



Time Flies (But You're the Pilot!)

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P_{review}

God has given you something so valuable a billionaire can't buy it: the gift of time. You have the choice to waste or invest it.

Go around the group sharing your favorite and least favorite ways to spend a Saturday.

P_{raise}

Thank God for someone who's invested time in you. It could be a relative, a neighbor, a friend, or the cafeteria lady—anyone whose sacrifice of time has affected you in a positive way.

P_{arable}

What if eternity lasted a million years and you lived to be a hundred? Eternity would be ten thousand times longer than your life! But think about this: Most people *don't* live a hundred years, and eternity is a million years multiplied by *infinity*. That means your life takes up a microscopic fraction of eternity—like a speck of sand against the backdrop of a vast universe. Does this mean your life is too insignificant to matter? No way! The fact that life is so fleeting makes it all the more valuable.

By the end of today, you'll have used up 1,440 minutes of your life. Make those minutes count!

P_{resent}

Time management isn't about cramming your day with activity. It's about doing what's necessary to accomplish God's desires for your life. How do you know God cares about how you use your life? In **Ephesians 5:15-16**, we're told to live wisely, making the most of every opportunity in these evil times. God is the owner of time and eternity. He's given you a small piece of that to manage, and He has high hopes that you will manage it wisely.

Imagine this: The owner of a pizza chain visits one of his stores. He walks through the door, and no one's working the front counter. Napkins and paper cups litter the floor, the employees are all in the game room, and the place smells like dirty gym socks. Who do you think will be held responsible? The manager has been entrusted with the care of this store, and he will have to answer to its condition. (See also **Matthew 25:14-30**.)



In the same way, we will have to answer to God for how we've used our lives. **Matthew 6:33** has great advice: Put God first! You'll never regret time spent in prayer and Bible study. If you need an example of a great time manager, look to Jesus. He made time for prayer, for day-to-day responsibilities, and for being with people and ministering to their needs.

Most of us could spend less time warming the living room couch and more time involved in constructive activities. Your walk with God should be of utmost importance, but you should also consider your talents and goals. Do you want to be a chef? Spend a little extra time in the kitchen. Want to be an airplane pilot? Find out all you can about aviation. Do you play in your church's youth band? By all means, spend some extra time practicing. Invest time in your God-given goals and dreams.

Finally, remember that everybody needs some downtime. God never intended for us to race around from activity to activity like the Energizer bunny on a sugar high. He created the earth in six days and rested the seventh just to illustrate that rest is good. But remember, six days out of the seven, God worked. That means He spent 85.7% of His week being productive.

Pactice

1. Read **Colossians 3:17** and **Ecclesiastes 9:10**. How can these verses be applied to time management?
2. What are some time-wasters you struggle with? How can you limit those activities?
3. Think about how you spend your time outside of school. If this pattern continues, where will you be in a month? In a year? In five years? Will you be closer to reaching your goals?

Pray

Thank You, God, for the precious gift of life. Show us how to make the most of our lives. Reveal to us the things that consume too much of our time. Thank You for the plans You have for those who surrender their lives to You.

Plus

This week, make it a point to do something extra meaningful every day. This could be as simple as washing the dishes without being asked, working on an assignment that you'd normally put off, or volunteering to help out at your church.