

## LESSON 3

### **Stewardship of Time & Talent**

**–Randy Tompkins–**

Focal Passage: Ecclesiastes 3:1-8; Romans 12:6-13

**Central Truth:** In order to be good stewards we must utilize the time that has been given us and the talents and abilities that have been given to us.

**Teaching Aim:** At the end of the session today the students will be able to create a time & talent scoreboard to evaluate their use of time and talents.

#### **LESSON PREPARATION:**

1. Bring to the classroom a large manila envelope.
2. Ask someone to be prepared to read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.
3. Ask someone to be prepared to read Romans 12:6-13.
4. Make sure there is something in the classroom on which you can write so everyone can see what is written.
5. Prepare a time and talent score sheet. This should be a sheet of paper that has listed in column 1 the items for consideration and across the paper should be the days of the week starting with Sunday and going through Saturday. There should be 20 to 25 spaces to list items down column 1. Drawn lines should go across the paper between each space in column 1. Drawn lines should go down the paper between the days of the week. These two sets of lines should create blocks of blank space.

#### **LESSON ACTIVITIES:**

**Attention Pacer:** At the beginning of the class explain that last week an assignment was given to those present. Ask those in attendance today but who missed last week to bear with us for a few minutes before we get into today's lesson. Ask those who were in attendance last week to hold up their envelopes and then return them to their laps. Ask each person who brought an envelope to take a pen or pencil and be prepared to mark on the envelope. Ask them to close their eyes and think on what is written on the paper inside the envelope. After a few minutes of contemplation ask them to open their eyes. Then ask them the following question: "Are you satisfied with what is written on your paper? If yes please mark the envelope with a yes. If you are not satisfied mark your envelope with a no. I will pass around this envelope and ask you to place your envelope into it." After everyone has placed their envelopes into the larger envelope, seal the larger envelope before the entire class. Mention that the larger envelope and its contents will be destroyed without being opened.

#### **Purposeful Bible Study:**

1. Ask someone to stand and read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8.
2. Go to a board or tear sheet and ask the students to call out the items that Solomon listed as having a specific time. There are 28 items in the list: born, die, plant, uproot, kill, heal, tear down, build, weep, laugh, mourn, dance, scatter, gather,

embrace, refrain, search, give up, keep, throw away, tear, mend, be silent, speak, love, hate, war, and peace. As these are called out write them on the board or tear sheet.

3. Once all of them have been listed ask “Which of these is the most important and why? And which is the least important and why?” Allow some time for discussion. The correct answer is that there is none that is more important or least important than the others. Each has its own importance at a specific time in life.
4. The lesson to be learned from this passage of scripture is that there are things to be done. Some are mandatory and some are choices. But each item that we do requires one thing – time.
5. Ask someone to stand and read Romans 12:6-13.
6. Again go to the board and ask the class to call out the gifts listed in these verses. There are 7 of them: prophesying, serving, teaching, encouraging, contributing, leadership, showing mercy.
7. Ask the students to discuss definitions from their point of view. This is not a theological debate. So until the discussion gets too far off course, don’t try to guide it.
8. Ask the students to point out which gift is the most important and which is the least important. There is none most nor least important. They are all important because they are gifts from God.
9. Explain that the gifts of the Spirit are given at the moment someone accepts Jesus as Savior. The gift to be received is not determined by the one receiving it. It is determined by God. Otherwise it would not be a gift.

### **Practical Application:**

1. Explain that when an individual is born he comes into this world with certain talents that we call natural abilities. These may turn out to be professions or hobbies. They are things that people have a certain knack of doing. Natural abilities might show up when people are children or they might show up in adulthood.
2. Ask the students to call out what some of these abilities might be. List them on the board or tear sheet.
3. Ask the students to comment on where these natural abilities came from.
4. Even though they are not listed in the Bible they are also gifts from God.

### **Follow-through:**

1. Handout the time and talent score sheets.
2. Ask the students to turn the score sheets over to the back side.
3. What you are going to ask them to do is not a scientific study. If it were, you would hand out a spiritual gifts inventory survey and ask everyone to fill it out. This will be a non-scientific analysis.
4. Ask the students to draw a line dividing the back side of the score sheet into two sections. Ask them to list the spiritual gifts that are on the board or tear sheet that they think they have in one of the two sections. Once they have completed this ask them to list natural abilities they think they have.
5. Now ask them to turn the score sheet over to the front side.

6. Ask them to begin filling in the first column. One of the first things they are to put in one of the blocks in the first column is sleep. Another item is eating. Another item is job or profession.
7. Ask them to fill in as many of the remaining blocks in column 1 as they need to from the two lists they created on the back side of the score sheet.
8. After all have completed their list give them their assignment. They are to mark on each day's column the items they did from column 1. But they are to mark them only if the activity was conducted in a way to honor God.

**Conclusion:** Let the students know that next week they will be studying Stewardship of Missions. The scripture passage will be Matthew 28:18-20. Close in prayer.