



# Belong

Start the group with an opportunity for community. We want this to be a place where the body of Christ can belong.

- What is one high and one low from this past week?
- What area of your life do you feel like you're running out of time?

Start the group with prayer.

# Believe

## Ecclesiastes 9:11-12

**11** Again I saw that under the sun the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong, nor bread to the wise, nor riches to the intelligent, nor favor to those with knowledge, but time and chance happen to them all. **12** For man does not know his time. Like fish that are taken in an evil net, and like birds that are caught in a snare, so the children of man are snared at an evil time, when it suddenly falls upon them.

Time gives no respect to people. As the Preacher (the name the author is referred to as) states, time and chance happens to all people. It makes no difference if you are quick on your feet, strong, wise, or intelligent. The end of time will approach every single person.

Are you ready?

### **Time is Inescapable and Uncontrollable**

Think of an alarm clock. You set it at night and maybe you wake up two hours before it goes off in the morning. This is one of the best sights to see! More sleep! However, that alarm going off is inevitable once the time comes. This is just like our lives. You can wake up and realize you have time right now but the end of your time is inescapable.

So, what are you doing with your time? What are your priorities? What is one thing that takes a lot of time that doesn't need to be?

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 says this:

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

2 a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;

3 a time to kill, and a time to heal;

a time to break down, and a time to build up;

4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;

a time to mourn, and a time to dance;

5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;

a time to keep, and a time to cast away;

7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;  
a time to keep silence, and a time to speak;  
8 a time to love, and a time to hate;  
a time for war, and a time for peace.

There are different seasons we go through in life. This author is informing us that there is a time for everything that is within the Lord's will. He rules over all things. He rules supremely. All authority in heaven and earth has been given to Him. Subtract Jesus from the universe and everything would fall apart. He will one day soon silence the raging nations, the loud leaders, and constant sin in a moment's time.

There is a right way to use your time and that is to live righteously. We must live with the urgency to see people come to know Jesus, to see our families walk in truth and life, to walk with the Lord in all that we do! He is worth our time.

There is a time for everything, are you using your time well?

### **You have been redeemed, so redeem your time!**

The definition for the word redeem is to "compensate for the faults or bad aspects of (something); to gain or regain possession of (something) in exchange for payment."

Jesus has saved you and redeemed you. Let us not morph Jesus into only helping us along the way. Ephesians 2 says we were dead in our trespasses which required a resurrection, full on deliverance. As sinners, we are not just wounded in need of a bandage, we need Jesus in all of His power and glory.

So with that being said, we are forever in debt to Him. He deserves all of our time. Jesus says "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind." This means your everything!

Reggie Joyner says "to make your days count, count your days." You see, James 4 tells us that life is only a vapor.

**James 4:14** yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

The word of God uses the word “mist” to describe mine and your life. Pretty humbling right? Be careful not to make this about you. Yes, your life is only a mist but so is everyone’s life around us. There is not one person you know or do not know that is guaranteed tomorrow. If you want to redeem your time, share Jesus.

We must live with the urgency knowing that 3.2 billion people are unreached by the gospel and their lives are only a vapor. Time is running out! Let’s pray that it would be intolerable to the church that so many people are lost with so little time to be found.

What is your plan to redeem your time? (Serving, Sharing, Spiritually leading)

## BECOME

God is calling you to live a life of urgency. However, urgency is not hurry. This is not a call to totally transform your behavior right now. Slow change is real change. But, that does not change the time you have in life. Make your life count for eternal significance.

There is no reason to coast through life with no passion and no purpose. You do have a purpose. Your purpose is God’s purpose. Jesus has a reason why He came down to earth to die for you and I. In John 6:38 Jesus says “For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.” Jesus has a greater purpose than to just come to do miracles. He has a greater purpose than to just make everyone like Him and think how great He is. Jesus has a purpose greater than himself and it is to do the will of who sent Him.

Jesus’ purpose was to die for us. Your purpose is to live for Him.

If we make our lives as Christians about us then we have missed the point. All that we do as Christians should be for the Lord. One day you will be judged not according to what was visible but according to your motives. 1 Corinthians 4:5 says he “will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart.”

**Ephesians 5:15** Look carefully then how you walk, not as unwise but as wise, **16** making the best use of the time, because the days are evil. **17** Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is.

- What have you been doing with your time that is unwise?

- How can you make the best use of your time?