

LEAD SHEET

ECCLESIASTES - WEEK 3 **THERE IS NO TIME** APRIL 17, 2016

THIS MONTH'S FAITH SKILL:

SHARE YOUR GRACE STORY

If you want to know God better, tell other people about Him!

GETTING STARTED

Imagine you received \$10,080 at the beginning of every week deposited for you into your bank account from a rich relative's trust fund. Every Sunday morning it goes in, and every Saturday night at 11:59:59, the account is emptied to \$0, whether you've spent it all or not.

General Discussion:

- What would you do with the money?
- Do you think you would spend it all? Remember, it doesn't carry over to the next week.
- What would be the smartest use of that money?
- The most foolish use?

Well guess what? You do get 10,080 of something every week, and it doesn't carry over. However, it is not dollars--it is minutes. And you choose how to use them every time the big hand takes a lap around the clock. The question for today is whether or not you are spending those moments wisely or foolishly

DIGGING IN

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think Solomon is saying here?
(*That there is a time for everything.*)
2. Do any of the “times” the Bible talks about seem wrong all of the time? (*Dying, tearing down, weeping, etc.*)
3. What attitude could make these situations all right?
(*Trusting in God no matter what, etc.*)
4. Do you think Solomon makes a judgment about the right or wrong of these things, or does he observe that in our world there are times for the good and the bad?
5. Why do you think God allows “bad” things like death and war?

There is obviously a time for everything. In our lives, there is a time for us to do or experience all sorts of things. For instance, many of you will experience what it is like to support a family financially. But it's not time for that right now. There's a time where many of you will experience the birth of your own child. But it's not time for you to experience that right now. Here is an important truth I don't want you to miss: when we follow God's timing, things turn out beautifully.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:11

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you think it means for something to be beautiful “in its time”?
2. What happens when things happen outside of the time God might have intended for them? (*Frustration, disappointment, strained relationships, etc.*)
3. How do you know when it is time for a certain thing in your life?

4. What about when things happen not in their time, but when they are outside of your control?

MAKING IT REAL

In this chapter, Solomon says something we need to focus in on here. To make a point, we will use a timer to mark off each minute of time we spend. (use the timer on your phone) Remember that every minute you have is one that you should use wisely. The audible "ding" will be an experiential tool to reinforce today's lesson.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:12

Discussion Questions:

1. What does the verse say are the two things humans should do with their time? (*Be happy and do good.*)
2. What does this mean to you?
3. What do you think "doing good" means in our world today?
4. Think of the time you have (it's 1,440 minutes a day, just 60 minutes an hour). What percentage of that do you think you spend doing good?
5. Every time a minute goes by, you are either cashing in on that time or wasting it. If you're honest, are you wasting more than you are using wisely?

(Have the students think about their answers to the following questions with the group. Suggest they take about two more minutes to pray for each other.)

Discussion Questions:

- Are you currently following God's timing in your life?

- Are you using the minutes of your day wisely?

- Share one thing with your partner(s) that you think you need to change.

CLOSING PRAYER

Pray that your students will use their time wisely for the Lord.

#CRAZYFORCHRIST