Series Road Map

**Series Overview:** Generosity Initiative: First. What it really is to give your FIRST and BEST to God and how we do that with our Time, Talents, and Treasures.

**Week Overview:** How can we possibly grow our relationship with God without spending quality time with him? And are we being generous with the time that we have by using it to serve?

**Grab the Room (Intro):** Stats on time usage? Time Trivia? (How many seconds in x, how many minutes in x) Both?

**Tension (whats the struggle):** Life is busy… so is your time with God an afterthought or priority?

**Text (+ Supporting Text):**

**THP**: **Your time is both desired and required.**

**Application (call to action)**: Challenge to Devotional Time (Journey Devos?) and Present Serving Options

Key

Scripture - highlighted yellow

Illustration/Video/Object Lesson

Personal Story

It is week 2 of First… And we are talking about about time…

Last week we got started talking about what it really means to give our First and our Best. And we could talk about any number of things that fit into those categories. You could literally take any area of your life and you could pick something that is the First or the Best about it… We have Best friends. You know who your first phone call… well, message or snap is going to go to when something is going on in your life. You know which parent you call first when you need something… You know who your best teacher is. If you like to cook you know your best dish. If you play sports you know what your best shot is and what you’ll do first if you get the ball…

(When I was in middle school MySpace was the first social media that most of us had and we would literally rank our friends from 1-10 on our homepage… I had to pick my first friend for other people to see… it literally makes no sense now as an adult… but we did it…)

But this week we want to talk about your time. Specifically your Best time and what you spend your time on First.

So how much time do you actually have in a week? How often do you consider the amount of time that you have and how you use it?

Is all of your time scheduled for you? Do you use your time efficiently? Is there time that you are leaving on the table when you could be more productive? Do you have time that you KNOW you are wasting right now?

I know that as a High School or a Junior High Student a lot of your day is not necessarily optional activity. And there are a lot of hours that you are committed to do something specific every single week. And you probably wish that you had more time to just do the things you want when you want… But…

The thing about time is that it is a limited resource. We only get so much of it. And there is a lot to cram into the time that we do get.

INSERT TIME USAGE STATISTICS – Make it a trivia game maybe?

Screen time – Prize for highest and lowest

But where does God fit into all of that? A couple hours of life group, if you showed up this week? Maybe you sat with your family in church?

Is that really enough?

We like to think we are really good at “fitting God into” our busy schedules. We keep a devotional by our bed and we read it before we fall asleep… or not. We might say a prayer at lunch. Maybe when we walk into a test we throw up a hail mary.

But for the most part, God is on the calendar in the form of church or life group, just like every other thing that we have going on in our lives. We squeeze in the CREATOR OF THE UNIVERSE… when we have time. We tack on a few minutes with the SAVIOR OF THE WORLD… if we think about it before bed.

Last week we said that YOU… all of you. Everything about you and everything that you do. That is what we should be giving to God because You are the First and the Best that God wants.

And if we can make it through our week without intentionally giving God our time instead of just letting time with God be an afterthought, I don’t think that we can say we are giving Him our best.

And every one of us needs to recognize that (THP) **Your time is both Desired and Required.** This is important… Your time is both Desired… and Required…

God Desires time with you. He, the most powerful being that has and will ever exist. The creator. The Lord. He craves time with you. He sits in waiting for you. He is literally with you wherever you go and is seeking you out always. Jesus tells us that he even gives us his spirit to live in us so that he can have a constant line of communication with you.

God wants to be in relationship with you. And he wants a healthy fruitful relationship with you. And we cannot grow that healthy fruitful relationship without quality time spent together. He desires your time.

In Luke Chapter 10 there is a story about 2 sisters… they hear that Jesus and his disciples are coming into town. Both of these women are excited to have time with Jesus… but they have very different ways to show it.

One sister, Martha gets to work. She rolls up her sleeves, she cleans the house, she makes a dinner, she sets the table, the floors are clean, the vacuuming has been done, the throw pillows are perfectly arranged on the couch, she watered the plants that haven’t been watered in weeks in hopes that they are green again before the guests arrive, she is running through the house telling Alexa to play some new Maverick City songs, everyone had to go and clean their rooms so the guests don’t immediately go check to see if everyone made their bed and put their laundry away…

And the other sister… Mary. She doesn’t do anything except go and sit at the feet of Jesus. Her sister is running around driving herself crazy trying to be a perfect host to Jesus. To God in the flesh… But Mary without ever having to be told, just knew… she just knew that she needed to spend time with Jesus. Before she did anything else. She knew that Jesus just wanted time with us. She knew that God put Jesus here so that we could have time with Him. So that we could learn to sit with God. We could learn to just be in his presence.

Because that’s what he wants from us… right?! He wants to be with us. He wants to spend time with us. He wants our time… BECAUSE HE WANTS US.

1 Thessalonians 5:17 says *“Pray Continually”.* That’s it… just 2 words. Another version says “pray without ceasing.” Another version says “Never stop praying.”

It means that you should be in constant communication with God. That your life should look like prayer. And the only way that you can do that if you are giving Him the time that he desires with you.

And if you want to give him your FIRST and your BEST, then the time you spend with him needs to be planned. It needs to have a purpose. It needs to be consistent. It needs to be full of his word, and worship, and prayer. And you have the opportunity to make it a part of everything that you do with your time each day.

Because not only is your time desired by God… it is Required by our faith.

John 15:1-5 says this: *“I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener.****2****He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+15&version=NIV#fen-NIV-26702a)*] so that it will be even more fruitful.****3****You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you.****4****Remain in me, as I also remain in you. No branch can bear fruit by itself; it must remain in the vine. Neither can you bear fruit unless you remain in me.****5****“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.*

Jesus is speaking here… He calls himself the vine. He means that he is the supply. The is the connection back to the Father. Back to God. And that without an attachment to him, the vine we can’t bear fruit. We can’t grow. And look back at verse 4… “Remain in me”.

He says remain in me just as I remain in you. He says “I’m right here. I am not leaving. I am not changing. I am not going anywhere. And all you have to do is REMAIN IN ME… Spend time with me. Think about me. Know me. And your faith will grow… people will see the fruit that comes with really being in a relationship with me…”

Without the time that we spend with God, we will never know his voice. We won’t have the wisdom that we gain through His Word. We won’t grow in the knowledge of who God is and what He has done for us. We will struggle to reconcile what is going on in the world around us with what God says that he has for us.

It will be difficult to know His plan for us. It will cause us to feel purposeless. It will cause an identity crisis. It will cause separation. Anxiety. Desperation. Suffering…

Our relationship with Him will suffer without the time with God that our faith requires. And we will miss the opportunity to keep the commands that He has for us or live up to the purpose that He has created us for.

In Matthew 6:33 Jesus said that we should “Seek first his kingdom and his righteousness…”

That means that in everything we do. In every single one of those hours that we have in our week, we should be spending time either learning to know him better or serving him. That we should be looking for God. We should be looking for Jesus in everything that we do.

**Your time is both Desired and Required.** And it is your job to recognize that God has been generous to us beyond all measure. And if we truly want to give Him our First and Best we are going to have to give him the first and best of our time.

Close with Journey Devo Push

(“Start with making a commitment a small commitment with your time”)