

## **LifeGroup Discussion guide**

### **Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> sermon**

**Sermon Summary-** George challenged us to evaluate and choose carefully how we spend our time. He gave us a list of categories and put them in an order of priority that he believes many of us follow. He further challenged us to look at what he believes are Jesus' time commitments and priorities. The key to knowing how your time should be spent and prioritized is submitting to God with the help of His Holy Spirit. Remember the picture hanging – LifeGroups are a great place to get some help with perspective!

#### **Scripture Reference:**

Ephesians 5:15-21

#### **Specific Discussion Questions**

- 1) Think about your current “time budget” – what does it say about your priorities?
- 2) Is there anything in your current time budget that seems like it needs to change? (Try getting input from others in your group.)
- 3) Are you ready/willing to give up control of your time? Why or why not?
- 4) Do you feel the Holy Spirit telling you anything about how you are spending your time? (remember that the Spirit will convict – not just make you feel guilty)

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# LifeGroup Leader Notes

## How are your rocks labeled?

### Sermon synopsis: Priorities on our time

George's sermon focused on learning how God wants us to prioritize our time. It will be different for each person and we cannot judge how God leads others in this area. The key scripture calls us to be wise – like an organized and efficient steward. George quoted Seneca asking if we have a tighter fist on our money than we do on our time – do we care more about the ledger of the corn market than the ledger of our time. Time we don't get back. We can always go make more money. George gave us 16 categories for bucketing our time. He also put them in the order they seem to most frequently be prioritized by people. Our challenge from George is to put our time down for the week – where does it go – what are the priorities that show up in how we invest our time? Do we need to pick up the pace? Do we need to slow down? Where does God's Spirit tell you that you fall on the scale? Seneca also said we complain like the days are too few but spend them as though there is no end to them. Remember we can likely always get stuff done but are we doing the important things? George discussed Jesus' priorities [(1) Die for sin, (2) Train / Teach, (3) Heal, (4) Relationship with God, (5) Family]. These priorities help us understand the Lord's will in how we prioritize our time. Matthew 9:18 tells the story of Jesus taking time to handle the important priorities (teaching disciples, raising Jarius' daughter, healing the woman). So what is God's will for us? (1) Live a life of love. (2) Be filled with the Spirit. (3) Submit to one another. Submitting is hard but necessary. We do not have the same perspective as those around us. A Life Group is a way to gain new perspective.

### **16 categories:**

- |                                    |                                       |  |   |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| 1. Sleeping                        | 2. Eating                             | 3. Personal grooming                   | 4. Work or School                                 |
| 5. Transportation /<br>Commuting   | 6. Shopping / Errands                 | 7. Text / Twitter /<br>Email / Phone   | 8. Entertainment                                  |
| 9. Pets / Hobbies                  | 10. Exercise / Health /<br>Medical    | 11. Household chores                   | 12. Family  |
| 13. Worship – Formal /<br>Personal | 14. Train – Group /<br>Personal study | 15. Contribute – Church<br>/ Community | 16. Connect – Life Group<br>/ Friends / Neighbors |

### Scripture reading:

Key Verse: Eph 5:15-21

Other verses: Mat 9:18-26 (see Jesus' priorities); John 11:1-43 (Lazarus; Jesus' timing and priorities are driven by glorifying God); Ps 39:5 (we do not have as much time as we think)

### More Discussion Options:

1. My priorities and my time?
  - *Where does my time go?*
  - *Do I keep a tight hold on my time? I am too frivolous with my time?*
  - *Do I care more about a lost wallet than lost time?*
  - *Do I have too many things in my life or not enough? On these lines – where do I fall? Why?*

↙ Not very busy \_\_\_\_\_ Way too busy ↘

↙ Not aligned with God's priorities \_\_\_\_\_ Overdoing God's priorities ↘

2. God's priorities for our life –
  - *Am I organized towards God's goals for my life?*
  - *Should I change the size of my rocks? Should some priorities become bigger? Smaller?*

### Encouragement points:

- *All in a week – It doesn't have to be changed overnight – remember God is grace. We won't get it all in order in the first week. Corn takes time and effort to grow. Growth comes from the seed inside. As we turn our heart over to the Spirit in surrender the growth will come.*