



SCHEDULING MARGIN

ICEBREAKER: What are some of the wildest animals you've ever touched?

OVERVIEW: Most people would like to have more time... more time with family, more time to rest and relax, more time for God, more time to help others. The good news is that you can have all the time you need to do what God has called you to do and be the person God has called you to be, but you must learn to resist what's normal and live wisely. In this discussion we will talk about the next steps we need to take to schedule the appropriate margin in our lives.

1. What insight, principle, or observation from this weekend's message did you find to be the most helpful, eye-opening, or troubling? Explain. (Or what was your key takeaway from Sunday's message?)
2. Read Ephesians 5:15-17. Paul encourages us in these verses to be wise in how we use our time so that we can make the most of every opportunity. In order to make the most our limited time, we should ask the question, "In light of _____, is it wise?" before making decisions about your schedule. What would you put in the blank when asking that question? Is it your goals, your family's needs, your marriage, your relationship with God or something else? Explain.
3. Read Romans 12:1-8. Paul instructs us in this passage to follow God's plan for our lives in using the gifts He gave us instead of falling to the patterns of this world. In what ways has your relationship with God led you to use your time differently than what is "normal"?

Home Group D-Guide

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4. The "normal" pattern of today's society is busyness, meaning that if we are not busy we are not productive. What things in your life are keeping you too busy? How is that busyness affecting all areas of your life?
5. Describe a time when you said "no" to something good that ultimately allowed you to say "yes" to God's best.
6. What are the things in your life that you value most? Does the way you use your time reflect those values? Why or why not?
7. Read Matthew 6:33 and Matthew 11:28-29. When we are weary from the busyness of life, Jesus encourages us in these passages to focus on what matters most — spending intimate time with God and finding rest in Him. How important is your intimate time with God? How does that time impact your daily life?
8. How is the rest you find in Christ different and more satisfying than other kinds of rest or comfort?
9. What major changes will you make starting now that will allow you to create margin for things you value most in life?

The Last Word: You have enough time to do what God has called you to do, but no more. Be wise about your time, and don't blindly follow the culture around you. Use your time for your God-given priorities, and don't let anything interfere.