



Discussion Questions from Weekly Message

Feel free to customize this to use in your small group, family or for you personally

From Message on: 11/01/20

Optional Opener Question

What is something you've built or created? Was it hard? How did you know where to begin? How did it turn out?

Introductory Thought

Our new series is loosely based on Covey's 7 Habits of Highly Effective People, subtitled "Powerful lessons in Personal Change." In order to change the situations around us, first we need to change ourselves. To do that, BE PROACTIVE, BEGIN WITH THE END IN MIND and thirdly, FIRST THINGS FIRST.

Discussion Questions

- Review: how could being proactive mean taking responsibility for our own actions? Why is it important to have the end in mind before you begin? How does doing those two things change me? Why can't I simply change my circumstances, aka just avoid the stress or the pain?
- This Sunday, Brent talked about evaluating the various parts of our lives and schedules. Spend a minute talking about what activities belong in which quadrant. Now think about your own schedule: where would you put most of the activities of your daily life? In America, are we "conditioned" to spend time in one quadrant over another?

	URGENT	NOT URGENT
IMPORTANT	QUADRANT 1	QUADRANT 2
NOT IMPORTANT	QUADRANT 3	QUADRANT 4

- What do you think Brent meant by "learning to say no when you need to, so you can say yes when you should." Finish this sentence a few different ways: "For example, someone might need to say no to _____, so that they will be able to say yes to _____." How hard is it to say no; what things get in our way of saying no? How do our "No's and Yes's" reflect our values?
- Within quadrant 2, there are still layers of priorities. **Priority #1 is God.** What does it mean to put God first? What might putting Him first look like to you? Does it mean that I need to do something religious all the time? Read Matt 6:31-33. How do the other items in quadrant 2 push themselves to the top of the list? How can I guard against a divided heart with multiple "priority #1's." Add these verses to the discussion:
 - o Luke 12:31 Psalms 86:11 Prov 3:5-6 I Cor 7:35
- Priority #2 is Scripture.** Jesus quoted Scripture back to Satan. Matt 4:3-10 (*Remember, He only had the Old Testament!!*) Why is reading my Bible and spending time thinking about it so important? What do you think Brent meant by "know it and live by it?" Read James 1:22-25. Add these verses:
 - o 2 Tim 3:16-17 Prov 8:10-11 Ps 119:9-11 Ps 119:105 Heb 4:12
- Priority #3 is People** - What is the second greatest commandment as told by Jesus in Luke 12:30-34? What do you think Jesus meant by this? In what ways does it reveal His heart? What do I think it means to me? What things crowd out my good intentions? In this era of "social distancing," what are some ways we can put a priority on people? In the process of ministering to others, is it possible that God ministers to me?

Practical Application & Next Steps

- Brent closed with this: "What one thing could you start doing right now that if done on a regular basis would make a huge, positive difference in your life? The gap between who you are now and who you want to be and who God made you to be is in the answer to that question. **What is the one thing?**" Has God already made you aware of the "one thing?" What will you do with that insight? Tell someone outside of your normal immediate circle in order to include them in your process.