

Breaking Well - Investing Wisely

This is a life group outline to use between Thanksgiving and Christmas breaks. It was created to help you, so you can use as much or as little of it as you think will benefit your life group.

Introduction

Christmas break is always an interesting time. It is great to go home and spend holiday time with your family and friends, but it can be difficult for many different reasons as well. For some of us, it is hard to readjust to living at home. For others, it may be difficult to keep our relationship with Jesus thriving without our life group family so close. And still for others, it may be hard to keep motivated to live productively, not lazily, while at home. And there are so many other reasons that this break can be both restful, but also stressful, and potentially even downright destructive.

Investing Wisely

One thing we know about time is that it is valuable; once it is spent, whether well or wasted, it is impossible to get back. This becomes very clear, not necessarily over break, but when you get back from break. You will find out very quickly if you haven't invested that valuable time wisely.

In the Matthew 25:14-30 (The Parable of the Talents) we learn, along with the servants in the story, that we are to wisely invest the valuable things our Master entrusts to us. Time counts as one of those valuable things.

Read Matthew 25:14-30 together as a life group.

Discussion Questions:

1. What are some things you notice about the Master? How does he treat his servants?
2. What do you notice about each of the servants?
3. Would you categorize yourself as the first, second, or third servant? Why do you relate with that particular servant?
4. How is Christmas break like being given something valuable? How can you invest that time wisely so that you get a good return on your investment?

Application - Christmas Break Bucket List

1. Have a spiritual conversation with someone you normally wouldn't.
2. Pray for someone immediately if you say you will pray for them.
3. Spend quality time investing in healthy relationships you have at home with family and friends.
4. Improve your prayer life. Spend more time talking with and listening to Jesus. Start where you are, if you don't normally spend time in prayer start with 5 minutes, adding 5 minutes every week.

5. Spend extended time in God's word while you have extended time over break. Set a goal for yourself or as a life group. Why not make it a goal to read through the New Testament, or tackle the Books of the Law or dig into all the wisdom literature?

6. Stay connected and accountable to your life group. In the wild, the animal that falls prey is the one who is alone. This is also true of our spiritual lives. Don't put yourself in the position to fall prey to the devil's schemes.

7. Make a Winter Break Book List. Create a list of good books by authors who followed Jesus well that you would like to read over break.

- Example:
1. *Seeking Allah Finding Jesus*, by Nabeel Qureshi
 2. *Answering God*, by Eugene Peterson
 3. *The Believer's Absolute Surrender*, by Andrew Murray
 4. *The Burden of the Lord*, by Ian Macpherson
 5. *The Pursuit of God*, by A.W. Tozer