

### QUIET TIME

#### Theme: Priorities

- Try to make a specific time every day to meet Jesus Christ through reading and meditating his Word.
- Pray, talk with Jesus Christ and make a few short notes about this Bible passage in your notebook.
- Record what you discover, what speaks to your mind and heart, what you find difficult or what you understand.

- Day 1 Mark 8:34-38  
Prerequisites for every Christian
- Day 2 1 Timothy 3:4-7  
Prerequisites for every Christian leader (elder)
- Day 3 Deuteronomy 6:4-9  
Responsibilities for the family
- Day 4 Colossians 3:18-4:1  
Rules for the family and work
- Day 5<sup>BS</sup> 1 Timothy 4:1-16  
Instructions to young Christians
- Day 6 Titus 2:1-8  
Instructions to various groups of Christians
- Day 7 2 Timothy 2:1-7 and 22  
Instructions to Christian who want to serve Jesus Christ
- Day 8 1 Thessalonians 4:1-8  
Rule for the relationship between a man and a woman
- Day 9 1 Kings 18:21-38  
Who is God really?
- Day 10 Ecclesiastes 3:1-17  
There is a time for everything
- Think about 1 Peter 5:7.  
The proper place for your anxiety
  - Pray every day for someone or something specific and wait in expectation for what God is going to do (Psalm 5:3).

### STUDY

#### Theme: Priorities of a Christian

Read study 33 carefully before the next meeting. If you have questions, write them down and mail them to one of your group leaders. We will seek an answer together.

### BIBLE STUDY

#### Theme: Instructions to young Christians

If you like, you may already prepare the Bible Study for the coming meeting by reading through the Bible passage. Make use of the 5-step Bible Study method. The Bible passage is: **1 Timothy 4:1-16**

### MEMORISATION

#### 1. Motivation

Jesus memorised Bible verses (Luke 4:4-13). Are you doing that?

#### 2. Memorisation

Memorise this verse in the Bible version of your choice.

#### THE HIGHEST PRIORITY

##### Mark 12:30

Love the Lord your God with all your heart  
and with all your soul  
and with all your mind  
and with all your strength.

##### Mark 12:30(NIV)

#### 3. Review and back-review

*Review* the last 5 memorised verses once every day and back-review all other memorised verses once every three weeks.

## 33. Priorities of a Christian

**What should the ‘priorities’ of a Christian be? Which areas of life does God regard as most important? And what does God say about what he regards as important in each of these most important areas?**

### 1. What is a priority?

‘A priority’ is a matter, task or activity which is more important than another and thus should take precedence in being carried out.

### 2. Which areas in your life does God regard as very important?

The Bible teaches clearly which areas in life are very important to God. They are: your work (study), your family, your ministry in God’s kingdom (task in the congregation and society) your own development (personality, character, health, sport, relaxation, etc.) and your personal relationship to God (spiritual growth).

These 5 areas are all very important. *There is however no fixed order (rank) of importance for these 5 areas.*

As a Christian you see to it that you give the right priority, attention and time to each one of these areas.

Assignment: *Discover for yourself the following as you read this study:*  
What does God regard as the most important areas in life?  
What should receive precedence in each of these most important areas? Read the following Bible verses:

### THE FIVE MOST IMPORTANT AREAS IN YOUR LIFE

#### 1. Your work (or education at school, college, etc., your profession)

*What is important in the area of your work (study, profession)?*

*Read 2 Thessalonians 3:10. You must work in order to maintain yourself and your family.*

*Read 1 Timothy 6:8. You must be content when you earn the real necessities of life – food and clothing.*

*Which boundaries does God set for your work?*

The Bible teaches that all the other important areas in your life may not be neglected because you are spending all your time and energy in earning a living.

