

Servants for His Glory

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Lesson Title: “Be a Servant Whose Inner World Is in Order”
(pp. 7-20)

Session 1

March 3, 2024

The main point of this lesson is: Our priorities create the order or disorder of our lives.

Focus on this goal: To help adults examine their lives for evidence of disorder/misplaced priorities

Key Bible Passage: Ephesians 5:15-17

During the Session

Step 1. Create Interest / Jumpstart Discussion

Lead a discussion with: Do you more often feel like you are a human “being” or a human “doing”? Why is that? How can doing and accomplishing become an addiction? Why is that addiction so prevalent in our society? (Use the Introduction on p. 6 to add to this discussion.) State: There is nothing wrong with wanting to be useful, but if we are going to be servants for God’s glory, we must focus on being before doing. This session explores how to get our inner world in order and challenges us to examine our lives for evidences of disorder and misplaced priorities.

Step 2. Introduction

Explore reasons a person’s inner world becomes out of order (be sure “poor use of time” is mentioned). Discuss Day One, activity 1 (p. 7). Brainstorm what it might look like on a daily basis for believers to pay careful attention to how they live, using Ephesians 5:6-14 to add to that discussion.

Ask if learners agree that “Our use of time depends upon our worldview” (p. 8) and why. Examine the meaning of worldview, using the author’s illustration of a camera lens (p. 8). Ask: How can we bring life into focus and understand what the Lord’s will is?

Invite someone to read the Day One Note (p. 8). State that relating to God through His Word and prayer brings life into focus so we can make the most of the opportunities God gives us to do what He has called us to do.

Request a volunteer read the last paragraph of Day One (p. 9). Invite responses to Day One, activity 2 (p. 9).

Step 3. The Call Is to Meditate on What Is Good for the Soul,
Part 1

Declare Satan wants us to waste our time and not invest it in things that are good for our souls and honor God. Draw attention to Day Two, activity 1 (p. 10) and state it would be wise to occasionally evaluate oneself with those questions.

Brainstorm soul-draining and soul-nourishing activities. Invite a volunteer to read Colossians 4:2-8. Identify some soul-nourishing activities from that passage.

Declare one thing that is soul-draining is giving in to the tyranny of the urgent. Consider what that means. Ask adults if they agree with the Day Two Note (p. 11) and why. Ask what happens when we consistently live in such a way.

Discuss Day Two, activity 2 (p. 11).

Step 4. The Call Is to Meditate on What Is Good for the Soul,
Part 2

**Explain** an ordered inner life requires an evaluation of our relationships and requires considering our life’s purpose.

**Read** the Day Three paragraph (pp. 12-13) beginning with “Have you ever produced a life plan . . . .” **Read** Galatians 4:19. **Declare:** *Our greatest purpose and life plan should be for Christ’s character to be formed in us.*

**Enlist** a volunteer to read Mark 1:32-39. **Ask** adults what they discern about Christ’s character from those verses.

Step 5. Man’s Inner and Outer World

**Declare:** When we focus more on being like Jesus rather than “doing,” we can avoid the tyranny of the urgent, align our priorities properly, and get our inner and outer lives in order. **Ask** if this will happen by default or intentionality and why.

**Discuss** Day Four, activity 1 (p. 14). **Ask** what problem God’s people were experiencing in Haggai 1. **Consider** why their hard work wasn’t accomplishing anything. **Evaluate** how God’s people today leave God’s “house” in ruins while they are busy with their own “houses.” **Consider** what will eventually happen to a life focused on developing the outer world while neglecting the inner world.

**Explain** the Pareto principle (pp. 15-16) and **guide** the group to explore how the 80/20 rule can apply to whether a believer’s inner world is in order.

Step 6. Decision Making

**Ask:** When do you find it the most difficult to make decisions? What helps you feel more confident in making a difficult decision? How will a person’s worldview determine how they make decisions?

**Invite** a volunteer to read the second paragraph of Day Five (p. 16). **Ask:** Why might waiting be one of the most difficult, yet wisest, decisions we can make? **Discuss** Day Five, activity 1 (p. 17). **Ask:** How does the way we wait determine whether we are “making the most of the time”? How do the conversations we have determine whether we are using time wisely?

**Discuss** Day Five, activity 2 (p. 17).

Step 7. Practical Application – Live Out the Lesson

Ask: What have you gained from this study about how to become more of a human “being” rather than just a human “doing”?

Read from Day Four (p. 14), “We ought to be reflexive individuals if we want to cultivate our inner world.” Ask what the author means by that. Urge adults if they have not already done so to spend time this week in personal reflection and evaluation using Day Three, activities 1 (p. 12) and 2 (p. 13), and Day Four, activity 2 (p. 15).

Close in prayer.

