

2022 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

June 5 - Community Guide

This week we begin a new sermon series, First and Best: Making the Most of Every Opportunity. Over the past few years as the world has grappled with the effects of Covid, our former habits, patterns, and the way we once spent time in our day have been difficult to maintain. For many people it has become a struggle to re-engage in healthy patterns and have found that it requires greater effort and intentionality. Over the next few weeks, we will focus on what it looks like to give God the first and best of our lives!

Community Prayer:

Lord, as we seek to use our time wisely, we ask for your wisdom to guide us. Teach us what it means to live out our purpose in this world and strengthen us in the days ahead. In Jesus' name, Amen

Opening Questions:

1. What is your morning routine?
2. How does your morning routine impact your day?

Exploration:

Like Frodo to Gandalf in 'The Fellowship of the Ring' you may lament the times that we are living in but as Gandalf says the times you live in are not for you to decide...

"All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us."
Gandalf (*The Fellowship of the Ring*, J.R.R Tolkien)

Read the following verses aloud:

Ephesians 5:15-17

3. What stands out to you from these verses? Why?

"Most people miss opportunity because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work." ~Thomas Edison

4. As you prioritize your spiritual life, what are some of the things that get in the way?

According to Christian Psychologist and Leadership Consultant, Dr. Henry Cloud, there are three ways to live:



2022 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

- **Wise Person** – when the light comes to them, they adjust themselves, they change to match reality. They listen to truth and when they are confronted, they say, “Thanks”.
 - **Foolish Person** – when the light shows up, they adjust the light. They make excuses, minimize, externalize. A foolish person does not take responsibility but finds a way to rationalize and blame others.
 - **Evil Person** – this person is bent on destruction. They might say, “I will bring this place down...I will bring you down.”
5. How have you seen this lived out in your own life or in the lives of others around you?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

This is how the wise view time. There is a time or a season for everything. Verse 11 goes on to say,

“He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end.”

It is difficult to see life’s challenges as “beautiful” when we are experiencing them, but in light of eternity, we can begin to view our circumstances with a different perspective.

6. How would you describe the season you are currently experiencing?

James 4:14c – “...What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.”

We have a limited amount of time to live our lives here on earth, it is our responsibility to recognize and respond to the divine opportunities that are all around us.

7. Share about a divine opportunity that you have had and how you knew it was given by God.

“Wisdom is the art of living skillfully in whatever actual conditions we find ourselves.” ~Eugene Petersen

Revelation 22:13



2022 Community Groups

WEEKLY GUIDE

A foolish person can spend all their time complaining about bad timing, and how they think things should be. An evil person can spend their time plotting to ruin someone else. A wise person makes the most of the time they have in every situation.

It is important to remember that giving our first and best to God is a response to the first and best God has already given to us through Jesus!

1 John 4:19 “We love because he first loved us.”

In his book, Essentialism, author Greg McKeown says,

“Essentialism is not about how to get more things done; it’s about how to get the right things done...It is about making the wisest possible investment of your time and energy in order to operate at our highest point of contribution by doing only what is essential.”

How do we give God our first and best?

Start with a plan

A – a plan to invest the first and best of your time

B – before your feet hit the floor

C – create space to connect with God and others

8. What would need to change in your life in order to give God your first and best?
9. How could this group encourage you to make these changes?

The Takeaway:

How we spend our time is how we spend our lives.

Giving our first and best to God is a fitting response to the fact that God has already given us his first and best!

There is a time and a season for everything.

