

✦ STEWARDSHIP OF TIME ✦



*"Women Arriving at the Tomb" Dr. He Qi. Order prints at [www.heqigallery.com](http://www.heqigallery.com)*

“One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.’”

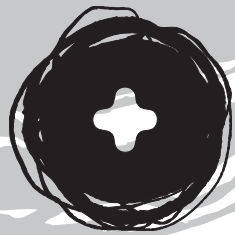
– MARK 12:28-30

HOT TOPICS 8



HOT TOPICS SERIES





# Stewardship: Time

HOT TOPICS 8

*“One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, ‘Which commandment is the first of all?’ Jesus answered, ‘The first is, Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall 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 12:28-30

## USING THIS THEME

The sections provided in this theme are suggested to optimise both your planning and the brain-based learning structure of *Head to the Heart* (H2H). They follow the same basic format as our companion PowerPoint presentations. The majority of the pages included here do not need to be copied for your Guides and small groups—they are to aid you in your preparation. Whether your planning involves this document or the PowerPoint presentation files (or both), this and every H2H theme includes:

- **Opening:** Set the stage for a fun and welcoming event with songs, movement, and energetic learning games.
- **Presentation:** Four main sections are provided to help you build your presentation: Life Line, Images & Analogies, Bible Time and Creative Interruptions. Remember that we give you much more than you should possibly attempt to use, so pick and choose what you think will work best for your setting and audience.
- **Small Group Time:** The key element of the *Head to the Heart* system is small group time, where groups care for one another and process the material from the presentation.
- **Closing:** A time to pray, review the subject, and close with a blessing.
- **Creative Interruptions:** This supplemental section is packed with extra teaching ideas such as skits, music, the FINKmania QuizBowl and various other suggestions.
- **Thought-Time Sheets:** Near the end of this theme are the Thought-Time sheets for your young people. They are designed to be copied on either A3 or A4 paper. A more robust and pre-printed version of the Thought-Time sheets also exist in the *Head to the Heart* journals.
- **Planning Pages:** Plan your event and assign tasks to your helpers.

## THE FOCUS THIS WEEK

Time is a great gift. It's also very easy to waste. So, what does this mean to a teenager today, especially when most young people see their time on earth as infinite? Please get across to your small groups that good use of time does not mean being constantly busy. Setting time aside to talk to God, serve others and recharge can be great ways to strengthen our relationship with God.

**Objective:**  
*To help groups understand that setting time aside to talk to God, serve others and recharge can be great ways to strengthen our relationship with God.*



*In a typical week, the average Australian adult spent 21 hours and 46 minutes watching television.*

— Roy Morgan Research, 2007

## I. OPENING

The opening sets the mood for the entire session, saying, “Something great is going to happen.” Use this time to welcome your small groups and introduce the Theme in a fun and memorable way. Be excited! Have fun! Remind your volunteers to do the same!

### A. Gathering Music

The Master Musician or Music Team kicks the event off with energy. Five to fifteen minutes before gathering time, set the mood of joy and vitality with two or three upbeat, singable, familiar camp/church songs relating to discipleship, taking up a cross, or the “Time” theme. Print the words in large letters or project them overhead so everyone can stay focused up front with hands free to clap. If your group isn’t into singing, play CDs and tapes of favourite contemporary Christian artists mixed with lively Stewardship hymns and songs. **Idea:** Let your senior youth take ownership in choosing and leading the music and actions.

### B. Welcome & Introductions

At the stroke of the hour, the Master Musician or MC stages a countdown “10, 9, 8, 7...” and begins the event (think “event” not “class”). Thank everyone in advance for their attention, make key announcements, and introduce special visitors. If you are celebrating a Servant Event of the Week, highlight the accomplishments of a small group and award a gag prize or travelling trophy. Invite this group to share what they gave and what they received.

### C. FINKmania Quiz Bowl

Invite Guides or young people in small groups forward for a quick preview of the theme using the FINKmania PowerPoint slides or the questions provided. Keep the pace moving on this! **Idea:** Let your senior high or confirmation youth take ownership of this.

### D. Theme Introduction

Introduce the “Time” theme with the Bible verse and the PowerPoint slides. If PowerPoint is not available, create a big poster of a clock and put it on an easel or hang it on the wall. You may also wish to copy some of the quotations found in this theme on posters and place these around the room as well.

### E. Opening Prayer

Invite participants to repeat the words of the theme: “When God has our hearts, God has our time.” Say it aloud three times, then invite them to close their eyes, loosen their neck muscles and take three slow, deep breaths. Whisper the theme words “when God has our hearts” and invite them to respond with “God has our time.” If you aren’t using the PowerPoint slides, play “Take My Life, That I May Be” by Frances Havergal or another traditional stewardship hymn softly in the background while you read the following verses quietly. Pause after each verse to repeat the whisper “when God has our hearts...” as a responsive litany: Psalm 113:2-3, Micah 6:8, Romans 12:1-2. Or, if you prefer, use this prayer from FINK Friend Sherri Harris:

*“Oh God, my times are in your hands...” (Ps 31:15). Take my time and order it to your purpose, Lord. Teach me to lay down my need to be busy as well as my tendency toward mindless, frenzied activity. Help me to shut out the messages of the world that shout to me that I am what I do. Help me to be still and know that you are Lord. Help me to sort through the ‘shoulds’ and listen for your direction. Open me to the wonder of the world around me. Teach me to be fully present and fully available in every moment of time. Help me to approach time as the gift it is—a gift that is with me each and every moment of my life. Amen.”*



## F. Theme Song

Teach the theme song “Love the Lord.” (The song can be found in the PowerPoint slides and via iTunes or Amazon.com search: *Hot Topics: Let No One Despise.*) Create your own actions to help teach the song. Consider using your Bibles as hymnals, highlighting the verse as you sing along.

## II. THEME PRESENTATION

You’ve welcomed your groups and previewed the topic. Now it’s time to present the most engaging presentation you can muster. Use the provided Life Line Images & Analogies, Bible Time, and Creative Interruptions to add punch and dimension. Lecture alone hits only 5% of the capacity of the brain—be visual!

