



## *A Time to Prioritize*

**Prioritizing Priorities:** Prioritizing is an important skill to have both personally and ministerially. In this introductory activity, think about ministry priorities.

Read I Peter 2:2, Matthew 20:25-28, and Matthew 28:18-20 as a whole group. Briefly discuss what these passages say about our mission as Christians.

Now, in smaller groups, list up to 15 things you do as a “ministry.” Then, rank them in order of importance and explain why you ranked them the way you did based on the mission Jesus gives us as his church.

This is a list of relationships/responsibilities/blessings that God places into our lives: **Work, God, Spouse, Child(ren), Hobbies, Friends, Those in Need.**

- How would God have us rightly order these loves? Explain your reasoning.

*Personal Reflection: What does the order look like in your life?*

- How does the world order these loves? Explain your reasoning.

## *A Time for Perspective*

### **Introductory Activity**

- Read 2 Samuel 7:12 and Acts 13:36. **Then finish this sentence:**  
“One of the most important things you can say about the life of David (or any believer who has died) is...”
- Describe how the way someone finishes that sentence can affect their perspective on life.

## Take Up Your Cross

1. Read Mark 8:31-33. Describe the “concerns of God” that Jesus has in mind as he looks ahead in his earthly life.
2. What are the human concerns of Peter that led him to want to avoid God’s plan?
3. Read Mark 8:34-38. Apply these verses to a person’s perspective on...
  - a. Career
  - b. Singlehood/Marriage/Choice of Spouse
  - c. Children
  - d. Sports
  - e. Money
  - f. Crippling/Terminal Illness
  - g. Technology
  - h. News/Shows
  - i. Anything else?

## *A Time to Plan*

**Planning, Just for Fun:** We give our best to God when we plan. You could even say that to give God our best, planning is necessary. Anything good that comes from our planning is still solely because of God’s blessing. Proverbs 16:9, “*In their hearts humans plan their course, but the LORD establishes their steps.*”

Divide up these scenarios by groups:

**Group 1** – Brainstorm what it would look like if a *restaurant* did:

- No planning
- Poor planning
- Great planning

**Group 2** – Brainstorm what it would look like if a *bride and groom* in preparation for a wedding did:

- No planning
- Poor planning
- Great planning

**Group 3** – Brainstorm what it would look like if a *family* in preparation for a 2-week road trip vacation did:

- No planning
- Poor planning
- Great planning

**Group 4** – Brainstorm what it would look like if a *state or local government* did:

- No planning
- Poor planning
- Great planning

- Then all groups consider -

Brainstorm what it would look like if a *church* did:

- No planning
- Poor planning
- Great planning

## God Plans, So We Plan

4. Our God is a planning God. Look up the following passages and identify how God is a planning God.
  - Genesis 41:34-36
  - Jeremiah 29:10-11
  - John 14:1-3
  - Revelation 1:1

## We Plan, Trusting God

5. There is such a thing as bad planning! Based on the passages below, name two things that make a plan “bad.” Give a “real life” example of each.
  - Luke 12:16-21
  - Luke 14:28-32
6. Look up Acts 16:6-10. What does this section of Scripture say to us about God’s plans vs. our plans?
7. In our personal and ministry plans, what does it mean to “commit [your plans] to the Lord”?

## We Trust, God Blesses

As we plan, we are guided by God’s Word, and we make use of our reason and logic. Think of Bible passages that encourage us as we make our personal and ministry plans.

### *A Time to Pause*

#### Introductory Activity



**Agree/Disagree** My life would be too busy to use a clock like Skelman’s where I have to stop and rest several times a day.

## I'm Too Busy for...

8. "Sabbath" is a Hebrew word that means "rest." In the Old Testament, God's people had particular times when God told them they had to rest (those rules no longer need to be followed because they were fulfilled in Jesus—Colossians 2:16). **Based on the passages below, share at least 2 of God's purposes for the Sabbath day.**
- Exodus 20:8-11
  - Leviticus 23:3-8
  - Mark 2:27-28
9. God meant to give his people incredible blessings through his "rest" (and he still does today). **Read the passages below and identify some reasons God's people did not enjoy this rest.**
- Exodus 16:21-30
  - Amos 8:3-12

## I'm Too Busy Not To...

10. Martin Luther is quoted as saying, "Work, work, from morning until late at night. In fact, I have so much to do today that I shall spend the first three hours in prayer!" **Read the passages, then discuss the questions below.**
- Ecclesiastes 1:2-3, 8
  - Ecclesiastes 2:24-25, 3:9-13
  - Psalm 62:1-2, 5-8
  - Matthew 11:28
  - Hebrews 4:6-11, 14-16

When is "busyness" good?

When is "busyness" bad?

## Closing Activity

**Brainstorm!** Take a few minutes to think about Skelman's clock again. Fill in at least three things (and you can even include actual times if you want) that you can include (or exclude) in your day to help you find *time to pause* in God's Word.