*Read Mark 8:36. Do not lose your soul by spending your whole life on your work or career!*

*Read Proverbs 23:4-5. Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Have the wisdom to show restraint in how much time and energy you spend on your work. Reserve some of your time and energy for the other important areas of your life. The other important areas in life may not suffer loss.*

*How does your personal relationship with God relate to your work?*

*Read Luke 10:38-42. Quiet time. Make time for personal*

*fellowship with Jesus Christ before you start your work. Read Exodus 23:12; Leviticus 23:3; Mark 3:4. Day of rest. Take at least one day out of every seven days to rest from your work, to get refreshed, to meet God together with other Christians, to do good works and to save lives.*

*Read Psalm 127:1-2. Dependence. Be dependent on God for wisdom, strength, influence and results in your work. Read Proverbs 16:3; Colossians 3:23. Motive. Do all your work as if for the Lord and not for men. Then it can never fail.*

*Read Acts 5:29. Priority. Give to God the highest loyalty within your work, even if you have to resist the evil demands of your boss.*

*How does your ministry relate to your work?*

*Read Colossians 3:22-4:1. Do honourable work and respect authority.*

*Read 1 Timothy 3:7. Produce excellence within your work and gain a good reputation with the people at your work. Your service for God in the world is as important as your service for God in the congregation. A good reputation at your work is a prerequisite for (later) leadership in the church.*

*Read Matthew 6:31-33. Advance God’s kingdom and righteousness by means of your work and at your working place.*

#### 2. Your family

*What is important in your family?*

*Read Colossians 3:18-21; (Ephesians 5:22-6:4).*

*Relationship rules. Obey the God-given rules for every family.*

*How does your personal relationship with God relate to your family?*

*Read Matthew 10:37. Priority. Give to God the highest loyalty within your family, even above your dearest family members.*

*How does your work relate to your family?*

*Read 2 Corinthians 12:14; 1 Timothy 5:4,8. Work to provide and take care of all the genuine needs of your family (grandparents, parents, single dependent members).*

*How does your ministry relate to your family?*

*Read Deuteronomy 6:5-7. Give the Bible a central place in your family. Study and discuss the Bible together. Apply its truths.*

*Read Ephesians 5:22-33. Develop your marriage relationship and make it an example of love, acceptance and service.*

*Read Ephesians 6:4. Bring your children up in the training and instruction of the Lord, that is, in the knowledge and application of the truths in the Bible.*

*Read Luke 2:52. Develop all the important areas of life in your children.*

Read Proverbs 23:22-25. Teach your children *obedience and respect*, truth, wisdom, righteousness, etc.

Read Mark 10:29-30. *Priority*. Obey Jesus Christ whenever he calls you to serve him for a shorter or longer period of time.

Read 1 Timothy 3:4-5,12. *Priority*. The proper management of your family is more important than a management or leadership task within the church.

### 3. Your ministry (special tasks for God)

*What is important in your ministry?*

Read Mark 10:45.

*Follow Jesus in being a servant*. The real meaning of life is serving other people for the sake of Jesus Christ.

*How does your personal relationship with God relate to your ministry?*

Read John 15:5. *Priority*. Develop your personal relationship with Jesus Christ. This has a higher priority than your ministry activities, because without a personal relationship with Christ, there will be no genuine or lasting fruit (a positive contribution, significance, transformation, development in your own life and that of others).

*What is your ministry within the congregation?*

Read John 4:23-24. *Worship* God in truth and in Spirit.

Read John 13:14-15. *Serve* God by serving people, especially in tasks that no one else is willing or able to do.

Read John 13:34-35. Develop *relationships* of love, because they are more important than executing activities and programmes.

Read Ephesians 4:12-16. *Making disciples and equipping workers*. Make all the Christians in your congregation disciples of Jesus Christ and equip them for different kinds of service or ministry that build up the Body of Christ.

*What is your ministry outside the congregation?*

Read 2 Corinthians 2:14-16; 3:2-3. *Influence*. Be a person that continually has good influence on the people around you.