**“QuickPick” Suggestions:** In a time crunch this week? Our favourite teaching suggestions for this lesson are highlighted with a †. If preparation time is tight, look at these pieces first. They should do the trick for a 20-30 minute presentation.

### A. Life Line Story

Invite a person who has given significant thought to the precious nature of time to share his or her experience with your group. Give that person a limited amount of time—five minutes—and then field questions. Some ideas for guests are:

- A person with a terminal illness
- A person who has been in jail
- A person who has cared for a loved one who was dying

### B. Creative Interruption: Skit †

Invite your Theme Team, senior high, Crazy Parents Committee (CPC) or a small group to introduce the theme with your choice of the two skits provided. Delete or hide the slide marquee for the skit that you choose not to use.

### C. Images and Analogies

Choose from two or three (you won’t have time for many more than this) of the following to get your point across. Remember to stop for a Creative Interruption at least once (skit, song, activity, etc.) **Idea:** Take a look at the questions on the Thought-Time sheet to make sure you cover them during your presentation

**1. ART ATTACK:** Refer everyone to the cover art by artist He Qi (pronounced *heh-chee*) located on the Thought-Time sheets or displayed in the included PowerPoint slides. Ask groups to look at the art for a little bit, then ask for volunteers to describe what they see. Can anyone explain in their own words the “story” contained in this beautiful artwork?

**2. 168 GOLF BALLS:** † We only have so much time to spend each week. How are we spending it? According to Roy Morgan Research, in 2007, Australians watched over 87 hours of television per month on average. Is this a good use of the time God gives us?

To illustrate time more clearly, call up a local golf course or driving range and collect 168 golf balls to represent 168 hours in the week (or 168 inches of string). Display the balls up front in a clear punch bowl for all to see. Pull out one golf ball and colour it red with a felt tip pen. Challenge groups to make the worship hour a priority each week. One hour is not too much time to give to the God who gave you the rest of the week. Pull two additional golf balls out of the bowl and colour them yellow. Challenge groups (especially the parents) to spend 10 to 15 minutes each night in their homes doing the FAITH 5 family check-in found at the end of the Student Thought-Time handout and Head to the Heart journal chapter.



**W**HY DO I GO ON THE PRAYER RETREAT EVERY YEAR? HECK, AS LONG AS I AM GOING TO SPEND ETERNITY WITH GOD, I FIGURE I MIGHT AS WELL GET TO KNOW HIM A BIT NOW!



*I just want to follow Christ and be a disciple for him. I have become much more aware of this.*

**- Emma Sophina, Australian Singer who survived the crash landing of flight 1549 into New York's Hudson River**

*Time flies like an arrow. Fruit flies like a banana.*

**- Groucho Marx**



**3. MEDIA MIX:** Bring in a mix of external songs and movie clips to illustrate your point.

**SONG:** † Head to iTunes and download “Live Like We’re Dying” by Kris Allen from his 2009 self-titled album. Google the lyrics and ask your young people what this song has to do with the topic.

You could also try “100 Years” off of the 2004 Five for Fighting CD *The Battle for Everything*. Google the lyrics and hand them out. Ask your young people about the message of this song. We only have so much time to use and lose. When you’re 15, you have your entire life in front of you. How will you make it count?

Another option is “Life for Rent” by Dido off of her 2003 CD *Life for Rent*. Google the lyrics and ask your young people what this song is saying about taking chances, listening to your call, and using time wisely.

**VIDEO:** Watch the documentary *Every Heart Beats True - The Jim Stynes Story* (2010). The documentary is available from the youth support agency Jim Stynes founded: [www.reachout.com.au](http://www.reachout.com.au) or from DVD retailers. Jim Stynes is an AFL legend recruited from Ireland to play for Melbourne, eventually winning the games highest honour, the Brownlow medal. In late 2009, Jim was diagnosed with cancer and told he had only 9 months to live. Watch from the 28:30 mark to the 31:57 mark and ask your young people would they live differently if they were told they had only 9 months to live. What would they be prepared to do? Talk about Jim’s new perspective on life since having cancer: “Getting cancer has led me to a better life.” Remind your young people that life is a gift from God. (The scene near the end when Jim affirms the strengths in the Reach crew is also powerful.)

You could also rent the DVD of *Forrest Gump* (1994) and play the scene at the end of the film where Jenny comes back to Forrest to spend her final days. Ask your young people what they would do if they knew they only had a short time to live.

Another option (and another Tom Hanks film) is the clip near the end of *Saving Private Ryan*, (1998) where Tom Hanks (Captain John Miller) tells Matt Damon (Private James Ryan) to “earn” his gift of time, and where the older Ryan later asks his wife if he has been a good man. Ask your young people the point of this clip. How can they show thanks to God for the time *they’ve* been given? (*Be aware, this is a violent movie, although this part is free of violence and swearing.*)

**4. THIS GIFT OF LIFE:** The story is told about a group of American soldiers sitting in the trenches of Verdun, France during WWI. The terrible bombardment had decimated their unit, but as night fell the orders came that they were scheduled to attack the enemy lines at dawn. Certain that death awaited them in the morning, the men penned their last letters, took communion from the chaplain and made their peace with God. As the first traces of light appeared on the eastern horizon, the soldiers clutched their weapons and waited for orders. Suddenly a runner appeared from the back lines. Dodging bullets and shells, he made his way to the commanding officer and handed him a yellow telegram. The armistice had been signed! Peace had been declared. These men, who had considered themselves as good as dead, would all now have a chance to live, love and see their children grow. The captain, who had said his goodbyes to his men the night before, turned to a private, asking, “Well, son, what will you do with this gift of life?” (This might be a good time for the *Saving Private Ryan* clip listed earlier.)

