



PWOC

Protestant Women of the Chapel

WORKSHOP: PRIORITIES

Compiled by Beth Mills

PARTICIPANT'S GUIDE

RELEVANCE: A leader must be prepared to stay on course. We stay the course by setting key priorities and exercising self-discipline.

INTRO:

Turn to a neighbor and fill in the blank: If I had more time I would _____. You can fill this blank with as much as you'd like. You'll have the opportunity to share some of your responses with the whole group.

KEEPING PRIORITIES IN ORDER:

Consider the following Bible passages in the context of your priorities:

1 Corinthians 9:24

Psalms 37:23-24

John 15:5

Spending time in prayer, worship, and Bible study are essential for your physical and spiritual health, your endurance and excellence in leadership. Prayer is the place where God will bring order to your day, give you creative ideas, and give you peace and wisdom to face whatever you may face in a given day. According to Andrew Murray, "Time spent in prayer will yield more than that given to work....Prayer opens the way for God Himself to do His work in us and through us." You may be saying about now, "Yes, I believe what you're saying, but I'm so busy with everything, I don't have that kind of time to spend in prayer and study. I have kids



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to get to school (or to homeschool), groceries to buy, soccer practice, dance, guitar lessons, dishes, laundry..." and your list goes on.

Do we have enough time? What are your thoughts?

ACTIVITY: Please read the following information. Mark what you most want to remember:

In his book Celebration of Discipline, Richard Foster points out that, "If the Lord is to be Lord, worship must have priority in our lives. The first commandment of Jesus is '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). He goes on to say, "The divine priority is worship first, service second. Our lives are to be punctuated with praise, thanksgiving and adoration. Service flows out of worship. Service as a substitute for worship is idolatry and rooted in pride. Activity may be the enemy of adoration."

Galileo was a man who believed and taught something contrary to beliefs and practices in his day. He believed that the sun, not the earth, was the center of our solar system and that all the planets revolved around it. Placing God, the Son, at the center of our lives, and allowing everything we do to revolve around our relationship with Him, is counter to our culture. Our culture says, "Make decisions based on what's best for me, my likes, my desires. Yes, God is a part of my life, but I am the center." This makes God an appendage to our lives rather than the epicenter. Over and over again, we see God calling us in His word to abide in Him. We live in God and serve out of the overflow of this primary relationship.

How do we do life that revolves around the Son?

- Ask God to set the agenda and guide you through the day.
- Make a habit of praying about new opportunities before giving an answer.
- Serve God in community- with a team.



Consider these questions as the training concludes today:

1. One thing I'd like to remember from this teaching on priorities is:
2. How will I ensure my work *for* God does not replace my relationship *with* God?
3. What are some of the personal benefits you have noticed when you apply and walk out your priorities?
4. From what I've learned today, what can I do to avoid spiritual burnout and to lead from the overflow of God's grace and love?

