

Small Group Discussion Guide

The Timing of God: For the week of October 3 - 9, 2021

Main Thought and Scriptures:

Scripture tells us that seasons of life inevitably change and there is a timing for everything that happens. This gives us a hope in God's sovereign assurance that seasons of difficulty eventually come to an end. Even this season of a global pandemic will end.

"For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: ²a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted; ³a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance..." (Ecclesiastes 3:1-4 ESV)

The key to navigating any and every season is to see and live life with an eternal perspective. What ultimately awaits us is a season of beauty called eternity that will never end.

"He has made everything beautiful in its time..." (Ecclesiastes 3:11 NIV)

"...He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. ¹²I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. ¹³That everyone may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil—this is the gift of God. ¹⁴I know that everything God does will endure forever; nothing can be added to it and nothing taken from it..." (Ecclesiastes 3:11-14 NIV)

God has ordained a time when we will give account for our time on earth. The time we spend on earth is fleeting compared to the life we will spend in eternity. Yet, how we live here will determine how we live there.

"...God does it so that men will revere him. ¹⁵Whatever is has already been, and what will be has been before; and God will call the past to account... ¹⁷'God will bring to judgment both the righteous and the wicked, for there will be a time for every activity, a time for every deed.'" (Ecclesiastes 3:14-15, 17 NIV)

"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name. ¹⁵When he calls to me, I will answer him; I will be with him in trouble; I will rescue him and honor him. ¹⁶With long life I will satisfy him and show him my salvation." (Psalm 91:14-16 ESV

An intimate steadfast walk with God will position us for his deliverance, protection, intervention and favor.

- We should resolve therefore to make every day count and not take any day for granted.
- He will reward those who've lived for him by loving, serving and reaching others.

Discussion Questions:

- As you reflect on the weekend sermon and the main thought and scriptures above, what is the Holy Spirit highlighting to you the most and why?
- How shall we live moving forward? What adjustments will we need to make? What priorities need to be re-examined?

Prayer:

- Pray for anyone in the group going through a challenging or difficult season (pray and encourage with the scriptures above).
- Pray for the grace of God to be able to make specific course corrections and adjustments from tonight's discussion.
- Pray for someone far from God that He has brought near to you. Pray for their hearts to be open to Him and for opportunities to share your faith with them.