

# Precious Time



## Scripture

Take turns reading the following scriptures out loud.

**Psalm 90:12;** Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom. NLT

**Psalm 39: 4-7;** “Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered—how fleeting my life is. <sup>5</sup> You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.” <sup>6</sup> We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it. <sup>7</sup> And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you. NLT

## Story: How Are You Spending Your Time?

**H**ow would you like to spend two years making phone calls to people who are not home? Sound absurd? According to a time management study, that's how much time the average person spends trying to return calls to people who never seem to be home or who don't answer our call. The same research shows that we will spend six months waiting for traffic lights to turn green, another eight months reading junk mail, one year looking for misplaced objects, four years doing housework, five years waiting in line, and six years eating. These statistics should cause us to take a serious look at how we spend our time.

Imagine if you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,000 that carried over no balance from day to day, allowed you to keep no cash in your account, and every evening canceled whatever part of the amount you failed to use during the day. What would you do? You would use every dollar each and every day and use it to your advantage! Well you do have such a bank, and its name is TIME! Every morning it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it rules off as lost whatever amount of time you failed to invest wisely. It carries over no balances, it allows no overdrafts. Each day it opens a new account with you. If you fail to use the days

deposits, the loss is yours. There is no going back, and there is no borrowing from tomorrows balance.

Psalm 39 gives us a perspective on time. In David's complaint to God, he said, “You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath.” (v. 5). David is saying that in comparison to eternity our time on earth is really short. God does not want us to waste this valuable time that He has given to us. When we do waste the time God has given to us we throw away one of the most precious commodities we have. Each minute is a gift, a small piece of eternity. Sure, we have to make phone calls, wait at traffic lights, stand in line, and take the time to eat, but what about the rest of our time? Are we using it wisely or are we wasting it away doing things that will never make a difference in eternity.

*“Time is the coin of your life. It is the only coin you have, and only you can determine how it will be spent. Be careful lest you let other people spend it for you.” –Carl Sandburg.*

Ref.: Survey of 6000 people polled in 1988, *U.S. News and World Report*, Jan 30, 1989, p. 81.



## **Application**

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### **Precious Time**

1. Talk about the things you do as individuals that might be considered a waste of time.
2. Discuss how you can take a portion of each day and dedicate it to the Lord.
3. Have a time of family prayer and devotion:
  - Start with thanksgiving and praise unto God.
  - Ask God to forgive you of any sin in your life.
4. If you struggle with wasting time doing things that have no long term value in life pray that God would help you learn how to be a wise manager of the time He has given you.
5. Pray God would help you to have a right attitude when it comes to spending the precious coin called time.
6. Pray for any personal needs you may have one family member at a time.



## **Family Activity**

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### **Time Challenges**

Complete the following three time challenges. The person with the overall fastest combined time is the winner.

You will need a piece of paper and a timer. Write down the times for each event and total them at the conclusion.

- Run around the outside of the house.
- Clean up their bedroom (All clothes and toys picked up off the floor and put away, bed made correctly).
- Starting with a closed Bible, find and read the following scriptures:
  - Psalm 90:12
  - Luke 12:37
  - Revelation 3:11-12
- Everyone over 12 years must find all three; those between 7-12 years must find two; those 6 years and younger need to find one.

The winner of the time challenge gets to pick dessert!