



STUDY GUIDE: January 4, 2025

Message Series:
Message Title:
Teaching Pastor:

Unwritten
Redeeming Your Time
Brian Hughes

Warm-up/Icebreaker: (10 min.)

If you could write one *chapter title* for the next year of your life, what would it be—and why?
(Encourage light answers first; depth can come later.)

Pray:

Dear God, we pause at the dividing line of this moment—between what is written and what is still unwritten. Thank You for the gift of time, given equally and graciously to each of us. Give us wisdom to live carefully, courage to be honest about how we're using our days, and humility to let You lead the story we're still writing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Get Started: (20 min.)

Read John 4:34-35 and Romans 13:11.

- What did Jesus remind his disciples regarding the use of time?

"You and I spend our time on 'everything I need' and give all the leftover time (and let's be honest - there's not a lot of that) to seeking God. But Jesus said that we should Seek God and the things that matter to God above everything else, including the other things we need. He did NOT say that we never think about what we need. He didn't say to ignore them. He said we should deprioritize our focus on needs and elevate our focus on God." - Pastor Brian Hughes

- Which needs tend to demand your attention the loudest right now, and how might they be crowding out space for God?
- If someone looked at your calendar, what would they conclude you're seeking first—and how does that compare to what you *want* to be seeking?

Reflect and Commit: (40 min.)

Wise people seize time by answering a series of questions:

*Why Am I Here? [Mission]
What do I do? [Calling]
What's most important right now? [Priority]*

*If you will begin and do the work and employ these principles, those around you, in **no** time, will scratch their heads and wonder how **your** time became such **great** time while **their** time is still such **wasted** time and they'll ask you for a few **minutes** of time so that they can learn how to redeem **their** time, too. Be very careful, then, how you live—not as the foolish, but as the wise, redeeming the time..."*

-Pastor Brian Hughes

Read Matthew 22:37–39; Matthew 6:33.

- If you had to put your life mission into one sentence, what would it be right now?
- How does having—or not having—a clear mission affect the way you spend your time?

Read Ephesians 2:10; 1 Corinthians 12:4–7.

- What might God be inviting you to step away from so you can step more fully into what He's called you to do?

Read Psalm 90:12; Colossians 3:17.

- Which role in your life needs greater focus in this current season—and why?
- Where is there a gap between what you say is most important and where your time actually goes?

Read Proverbs 4:25–27; James 1:5.

- Who has modeled wise time stewardship in your life, and what can you learn from them?
- What is one specific change you can make this week to live more wisely with your time?

Gather prayer requests. (5-10 min.)

Pray:

Dear Lord, You are the Author of wisdom, and You've entrusted us with the pen. Forgive us for the moments we've wasted time instead of stewarding it, and for the times we've allowed distractions to dictate our days. Help us clarify our mission, walk faithfully in our calling, and order our priorities in a way that honors You. May the story we write with the time we've been given reflect Your grace, purpose, and love. Teach us to live wisely—redeeming the time. In Jesus' name, Amen.