

# Managing Your World: Week One

*Open your group with a prayer.*

*Take a minute and share the possibilities you are most excited about as you begin a brand new year.*

*Lesson:*

## Managing Your Time

The New Year is a great time to make changes in your life. It is a great time to set a new direction and even make course corrections in how your life is going. The New Year is a great time to think about how you are “managing your world.” In this lesson we want to think about how you manage the way you spend your time. You can’t really manage time, you can only manage what you do with your time.

This year God will give you 8760 hours of time to use for His glory. Lets take a few minutes to talk about how to use those hours to honor the God who gave them to you.

Looking back at this past year which best describes the way you lived?

- Making the most of every day
- Making the most of some days
- Not making much of any day

Read Ephesians 5:15-16. How does Paul encourage us to manage our priorities in a way that honors God?

What is meant by the phrase a “decisive life?” How did Jesus model this in John 17:4?

What are some things you want to be true of your life when you come to the end of your life?

What is the difference between living your life by purpose and living your life by pressure? How is this demonstrated in Mark 1:38-39?

Read Mark 6:30-32. How does this passage demonstrate purpose and discipline in life?

What are some things you need to say “no” to in order that you can say “yes” to something better?

What action step do you need to take in order to better manage your life by priorities?

**Opportunity:** Attend our Next Steps Orientation this Sunday, January 6 at 6:00PM at our Thomas Crossroads Campus.

Pray for one another.

## Managing Your World: Week Two

*Open your group with a prayer.*

*Take a minute and share some changes you want to make in your life as you move into the new year.*

*Lesson:*

### Managing Your Body

One of the areas many people want to manage better at the beginning of a new year is their physical bodies. It seems that managing our physical bodies is one of the areas where people tend to lose their way and get off course easily. Our goal in this lesson is to find our way back to where God wants us to be regarding our physical health. God's goal is that we manage our bodies in a way that honors him.

Let's take a few minutes and discuss how God wants us to manage the bodies He has given us in a way that brings Him glory.

When it comes to your physical health which best describes you?

- Tip-top shape
- The wrong shape
- Trying to get into shape

Read III John 1:2. What does Paul's prayer for "good health" tell us about God's desire for how we manage our physical bodies?

Read I Corinthians 10:31. What should our attitudes be toward how we manage the bodies God has blessed us with?

What types of attitudes do you often see people demonstrate in regards to how they manage their bodies?

Which of these areas do you feel you are struggling with or having victory with? (Exercise, Healthy Eating, Proper Rest)

Read I Corinthians 9:27. What are some ways you need to demonstrate discipline in the way you manage your body this coming year?

What are some reasons why managing your physical body is an important part of being a disciple of Christ?

What action step do you need to take in order to better manage your life by priorities?

**Opportunity:** Attend our Next Steps of Growing this Sunday, January 13 at 6:00PM at our Thomas Crossroads Campus.

Pray for one another.

## Managing Your World: Week Three

*Open your group with a prayer.*

*Take a minute and share some of the events or opportunities you are looking forward to in this next year?*

*Lesson:*

### Managing Your Money

Everyone I know wants to manage their money better. It does not matter how much you have or don't have; everyone wants to make the most with what they have. Making the most of your money ultimately means using it to honor God. When we honor God with our financial resources, we live in financial peace and freedom, and when we don't honor God we get lost financially and end up in financial chaos. We all need the wisdom of God's Word to become better financial managers. In this lesson we will look at some biblical principles for how to better manage our money.

Which is the best description of your current financial status?

Mostly chaos!

Mostly peace!

Constantly changes!

Read Proverbs 3:9. How would you describe "true north" when it comes to managing your wealth?

What are some of the most common ways people lose their way financially? Which, if any, have you experienced?

Read Psalm 24:1. How does knowing God owns everything change the way you manage your financial resources?

Which of these three uses of money are you doing the best at and which are you struggling with? (Spending, Saving, Giving)

Read Proverbs 30:7-9. How can the way we manage our finances affect our relationship with God?

In Luke 12:34 Jesus tells us that “where our treasure is, there our heart will be also.” What does this verse indicate about the attitude we have toward talking about money management?

What action step do you need to take in order to better manage your life by priorities?

**Opportunity:** Attend our Next Steps of Serving this Sunday, January 20 at 6:00PM at our Thomas Crossroads Campus.

Pray for one another.

## Managing Your World: Week Four

*Open your group with a prayer.*

*Take a minute and share the relationships you look up to the most.*

*Lesson:*

### Managing Your Relationships

We are all relational beings, and we all live in a relational world. At times those relationships experience conflict or they are weakened. When they do, we lose our way relationally. When we lose our way relationally we suffer and struggle to find our “relational north.” On the other hand, God desires that we live in relational harmony and unity. When we lose our way, God wants to help us find our course relationally. God wants to be honored by the way we manage the relationships in our lives.

God’s goal for every disciple is to live in relational unity and God’s plan is “love.” When we love, we do our part to maintain the relational harmony God has created us for.

Which best describes your relational world today?

Smooth waters

Small ripples

Stormy seas

Read John 13:34,35. What is the model we should follow for how to manage our relational world?

What are some of the common causes of relational conflict and disunity?

In Ephesians 5:21 Paul gives us a key for how to manage all relationships in life. What is that key, and how does it work?

What are some ways we can strengthen the relationships in our lives?

Read John 13:14-16. How can being a servant change the relationships in your life?

Read I Corinthians 13:4-8. Replace the word "love" with your name. Explain how being more like Christ could impact the relationships in your relational world.

What relationships in your life need more attention and focus?

What action step do you need to take in order to better manage your life by priorities?

**Opportunity:** Attend our Next Steps of Belonging this Sunday, January 27 at 6:00PM at our Thomas Crossroads Campus.

**Pray for one another.**