

Group Meeting

Welcome!

Welcome to Session 18 of *Believe*. If there are any new members in your group, take a moment to introduce yourselves to each other. Then spend a couple of minutes sharing insights or questions about this session's personal study. Now start the video!

VIDEO TEACHING NOTES

As you watch the video segment for Session 18, use the following outline to record some of the main points. (The answer key is found at the end of the session.)

- Key Question: How does God want us to view the twenty-four _____ we have in a day?
- Key Verse: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it _____ in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)
- Key Idea: I _____ my time to fulfill God's purposes.
- Give careful thought to your _____.
- (Key Application) Take care of God's _____ and he will take care of yours.
- (Key Application) Do everything as an _____ to God.

GETTING STARTED

Begin your discussion by reciting the Key Verse and Key Idea together as a group. On your first attempt, use your notes if you need help. On your second attempt, try to state them completely from memory.

KEY VERSE: "And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him." (Colossians 3:17)



KEY IDEA: I offer my time to fulfill God's purposes.

GROUP DISCUSSION

As a group, discuss your thoughts and feelings about the following declarations. Which statements are easy to declare with certainty? Which are more challenging, and why?

- I invest my time in others by praying for them.
- I spend a good deal of time helping others with physical, emotional, or other kinds of needs.
- I give away my time to serve and help others in my community.
- I regularly volunteer at my church.

Based on your group's dynamics and spiritual maturity, choose the 2–3 questions that will lead to the best discussion about this week's Key Idea.

1. Make a diverse list of ways time can be used for God's purposes.

2. What challenges make it hard for you to invest time in God's purposes? As a group, discuss ways to overcome them.

3. Often, simple actions such as actively listening to a coworker, helping a neighbor, or coaching Little League are overlooked because they aren't "church related." Discuss simple ways you can offer time to people in your community.

4. In most churches, a small group of people do a majority of the work. Discuss different needs and opportunities you see within your congregation that your group could address.

Read Matthew 25:31–46 (see the section "The Rewards of Offering Our Time" in Believe) and choose 1–2 questions that will lead to the greatest discussion in your group.

1. Based on what you just read, what activities seem most important to Jesus?

2. The activities Jesus mentions are not usually considered acts done "for God," yet he says, "Whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." What do you think is Jesus' main point here?

3. Christians tend to narrowly define acts of worship as deeds done within a church building. As a group, redefine what it looks like to worship God with our time.

CASE STUDY

Use the following case study as a model for a real-life situation where you might put this week's Key Idea into practice.

Cici is a busy woman. Her first job involves taking care of her three children and husband. When she isn't kissing boo-boos, refereeing fights between siblings, and looking for ways to encourage her spouse, she designs websites for small businesses.

Recently, a family of five with no mother moved in next door. The dad works long, odd hours. So the kids are left to care for themselves most of the time. She senses that God put them in her life for a reason, but fear has held her back. She worries that spending time with them will force her to neglect other areas of her life.

Using the Key Applications from this session, what could you say or do to help Cici? (If needed, refer to your video notes for a reminder of this session's Key Applications.)

CLOSING PRAYER

Close your time together with prayer. Share your prayer requests with one another. Ask God to help you put this week's Key Idea into practice.

VIDEO NOTES ANSWER KEY

hours / all / offer / ways / business / offering