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Leader Guide

Time to Get to Work

September 3, 2023

Main Passage: John 9:1-7; James 4:13-17

Theological Theme

Our time on earth is limited. Christians need to follow the example of Jesus and take every opportunity to bring glory to God in the way we respond to the people around us.

Introduction

- ❓ Whose unexpected death impacted you deeply?
- ❓ Psalm 90:12 says we “develop wisdom” by remembering the brevity of our lives. How do we gain wisdom by reflecting on this truth?

1. The Time is Now (John 9:1-7)

Jesus and His disciples encountered a man who had been blind from birth. This sparked a conversation about the source of the man’s blindness. When reading this passage, we often focus on Jesus’s words about blindness not being the result of sin in the man’s life but rather an opportunity for God to be glorified and reveal His power. It is easy to overlook the other point Jesus made as you read and celebrate how the man’s life was changed and how nothing is impossible for the Lord.

- ❓ When have you found yourself distracted by a theological discussion of a situation instead of using it as an opportunity to serve?
- ❓ What are some things you have been procrastinating about spiritually?
- ❓ Application: What current opportunity has God given you for obedience?

2. Trust the Lord (James 4:13-15)

Jesus’s words in John 9 are not the only place Scripture addresses the urgency of obedience to God. James also spoke to this matter in his letter. Not having a godly view of time can indicate pride. God calls us to depend on Him, not on ourselves. The way we spend our time matters to God. James rebuked the person who makes plans without regard for God. He pointed out that it makes no sense to trust our limited knowledge when we can depend on the God of the universe.

- ❓ How might you have been guilty of viewing time wrongly and wasting the opportunities God has given you to live for Him?
- ❓ Why is it important to be intentional about how you spend your life? What are the consequences of not living this way?
- ❓ Application: How does thinking of your life as vanishing give you urgency to live in a way that matters? How might you keep this reality before you daily?

3. Do What You Know to Do (James 4:16-17)

Thankfully, James did not only tell us our problem. He went on to say what to do instead of living for ourselves and only following our own desires. The solution is to surrender our lives to God's will and follow His plans over ours. If we do this, we avoid living lives of arrogance that boast of the wrong things.

- ❓ How is living according to your own plans and desires a sign of arrogance? How does seeking God's will in all things show humility?
- ❓ How do you respond to the idea that your worst decision-making has resulted from relying on yourself instead of God?
- ❓ Application: How do you need to show obedience to God in trusting Him with every moment He has given you? What do you need to start doing in this regard? What do you need to stop doing?

Questions to Guide Your Group's Discussion

1. What does this passage say?
2. What did this passage mean to its original audience?
3. What does this passage tell us about God?
4. What does this passage tell us about man?
5. What does this passage demand of me?
6. How does this passage change the way I relate to people? (*How can you use this information this week at work or with friends and neighbors?*)
7. How does this passage prompt me to pray to God?

*Adapted from Seven Arrows by Matt Rogers pastor of The Church at Cherrydale, Greenville, SC

Here's How to Become a Christ-Follower:

Read the following verses and ask after each one: "What does this say to me?"

- **All have sinned:** Romans 3:23 & 1 John 1:8
- **The wages of sin:** Romans 6:23 & John 3:18
- **But while we were sinners, salvation was provided:** Romans 5:8
- **Become a Christ-follower:** Romans 10:9-10 Confess and Believe

Accepting Christ is Just the Beginning:

Next Steps:

- Publicly profess your faith by being baptized (Matthew 10:32-33; Luke 3:21; Romans 6:4).
- Join a church which follows the Bible, where you can grow in your faith through prayer, Bible study and fellowship with other Christians.
- Get involved in groups for encouragement and accountability.
- Begin a daily personal worship experience with God where you study the Bible and pray.
- Share with others what Jesus has done for you. Tell your story (Romans 10:14; Matthew 28:19-20).
- Begin to live for God (Romans 12:1-2, 9-18; James 1:19-27).