**5. TITHING TIME:** Ask young people what their parents do all day while the young people are at school. Ask parents to guess what their young people do all day. With all the daily tasks, jobs and distractions, how do they prioritise their lives? Is the majority of time spent on personal concerns? Do we make a point to do kind things for others on a daily basis? Do we make time for God and God’s Word during our daily and weekly routines? Introduce the biblical principle of tithing to God. Do people ever

think in terms of tithing their time—a precious resource—to God? What would happen if they did? If you subtract 8 hours of sleep from a 24-hour day, how much time per day should be set aside for God? Invite everyone into brainstorming a list of godly service. Include worship, devotions, prayer and various aspects of Christly service, family time and care for the earth in your list of service to the Creator

**6. DON'T HOLD YOUR BREATH:** † Ask everyone to hold their breath for one minute. Watch a clock or count to sixty. After you try say, “Guess what? That minute is gone. Gone forever. You will never get it back. Was holding your breath a good way to use time? Some people live their whole lives holding their breath. They sit around accomplishing little or nothing with their time. They don’t risk getting out of their comfort zones. They don’t find it convenient to help others in need. They waste these priceless, unrenowable minutes and hours wishing they were someone else, squandering the one thing they’ll never get back. And then they wonder why they feel empty inside.”

Maybe the biggest tragedy in life isn’t to die young, but to never have really lived before you die. Challenge your young people not to let this happen to them.

**7. QUALITY VS. QUANTITY:** Find a recipe for chocolate chip cookies with vanilla essence in it. You’ll find a good recipe online at: <http://www.ninemsn.com.au/article.aspx?id=781153>. Bake the cookies and bring them in for all to eat (be cautious with those who have food allergies). Ask the group to list of some of the flavours they taste. (You might have to have someone planted who says “vanilla” because most young people could taste it but probably not articulate the word for it.) Tell them that there’s only one teaspoon of vanilla used in this recipe, yet the taste is very present in every cookie. All it takes sometimes, is a *little* quality time together to make a *big* difference in a week. Fifteen minutes of faithful conversation or Bible reading a day for seven days: that’s 1% of the total minutes in a week. That amount, though little, will provide a rich flavour of God’s goodness in life.

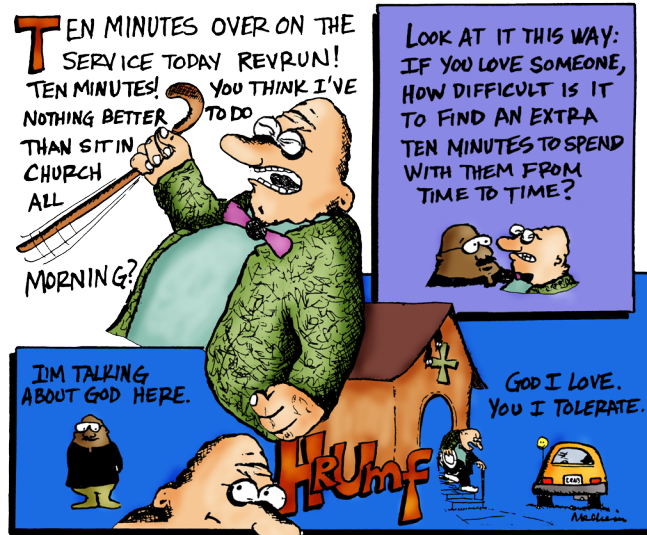
**8. RANKING PRIORITIES:** Ask all groups to rank the three most important things in their lives. Have them share their three things with their group and list them on a sheet of paper under the title “Most Important Things.” Next, have them write down three things that take up most of their time. After all members share this with their small group, have them compare their “Time” lists with their “Most Important” lists. How do the lists compare? Do our most important things in our life get the most time? If so, why? If not, why not? Where does God fit into our lists? What keeps our “most important things” from getting the most of our time? What can be done if the lists don’t match?

### D. Creative Interruption: The Weakest FINK (Weekly Terms)

Explore the theme’s key terms found on the PowerPoint slides provided or the Guide’s Thought-Time Supplement.

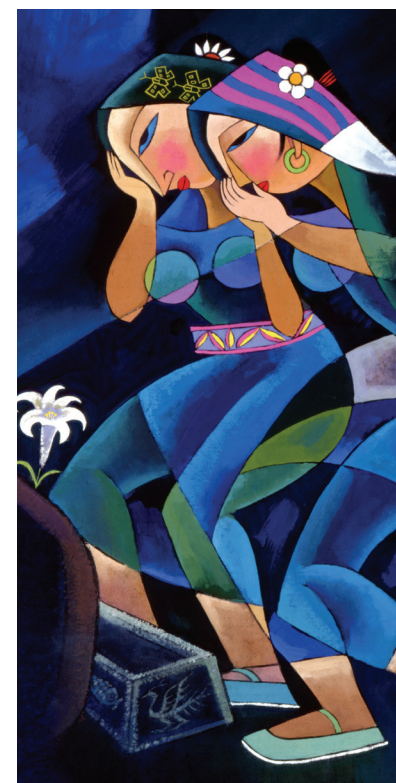
### E. Bible Time

Round out your presentation by getting young people into their Bibles. Lead them through a short Bible study of the verse of the week, Mark 12:28-30, and have them highlight it in their Bibles. Assign the following additional verses to small groups, inviting them to highlight the verses and write “see Mark 12:28-30” or other key words in the margins: Psalm 90:4-6,12, Micah 6:8; Romans 12:1-2. If time permits, also do one of the following:



*The best inheritance parents can give their children is a few minutes of their time each day.*

– O. A. Battista



*You lose a lot of  
time hating people.*

– Marian Anderson

*To love is to give  
one's time. We  
never give the  
impression that we  
care when we are in  
a hurry.*

– Paul Tournier

**1. PRIORITY #1:** † Stephen Covey does an exercise on “time” where he puts large rocks in a jar and asks, “is it full?” Then he adds smaller rocks, sand and water, asking the question each time. If the water or gravel went in first, the rest of the ingredients would not have fit. It is clear that we must put “first things first” or they’ll be crowded out. Give each group a minute or two to reflect on the things in their lives and schedules that keep them from God. Invite them to compose a list on a sheet of paper. Fold the papers, bring them forward to a bowl and burn them with a candle or drown them with water to symbolise letting these distractions go. Read and highlight Matthew 6:33 (“Seek first the kingdom of God) in Bibles, writing “Priority #1” in margins. Pray that each person will find the strength to break free from the distractions that keep him or her from God.

