

## Small Group Guide: Prioritizing What Matters Most (Mother's Day 2025)

**Opening Question:** How do you typically handle the pressures and demands of daily life? Do you feel like you're thriving or just surviving most days?

**Opening Prayer:** *Heavenly Father, please guide our conversation and help us receive what You desire to speak to us today. We want to understand how to live out Your truths in our everyday lives. Strengthen our sense of purpose and draw us closer to You and to each other. Thank You for Your presence with us and for this chance to grow in our faith. In Jesus' name, amen.*

### Key Takeaways:

1. Jesus came to give us abundant life—not just in heaven, but here on earth.
2. Three common barriers to finding time for important things: blurred values, unrealistic expectations, and lack of energy.
3. We need to prioritize our lives according to God's will, not just react to external pressures.

### Discussion Questions:

1. Pastor Dan mentioned that “life is shaped by your priorities or by your pressures.” Which of these do you feel shapes your life more often? Why?
2. **Luke 2:49 and John 19:30:** Reflect on how Jesus lived with a clear sense of purpose from a young age. How can you ensure that you are “about your Father's business?”
3. **Proverbs 17:24 and Proverbs 12:11:** What are some examples in your life where you have felt like you were *starting in many directions*? How can you plan your daily activities to ensure they align with what God wants you to focus on, rather than being driven by urgency or pressure?
4. The sermon highlighted the importance of having clear priorities. What are your top 3-5 priorities in life right now? Do your daily actions reflect these priorities?
5. **Proverbs 14:30 and Proverbs 17:22:** How can cultivating a relaxed and cheerful attitude transform your relationships and daily responsibilities? What are some practices you can incorporate to promote a more joyful and relaxed environment in your home or workplace?
6. Pastor Dan said, “God doesn't say that you need more hours or more time. He says you need more of Him in your life.” How can we cultivate more of God's presence in our busy schedules?
7. **Read Matthew 6:33:** Discuss with the group what it means to “seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness.” How can we practically apply the principle of seeking God's kingdom first in our daily lives?
8. **Proverbs 10:27 and Proverbs 14:26:** How does reverence for God impact your daily energy and strength? Share a personal example when putting God first in a situation resulted in increased strength or clarity for you.

## **Practical Applications:**

1. **Time Audit:** For one week, track how you spend your time. At the end of the week, evaluate if your time usage aligns with your stated priorities.
2. **Sabbath Practice:** Implement a regular time of rest and refocusing on God, even if it's just a few hours each week.
3. **Gratitude Challenge:** Each day this week, express specific appreciation to someone in your life (especially family members) who you might take for granted.
4. **Priority List:** Write down your top 5 priorities and place them somewhere visible. Regularly check if your actions align with these priorities.
5. **Stress Relief:** Identify one unrealistic expectation you have for yourself or others. Brainstorm ways to adjust this expectation to reduce stress and increase joy.

**Closing Prayer:** *Lord, help us to seek You first in all areas of our lives. Give us wisdom to prioritize what truly matters and the strength to let go of unrealistic expectations. May we find our energy and purpose in You, trusting that You've given us exactly what we need to fulfill Your will for our lives. Amen.*