

Small Group Curriculum

Week of 05/13/12

1. Have each group member write down a list things they need to get done in a typical day. Have them share their lists with a partner.
2. Have them draw a line at the bottom of these lists and then add the additional things they need to do as followers of Christ.
3. Ask how they felt as their lists grew? Ask: What are the dangers of viewing being Christian as packing more to-do's into an already busy day?
4. Read Ephesians 5:15-17. What does it mean to "redeem the time?" How would we view our faith differently if we viewed our "9-5" lives as the place to accomplish God's will? What's the danger of viewing some activities as "Christian" and others as "secular"?
5. What are some common metrics people use to measure the success of their days? What's the danger of not taking time to reflect on how we spent our time at all?
6. Pastor Derek suggested we measure the productivity of our days by asking ourselves "was today successful for God's kingdom" instead of "was today successful?" How might changing the way we evaluated our days change how we spend our time? What does it mean to buy back our time?
7. Pastor Derek suggested we focus on making the best use of our encounters, work, and meals as starting places for redeeming our time. Let's start with "encounters." Instruct group members to make a list of the five most significant relationships in their life on one side of a sheet of paper. Read Galatians 5:22. Next to each name written, have your participants write down which Fruit of the Spirit that relationship would benefit the most from. Have them share their answers.
8. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:17. How could praying for those we encounter change life?
9. Pastor Derek said that can use our workplaces as arenas in which we redeem our time. What makes work seem purposeless? How could a commitment to serve others the way Christ served us change our workplaces?
10. Read Ephesians 6:5-8. How would behaving as if Jesus were our employer transform our attitudes at work?
11. Finally, Derek recommended redeeming the time we spend eating meals. Have volunteers read Luke 7:34; Mark 2:15-17; Luke 19:1-6. Who did Jesus choose to eat with? Why was his behavior surprising to the moralists? How could you use a meal time to extend grace to someone who feels far from God?
12. If your small group has parents, ASK: How could you use meal times as opportunities to strengthen your child's faith?
13. Read Colossians 3:23. As a small group take turns praying and ask God to help teach of you glorify God in every aspect of your life.