

YLT Nashville 2026

“Faithful Leaders and Fruitful Ministry”

Jen Pollock Michel, *A Rule for the Rest of Us* (Sept. 2026)

## Introduction

Opening story: *Ordering Your Private World*, Gordon MacDonald

⇒ What are the non-negotiable habits and practices that will help cultivate long-term faithfulness and fruitfulness in your life and ministry?

⇒ What are the obstacles that keep us from engaging those habits and practices, even when we know their importance?

**Acedia** is “resistance to love’s demands,” according to Rebecca Konyndyk DeYoung in *Glittering Vices*.

What is a rule of life?

⇒ John Mark Comer

⇒ Rich Villodas

⇒ Stephen Macchia

⇒ Ruth Haley Barton

⇒ Jen Pollock Michel

Fruitful ministry is **FORMATION + RELATIONSHIP.**

**Step 1: *The Taproot of a Rule.* Keep company with Jesus.**

⇒ What would it look like, in your life and ministry, if you were actively living in and from the love of God?

**Step 2: *The Realism of a Rule.* Name your givens.**

⇒ What seems important to notice about your current life and ministry context? What might result from ignoring that context?

**Step 3: *The Risk of a Rule.* Attend your desires.**

⇒ What are you asking God to do in your life and ministry? What deeper desires do your prayers (and plans) reveal?

**Step 4: *The Regularity of a Rule.* Articulate faithful habits.**

- ⇒ What habits seem most important for “amending fault”? What habits seem most important for “safeguarding love”?

**Step 5: *The responsiveness of a rule.* Review and revise.**

- ⇒ Set a date for finishing a draft of your rule of life (45 days).
- ⇒ Set a date to review and revise that first draft (6-9 months).