

REDEEMING THE TIME

Making the Most of Every Opportunity

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed how all of us spend our time. New social restrictions have certainly closed some doors for us, but they have also opened up new windows of opportunity. With this change in our weekly rhythms, we may find ourselves with different choices on how to best spend our days, nights and weekends. This group study will address some fresh opportunities for how we Christians can use our time these days, avoiding the frivolous and adopting the wise.

Be careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV

Word Study: “*Redeeming the time for the days are evil.*” KJV (from Thayer’s Greek Lexicon, Blue Letter Bible)

- **redeem:** to buy back time; to regain possession of it; to buy up for one’s use; to rescue from loss; “to make wise and sacred use of every opportunity for doing good” (cf. Colossians. 4:5)
- **time:** *kairos* refers to time in a qualitative sense, as in an opportune moment; “a propitious moment for decision or action” and “the right or or appropriate time to say or do the right or appropriate thing”; (in contrast to *chronos* which refers to time in a quantitative sense—the sequential measurement of time)
- **evil:** full of labours, annoyances, hardships; bringing toils, perils; of a time full of peril to Christian faith and steadfastness; causing pain and trouble

Summary: In light of the nature of the world and the “evil” times we Christians live, this exhortation spurs us on to live wisely. It challenges us to “make the best use of the time” (ESV)—to seize every opportunity we can to remain steadfast in faith and to invest our time in that which is eternal.

GROUP DISCUSSION

1. How has your weekly schedule been affected in this season, and do you now have more or less discretionary time?
2. On the other side of this pandemic, in what ways might we look back in regret for opportunities squandered?

FOUR TIMELY OPPORTUNITIES Fill in the blanks below with some practical ways to invest your time wisely.

1. TIME TO DRAW NEAR TO GOD
 - Meet:
 - Read:
 - Listen:
2. TIME TO ENJOY YOUR FAMILY
 - Spouse:
 - Children:
 - Extended family:
3. TIME TO KNOW AND SERVE YOUR NEIGHBOURS
 - Connect:
 - Serve:
 - Witness:
4. TIME TO GO DEEPER WITH YOUR GROUP MEMBERS
 - Weekly online meeting: continue to faithfully meet with your group each week
 - Group Chat: choose a chat platform for your group and stay in touch throughout the week
 - Phone calls: make one call to (and receive one call from) one group member each week
 - Accountability partners: pair up for a month at a time and encourage one another weekly

THREE TIMELY CAUTIONS Discuss how the following areas can be time wasters, stealing time from wiser pursuits.

1. NEWS
2. ENTERTAINMENT
3. SOCIAL MEDIA

“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord for you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.” 1 Corinthians 15:58