**2. SHEEP & GOATS:** Read or tell the story from Matthew 25:31-46. Have different people from various small groups come forward to help act out the parable as it is told or read. Concentrate on Matthew 25:40. Answer the questions:

- What is important about this story?
- Whom does Jesus consider to be members of his family?
- What is the difference between the sheep and the goats?
- What is Jesus wanting us to do? What is his message?
- What does this have to do with stewardship and time?

**PARABLE BACKGROUND:** The parable of the sheep and goats in Matthew is Jesus’ last public teaching before the Passion narratives. It consists of a warning to Christ’s followers and the church. He speaks to a new church, one of community—where Jesus comes to us in the needy, the outcast, the lonely, the poor, the hungry, the hopeless. Stewardship of our time involves helping those in need. If day by day we are giving of ourselves to help the “least of these,” we are actually giving to the crucified Christ.

### F. Cartoon of the Week

Introduce this week’s cartoon using the PowerPoint slides or an enlarged version of one of the cartoons provided. For added fun, enlist actors to read the dialogue with cartoonish voices or invite the entire group to read them aloud.

## III. SMALL GROUP TIME

With the Theme Song playing, dismiss into groups and have them share Highs & Lows and discuss the topic. Photocopy and distribute copies of the Thought-Time sheets to each group, or turn to the “Stewardship: Time” chapter in your Head to the Heart journal. Invite all to discuss the theme and mark key verses as suggested. **Tip:** Plan at least 30 minutes for Small Group time.

## IV. CLOSING BLESSING

Please don’t let your small groups fade away after meeting. Bring everyone back together for a contemplative closing. Dim the lights, light a candle, and play the instrumental version of the theme music softly to set the mood for this moment of reverence.

### A. Theme Song

As groups gather back together, play a quiet version of the theme song, “Love the Lord,” or another related piece of soft mood music.

### B. Wrap-up Reflection

Thank everyone again for their attention and participation, then invite reflections on the verse and theme once more before blessing people on their way. Tell them:

Time is a great gift. It’s also very easy to waste. Good use of time does not mean being





constantly busy. Setting time aside to talk to God, serve others and recharge ourselves can all be great ways to strengthen our connection with God. Every moment, second, breath and heartbeat is a gift of our Creator. Whether rich or poor, we all get 168 hours in a week. How will we use this gift of life?

### **C. Prayer Journey By Mark Gibbs**

Lead your group through a series of stretching and breathing exercises. Play soft, thematic music. Then have them sit down, relax, close their eyes and...

Picture the living room at a home. It's Christmas morning. Under the tree you see a big box wrapped in bright Christmas paper. You hear steps on the stairs, a child so excited at the possibilities of the day. The package is discovered. The paper is ripped away. "Awesome! Will you play with me?" a father/mother is asked. "Not now," is the reply. "Maybe later." The father/mother walks to his/her office to work on project due on Monday. As you look at this scene, you try to concentrate, the words keep coming back to you: "Will you play with me?" That voice, that question, haunts you.

The scene shifts. You are sitting at a booth at McDonald's, engrossed in thought as you consume your Big Mac and fries. It had been five hours since breakfast and your stomach was starting to growl. You hear voices behind you. A manager says to the old woman sitting by the restrooms, "You gotta buy something if you want to sit in here." The woman, clothed in a dirty dress and a tattered coat, answers that she doesn't have any money. "Just let me stay a few minutes, just until I get warm." You get up, you turn and try not to make eye contact. Then, you walk out the door. As you leave, the words "just until I get warm" keep running through your mind.

The scene shifts one last time. You find yourself in a large crowd. Someone is speaking. The voice, it sounds so familiar. Where have you heard that voice before? Then, as if a great flood-gate has been opened, memories begin to fill your mind. The voice of the little child on Christmas morning. The voice of the old woman at McDonald's. They were all the same voice. But how could that be? Then the voice speaks again, one last time. It is Jesus. "When you do this to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you do it to me."

### **D. PTA (Praise, Thank, and Ask) Prayers**

Invite each small group to bring at least one PTA Prayer to this closing time. Invite anyone with special concerns to pray aloud at this time or write their concerns on slips of paper and hand them to you for public reading. Continue with the soft version of the theme song to maintain the mood.

### **E. Benediction & Blessing**

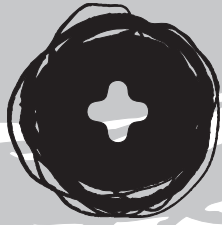
Give a group benediction, then invite everyone to step to the altar or baptismal font for a farewell blessing. Trace the sign of the cross on each forehead saying:

"(Name), child of God, your time is a precious gift from God. Use it for God's glory. Amen."

*I have so much to do  
(today) that I should  
spend the first three  
hours in prayer.*

– Martin Luther





# Extras: Creative Interruptions

HOT TOPICS 8

*By the time  
you know what  
it is all about, it is  
about over.*

– Bumper Sticker

Creative Interruptions are various brain-based teaching pieces designed to enhance your presentation and keep your audience connected. At least once during the Theme Presentation, take time for a Creative Interruption that refocusses your young people, and brings a brain-based, multi-faceted aspect to the teaching. You may wish to ask or assign small groups to create an interruption.

## Art Gallery

Use the PowerPoint slides provided plus scans of your own original art to celebrate the theme in images. Weave in quotation slides plus music. For added impact, invite a group to create a large banner, poster or wall-hanging with the verse of the week and the art from the cover of this theme. Raise this new piece of art into the air on fishing line at the moment you unveil the theme.

## FINKtoon

Create an original cartoon based on the verse of the week, the theme, or one aspect of the signs that point to the idea that being busy doesn't mean we're using time wisely. Enlarge one of the cartoons in this theme and use it during the presentation time. Consider leaving the "punch line" out until the unveiling moment. Print the cartoon in the bulletin or parish paper and stage a "Punch Line in the Plate" contest among worshipers. As an alternative, add your own punch line to the cartoon template provided in the Creative Interruptions PowerPoint slide.

