

Scheduling Margin

Ephesians 5:15-17, Romans 12:1-8, Matthew 6:33, Matthew 11:28-29

Read Ephesians 5:15-17.

Paul encourages us in these verses to be wise in how we use our time so that we can make the most every opportunity.

1. In order to make the most of our limited time, we should ask the question "In light of _____, is it wise?" before making decisions about your schedule. What would you put in the blank when asking that question? Is it your goals, your family's needs, your marriage, your relationship with God or something else? Explain.

Read Romans 12:1-8.

Paul instructs us in this passage to follow God's plan for our lives in using the gifts He gave us instead of falling to the patterns of this world.

2. The "normal" pattern of today's society is busyness, meaning that if we are not busy we are not productive. What things in your life are keeping you too busy? How is that busyness affecting all areas of your life?

3. Describe a time when you said "no" to something good that ultimately allowed you to say "yes" to God's best.

4. What are the things in your life that you value most? Does the way you use your time reflect those values? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 6:33 and Matthew 11:28-29.

When we are weary from the busyness of life, Jesus encourages us in these passages to focus on what matters most—spending intimate time with God and finding rest in Him.

5. How important is your intimate time with God? How does that time impact your daily life?

6. How is the rest you find in Christ different and more satisfying than other kind of rest or comfort?

7. What major changes will you make starting now that will allow you to create margin for things you value most in life?