

BE A BRINGER

“40 One of the two who heard John speak, and followed Him, was Andrew, Simon Peter’s brother. 41 He first found his own brother Simon, and said to him, “We have found the Messiah” (which is translated, the Christ). 42 And he brought him to Jesus....”
John 1:40-42a

A bringer makes one touch each week by investing and inviting someone to Christ and church.

Name three people you will pray for their salvation this week:

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR THE WEEK

“Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you;....” I Samuel 12:23a

NOW IS THE TIME!
TO LET GOD USE YOU

Handout: 01/22/23

Study Date: 01/29/23

Now is the Time to Manage Your Schedule

Most people think of time management as applied to their day: How do I organize my day to succeed at what is most important? Though the Bible gives advice and guidance on how to order our day, God is much more interested in the entire life of a person.

Paul instructs in Ephesians 5:15–16, "Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, making the best use of the time, because the days are evil." Moses prayed, "So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom" (Psalm 90:12). Time dwindles. Our lives are brief. We want to use our time wisely.

David wrote, "O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am! Behold, you have made my days a few handbreadths, and my lifetime is as nothing before you. Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!" (Psalm 39:4–5). Similarly, James 4:14 says, "Yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes." We simply do not know how much time on this earth we have.

We can conclude that because our time is short, and we don't know how much time we really have, time management is important. In other words, how should we spend our time? What is really important?

The Bible says that what we do will be tested: "Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw—each one's work will become manifest, for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire" (1 Corinthians 3:12–15). We should spend our time on things of eternal worth.

Apart from the general concept of using our time on things that truly matter, the Bible also gives practical wisdom about ordering our days. For example, the Bible talks about working hard and avoiding slothfulness (Proverbs 6:10–11; 12:24; 13:4; Colossians 3:23–24; 2 Thessalonians 3:10–12), praying continually (1 Thessalonians 5:17), stewardship (Matthew 25:14–30), delegation (taught by Moses' father-in-law, Jethro, in Exodus 18:17–23), the need for rest (Hebrews 4:9–11; Mark 2:27–28), doing good to others (Galatians 6:9; 2 Thessalonians 3:13), being salt and light to the world around us (Matthew 5:13–16), fellowshiping with other believers (Hebrews 10:24–25), sharing the gospel (Matthew 28:18–20), and more.

KEY VERSE

Ephesians 5:8 (NKJV)

for at one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light

WEEKLY READINGS

Monday: Ephesians 5:8-17; Psalm 39:4-5; I Corinthians 3:12-15

Introduction

1. The final paragraph on the cover lists some practical wisdom when it comes to managing our schedules. Which example are you doing the best in and why?
2. What areas of time management do you struggle with the most and why?

Tuesday: Ephesians 5:8-14; John 8:12; Psalm 1:1-2

Evaluate Your Time

3. Take a moment to evaluate your schedule. List some ways that you spend your time that you think is acceptable to the Lord.
4. Are there things in your life that could be considered having “fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness”? What does Ephesians 5:11 say you are supposed to do with the unfruitful works of darkness?

Wednesday: Ephesians 5:15; Psalm 90:12; Proverbs 3:13-18

Value Your Time

5. How is your time a valuable resource?
6. In what ways is managing your schedule an act of stewardship?

Thursday: Ephesians 5:16; Colossians 4:5; II John 8; II Tim. 2:4

Maximize Your Time

7. What does it mean to redeem the time in Ephesians 5:16?
8. What does maximizing your time look like in your life?
9. What are some time wasters in your life? How can you avoid them?

Friday: Eph. 5:17; Luke 10:41-42; Deut. 6:5-7; II Thess. 3:10

Balance Your Time

10. What is God’s unique will for you? How do you know?
11. Based upon today’s readings, what are some things or relationships that are important for you to prioritize? What else can be added to the list?
12. How can you tailor your schedule to accomplish God’s will for your life?