



## “How to Schedule Margin”

Margin Series

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Margin is the **AMOUNT AVAILABLE** beyond what is **NECESSARY**.

- It's the difference between what you **HAVE** & what you **NEED**.
- *"Be very careful, then, how you live-not as unwise but as wise, making the most of every opportunity, because the days are evil. Therefore do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is." Ephesians 5:15-17*
- There is a pull away from the **MOST** important things to the **LESSER** important things of this world.
- A better question to ask when it comes to our scheduling is not “Is it right?” or “Is it wrong?” or “Is it free?”
  - The better question to ask is, “Is it **WISE**?”
  - Answer the following: “In light of \_\_\_\_\_ decision I have to make, is it wise?”

*"Your life is a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes." James 4:14*

- We must learn to say **NO** to many **GOOD** things, so that we can say **YES** to the **BEST** things.

*"Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your **mind**." Romans 12:2*

- **BUSYNESS** does not equal **PRODUCTIVITY**.
  - Just because you **COULD** do something doesn't mean you **SHOULD** do something.

There are 2 things that are important to your success & relationship with God, but as soon as margin is squeezed out of your life, 2 important ingredients are also squeezed out of your life:

- 1) **INTIMATE** time with God.
  - *"But seek **first** his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well." Matthew 6:33*
- 2) Intentional times of **REST**
  - *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, I will give you **rest**. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find **rest for your souls**." Matthew 11:28-29*

### **C3 Group Questions**

**Accountability:** Were you at church on Sunday to grow & learn? Did you read/listen to the Bible & pray this week on a regular basis? If so, share what stood out to you in your time with God?

**Ice Breaker:** Growing up, did your parents have margin in their life?

**Review:** What one thing stood out to you (either helpful, insightful or troubling) from the weekend's message?

#### **Group Discussion:**

Read Ephesians 5:15-17. Paul encourages us in these verses to be wise in how we use our time so that we can make the most of every opportunity. In order to make the most of our limited time on earth, we should ask the question "In light of \_\_\_\_\_, is it wise?" before making decisions about your schedule.

- What would you put in the blank when asking that question? Is it your goals, your family's needs, your marriage, your relationship with God or something else? Explain.

Read Romans 12:1-8. Paul instructs us in this passage to follow God's plan for our lives in using the gifts He gave us instead of falling into the patterns of this world. The "normal" pattern of today's society is busyness, meaning that if we're not busy we're not productive.

- What things in your life are keeping you too busy? How is that busyness affecting all areas of your life?
- Describe a time when you said, "no" to something good that ultimately allowed you to say "yes" to God's best?
- What are the things in your life that you value most? Does the way you use your time reflect those values? Why or why not?

Read Matthew 6:33 & Matthew 11:28-29. When we are weary from the busyness of life, Jesus encourages us in these passages to focus on what matters most – spending intimate time with God & finding rest in Him.

- How important is your intimate time with God?
- How does that time impact your daily life?

How can this group pray for you this week? Who in this group can you pray for this week?

**Next Steps:** (*"Do not merely listen to the word.....Do what it says."* James 1:22)

- What major changes will you make starting now that will allow you to create margin for things you value most in life?