

Maximizing my God Time



Session 1

Men's Ministry

Harvest Bible Chapel

January 16, 2010

Today's Session

- ▣ Introduction and Overview
- ▣ What is a "Quiet Time"?
- ▣ The Gospel and Time with God
- ▣ Bible Reading and Study
- ▣ Homework and Resources

Maximizing my God Time Class

- ▣ Session 1: **Bible Reading and Study**
- ▣ Session 2: **Prayer**
- ▣ Session 3: **Memorization and Meditation**
- ▣ Session 4: **Remembering and Sharing**

The Big Ideas

- ❑ *It is my joy to possess and read the Word of God*
- ❑ *I have the privilege of speaking with my heavenly Father in prayer*
- ❑ *I can fill my mind with the truths of God's Word as I meditate*
- ❑ *I have the opportunity to build up other believers through sharing what I have received during my times with God*

Quiet Time

A “Quiet Time” is time invested in:

- ▣ Learning from God through His Word
- ▣ Acknowledging my dependence on the Lord and bringing my concerns before His throne
- ▣ Challenging and correcting my thinking
- ▣ Preparing to remind myself and encourage others about God’s goodness

Why is it called a “Quiet Time”?

- ▣ Be still, and know that I am God. I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth!

Psalm 46:10
ESV

- ▣ For God alone my soul waits in silence; from him comes my salvation.

Psalm 62:1
ESV

Group Exercise

- ❑ Share your experience with quiet time
 - Doing great?
 - Erratic at best?
 - Feel defeated?

- ❑ What are your hopes?
 - Put together a plan?
 - Be more consistent?
 - Enjoy time with God without it being a burdensome routine?

The Gospel

“But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, He saved us, not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”

Titus 3:4-7
ESV

Implications of the Gospel

"Your worst days are never so bad that you are beyond the reach of God's grace. And your best days are never so good that you are beyond the need of God's grace."

Jerry Bridges

Implications of the Gospel

*There is nothing that I can
do that will make God love
me more*

*... and nothing I can do that
will make God love me less*

Why do we invest time with God?

“For the love of Christ controls us, because we have concluded this: that one has died for all, therefore all have died; and he died for all, that those who live might no longer live for themselves but for him who for their sake died and was raised.”

2 Corinthians 5:14, 15
ESV

Loving the Word of God

"Open my eyes,
that I may behold
wondrous things out of your law."

Psalm 119: 18
ESV

Loving the Word of God

"Your words were found, and I ate them,
and your words became to me a joy
and the delight of my heart,
for I am called by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts."

Jeremiah 15: 16
ESV

Loving the Word of God

"Your _ _ _ _ _ were found, and I _ _ _ them,
and your words became to me a _ _ _
and the delight of my _ _ _ _ _,
for I am _ _ _ _ _ by your name,
O LORD, God of hosts."

Jeremiah 15: 16
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Scripture Reading Plans

- ❑ Have a plan!
- ❑ Consider:
 - Bible knowledge
 - Breadth or depth?
 - Mix of Old and New Testament?
 - Available time and days of the week
- ❑ Use a published plan or make your own

Personal Exercise

- ❑ Put together a reading plan
- ❑ Challenge yourself, but be realistic
 - The challenge may be consistency, not quantity
 - Remember it is not a speed contest
 - Goal is meaningful times with God

Memory Assignment

- ❑ We will memorize Romans 12 over the next 12 weeks
- ❑ Start by reading it out loud 2 times each day
- ❑ Don't try to memorize!
- ❑ Start sharing your observations from the text right away

Review

"Your _ _ _ _ _ were found, and I _ _ _ them,
and your _ _ _ _ _ became to me a _ _ _
and the _ _ _ _ _ of my _ _ _ _ _,
for I am _ _ _ _ _ by your _ _ _ _ _,
O LORD, God of hosts."

Jeremiah 15: 16
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Summary

- ▣ A “Quiet Time” is time invested in learning, acknowledging, challenging and preparing
- ▣ The gospel reminds me that God loves me unconditionally
- ▣ It is my joy to possess and read the Word of God
- ▣ Having a reading plan is encouraging and helpful

Bonus Features

- ▣ **Coached Quiet Time –**
Wednesdays, starting January 20, 2010
- ▣ **One Hour Bible Jump Start –**
January 28, 2010
- ▣ **Bible Questions and Answers –**
starting February 11, 2010