

BELIEVE SERIES Lesson Seventeen

OFFERING MY TIME

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

Key Question: How does God want us to view the 24 _____ we have in a day?

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)

Key Idea: I _____ my time to fulfill God's purposes.

Give careful thought to your _____.

(Key Application) Take care of God's _____ and he will take care of yours.

(Key Application) Do everything as an _____ to God.

GROUP DISCUSSION

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?

- 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.

Choose 2-3 questions that will lead to best discussion about the Key Idea

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.

Read Matthew 25:31-46 and choose 1-2 questions to discuss.

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.

OTHER PASSAGES

Jonah 1:1-2:10

Haggai 1:1-15

Luke 2:41-52

Exodus 16:1-30; 18:5-27

Proverbs 31:10-31

John 7:1-16

Matt. 25:31-46

Eph. 5:15-17

Galatians 6:7-10

CLOSING PRAYER

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PERSONAL QUESTIONS FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Believe, Chapter 19: Giving My Resources and/or read the following passages

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| Gen. 27:41-28:22 | Exodus 35:4-29; 36:3-7 | 1 Chronicles 29:1-18 |
| Prov. 3:9-10; 11:24-25, 28 | Eccl. 5:10-20 | Matt. 6:1-4, 19-24 |
| Luke 6:32-36; 12:13-21 | Mark 12:41-44 | Acts 4:32-37 |
| 2 Cor. 8:1-9:15 | Philippians 4:10-19 | 1 Timothy 6:17-19 |

Then, answer the following questions:

1. Find all the times the word “willing” is used in the passages from Exodus 35 and 36. Why is a willing heart so important to God?
2. As you read the passages from Proverbs 3 and 11, identify the one piece of advice that speaks most to you right now.
3. If someone asked you to summarize what Jesus taught about money and giving, what would you say?
4. As you read the Scripture from 2 Corinthians 8 and 9, look for the process believers should go through to determine what to give.
5. On a scale of 1-10, evaluate your level of generosity. What has helped you become more generous? What still causes you to hold back?

Key Verse: “But since you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in complete earnestness and in the love we have kindled in you – see that you also excel in this grace of giving.” (2 Corinthians 8:7)

Key Idea: I give my resources to fulfill God’s purposes.

Personal Application

1. How would this practice express itself in your life?
2. What visible attributes can be found in someone who regularly gives away their resources?
3. What is impeding your ability to incorporate this practice into your lifestyle? How can you overcome this obstacle?
4. What action step can you take this week to make this practice a consistent part of your life?