

Offering My Time (Mar 2021)

The 30 Essentials is designed for a small group study. The essential studied should coincide with the sermon. You may divide the study in four weekly studies, bi-weekly or monthly. This study includes a video which should be used to complete the video segment section.

Each session should start with a review of the Pastor's sermon. Discuss the main points, the take-away, and scripture references. Then continue with the study below.

MASTER KEYS

Key Question: How do I best use my time to serve God and others?

Key Idea: I offer my time to fulfill God's purpose.

Key Verse: Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

VIDEO SEGMENT QUESTIONS

As you watch the video segment for this session, use the following outline to answer some of the main points.

1. Key Question: How does God want us to view the twenty-four _____ we have in a day?
2. Key Verse: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17).
3. Key Idea: I _____ my time to fulfill God's purposes.

4. Give careful thought to your _____.

5. Key Application: Take care of God's _____ and he will take care of yours.

6. Key Application: Do everything as an _____ to God.

EVALUATE

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging and why? Use a scale of 1-6 to rate how strongly you believe the statements below. (1 = no belief at all, 6 = complete confidence)

_____ I invest my time in others by praying for them.

_____ I spend a good deal of time helping others with physical, emotional, or other kinds of needs.

_____ I give away my time to serve and help others in my community.

_____ I regularly volunteer at my church.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. Make a diverse list of ways time can be used for God's purposes.

2. What challenges make it hard for you to invest time in God's purposes? As a group, discuss ways to overcome them.

3. Often, simple actions such as actively listening to a coworker, helping a neighbor, or coaching Little League are overlooked because they aren't "church related." Discuss simple ways you can offer time to people in your community.

4. In most churches, a small group of people do a majority of the work. Discuss different needs and opportunities you see within your congregation that your group could address.

BIBLE ENGAGEMENT

Read Matthew 25:31-46

1. Based on what you just read, what activities seem most important to Jesus?
2. The activities Jesus mentions are not usually considered acts done "for God," yet he says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." What do you think is Jesus' main point here?
3. Christians tend to narrowly define acts of worship as deeds done within a church building. As a group, redefine what it looks like to worship God with our time.

TAKE ACTION

Memorizing scripture is a valuable discipline for all believers to exercise. Spend a few minutes each day committing the Key verse to memory Colossians 3:17.

Whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

Colossians 3:17

Recite the key idea out loud. As you do, ask yourself, “Does my life reflect this statement?”

Key Idea: I offer my time to fulfill God’s purposes.

1. How would this practice express itself in your life?

2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who invests his or her time in God’s purposes?

3. What is impeding your ability to offer your time to God and others? How can you overcome this obstacle?

4. What action step can you take this week to increase the amount of time you give to God’s purposes?

Page Break

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's key idea into practice.

Cici is a busy woman. Her first job involves taking care of her three children and husband. When she isn't kissing boo-boos, refereeing fights between siblings, and looking for ways to encourage her spouse, she designs websites for small business.

Recently, a family of five with no mother moved in next door. The dad works long, odd hours. So the kids are left to care for themselves most of the time. She senses that God put them in her life for a reason, but fear has held her back. She worries that spending time with them will force her to neglect other areas of her life.

Using the Key applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Cici? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.)

WHAT WE BELIEVE

Jonah nailed it on the head when confronted by the sailors about the cause of the storm. He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the Lord, the God of Heaven, who made the sea and the dry land" (Jonah 1:9). Jonah worshipped the one true God and knew that God made everything and everything belonged to him. This belief drives our obedience in offering God, our time to accomplish his purposes. As we seek to serve God, we would do well to keep on our minds God's words through the prophet Haggai: Haggai 1:5 (ESV) ⁵ Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways.

God's word teaches and encourages us to learn how to manage our time- not for our own sakes, but for the sake of God's kingdom. The goal, reflected in the key verse is not only to offer more time to God but to repurpose everything we have, everything we are and everything we do for his glory and honor. The spiritual, physical and relational rewards from God make it worth the effort for those who give themselves faithfully to this godly exercise.

DEVOTIONAL

Matthew 25:14-30

How does God reward those who do what he has asked them to?

PRAYER: Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer request with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.