

## LESSON 3

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

–Kevin Boles–

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

Knowledge Aim: To discover God’s plan for my use of time and abilities.

Application Aim: To actively pursue ways to use my time and abilities for God’s kingdom.

Time is a major commodity in our society. Since we cannot make more time we must recognize the importance of the proper use of our time. Setting proper priorities for the proper use of our time is an issue that Christians need to recognize. Also, God has gifted each of his children. It is our responsibility to discover those gifts and use them. God has also given us things called abilities. Part of our stewardship is in developing and using these abilities.

The Point: Youth will understand that God has given us all 24 hours in a day to use our talents and abilities for Him.

# *All in Good Time*

## **1. IN A DAY’S TIME**

Call on a volunteer to come to the focal board and write out their daily schedule. Be specific and ask them to illustrate what happens in their day from the time they wake up until they got to bed.

While the volunteer is writing, ask members to complete the following statements and share with the group:

1. The funniest time in my life has been...
2. The most embarrassing time I ever had was...

After a time of response, call attention to the schedule that has been written on the board. Call for responses. Pay special attention to essential and non-essential activities. Help youth understand that it sometimes seems that there aren’t enough hours in the day to get everything done that we want to get done. But the reality is that we all have 24 hours! That’s 86,400 seconds!

Today we are looking at two areas of our lives that God wants us to be good stewards of... Our time and our talents.

### **Ask:**

*What are some things that keep you from accomplishing everything you want to accomplish in an average day?*

*How do you distinguish between important and non-important activities?*

*In an average day, how often do you consider what God wants you to do?*

## **2. DISCUSSING SOLOMON’S SCHEDULE**

**Say:** *There are some people who say that King Solomon was the wisest man in the world He wrote an Old Testament book called Ecclesiastes, and in it he spends a good bit of time (no pun intended) talking about time.*

Call on a volunteer to read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. Ask the other youth to listen for the truths related to time. Listen especially for God's ideas about the control of time.

**Say:** *We all have to learn how to manage time based on Godly principles and biblical truth. The only way to know for sure how God wants us to spend our time is to spend time with Him on a daily basis. A good steward manages time wisely.*

Have every youth figure up and write down how many hours they spend in front of the TV, or playing computer games, or hanging out with friends...the time they don't spend on school or other essential activities...in an average week. Now ask them to compare that time with the amount of time they are at church.

**Ask:** *Where does God fit in to this schedule? The only way God fits in is for us to put Him in our schedule. Make sure you are spending time knowing God.*

Pray and ask God to help youth commit more time to him.

### **3. TALENTED TALENTS**

Call on a volunteer to read Romans 12:6-8. Share some background information prior to reading the passage.

**Say:** *A good steward also manages and uses their talents for the glory of God.*

**Ask:** *Why do you come to church? Why do we have worship services?*

Explain that based on Romans 12:6-8 that God gives each of us spiritual gifts. Paul is telling us that whatever our spiritual gift is we are to use it wisely and for God's glory.

**Say:** *How often have we come to church with the attitude that we need a blessing today? When we think like that, we start complaining about the sermon, or the choir's performance, or some soloist, or the Sunday School lesson, and maybe even the teacher! In contrast, God desires for us to attend church to give – in worship and in service to others. It's a paradox: The more you give, the more you receive.*

Explain that God's plan for youth is for them to use their spiritual gifts. God's plan extends beyond just saving them; His desire is to work through youth to touch the lives of other youth. Accordingly, our spiritual gifts must be used to minister to other people.

Share with the group your spiritual gift. Encourage members to discover their gift and use it.

Ask youth to identify the top 5 musical artists in the secular world. Ask what makes them so popular? What is their gift? Encourage youth to consider what might happen if these artists were to use their gifts for the Lord.

**Say:** *Maybe you are not aware of a specific spiritual gift, however, you do have abilities to offer God. What are you doing right now with your abilities for God? What could you be doing?*  
Allow for response.

Remind youth that using our spiritual gifts is not an option; it's a command of God.

**Ask:** *How does this make you feel?*

Call attention to the following possible ways we might feel about using our spiritual gifts:

- Why would anyone want my contribution? I have nothing to offer.

- I'm just one of many people with this gift. I'm sure others can do it better.
- Maybe I'm gifted, but I simply don't have time to serve.
- I'm not sure what my gift is, but I want to identify it.
- I'm afraid if I use my gift, I'll do it wrong or people will ridicule me.
- I want to be obedient and use my gift as God leads.

Call on a volunteer to read verses 9-13. Discuss the following questions. Be prepared to offer some commentary.

Verse 9: How are we to love? What are we to do with evil and good?

Verse 10: How are we to relate to one another?

Verse 11: How are we to serve the Lord?

Verses 12-13: How are our lives to be characterized?

#### **4. WRAP UP**

Call on a volunteer to share a time in which he or she believed they used their spiritual gifts as God commanded. Encourage them to share how they believed the use of that gift strengthened the body of Christ.

Challenge youth use their time and their talents wisely and for the glory of God.

Pray.