## Photo/Slide Shows

Create a photography display with images of how people spend time. Add pictures of how your church has changed over time. For a multimedia dimension, add time-related songs along with these images. Head to iTunes, Amazon.com, etc., and download "Time in a Bottle" by Jim Croce, "Old Friends/Bookends" by Simon and Garfunkel, "Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?" by Chicago, or "Too Much Time On My Hands" by Styx.

## Prayer Journey

Use the guided meditation provided or write your own prayer journey on the theme "When God has your heart, God has your time." Warm the group up by leading them through a stretching and breathing exercise. Play a favourite hymn or some gentle background music as you have them close their eyes and enter their imagination. Consider lowering the lights and adding the senses (smell, taste, touch, etc.) to your prayer experience. Play the theme song embedded on the PowerPoint slide or a favourite communion hymn as background music. Consider lowering lights, warming the group up with a stretching and breathing exercise, and adding the senses (smell, taste, touch, hearing, sight) to your prayer experience to build the mood. Speak quietly, clearly, and slowly. Include the theme verse at the core of the journey. Leave room for the Scripture to sink in and Jesus to speak.

HEAD  
TO THE  
HEART

## Skits

Ask or assign a small group to perform one of the skits provided or to create an original three-minute skit on God's gift of Time. Consider basing a skit on the "Parable of the Goats and Sheep" in Matthew 25.

## Theme Song with Movement

Ask a musician, small group, or a member of your Music Team to perform and teach the theme song "Love the Lord" or to create their own new song based on the verse of the week. After you've learned the song, add movement or Auslan Sign Language to make the song even more memorable.

## Video Godmercial

Create a three-minute video on the theme "When God has your heart, God has your time." Involve every member of the small group in some way (in front of or behind the camera). For a contrasting piece, start with clips of people wasting time—watching TV on the couch, lying around, etc., and switch to video of people doing public service and working for God. For an interview piece, ask people of different ages the following questions: "How would you spend your time differently if you knew you only had a month to live?" and "When was the last time that you went out of your way to help someone?" Add an interview of the oldest members of your church talking about how quickly life and time pass.

## Weakest FINK

Make up your own key terms to supplement the theme using the template slide.

*From the moment  
we enter this life we  
are in the flow of  
it. We cannot even  
speed it up or slow it  
down. Or can we?  
Have we not each  
experienced the sen-  
sation that a beauti-  
ful moment seemed  
to pass too quickly,  
and wished that we  
could make it linger?  
Or felt time slow  
on a dull day, and  
wished that we could  
speed things up a bit?*

– Edward Norton as Eisenheim  
in the film "The Illusionist"



# Plan ON IT

## Skit of the Week by Pete Erickson

**CHARACTERS:** Pastor, Council President, Members 1-4

**SETTING:** Fellowship Hall

**PROPS:** Everyone in the group will have a calendar, planner or smart phone

**PRESIDENT:** Okay, folks, thanks for your patience with the fundraiser issue. I do agree that having our primary school students set up a sports book for the Melbourne Cup is probably a little on the—shall we say—*iffy* side. Thanks, but we're probably going to have to pass on that one. Is there a motion to adjourn?

**PASTOR:** Excuse me. We really need to set the next council meeting. It's time to talk about our stewardship strategy.

**MEMBER #1:** What's the topic?

**PASTOR:** Stewardship of time.

**MEMBER #2:** Time? I don't know if I'll be able to make it.

**PRESIDENT:** Stewardship of time? Oh yeah, I almost forgot. Alright, let's get out your calendars and see what works for everyone.

**ALL MEMBERS:** (Impatient ad libbing) Oh great. Here we go again, etc.

**PRESIDENT:** The first date we can look at is the 8th.

**MEMBER #3:** Sorry, that won't work on my schedule. Our family has this big pilgrimage to World Poker Tournament on the Gold Coast right around the 4th. I just can't miss it. How about the 14th?

**MEMBER #4:** Not good for me. My group is heading up the church burger booth at the (your town) show this year. We've held the title "Best Sliders" five years straight, and I certainly can't let anyone down. I hear the church from the other side of town is gonna make a run at us this year.

**PASTOR:** (Sadly) I'm sure the pressure is

immense.

**PRESIDENT:** Well, since that day doesn't work, how's the 22nd?

**MEMBER #1:** I have a conflict. That is the week I'm taking "Social Dance" at the high school. I couldn't take it last year because of my hernia. I really need to be there. Besides, it wouldn't be so bad, but the 22nd is "Cha Cha" day. If it was "Break Dance" day, I might consider it, but I really can't. The 28th?

**MEMBER #2:** Sorry, I can't be there. That's a wash and wax day for my Porsche. Every time I miss one of those days, "she" depreciates a good \$500 dollars. That's unacceptable.

**PASTOR:** People, we really don't have many days left. We all have busy calendars, but let's come to a compromise.

**PRESIDENT:** Pastor's right. Let's work hard here to find a day. What do you think of the 31st?

**MEMBER #3:** Well, I don't know.

**MEMBER #4:** I'm kind of busy.

**MEMBER #1:** I'm not busy yet, but you know how things come up at the last minute.

**MEMBER #2:** I don't know if I can make it. I'm having my nails done.

**PASTOR:** I'll be bringing my world famous triple chocolate strawberry drizzle cheesecake.

**MEMBER #1:** (Pause) Good for me.

**MEMBER #2:** I can be here.

**MEMBER #3:** Sure.

**MEMBER #4:** Okay. But what time?

**PRESIDENT:** Eight o'clock?

**MEMBER #1:** I was really hoping to be home so I can catch the "Lateline" segment on "Cheese manufacturing and the Red Army."

**PASTOR:** Oh please.

**MEMBER #2:** Well, seven's not great for me. It's soccer practice and it's my turn to bring the nutritious snack.

**MEMBER #3:** I have yoga from five to six. I've missed it the last couple of times and my Chi (*chee*) is all out of whack.

