



Making the Most of Your Time

INTRODUCTION: Time seems to be constantly moving at a faster pace with every passing day. As a result, it is important that we don't live our lives and spend our time aimlessly and carelessly. Instead, God gives clear words of instruction to help us make the most of our time on earth. If we follow His Word, we will discover a life that is fulfilling, rewarding, and matters for eternity. This message reveals three powerful truths to help us live a life that truly matters.

READ: 1 Peter 4:1-11

DISCUSSION:

1. Take a few minutes as a group to discuss some of the key things each member experienced and accomplished last week. After identifying these things ask, "How many of these things matter in eternity?"
2. Why is it important that we live our lives and spend our time with an eternal mindset? What changes would you make today if you had a greater focus on the eternal impact of your life?
3. The Bible gives several pictures to illustrate the brevity of our earthly life. Recall and list some of the pictures. What does this teach us about the reality of our life when compared to eternity?
4. In 1 Peter 4:1-2, God calls us to arm ourselves to resist sin.
 - What are some steps we must take to combat sin?
 - The word "arm" was a military word for soldiers. How is this a powerful picture of the enemy we face daily?
5. Read 1 Peter 4:3-4 and answer these questions:
 - What is one of the key evidences of a person who is truly a child of God?
 - How does this affect our relationship with others?
6. In your own words, what is spiritual apathy?
 - According to Romans 13:11-14, what is God's prescription for those who are in this condition?
 - How are we changed when we "put on the Lord Jesus?"
 - What role should prayer play in our Christian life?
7. In this message, we learned three specific ways that we need to devote ourselves to others. List them and ask the following questions:
 - Which of these do you need to grow in the most?
 - In what ways do you regularly show hospitality to the body of Christ?
 - In what ways are you exercising your spiritual gifts to minister to the body of Christ?
8. Knowing that life on this earth is short and our time is flying by, are you making the most of your time? Are you ready to stand before the Lord? What changes is God prompting you to make now so that from this point forward you live a life that matters for Him?

TAKE IT WITH YOU: Personal Project: For fun, the group should chart out their actions on a typical day or week. Then ask them to identify how much of their time is spent on sleeping, work, family time, things of the Lord, etc. Bring it back next week to discuss!

READING LIST: **Monday:** Ephesians 4:17-24 / **Tuesday:** Ephesians 4:25-32 / **Wednesday:** Romans 13:11-14 / **Thursday:** Ephesians 5:1-14 / **Friday:** Ephesians 5:15-21 / **Saturday:** Colossians 4:2-6 / **Sunday:** Romans 12:3-13