

AT YOUR Disposal

Time

March 3 | Chris Stevens, Lead Pastor

Each of us has a unique set of gifts at our disposal, categorized by time, talent and treasure. How we spend our days, use the skills and abilities we've been given, and engage with money are incredible opportunities to give glory to God. He is the one who has poured Himself out for us - given us all that is at our disposal - and we want to live in response to His generosity.

This morning we will have a conversation around time - one of our most valuable assets and the one that can seem like it is working against us. But time is more than just the seconds that wind down each day - it is an opportunity, a gift, to serve God and others. To live in those seconds with a view well beyond the moment and into the eternal.



MESSAGE NOTES

Time in Greek

Chronos is the root word of chronology, chronological, chronic. It stood for the god of gluttony, the one who cannibalized and gorged himself on his own children, always consuming and never satisfied.

Kairos is time as a gift, an opportunity – time pregnant with a purpose. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 says there is a time for everything. Kairos knows what it means to sanctify time.

1 & 2 Corinthians: Background

- one of the most cosmopolitan seaport trade cities of the day (chronos: amassing wealth and power)
- city known for great indulgence in immorality, in temporal pleasure and benefit to oneself (chronos: personal pursuit of pleasure)

1 Corinthians 2:2-16

v. 9 – In light of the Corinthians' growing faith, Paul offers an alternative way of understanding time. Like the Corinthians, we can be drawn in first by the temporal (here and now) rather than the eternal.

v. 13-14 – Eternal time decisions: they won't always make sense or seem wise, and they are often self-sacrificing and costly.

As Christians, the way we spend our time should reveal our identity.

2 Corinthians 4:13-18

The second letter reveals that people are starting to sanctify their view of time.

v. 18 – What are your eyes fixed on? How does your time spent reflect that priority?

Maturity in faith comes as we value the eternal over the temporal.

How are you investing your time in eternity?

HOME GROUP MATERIALS

OPTION 1: SCRIPTURE

Split into two groups. Have one group work through the three questions below for 1 Corinthians 2:2-16 and the other group apply them to 2 Corinthians 4:13-18.

- What do you notice? Are there any patterns or repetitions? What questions do you have?
- What would it have meant to the original audience?
- What is the transferrable truth for us today?

Whenever we have a letter from Paul, we want to ask: Why did he write this down? Compare and contrast the insights of both groups. What do we learn about time and how God understands it?

How will you apply this learning to your life?

OPTION 2: THE CLOCK

Start by having a conversation about *chronos* and *kairos*. What can we learn from both? How have you understood time?

Read 1 Corinthians 2:2-26 and 2 Corinthians 4:13-18. How do the Corinthians change over time? How does their understanding of time change?

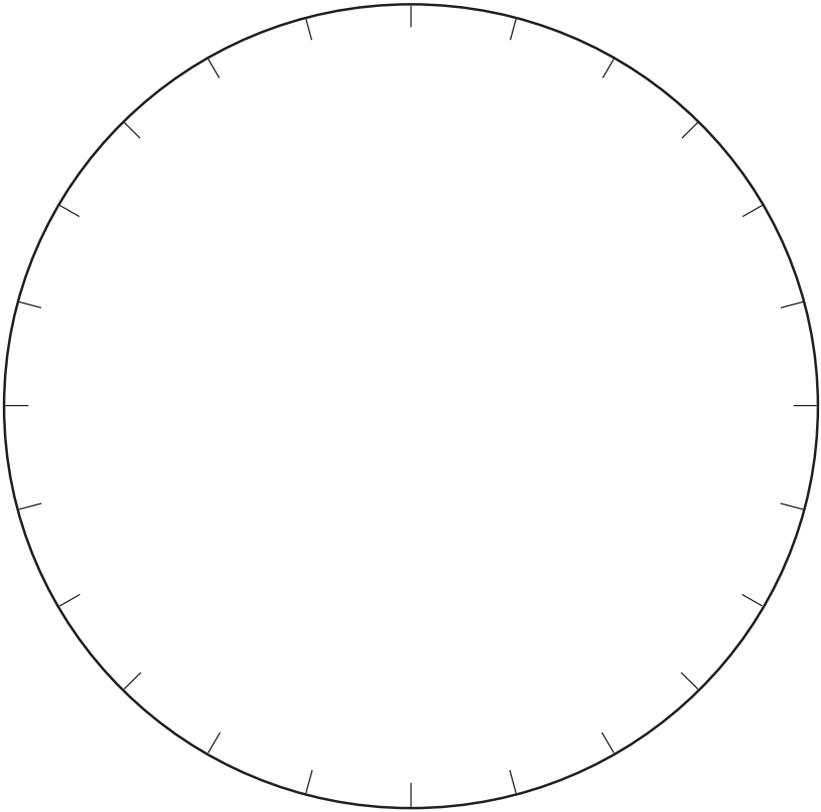
In your life, how do you relate to time? Do you fear it? Hate it? Try to manage it? Love it? Ignore it?

How does God call us to use our time?

What are some ways we can use our time to reflect the kingdom? Use the circle on the back page of the handout to work out how would hope your time to reveal your priorities. What changes would you like to make (not everything will change in one week, but what's one thing that could)? What decisions can you celebrate?



HOME GROUP MATERIALS



10 Year Disciple

This series aims to help us take forward steps in developing the following 10 Year Disciple characteristic:

RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD:

→ Stewarding God's resources as entrusted.

Pick up a copy of The 10 Year Disciple Resource Guide from the Info Desk to learn more.

