

HARD LESSONS IN LIFE: THE WORLD WON'T WAIT FOR YOU

Time is valuable - use it wisely my child

Compiled by Joe Keim and taught in a group setting

1. Opening Thought

Time is one of the most valuable gifts God gives us.

Money can be replaced.

Opportunities can sometimes return.

But once time is gone, you can never get it back.

Many people waste years:

- procrastinating,
- avoiding responsibility,
- waiting for motivation,
- or assuming there will always be more time later.

But life keeps moving.

- The world will not stop and wait for us to catch up.
- Successful people learn to use their time wisely.
- God wants us to live with purpose, discipline, and wisdom.

Learning how to manage time early in life can change your future.

Illustration

Imagine a farmer who refuses to plant seeds during planting season.

Later, when harvest season arrives, he suddenly wants crops.

But it is too late.

Life works much the same way.

The choices we make with our time today affect the harvest we will have tomorrow.

2. Scripture

Ephesians 5:15-16 –

“See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

- God wants us to use our time wisely.
- Wasting time can lead to wasted opportunities.

Example

A student who studies consistently usually has less stress than someone who waits until the last minute.

Proverbs 6:6-8 –

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise...”

- The ant works faithfully and prepares ahead of time.
- God teaches us wisdom through diligence and preparation.

Illustration

Have you ever watched ants on a warm summer day? They move back and forth without stopping, carrying tiny crumbs, leaves, and food to their nest. While the sun is shining and food is easy to find, the ants are already thinking about the cold days ahead. They do not wait until the ground is frozen and the snow begins to fall. By then, it would be too late. Instead, they prepare while they still have time.

In the same way, wise Christians do not wait for hard times before seeking God, reading His Word, praying, and growing in faith. They prepare their hearts now. When trials, temptations, or difficulties come, they are not empty and unprepared. Like the ant, they have already stored up what they need.

The ant teaches us the importance of wisdom, diligence, and preparation. Wise people do not wait for a crisis before turning to God. They walk with Him daily so they are ready when the winter seasons of life come.

Psalm 90:12 –

“So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

- Life is short.
- Knowing that time is limited should help us live more wisely.

Example

Many older adults say:

“I wish I had used my younger years more wisely.”

Colossians 3:23 –

“And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord...”

- Our work, effort, and daily responsibilities matter to God.
- Doing things faithfully honors Him.

Bible Illustration

Joseph worked faithfully wherever he was:

- in his father’s house,
- as a servant,
- in prison,
- and later as a ruler.

He did not waste his seasons of preparation.

3. Discussion Questions

1. Why do people procrastinate or waste time?
 2. What are some common distractions that steal time from young people today?
 3. How can poor time choices affect a person's future?
 4. What is the difference between resting and wasting time?
 5. Why do you think God cares about how we use our time?
 6. What habits help people become more disciplined and productive?
-

4. Practical Examples

- School: Waiting until the night before to study for a test.
- Work: Showing up late or wasting time during responsibilities.
- Phones and social media: Spending hours scrolling without purpose.
- Health: Staying up too late and struggling the next day.
- Spiritual life: Constantly putting off prayer, Bible reading, or church involvement.
- Goals: Talking about dreams without taking action.
- Daily habits: Sleeping too much, avoiding responsibilities, or living without structure.

Real-Life Illustration

Imagine two people given the same amount of money every day.

The first spends it wisely.

The second wastes it carelessly.

After a year, their lives look very different.

Time works the same way.

Every person receives 24 hours each day.

The difference is how those hours are used.

5. Challenge for This Week

Think about one area where you waste too much time.

Finish this sentence:

"This week I will use my time more wisely by _____ instead of _____."

Examples:

- "I will use my time more wisely by going to bed earlier instead of staying up scrolling on my phone."
- "I will use my time more wisely by studying first instead of procrastinating."
- "I will use my time more wisely by spending time with God instead of wasting hours online."
- "I will use my time more wisely by finishing responsibilities before entertainment."

Weekly Action Step

1. Pay attention to where your time goes.
2. Remove one distraction that wastes too much time.
3. Make a simple daily plan.
4. Finish one important task before doing entertainment.

Small daily habits shape your future.

6. Closing Thought

The world will not wait for you.

Time keeps moving whether we are prepared or not.

Wise people learn to use today well instead of always waiting for “someday.”

You do not need to live in panic or pressure.

But you do need to live with purpose.

The way you spend your time today is building the life you will live tomorrow.