**MEMBER #4:** I'll just be getting back from my car care support group.

**PRESIDENT:** I don't know, Pastor. It sounds like we're not gonna have time.

**MEMBERS:** (ad lib) Not much time. Nope. No time, etc.

**MEMBER #1:** It's not that it's not a priority or anything.

**MEMBER #2:** We're just busy.

**MEMBER #3:** And we don't have a lot of extra time.

**MEMBER #4:** Hey - you should maybe set up a committee of people who don't have as much to do as us.

**PASTOR:** Well, I suppose I could just extend my sermons by an extra 45 minutes for the next three months to cover what you'd be missing in the stewardship meeting.

(Silent Pause. Members look at one another in horror, opening mouths but not speaking)

**PRESIDENT:** (Looking at the committee) Six-thirty on the 31st?

**MEMBER #1:** (Quickly) Good for me.

**MEMBER #2:** (Quickly) I can be here.

**MEMBER #3:** (Quickly) That'll work.

**PRESIDENT:** Good, it's settled. I now officially adjourn this meeting. All in favour say "Yes."

**MEMBERS:** (Loudly) Yes!



# Right NOW!

## **Skit of the Week** by Monty Lysne and Tom Collins

**CHARACTERS:** Chris, Pat

**SETTING:** A kitchen

**PROPS:** A microwave on a table

(Pat is staring impatiently at a microwave, tapping a foot and fidgeting. Chris walks up.)

**PAT:** (Staring at the microwave, agitated) Cook! Cook faster! Faster!

**CHRIS:** Uh, Pat? What are you doing?

**PAT:** (Looks at Chris) Making popcorn. (Pause) And yelling at the microwave. (Turns back to the microwave) Pop faster!

**CHRIS:** You know if you stare at it and taunt it like that, it will just take longer. Microwaves are very sensitive to ridicule.

**PAT:** (Stops and looks at Chris silently for a moment. Turns back to the microwave) Now! Now! NOW! Arghh! These things are sooo slow!

**CHRIS:** A watched pot never boils.

**PAT:** (Half hearing) You've got boils? Like, those warty things? Stinks to be you.

**CHRIS:** No. I said a "watched pot never..." forget it. Why are you in such a hurry, anyway?

**PAT:** I've got a lot to do. I don't have time to wait around. I simply want what I want when I want it. And I want it now!

**CHRIS:** Well, I guess I shouldn't be sur-

prised. Last New Year's Eve, you were the one person at the party who yelled at the TV because the countdown took a full ten seconds.

**PAT:** Hey, had I been in charge that countdown, it would have taken just *two* seconds!

**CHRIS:** And the time you demanded your money back from the Minute Rice people because it took 90 seconds to go from box to plate?

**PAT:** Their name is misleading!

**CHRIS:** You need to dial things down a notch. Savour the journey as much as the destination. Stop and smell the coffee once in a while.

**PAT:** (Pause) Are you taking me to Gloria Jeans?

**CHRIS:** No. I'm saying that God has given us each day as a gift. We need to slow down, pay attention—live each day to its fullest. You know, the Bible says ...

**PAT:** (Rolling his eyes. Says to himself) Oh great. He's quoting the Bible.

**CHRIS:** The Bible says in Psalm 90:13 "Teach us to make the most of our time, so that we might grow in wisdom." Good use of time is not just being busy. It's taking time to help others, recharge ourselves, and reconnect with God.

**PAT:** Well, Mr. Bible Man, life is a lot more fast-paced now than it was a zillion years ago when those old Bible guys were

typing the Bible.

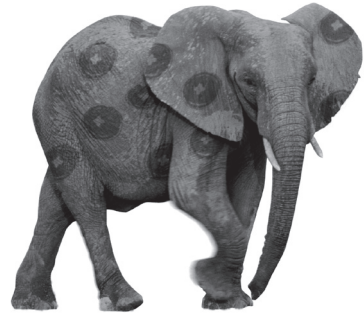
**CHRIS:** (Pauses in disbelief. Opens mouth as if to say something, then closes it and continues) We might have more distractions in our lives nowadays, but it doesn't change the fact that God wants us to treat each moment as a gift, not a checklist. (Pause) Your popcorn is done.

**PAT:** What? Oh, yeah. It is. (Pause) Listen, I've gotta' run. I've only got 20 minutes to watch the four hours of TV shows waiting on my TiVo.

**CHRIS:** (Walking offstage together with Pat) That's very efficient of you.

**PAT:** Yes, I thought so too, and I'm trying to watch the show "60 Minutes" in 12 minutes or less... (ad lib as they exit)

# the FINK<sup>mania</sup> QUIZ BOWL



HOT TOPICS 8

## THE TEN QUESTIONS

**QUESTION:** Stewardship is: A.) Only what you do with your money, B.) What you do with your comic book collection, C.) What you do with your time, talents and treasure, D.) A maritime vehicle owned and operated by someone named Stewart

**QUESTION:** A tithe is: A.) The biblical principal of giving 1% of your income back to God in appreciation for all God's done for you, B.) The biblical principal of giving 10% of your income back to God in appreciation for all God's done for you, C.) More than giving money, it's a way of life, D.) Both B & C

**QUESTION:** If one was to tithe time, how much time would one be giving to God each week?: A.) 1.6 hours, B.) 2.4 hours, C.) 4.8 hours, D.) 16.8 hours

**QUESTION:** Jesus told a parable about sheep and goats in which the sheep were surprised that: A.) By helping the goats, they had helped Jesus, B.) By helping the poor, they had helped Jesus, C.) By helping themselves, they had helped Jesus, D.) Goats could talk

**QUESTION:** What percentage of our time should bring honour to God?: A.) 1%, B.) 10%, C.) 25%, D.) All of it, because it all belongs to God in the first place

**QUESTION:** "First things first" means: A.) We should get our priorities straight, B.) We should put what matters most at the top of our schedules, C.) We shouldn't let things that don't matter crowd out those that do, D.) All of the above and then some

**QUESTION:** If you are too busy for God... : A.) You are too busy, B.) You are too busy, C.) You are too busy, D.) All of the above, and you are too busy

**QUESTION:** Proper stewardship of time impacts: A.) How we spend our time, B.) How we invest our time, C.) Who we spend our time with, D.) All of the above

**QUESTION:** Roy Morgan research tells us that the average Australian watches television: A.) 3 hours and 15 minutes each day, B.) Over 22 hours per week, C.) Way too much, D.) All of the above, and apart from zoning out and relaxing, you gotta ask yourself "was all of that really a good use of my time?"

