

MARGIN: Time

August 7-8, 2010

Sabbath is God's space between the activities of life.

Sabbath: "to cease from work"

God creates time.

"Show me, O LORD, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath." (Psalm 39:4-5)

God limits time.

"Man's days are determined; you have decreed the number of his months and have set limits he cannot exceed." (Job 14:5)

God creates Sabbath.

By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work. And God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it He rested from all the work of creating that He had done. (Genesis 2:2-3)

"Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your children, nor your servants, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates." (Exodus 20:8-10)

Sabbath is a blessing from God.

"The Sabbath was made for people, not people for the Sabbath." (Jesus, Mark 2:27)

Sabbath is a witness to our faith.

Then the LORD said to Moses, "Say to the Israelites, 'You must observe my Sabbaths. This will be a sign between me and you for the generations to come, so you may know that I am the LORD, who makes you holy.'" (God, Exodus 31:12-13)

Sabbath creates time for God to work for me.

On the sixth day, they gathered twice as much—two omers for each person—and the leaders of the community came and reported this to Moses. He said to them, "This is what the LORD commanded: 'Tomorrow is to be a day of rest, a holy Sabbath to the LORD. So bake what you want to bake and boil what you want to boil. Save whatever is left and keep it until morning.'" (Exodus 16:22-23)

God's Promise

"If you keep your feet from breaking the Sabbath and from doing as you please on my holy day, if you call the Sabbath a delight and the LORD's holy day honorable, and if you honor it by not going your own way and not doing as you please or speaking idle words, then you will find your joy in the LORD, and I will cause you to ride on the heights of the land and to feast on the inheritance of your father Jacob." The mouth of the LORD has spoken. (Isaiah 58:13-14)

Morning Star Church
Devotional Guide
Margin: Time
August 9-13, 2010

Message Synopsis: Pastor Mike continued our *Margin* series by challenging us to look at what we do with our time. Many people say these things about time: *I have no time. I don't have enough time. It's okay; we have plenty of time. I'm out of time. I need to borrow some time.* Mike taught us to be aware that one of the spiritual realities of our life is that time doesn't even belong to us. The truth is we are only stewards of time, and all of us have only a limited amount. He also showed us how God wants to teach us how to use His gift of time.

So teach us to number our days, that we may get us a heart of wisdom.
Psalm 90:12, Amplified Bible

Day 1 **Time is Limited for Us**
Psalm 39:5; James 4:13-14

1. Did you watch the World Cup recently? There's an interesting phenomena in soccer called "stoppage time," which is when the referee adds on time to the end of the game for injuries and the like. Have you noticed that many people live as if they will have *stoppage time*—they sincerely believe that they have time? How have you seen this?
2. What are some of the factors that determine how your time is spent?

Day 2 **Determining Your Schedule**
Proverbs 27:1; Matthew 6:25-27

1. Do you think Jesus would have carried a beeper or a cell phone? Would Mary and Martha have texted Him when Lazarus was dying? What did He have to say about our hectic preoccupation with schedules?
2. Respond to this statement: "*At the end of the day, or month, or year, when we control our time we tend to allow the urgent to take the place of the important.*"

Day 3 Creating Margin in Our Time

Psalm 90:1-12 (see verse 12 in the Amplified Bible); Job 14:5

1. These verses about the reality that God alone controls time and our lives are sobering. Do you believe that God controls time? If you knew you had six months to live, would you pray? What does that teach you about who controls time?
2. According to Psalm 90:12, we get wisdom when we do a certain thing. What is it? Do you believe this is true? Would this question help you in planning the use of your time: *What is the wisest thing to do?*

Day 4 Surrendering to the Master Timekeeper

Ephesians 5:15-17; Matthew 6:31-33.

1. Why do we tend to overlook God as the resource for wisdom for our schedules? How would you go about surrendering to God control of your schedule?
2. Andy Stanley says, "Your capacity is not determined by what you can cram into your schedule and your life. Priority determines capacity." Would Jesus agree?

Day 5 Time Priorities

Isaiah 50:4; Psalm 63:1-8

1. Someone said, "We jump at the alarm of a Seiko but sleep through the call of the Almighty." If you made time alone with God a priority, what kind of insight would you gain?
2. What might be different if your habit was to spend the first few moments of each day with God?

Morning Star Church
Small Group Discussion Guide
Margin, Time
August 9-13, 2010

Group Icebreaker

During this week's message, Pastor Mike talked about "blue laws," a reference to a time when few places of business were open on Sundays. Does anyone in your small group remember the days of "blue laws"? If so, share memories about what that was like and how things have changed. Or if you do not remember "blue laws," discuss what it might have been like to live in such a day.

Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, neither you, nor your son or daughter, nor your manservant or maidservant, nor your animals, nor the alien within your gates.

Exodus 20:8-10

1. Pastor Mike quoted Louie Giglio, who speaks about "working tirelessly and resting furiously." What would this look like in your life?
2. Pastor Mike shared that Sabbath is God's space between the activities of life. Does God have space to act in your world? How do you provide room for God to bless you? In what ways do you create time for God to work for you?
3. Pastor Mike mentioned a quote from Ben Patterson: "Seven days without rest makes one **weak**." Do you really believe that your work will be more fruitful if you take a day off? Does anyone in your small group have a testimony to share about this topic?
4. What would it look like for God to "call the shots" on how you spend your time? How could this be a witness to your faith?

Prayer Requests