

Conversation Starters

- What would you do if you had one month to live?
- How are you living your life?

Discuss

Time with loved ones is one of the most important things we can do. Sadly, we do not always give family the time they need, even when we really want to. We spend it on many other things that are not as important. We struggle to prioritize and be disciplined to stick to family commitments. The Bible challenges us to use our time wisely, for we can never get it back.

*"Teach us to number our days and recognize how few they are; help us to spend them as we should."
(Psalm 90:12, LB)*

- What is most important to you in life?
- What is keeping you from living how you really want to?
- How important is your family to you?

Doing time with family starts with finding the time – for both quantity and quality. It can be tempting to say that you don't have it and life is so hectic at the moment, but the truth is that no matter what stage of life you are in, it will always be frantic and there will always be things or people competing for your time. But we always seem find time for what we want to do. We just may be choosing to spend it in other ways. We need to be intentional about planning family time if we are going to do it.

"It is senseless for you to work so hard from early morning until late at night, fearing you will starve to death...children are a gift from the Lord." (Psalm 127: 2, 3a; LB)

- Do you plan your days and weeks regularly?
- What tends to compete with family time?
- Are you choosing family over other things? Or choosing other things over family?

After we find the time for family, it is equally important to fill that time so that you are truly building community, not just doing things that give you no room to interact with each other. Have meaningful conversation, or do things that display your love for each other, and create memories that will last a lifetime.

- How is the time with your family currently spent?
- Do you know what each member of your family enjoys?
- What new things can your family try to build stronger community?

Next Steps

Every day time starts and you get to choose what to do with it...but you can't get it back, so it's important to choose wisely what we do with our time. How are you spending it? Set aside an hour this week to look at your life goals, with special attention to your family. Then, plan how and when you will achieve those goals. What would a family day look like for your family?

Intentional Parenting (Rocky River)

When: Every Thursday, from 01/31/2019 to 03/07/2019, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Register: <https://www.mecklenburg.org/event/1206684-2019-02-07-intentional-parenting-rocky-river/>

"Doing Family" Discussion Group (Lake Norman)

When: Every Thursday, from 02/07/2019 to 02/28/2019, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Lake Norman Campus, 170 Joe Knox Avenue, Mooresville, NC US 28117

Register: <https://www.mecklenburg.org/event/1284387-2019-02-07-doing-family-discussion-group-lake-norman/>

Parenting with a Mission (North Charlotte)

When: Every Monday, from 03/18/2019 to 04/01/2019, 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: North Charlotte Campus, 8335 Browne Road Charlotte, Charlotte, NC US 28269

Register: <https://www.mecklenburg.org/event/803987-2019-04-01-parenting-with-a-mission/>

Further Reflection

See Psalm 90:12; Ecclesiastes 7:2,4a; Ephesians 5:15-16; Psalm 68:6; Psalm 127:2,3a.

Pray

God, thank you for family and for the example of community that you give to us. We may not always give the time we should to our family, but it is important. Helps us to see our life and the time that we have as we should, and to use it as you would want us to.