

LESSON 2

Learners' Guide

40 Spiritual Principles For Life Management

—Rick Ellison—

Managing Time – Family – Work – and Christian Service

Today there is a wave of philanthropy unlike anything witnessed in history. Historically some multi-millionaires have given significant amounts of money to charities. Today, billionaires are creating foundations. They are investing millions of dollars to help people around the world. These men and women of note are doing more than donating enormous amounts of money. They are using their business expertise and a commitment of time to make a difference in the world. Many have overcome the challenges of managing time, family, work and service to others.

Most of us live busy and sometimes hectic lives. Yet, God is concerned with every detail of our lives because he loves us so much. What would God through His holy word, the Bible, teach us about managing our lives in such a way that we fulfill God's will, experience satisfaction and joy and bring glory to God?

Solomon was a man of great wisdom. He was busy at all kinds of work projects. He used his time to build great houses, gardens, vineyards and orchards. He was extremely busy with huge projects such building cities and water systems. Solomon was in charge of a large work force. He received all kinds of wealth for his labor. The use of his time left him dissatisfied.

Added to Solomon's busy schedule was a poor family life. Tragically, Solomon did not guard his heart. As Solomon grew older his wives turned his heart to other gods. In the midst of his business he eventually came to a point where his heart was not fully devoted to God.

READ I KINGS 11:4-10

At a point in Solomon's busy schedule he surveyed what he had accomplished. As he balanced time, work and family he was not happy.

READ ECCLESIASTES 2:4-11

Balancing our time between family, work and our service for Christ through our church can be challenging. It can leave us tired and unhappy about life in general. Solomon came to understand that our busy schedule without God equals dissatisfaction.

READ ECCLESIASTES 2:18-26

WHAT ARE SOME SPIRITUAL TRUTHS FROM GOD'S WORD THAT WILL HELP US USE OUR TIME MOST WISELY?

1. Time is more valuable than money. We can make more money but not more time.

READ EPHESIANS 5:15-17

2. Set aside a specific time and place to spend alone with God each day in prayer and Bible reading. Our time alone with God gives us strength and wisdom in life management.

READ EPHESIANS 3:14-21

3. Prayerfully consider the importance of spending adequate time with your spouse and children. Commit to this quality time and don't be diverted by doing things less important. Specifically plan to spend time together.

EPHESIANS 6:1-4

4. Love the type of work you do and work hard. Don't be lazy but don't be a workaholic. Work skillfully and with character.

READ ECCLESIASTES 2:24

5. Set goals for your life that glorify God. Organize your schedule.

READ PSALM 119:105

6. Commit time for service through the local church. Commit to membership and service in community with fellow believers.

READ HEBREWS 10:24-25

7. Serve in a ministry through the church. Serve in a ministry that you have a passion for and in which you are gifted.

READ PSALM 100:2

8. Give God generously of your time. Give Him more than an hour of your time each week.

READ ROMANS 12:9-13

9. Schedule some specific times of rest.

READ MARK 6:30-31

10. Through time alone with God discover what He really wants you to accomplish with your life.

READ II CORINTHIANS 9:8

LESSON 2

Teachers' Guide

40 Spiritual Principles For Life Management

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Managing Time – Family – Work – and Christian Service

(Begin with prayer)

CREATING A CLIMATE FOR LEARNING

(Share)

Today, there are billionaires who are giving away their money. They are forming charitable foundations to make our world a better place. After earning billions of dollars they are investing both their money and time for charitable causes. They have discovered that making money in itself does not give their lives significance. These billionaires are seeking to balance time, family, business and service to make the world a better place.

(You may want to research on the internet the stories of billionaires giving their money to charity.)

QUESTION FOR DISCUSSION:

(A large class may break into groups to discuss the following question and report back to the large group.)

HOW DO WE MANAGE TIME – FAMILY – WORK AND HAVE TIME FOR CHRISTIAN SERVICE?

BIBLE BACKGROUND

Review the background information about Solomon in the Learners' Guide. You may want to add further information about Solomon.

NOTICE SOLOMON'S WORK AND FAMILY LIFE. NOTICE HOW SOLOMON FAILED AND WAS NOT FULLY DEVOTED TO GOD.

READ I KINGS 11:4-10

At a point in Solomon's busy schedule he surveyed what he had accomplished. As he balanced time, work and family, he was not happy.

READ ECCLESIASTES 2:4-11

QUESTION: Why can balancing time between family, work and our service for Christ through the church leave us tired and unhappy?

SOLOMON CAME TO UNDERSTAND THAT OUR BUSY SCHEDULES WITHOUT GOD EQUALS DISSATISFACTION.

READ ECCLESIASTES 2:18-26

APPLICATION

Review these principles.

WHAT ARE SOME SPIRITUAL TRUTHS FROM GOD'S WORD THAT WILL HELP US
USE OUR TIME MOST WISELY?

1. Time is more valuable than money. We can make more money but not more time.

READ EPHESIANS 5:15-17

QUESTION: What are some other ways that time is more valuable than money?

2. Set aside a specific time and place to spend alone with God each day in prayer and Bible reading. Our time alone with God gives us strength and wisdom in life management.

READ EPHESIANS 3:14-21

QUESTION: How does spending time alone with God help us to prioritize the use of the rest of our time?

3. Prayerfully consider the importance of spending adequate time with your spouse and children. Commit to this quality time and don't be diverted by doing things less important. Specifically plan to spend time together.

READ EPHESIANS 6:1-4

QUESTION: What are some things that we allow to take our time that are less important than spending time with our families?

4. Love the type of work you do and work hard. Don't be lazy but don't be a workaholic. Work skillfully and with character.

READ ECCLESIASTES 2:24

QUESTION: Can we show a positive Christian testimony by our behavior at our jobs?

5. Set goals for your life that glorify God. Organize your schedule.

READ PSALM 119:105

QUESTION: As we organize our schedules which should have priority? The urgent or the important?

6. Commit time for service through the local church. Commit to membership and service in community with fellow believers.

READ HEBREWS 10:24-25

QUESTION: Why is service in the local church important to our spiritual growth and health?

7. Serve in a ministry through the church. Serve in a ministry that you have a passion for and in which you are gifted.

READ PSALM 100:2

QUESTION: Why are we happier serving in a ministry in which we have passion? Are there times when we need to serve in a ministry where we have less passion?

8. Give God generously of your time. Give Him more than an hour of your time each week.

READ ROMANS 12:9-13

QUESTION: Why is it important to give God more than just an hour of our time each week?

9. Schedule some specific times of rest.

READ MARK 6:30-31

QUESTION: How does Jesus give us an example of the need to rest?

10. Through time alone with God discover what He really wants you to accomplish with your life.

READ II CORINTHIANS 9:8

QUESTION: Why is discovering God's specific will for you important to your personal fulfillment?