

Create Passion by Creating Urgency: Learning the Value of Time

by Dawn Magee

There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...

Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV

Objective

To provide a glimpse of how important it is to spend our time wisely.

Supplies

- A set of empty containers (glass jars, soup cans, or something similar) large enough to hold many small slips of paper (see “Setup” below for quantity)
- Craft supplies (colored paper, markers, tape, etc.)
- One complete set of Time Dollars (included at the end of this document) for each family member
- One portable timer with an alarm (e.g., a cooking timer or stopwatch) for each family member
- Lined paper and something to write with
- Popcorn to cook up and enjoy as a family



Setup

Print off and separate the Time Dollars found at the end of this document. (If you can't print them, feel free to make your own.) Each set amounts to 1440 minutes, which is equal to 24 hours. You'll need one complete set for each family member.

Turn the containers you have collected into Time Banks. (It might be fun to decorate these as a family!) Label each one with an area of life that occupies your family's time. Every family is different, so how you label them is up to you. Try not to be too general or too specific. Aim to have between eight and ten Time Banks that include all of the *types* of activities that your family engages in.

For example, I would assign my Time Banks as follows:

Learning	Work/Chores	Sleeping	Eating
Family Time	Play Time	God Time	“Me” Time

Depending on your circumstances, you might also want to include banks for exercise, hobbies, recreation, TV/computer time, wasted time, or anything else you can think of. If you find that you’re beginning to have too many Time Banks, see where you might be able to combine two or three into one.

Instructions

This activity runs for a full 24 hours, so you’ll want to plan ahead. Try to pick a 24-hour period in which everyone will have some free time to spend as they choose. During this time period, everyone in your family (including you!) must *pay for time in advance* before doing any activity. Time is purchased by putting Time Dollars in the appropriate Time Bank. Use timers with alarms to make sure you don’t run overtime. If you run out of time for an activity, you must purchase more time before you can continue.

For activities outside the home, you may wish to use a log sheet instead of a timer. It might be difficult to predict travel time and other variables, so make your best estimate beforehand and correct the amount later if you need to.

Time Dollars cannot be shared or borrowed, but you can “make change” if you need to. At the end of the 24 hours, all Time Dollars must be spent. If anybody runs out too soon or winds up with extra at the end of the 24 hours, review the day to see where they might have paid too much or too little.

Getting Started

Gather your family and make some popcorn! As you watch the popcorn pop, inform your family that this is time they will have to pay for. When the popcorn is ready, read this:

There is a bank that credits your account each morning with \$86,400. It carries over no balance from day to day. Every evening it deletes whatever part of the balance you failed to use during the day. What would you do? Draw it all out, of course.

Each of us has such a bank. Its name is TIME. Every morning, it credits you with 86,400 seconds. Every night it writes off, as lost, whatever you failed to invest to a good purpose. It carries over no balance. It allows no overdraft.

Each day it opens a new account for you. Each night it burns the remains of the day. If you fail to use the day’s deposits, the loss is yours.

There is no going back. There is no drawing against tomorrow. You must live in the present on today's deposit. Invest it so as to get from it the utmost in health, happiness and success. The clock is running. Make the most of the day.

Explain that this activity is about learning the value of time. Enjoy some popcorn together while you explain the Time Banks, Time Dollars and instructions (above). When you're done, have each person pay for the time that has transpired since you started popping the popcorn. From then on, each person will have to pay the bank before doing any activity.

Debrief

At the end of the 24 hours, gather your family together to share their experiences. Take a look at where important things might be getting left out of your daily routines. Discuss how you might spend your time more wisely as a family.

Final Thoughts

One way that I ensure my time is being spent wisely is to make a list of the most important roles I play in life. My list looks like this:

- 1) Child of God
- 2) Wife
- 3) Mother/Grandmother
- 4) Friend
- 5) Ministry Leader
- 6) Author
- 7) Business Owner

And there are more. Once I've created this list, the next step is to discuss it with my family and set up schedules that incorporate all of these aspects into our weekly time commitments.

Creating passion starts with creating urgency. I pray that this activity helps your family learn to value their time and spend it more wisely.

Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



10 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



15 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



30 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes



Time Dollars



60 Minutes

