to gather a group of people, a team of disciples. He didn't do it alone but in collaboration. Partnerships and joining others are essential parts of changemaking. Like the African proverb: "If you want to go fast, do it alone. If you want to go far, do it together."

After these things, the Lord commissioned seventy-two others and sent them on ahead in pairs to every city and place he was about to go. He said to them, "The harvest is bigger than you can imagine, but there are few workers. Therefore, plead with the Lord of the harvest to send out workers for his harvest."

– excerpt from Luke 10: 1-11

Words of Reflection

The world needs to change, and that can make us want to go to our room and hide.

Because there is so much that needs to be done.

Pain needs to be acknowledged.

Reparations must be made. Justice must be done. That feels like a lot. And so, we must remember that we are not called to be changemakers on our own.

We are called together.

We are called in community, and we are called alongside people of faith and goodwill around the world. The world needs to change, but we will not change it alone.

We are called together, and vested with the power of the Holy Spirit.

We are called to follow the way of Jesus.

We are the changemakers, and we are getting ready!

Why, even though we know the benefits to working with others, do we often do things by ourselves? What are the main barriers to collaboration? ¹⁰

Scan the QR code or visit this URL if you are viewing on a digital device to hear a song by Bobby Jo Valentine called “When Your Dream Wakes Up.”



What is your dream for the world? How could you collaborate with others to move towards making this dream a reality?

**Holy One, help us to hear the Gospel as if for the first time.
Free us of our self-centeredness, and help us to see how this Good News
is for our wider community and the entire world.
May this story show us the way
to become a compassion-driven changemaker, like Jesus,
in whose name we pray. Amen.**



Session Four: Creativity

We have the capacity to be creative because God is creative. Look at creation, at diversity. We are made in God's image. We have everything we need to make change; we have enough. We just need to stretch our imaginations, break out of constrained thinking.

Jesus turned to the woman and said to Simon, "Do you see this woman? When I entered your home, you...didn't anoint my head with oil, but she has poured perfumed oil on my feet. This is why I tell you that her many sins have been forgiven; so she has shown great love. The one who is forgiven little loves little."

Then Jesus said to her, "Your sins are forgiven."

- excerpt from Luke 7: 36-50

Words of Reflection

The world needs to change, a lot.

There are so many things that need change,

and we can get overwhelmed,

especially if we think that we need to make all of the change by ourselves.

We need to remember that God is already at work.

God has been, and always will be, doing a new thing.

We are called to show up and cooperate with what God is doing!

We are the changemakers, and we are being made ready!

Everyone is creative! Even if you don't identify as an "artist," you have God-given intelligence to solve problems, to build something, to imagine new possibilities.

In what ways do utilize creativity at work, at home, or in play?

Scan the QR code or visit this URL if you are viewing on a digital device to hear a song by Bobby Jo Valentine called "Wild, Wild Heart."



Have you ever felt "caged" by your own hesitancy to grow? Write about a time that you had to embrace vulnerability in order to let yourself express your wild heart.

**Holy One, help us to hear what you are doing in the Gospel.
 Help us to hear the ways that we can
 show up and cooperate with your Spirit.
 May this story show us the way
 to become a compassion-driven changemaker, like Jesus,
 in whose name we pray. Amen.**



Session Five: Empowerment

Like Jesus, changemakers use power differently. Jesus was a leader, but he led in a different way—he shared and gave away power rather than amassing it. Changemaking is about a deeper restoring, healing, uplifting, liberating, and unburdening of others.

Jesus asked him, “What do you want me to do for you?”

The blind man said, “Teacher, I want to see.”

Jesus said, “Go, your faith has healed you.” At once he was able to see, and he began to follow Jesus on the way.

– excerpt from Mark 10: 46-52

Words of Reflection

The world needs to change. And we are the changemakers!

This work of changemaking is going to take a while.

We are called to be changemakers for our whole lives!

And this work is going to take all of us. If we want to keep change going, we need to be inviting others, joining with others, witnessing to others, and empowering others to do this work with us.

For many of us, this is the hardest part of making change,
but we are ready to be bold.

We are eager to be part of this movement
and to bring others along in our work.

We trust that God will empower us.

We are the changemakers, and we are ready!

What is the difference between helping and empowering?
 What is the difference between collaborating and
 empowering?

Scan the QR code or visit this URL if you are
 viewing on a digital device to hear a song by
 Bobby Jo Valentine called “Trading In.”



What are you ready to “trade in” in exchange for
 softer edges, a more expansive perspective, hope
 and trust for the future?

**Holy One, help us to hear what you are doing in the Gospel.
 Help us to hear the ways that you are empowering us,
 and in this story, help us to learn how to empower others.
 In every way, make us more like Jesus,
 in whose name we pray. Amen.**



Session Six: Jesus as a Changemaker

Change happens in small ways. It takes indirect paths. It happens locally, among small groups of people who care about a problem, sometimes just one or two people working together. It doesn't face a big problem head-on; it pokes tiny holes at it from the edge, where the resistance is softer, where something small can change without taking on the whole, thorny problem. This is the way of Jesus—one encounter at a time.

A Samaritan woman came to the well to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me some water to drink." . . . The Samaritan woman asked, "Why do you, a Jewish man, ask for something to drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" . . .

Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks from the water that I will give will never be thirsty again. The water that I give will become in those who drink it a spring of water that bubbles up into eternal life."

– excerpt from John 4: 1-30

Words of Reflection

The story of Jesus and the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well is rich with lessons on love, truth and acceptance. The most profound lesson is one of inclusion—any other Jew would have walked around Samaria, not through it, and would certainly have never spoken with a Samaritan woman, especially one as marginalized as this particular woman. Yet Jesus does both. **Inclusion of diverse ideas, people, and viewpoints is key** to being a compassion-driven Changemaker like Jesus.

How will you live differently as a result of participating in this study of Jesus as a Changemaker?

The following is a Blessing by Rev. Kathi McShane, co-founder of The Changemaker Initiative. Feel free to read this often, circling and underlining, and journaling about the parts that feel particularly important to you.

**May God bless you, keep you, be gracious unto you.
 May God give you grace never to sell yourself—or God—short.
 Grace to risk something big for something good.
 Grace to remember that the world is now too dangerous
 for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love.
 So may God take your mind and think through it.
 May God take your lips and speak through them.
 May God take your hands and do good with them.
 May God take your heart and set it on fire.**