Read Matthew 10:32-33. *Witnessing*. Witness for Christ, preach the gospel and teach the truths of the Bible to others.

Read James 1:27; 2:15-17. *Mercy*. Take part in a ministry of mercy to the poor, oppressed, etc. people in the world.

### 4. Your personal wellbeing and development

*What is most important in your personal development?*

Read Mark 8:34-38. *Self-denial*: deny yourself, take up your cross every day and follow Christ.

Read Mark 12:31. *Love*: grow in love for God, for others and for yourself. Love yourself as Christ loves you. If you do not love yourself, you cannot love others people! You have not only been created by God, but also created in his image. You are not simply 'somebody', but somebody very precious in God's eyes (Isaiah 43:4). That is why God does not want you to despise yourself, but have respect for

yourself (you are made by God)! You can do this practically by developing yourself in several areas of life.

Read Psalm 101:3; 141:3-4.

*Eyes, mouth and heart*. Guard your eyes, mouth and heart.

*What contributes to your wellbeing and personal development?*

Read Psalm 16:2; 73:25. *Spiritual welfare*: Besides God there is no 'good'. Desire nothing besides God.

Read 1 Timothy 4:7-8. *Spiritual welfare*: training in godliness is more important than physical training (fitness, sport).

Read Ephesians 5:2. *Emotional welfare*: walk in love.

Read Psalm 34:18. *Emotional welfare*: Let God take care of your brokenness (hurts, weaknesses, failures, losses in life) and the results of a broken family (by divorce, of your parents or the death of a parent).

Read Proverbs 9:10. *Intellectual welfare*: knowledge of God and trust in God is the beginning of wisdom and understanding.

Read Proverbs 3:5-6 (Ephesians 5:10,17). *Intellectual welfare*: test whether something is true or not. Find out what pleases the Lord. Discover God's will. Let go of all negative thoughts and love God with all your mind (Mark 12:30-31).

Read 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. *Physical welfare*: honour God with your body – your health, fitness and appearance.

Read 1 Corinthians 15:33. *Social welfare*: avoid bad company, because it corrupts your good character.

Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11. *Social welfare*. Encourage one another and accept the encouragement and compliments of others.

Read 1 Peter 2:11. *Moral welfare*: abstain from sinful desires, because they war against your soul. Break with every form of sexual immorality (pornography, masturbation, sex before marriage, etc.).

Read Exodus 31:3-5. *Abilities*: develop your God-given abilities and be creative.

Read Ephesians 5:15-16 (Matthew 25:15): *Opportunities (challenges)*: make good use of your God-given opportunities (chances).

Read Romans 5:3-5 (James 1:2-4). *Trials and sufferings*: develop perseverance, maturity and character.

*How does your ministry relate to your personal development?*

Read Luke 16:10. Whoever is *faithful and trustworthy* with little will be faithful and trustworthy with much.

Read 2 Corinthians 10:18; Philippians 2:22. Your assigned tasks are tested. When *approved* you will be commended.

*How does your work relate to your personal development?*

Read Proverbs 12:3. *Unshakeable*. The wicked (corrupt) cannot be established, but the righteous cannot be uprooted.

How does your family relate to your personal development? Read Proverbs 15:22; 19:20. *Wisdom*: ask and consider the advice of your family and other counsellors. This makes you wise.

### 5. Your personal relationship with God

What is important in your personal relationship to God? Read John 15:5-8; Revelation 2:4-5. *Christ*. Put Christ first and remain in him. This is how you bear fruit for eternity. All else will fail!

