



LIFE GROUP STUDY MATERIAL

Every Home a *Discipleship Centre*

Session #3

Time: The Currency of
Discipleship

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TIME: THE CURRENCY OF DISCIPLESHIP

LESSON AIM

To understand how intentional presence shapes discipleship and use everyday opportunities to point others towards Jesus.

VIDEO LESSON

Link to video: https://youtu.be/PblBUZHEUYc?si=t7ptutvfD_LYC38U

SCRIPTURE READING

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. **6** And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. **7** You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7 (ESV)

INTRODUCTION

Discipleship Requires Intentional Presence. For children, love is spelled T-I-M-E. One of the primary ways children experience love is through our presence, not our "presents". Time is the currency of relationships. Throughout Scripture, we see that God forms His people not merely by giving them information, but by giving them Himself. Before He ever calls us to invest in others, He first demonstrates faithful presence by dwelling among us, walking with us, and continuing to sustain us each day. As followers of Christ, we are called to reflect this same pattern in our relationships. In a world that is increasingly busy and distracted, discipleship in the home requires us to intentionally invest our time in the people God has entrusted to us. The principle is simple: **More time = More influence**. The more we are present with others, the greater the opportunity to shape their lives and help them grow as disciples of Jesus.

A. THE PATTERN OF GOD'S PRESENCE

Principle: God forms His children through relational presence, not remote instruction. He doesn't love us because we give Him our time; He gives us His time because He loves us. God is not a time-saving Father, but a time-spending Father.

1. Incarnational Presence

John 1:14 tells us, *"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us."* Rather than remaining distant, Jesus entered our world and walked alongside His disciples. He shaped their lives by sharing life with them.

Formation happens through incarnation, not information.

2. Intentional Presence

Mark 3:14 says that Jesus appointed the Twelve *"that they might be with Him."* Jesus intentionally invested in His disciples, allowing them to observe His life, His character, and His example before sending them out to minister. **Formation is caught before it is taught.**

3. Interceding Presence

Romans 8:34 reminds us that Jesus *"is interceding for us."* Christ's ministry did not end when He ascended to heaven. He continues to faithfully pray for His people. As we follow His example, we should also faithfully pray for those God has entrusted to us, recognising that discipleship happens both through our presence and through our prayers.

B. THE RIVALS OF GODLY PRESENCE

Principle: Whatever captures your time captures your child. Although we know that relationships matter, there are many things that compete for our attention. Four common things that compete for our time are: **success** (more achievement, less attention), **control** (more managing, less mentoring), **comfort** (more convenience, less connection), and **tomorrow** (more delay, less discipleship). While none of these things are wrong in themselves, they become dangerous when they rob us of the time that God intends us to invest in others. Discipleship cannot be postponed until life becomes less busy. The more intentionally we steward our time today, the greater our opportunity to influence others for Christ.

C. THE STEWARDSHIP OF REDEMPTIVE PRESENCE

Principle: Time is a gift from God that is to be stewarded wisely. Rather than waiting for the perfect opportunity, we can intentionally use everyday moments to disciple those God has entrusted to us.

1. Steward the Spontaneous

Some of the most meaningful discipleship conversations happen unexpectedly. Rather than seeing interruptions as inconveniences, learn to see them as opportunities. **Interruptions are invitations.**

2. Steward the Simple

Discipleship is often found in the ordinary rhythms of life. Spend time doing what they enjoy, not just what you enjoy. **Do what THEY like, not what YOU like.**

3. Steward the Schedule

Rather than adding discipleship as another activity, integrate it into your existing routines. Spend time together, serve together, worship together, and do life together. **Discipleship is not addition, but integration.**

4. Steward for Significance

Steward your time with eternity in mind. View time as an investment, not an expense. The moments you invest in people today may have an eternal impact. Do it not just for now, but for eternity.

Time is one of the greatest gifts God has given us, and one of the greatest gifts we can give to others. Every day presents opportunities to model Christ, speak truth, pray together, and point those around us towards Jesus. Before we invest our time in others, we must remember that God first invested Himself in us. Grateful parents become present parents. May we steward our time faithfully, making the most of every opportunity, so that our homes become places where disciples are formed and Jesus is glorified.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Instructions for group facilitators: Every group is different. You may modify the discussion questions to suit your group and you do not need to use all the questions in the group discussion.

Question 1: With all the technological advancements and conveniences we have today, why do so many people still feel time-poor?

Question 2: Looking back over the lesson, what was one idea that you found interesting or helpful?

Question 3: Have a closer look at Deuteronomy 6:5–7. What stands out to you in these verses? What principles about discipleship can we learn from these verses?

Question 4: "God forms His children through relational presence, not remote instruction." How does God's example of being present with us shape the way we disciple others?

Question 5: The lesson identifies success, control, comfort, and tomorrow as common rivals to intentional presence. Which of these do you find most competes for your time, and why?

Question 6: Which of the four areas: Steward the Spontaneous, Steward the Simple, Steward the Schedule, or Steward for Significance, do you most need to grow in and why?

Question 7: What is one intentional change you could make to create more opportunities for discipleship in your everyday life?

NEXT STEPS

Take some time this week to reflect on how you are stewarding the time God has given you. Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal anything that is competing for your attention or keeping you from being fully present with those God has entrusted to you. Look for opportunities to intentionally invest in others through the ordinary moments of everyday life, whether by having a meaningful conversation, praying together, serving alongside one another, or simply being present. Remember, time is the currency of discipleship. Every moment is an opportunity to point someone towards Jesus.