### FINKMANIA FINAL QUESTION:

Mark 12:28-30, the verse of the week, tells us: A.) We are to love God with our whole heart and soul, B.) We are to love God with our whole heart, soul and mind, C.) We are to love God with our whole heart, soul, mind and strength, D.) All of the above, and that impacts our time!

## Three Ways to Play

### High Tech: PowerPoint Projected

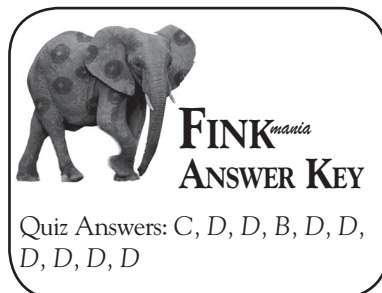
Choose individuals, small groups or random teams to serve as contestants. Distribute buzzers, bells or coffee tins to each team to use to signal they know an answer. Project the PowerPoint slides over head as you read them. The team with the most points wins.

### Mid Tech: PowerPoint on TV

If you don't have a projector but do have a television, display the PowerPoint slides on your screen by hooking up your computer to the tube with a converter. See your local computer store or Harvey Norman outlet to source one.

### Low Tech: Team versus Team

Gather teams up front and read questions one by one. Have each team choose a "human buzzer" to make a sound. When they know an answer, tap their buzzer's head for the sound.



# Stewardship: Time



## I. Check-in (Highs & Lows)

Sharing Highs & Lows is very important and sets the stage for more meaningful discussions on the theme of the week. Split your group into pairs and go one-on-one to share the best things and worst things that happened last week. Get back into small group and have everyone share their partner's highs and lows. Hold hands or lock elbows in a circle prayer, inviting young people to pray for their partner.

## II. Thought-Time

You might not get through each section in the Thought-Time handout—pick and choose the parts that best fit your group and time frame.

**A. Verse of the Week:** Review the theme verse by saying or singing it together.

**B. Quotations of the Week:** Ask young people to choose a quotation and tell why they like it.

**C. Cover Art/Cartoon:** Look at the cover art or a cartoon and talk about the story it tells.

### D. Thought-Time Questions:

**1. Look back on last week. Where did you spend most of your time? Did you spend it or invest it? (Are you seeing any dividends?)** Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers.

**2. What did you consider a good use of your time last week? What do you consider a personal waste of your time?** Accept and affirm all thoughtful answers.

**3. If you only had a limited amount of time to live—and you do—how can you make the most of tomorrow?** Let young people attempt to do this on their own, but look for them to take a bit of “inventory” on how they spend their time and if they think they spend it in worthwhile ways. You’re “fishing” for answers about the most important things in life.

**Role Play:** (Get up and act it out!)

**1. A friend spends all of her extra time in front of a computer screen. You ask her to go on a mission trip with you and she says she doesn't have time. What do you do?**

**2. A classmate has a rare blood disease and must spend hours every week sitting quietly getting transfusions. You ask some other friends to spend some time with this classmate. They don't want to. What do you do? What do you say?**

**E. Terms of the Week:** Discuss terms and write definitions on sheets and glossaries.

**Generosity:** A willingness to give.

**Priorities:** Things that are regarded as more important than others. Our priorities show what we truly value.

**Stewardship:** To manage or look after another's property or belongings. We've been given stewardship of the earth and our time on it by God.

**Time:** The gift of our lives here on Earth.

**Tithe:** Our tangible response of thanks to the gifts God gives us. One-tenth of our belongings and time are to be given in thanks back to God.

**F. Optional Review:** If you're using the Head to the Heart journal, read through the FINKmania Quiz Bowl questions together asking what main teaching points your group wants to remember. (See answer key below.)

## III. Group Business

**A. Servant Event Idea:** Get your groups together and brainstorm the needs of people in the neighbourhood around your church building. Choose and carry out a project where you give of your time together as a group to meet one or more of those needs.

**B. Family Check-in Time:** If your church uses them, discuss the devotions contained in the Head to the Heart journal. Encourage young people to continue to take time with their families each night.

**C. Closing Prayer:** Discuss special concerns and choose a prayer to bring back to the closing. Assign someone to pray it during PTA Prayer time.

**Quiz Bowl Key:** C, D, D, B, D, D, D, D, D, D





✦ STEWARDSHIP OF TIME ✦

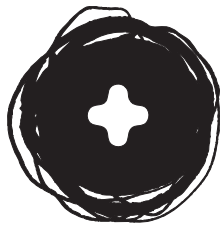


“Women Arriving at the Tomb” Dr. He Qi. Order prints at [www.heqigallery.com](http://www.heqigallery.com)

“One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall 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 12:28-30

HOT TOPICS 8  
HOT TOPICS SERIES



# Stewardship: Time



“One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, “Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is, ‘Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall 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 12:28-30

Begin small group time by sharing Highs & Lows of the week with one partner. Listen carefully and record your partner’s thoughts along with your prayer in the space below. Then return to your group and share your partner’s highs and lows. Close with hands held in a circle prayer, asking members to pray aloud for their respective partner’s needs.