Read Colossians 2:6-7. *Obedience*. Make Christ the Lord (King, Master) of your life. Live and grow as a Christian. Read Colossians 3:16; Matthew 7:24-27. *Word*. Acquire God's Word in abundance and apply it diligently. Read through the Bible once a year. Meditate a Bible verse or truth every morning during your quiet time. Memorise a Bible verse regularly. Give much time to do Bible study. Participate every year in a Bible study group or discipleship group. Apply the words of the Bible in your own life and pass the truths of the Bible on to other people. Read Matthew 7:7-8. *Prayer*. Start praying and ask God specific things. Seek the truth in the Bible when you pray. Never stop to pray (keep on knocking on God's door). Read Hebrew 10:24-25. *Fellowship*. Regularly meet with other Christians for fellowship and learning. Meet in a worship service once a week. Meet in a small group (house fellowship or house church) once a week. Encourage one another to participate. Do not be afraid of the authorities who try to stop you.

Read John 15:16. *Fruit bearing*. Take the initiative to bear fruit for Christ in the lives of other people. Jesus chose you to take the initiative to bear fruit in other peoples' lives by telling them the good news, by helping them to grow to mature believers and by shaping their characters.

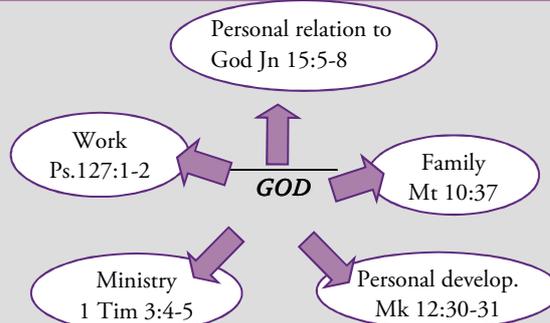
### GOD IS THE HIGHEST PRIORITY IN EVERY AREA OF LIFE!

Read Matthew 4:10. Worship God and serve him only. All the above-mentioned Bible passages show that God wants you to keep him in the centre of every area of your life! The Bible also teaches that God wants to determine your priorities every day. He knows what is best for you! In some situations he may regard your studies more important than your activities in the congregation. At other times he may regard your personal development more important than your studies. But God always desires that you give enough time to the other very important areas of your life. You may not neglect your priorities!

GOD himself is the only permanent priority in every area of your life! He desires to show you every day what should receive priority in each of the five most important areas of life. Therefore, no human devised priority list should determine what you give your life, time and energy to. It is rather GOD himself who should determine in any particular situation what you give your life, time and energy to. God longs to reign over your life through his Word and the Holy Spirit in your heart.

### THERE IS A TIME FOR EVERYTHING

God is the sovereign King over each area of your life!  
Let God tell you each day what he wants you to give your life, time and energy to.



How do you maintain the right balance between these five priority areas and the other urgent things in your life?

How does God view your activities and time?

Read Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, 8:5-6. There is a time for everything! Make sure that you give the proper time and attention to all the important areas in life! Every day give a little time to the matters that are not so important, but nevertheless thrust themselves upon you.

What does God teach you about fulfilling your task?

Read Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:7.

Paul fulfilled the task which God entrusted to him.

Read Mark 13:34; 1 Corinthians 3:5; Colossians 4:17.

Christians. God has assigned to each Christian a task. He has also given to Christians 24 hours each day to finish his God-given task. How can this be done?

Read Mark 1:35; John 17:4.

Jesus. Although Jesus did not heal every sick person and did not preach the gospel to the whole world, he completed the work that God gave him to do.

How did Jesus fulfil his task?

Jesus did not have a set list of activities to finish every day. As he was used to do, Jesus prayed and waited for God's instructions and power to accomplish those instructions. In his daily fellowship with God, Jesus learned to discern God's will and also to differentiate between matters that thrust themselves upon him as urgent and matters that were really important. In this way he warded off *the urgent* and accomplished *the important*.

How does God help you with determining your priorities?

How can God help you to spend the right amount of time and energy on the important things in life and find the right balance between all these important areas?

Read Acts 22:10; Psalm 32:8. Pray at the beginning of each day about the activities of that day.

Read Isaiah 30:1-2; Proverbs 3:5-6; 16:3. Involve God in everything you do.