

# Small Group Questions

Small groups and individuals can use these questions to engage the content of Sunday sermons.



February 13-27, 2022

## Entrusted: Time, Talent, & Treasure

As the people of God, we are called to steward the things that have been entrusted to us – our time, talent, and treasure. But what does it mean to think of these resources as gifts given by God instead of the exclusive products of our hard work and privilege? How are we supposed to use these gifts for God's kingdom?

*Whatever your task, put yourselves into it, as done for the Lord and not for your masters, since you know that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward; you serve the Lord Christ. – Colossians 3:23-24*

**Week 1: February 13, 2022**

**Time**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 and Galatians 6:9-10**

### Connect:

What would you do if you had an extra 3 hours a day? What keeps you from making these longings a priority?

### Engage:

For the ancients, there was little time for leisure. Most worked from dawn to dusk six days a week. Sabbath-keeping, stopping all work for a day of rest, reminded the Jews that God gave time as a gift: for productivity and for renewal.

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-15 and Galatians 6:9-10

1. The poem in Ecclesiastes begins with a pair of seasons in the exclusive hands of God – a time to be born and a time to die. The remaining couplets are within the realm of human choice and response. Do you think there are seasons that we as humans should prevent or avoid? Are there seasons of life that we should cultivate?
2. The author writes that God has given humans a sense of the past and future but that the ultimate purposes of God remain a mystery. While the particulars remain veiled, what does our faith tell us about God's purpose for humanity?
3. In Galatians 6:9-10, Paul encourages believers to use their time for the sake of others. How does one not grow weary from the demands of loving and caring for your neighbor?

### Apply

Time is a universal resource that is available to all. It can be wasted or spent wisely, but it can never be saved or returned to you. Even so, the challenge is that we never seem to have enough of it.

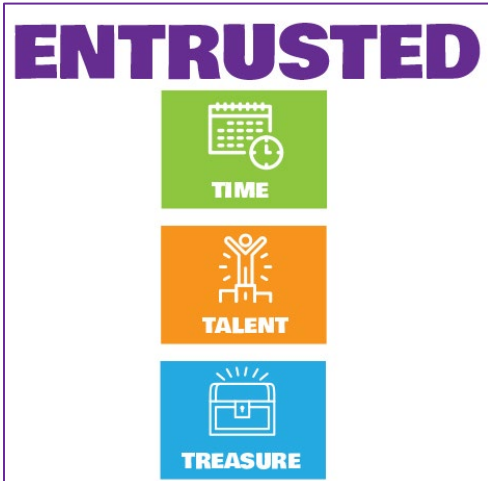
How should we steward our time, our choices, our responses in light of God's overall purposes?

### Pray

Share joys and concerns and pray for one another, the church, and the world.

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**Week 2: February 20, 2022**

**Talent**

**Micah 6:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11**

### Connect:

Presbyterian theologian Frederick Buechner suggests that "the place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet." What is your deepest gladness, passion, or gifts? How could your gifts contribute to addressing the world's deep need?

### Engage:

Read Micah 6:8 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

1. The Micah passage suggests a three-fold approach to living a godly life. Why do you suppose the author chose these three qualities to top the list? How does this square with the teachings of Jesus?
2. How do you think Paul wanted the Corinthians to use their spiritual gifts?
3. Notice the balance between unity and diversity in the Corinthians passage. If using our gifts for just and kind relationships with each other and walking humbly with God, what core values of the Christian community should be apparent?

### Apply

All of us have been blessed with gifts and talents that we use for family and work life.

How are we supposed to share these gifts for God's greater good? How will you?

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**Week 3: February 27, 2022**

**Treasure**

**Mark 12:41-44 and Matthew 23:23**

### Connect:

Growing up, was money seen as something in short supply or abundance? How do you think that impacts your view of giving to charity or the church?

### Engage:

A tithe is a certain amount of one's income set aside for God, usually a 10 percent gift. Leviticus 17:30, 32 says, "All tithes from the land, whether the seed from the ground or the fruit from the tree, are the Lord's; they are holy to the Lord. . . All tithes of herd and flock, every tenth one that passes under the shepherd's staff, shall be holy to the Lord." These gifts were a reminder that everything belonged to God and a portion was given back to God as thanks for what they received.

Read [Mark 12:41-44](#) and [Matthew 23:23](#)

1. What do you suppose compelled the widow to give all she had to the Temple Treasury?
2. Why do you think Jesus commends her behavior to his disciples? What did she demonstrate about her faith in God? Are there other teachings of Jesus that give light to her dedication and trust?
3. Matthew records this warning about the dangers of conformity to the tithing command while not keeping our priorities straight. What does this suggest about our attitudes about tithing? How should our "tithes" square with our commitments to love others justly and mercifully?

### Apply

Money is something Jesus talked about a lot! He saw money as a gift from God whereas we often see money as the product of our hard work. God barely fits into our equation. But when you see your resources as a gift and not an entitlement, it opens you up to be generous.

How can being good stewards of financial resources help you grow as a follower of Jesus?

### Pray

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