**My partner’s high this week was:**

**My partner’s low this week was:**

**My hope and prayer for my partner is:**

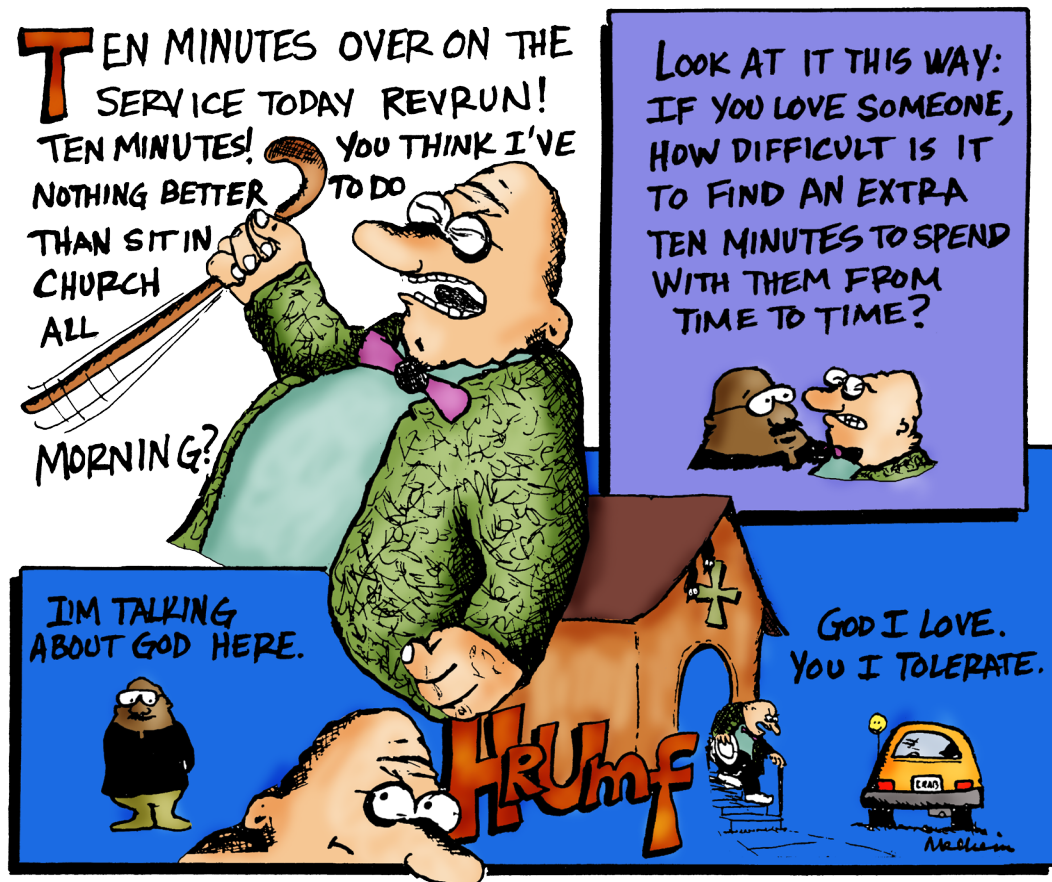
QUOTATIONS OF THE WEEK

Choose one of the following quotations that speaks to you and share why you chose it.

The best inheritance parents can give their children is a few minutes of their time each day. – O.A. Battista

From the moment we enter this life we are in the flow of it. We cannot even speed it up or slow it down. Or can we? Have we not each experienced the sensation that a beautiful moment seemed to pass too quickly, and wished that we could make it linger? Or felt time slow on a dull day, and wished that we could speed things up a bit? – Edward Norton as Eisenheim in the film “The Illusionist”

I just want to follow Christ and be a disciple for him. I have become much more aware of this. – Emma Sophina, an Australian Singer who survived the crash landing of flight 1549 into New York’s Hudson River



Choose questions from the following to feed the discussion on the topic.

1. Look back on last week. Where did you spend most of your time? Did you spend it or invest it? (Are you seeing any dividends?)
2. What did you consider a good use of your time last week? What do you consider a personal waste of your time?
3. If you only had a limited amount of time to live—and you do—how can you make the most of tomorrow?

**Role Play (Get up and act it out!):**

1. A friend spends all of her extra time in front of a computer screen. You ask her to go on a mission trip with you and she says she doesn't have time. What do you do?
2. A classmate has a rare blood disease and must spend hours every week sitting quietly getting transfusions. You ask some other friends to spend some time with this classmate. They don't want to. What do you do? What do you say?

Discuss the following terms and write a definition.

**Generosity**

**Priorities**

**Stewardship**

**Time**

**Tithe**

# FAITH 5 Home Huddles



**Share**

**Parents:** Care to keep your family communicating each day and grow in your understanding of God? Try this simple, five-step, *Faith Acts In The Home (FAITH 5)* process for the next six days or nights and see if it doesn't help! New to the process? Focus on Step 1 initially, and grow from there!

**1) Share:** How are things going? Find out by sharing Highs & Lows for the day.



**Read**

**2) Read:** Read and highlight the verse for each day in your Bible, reflecting on how it applies to today's Highs & Lows and asking God, "What does it mean for our family today?"

## Week 1

Day 1 Deuteronomy 6:4-5  
Day 2 Deuteronomy 6:6-7  
Day 3 Ecclesiastes 3:1  
Day 4 Psalm 90:4-5a  
Day 5 Psalm 90:10  
Day 6 Psalm 90:12

## Week 2

Day 1 Colossians 4:5-6  
Day 2 Esther 4:14b  
Day 3 Ecclesiastes 7:17  
Day 4 Matthew 20:26b  
Day 5 II Corinthians 6:2  
Day 6 Psalm 31:15a



**Talk**

**3) Talk:** Read and reflect on one of the quotations, questions or terms from this handout. More family devotions and activities are also available in the Head to the Heart journals, available at [www.faithink.com](http://www.faithink.com).



**Pray**

**4) Pray:** Lift up a PTA prayer. *Praise* God, *Thank* Jesus, and *Ask* the Holy Spirit as you pray for the day's Highs & Lows and for one another. Close in Jesus' name.



**Bless**

**5) Bless:** Close by marking one another with the sign of the cross on the forehead or back of the hand and recite this or a similar blessing: "(Name), may God bless you this day and every day. Amen."

**Family Covenant:** *We have checked-in this week, shared Highs & Lows, read and highlighted verses assigned, prayed for and blessed one another.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Parent's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Teenager's Signature**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Date**



Go deeper online using **FNKLink** code:

**LF28** @ [www.faithink.com.au](http://www.faithink.com.au)

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