

Sermon Discussion Guide- Week of August 19, 2018



Pastor Hall 8:15, Pastor Temple 9:30, 10:55

Getting Started- Life Updates, Prayer Requests & Opening Question (15-20 min)

- Welcome back! Isn't it good to be back together again?
- Are there any joys or concerns that you would like to share with the group for the closing prayer time or for group members to hold in prayer during the week? (please note them below for later)

- Opener: Of all the ways you chose to spend your time this summer, what activities or events are you the most grateful for or happy about?

Review the Sermon (15 min)

Please read aloud the sermon scripture below, Ephesians 5:15 - 20. As you go through the discussion questions, it is ok to skip questions in order to manage the time for discussions in each section.

¹⁵ Be very careful, then, how you live— not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶ making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. ¹⁷ Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is. ¹⁸ Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery.

Instead, be filled with the Spirit, ¹⁹ speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰ always giving thanks to God the Father for everything, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- If you had to give a one-minute summary of the sermon message this week, what would you say?

- In verse 15, “making the most of every opportunity” could also be translated more literally redeem or buy up the time, where time (Kairos) has the meaning of a ripe moment or time full of opportunity. How does this passage take the concept of “good timing” and apply it toward heavenly purposes?
- What other advice in these passages most strike you as wise and relevant to our day and time? Not getting drunk? Being filled with the Spirit? Praising God through music? Having a grateful attitude toward God?
- How does the concept of displacement (you have to make room for something new by getting rid of something that is already there) apply to time and drunkenness and the Holy Spirit (see verses 15-16 and 18)?

Another Related Scripture (10 min)

- Would a volunteer please read aloud Matthew 7:24-29.
- How is the wisdom of building a life on the teachings of Jesus in this passage, similar to the wisdom of redeeming the time from the sermon passage today?
- According to verses 25-27, what is the difference between a life built on the teachings of Jesus and one that is not?
- These verses elevate the authority of Jesus in the teachings He offers and the ways in which He offers them. They do not say the storms of life will not come to those who follow his teachings, but say that when the storms come those following Him will not ultimately be defeated or destroyed. How do these words inspire you to “be very careful then how you live- not as unwise but as wise?” (Ephesians 15:15)
- In terms of use of (Kairos) time, what would it look practically speaking to “put [Jesus’] words into practice” and to “build [their] house on the rock?”

Personalizing and Applying The Message (15 min)

- What were points of encouragement or challenge for you personally in the sermon and in the additional scripture reflection above?
- Dr. Seuss once said, “How did it get so late so soon?” Time spent one way means less time to spend in other ways. How does regular participation in a small group or Bible study help keep a person walking with God and being a good steward of their time (Kairos)?
- In light of God’s power to redeem, how might you envision God taking what might be considered “a waste of time” in someone’s past and causing good to come from it?

Witness & Closing Prayer (5-10 min)

- A “Kairos” moment sometimes comes to us when we have an opportunity to share about an aspect of the blessed life we have in God with another person. This week please consider being sensitive and attentive to such God moments with others and “make the most of the opportunity” as the Holy Spirit guides you.
- The group leader or another volunteer who took notes on the prayer requests shared earlier in the meeting, may now lead the group in closing prayer.