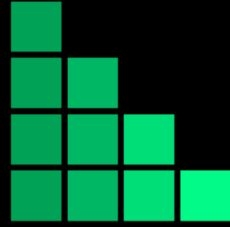


NEW LIFE ONE STUDIES



Ways of the Wise Week 4 Study Guide

Message:
“Wise Use of Time”

SCRIPTURE

<i>Main Text:</i>	<i>Other Text:</i>
<i>Proverbs 6:6-11</i>	<i>Genesis 2:15; Proverbs 28:26, Proverbs 16:3, Proverbs 21:2-3, Colossians 3:23-24, Colossians 1:16; James 4:14</i>

UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

*(This section focuses on understanding what the text means —
before jumping to what it means for us.)*

Read Proverbs 6:6-11 & Genesis 2:15

Main Idea:

God created us to faithfully steward the time He has given us.

Commentary:

When Solomon speaks about laziness, he is pointing to something much deeper than simply avoiding hard work. He reminds us that wisdom is seen in faithfully using the opportunities God places before us.

From creation, God designed people to work, cultivate, create, and care for His world. Work itself is not a curse—it is part of God's good design. Laziness ignores the purpose for which God created us and wastes one of His greatest gifts: our time.

Wise people recognize that every day is an opportunity to honor God through faithful stewardship.

Discussion Questions:

1. What does Proverbs 6 teach us about laziness?
2. Why did God give Adam work before sin entered the world?
3. How does viewing work as worship change your perspective?

Takeaway:

Wisdom isn't simply avoiding laziness—it is faithfully using the time God has given us.

Read Acts 17:24-25 & Psalm 118:24

Main Idea:

Life—and the time that makes up our lives—is a gift from God.

Commentary:

Every breath we take comes from God. Our lives are not accidents, and neither are our days.

Because time cannot be replaced once it passes, it is one of God's greatest gifts. Rather than living with frustration over never having enough time, Scripture invites us to receive each day with gratitude.

David reminds us that every day belongs to the Lord. Wise people begin with thankfulness, recognizing that each day is another opportunity to know God, serve others, and glorify Him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why is time one of God's greatest gifts?
2. How does gratitude change the way we view each day?
3. What keeps us from appreciating the gift of today?

Takeaway:

Every day is a gift from God to be received with gratitude and purpose.

Read Proverbs 28:26 & Ephesians 5:15-16

Main Idea:

Wise people live intentionally rather than carelessly.

Commentary:

Time can easily be wasted through distraction, idleness, or pursuing our own plans instead of God's.

Paul encourages believers to "make the most of every opportunity," reminding us that wisdom requires intentional living. Rather than drifting through life or allowing distractions to consume our attention, followers of

Jesus carefully consider how they spend the time God has entrusted to them.

God is not calling us to become busier people, but more intentional people whose priorities reflect His Kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some ways people unintentionally waste time today?
2. What does it mean to "make the most of every opportunity"?
3. Why is following God's direction better than simply following our own plans?

Takeaway:

Wisdom intentionally invests time in what matters most to God.

Read Proverbs 16:3, Proverbs 21:2-3 & 1 Corinthians 10:31

Main Idea:

God desires surrendered hearts more than perfectly managed schedules.

Commentary:

God is not primarily concerned with making us more productive. He is forming people whose hearts belong fully to Him.

Jesus modeled what wise stewardship of time looks like. He noticed people, welcomed interruptions, shared meals, invested deeply in others, and remained connected to His Father through prayer.

When we surrender our time to God, ordinary moments become sacred opportunities for His Kingdom to break into everyday life.

Rather than asking, "How can I get more done?" wisdom asks, "How can I glorify God with the time I've been given?"

Discussion Questions:

1. What priorities did Jesus demonstrate through the way He used His time?
2. Why is surrender more important than productivity?
3. How can ordinary moments become opportunities to glorify God?

Takeaway:

Wise stewardship begins with surrendering our time to God.

MAKE IT PERSONAL

Every one of us has the same twenty-four hours each day, but we all choose how to spend them.

God isn't asking us to become perfect time managers. He's inviting us to become faithful stewards who recognize that every moment is a gift to be lived with Him.

As we surrender our schedules, interruptions, relationships, work, and rest to Jesus, our ordinary moments become opportunities to reflect His Kingdom.

Reflect:

1. Do you view your time as a gift from God or something to control?
2. What tends to distract you most from God's priorities?
3. Are there areas where you've been following your own plans instead of God's?

4. How can you intentionally invite Jesus into your everyday moments this week?

Key Truth:

Wisdom isn't about getting more done—it's about faithfully using every moment for God's glory.

LIVING IT OUT

Let this passage move you from reflection to action this week:

Receive Each Day

Begin every morning by thanking God for the gift of another day.

Work Wholeheartedly

Whatever you do this week, do it as an act of worship to Christ.

Remove Distractions

Ask God to reveal anything that's stealing your attention from what matters most.

Welcome Interruptions

Instead of seeing interruptions as inconveniences, ask God if they're opportunities to love someone well.

Glorify God Daily

Invite Jesus into the ordinary moments of your life, trusting that no moment lived with Him is wasted.

ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER

Talk through these together:

1. What tends to consume most of your time?
 2. How does seeing time as a gift change your perspective?
 3. What example from Jesus' life challenges you most?
 4. What is one practical way you can steward your time more wisely this week?
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PRAY TOGETHER

1. Thank God for the gift of life and time.
 2. Ask God to help you steward your time wisely.
 3. Pray for discernment to recognize distractions that pull you away from Him.
 4. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you welcome opportunities to serve others.
 5. Pray that your group would glorify God in both the ordinary and extraordinary moments of life.
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Final Thoughts

Time is one of God's greatest gifts, but it is also one of our greatest responsibilities.

Proverbs reminds us that wisdom isn't found in simply staying busy—it is found in faithfully using the time God has entrusted to us. Jesus showed us that a wise life isn't measured by productivity, but by surrender. He gave His attention to people, welcomed interruptions, invested in relationships, and remained continually connected to His Father.

As you walk through this week, remember:

Every moment surrendered to Jesus becomes a moment filled with purpose.

Receive each day as a gift. Follow His leading. Use your time for His glory.