

FAMILY DEVOTION:: PRIME:: ENTRUSTED

LESSON 1:: EVERY MINUTE COUNTS

Carpe Diem—Seize the day. “It doesn’t matter how long you live but how well.” “We are not promised tomorrow. Make every moment count.” “Live every day as if it was your last.” As you read this, do you feel like there is a hairy man riding on a horse yelling, “FREEDOM!” and that you can run into battle bravely? Most of us don’t spend our days on the battlefield staring death in the face with someone shouting profound words to us that we remember to cherish each breath and give it our all. But maybe we need those words more than we think; we just need to wake up and realize it.

Read Ephesians 5:8–17 together as a family. Paul told the church at Ephesus to wake up. He explained to believers that they were once part of a dark world but that when they became followers of Christ they had stepped out of the darkness and into the light. They were to live in a way that showed that light to the world around them. Paul said that this would require them to stay alert. They had to stay away from the things that they might once have surrounded themselves with, things that would tempt or distract them. They should be aware of how their surroundings would affect them spiritually. Living in the light also required them to surround themselves with new things, like God’s Word and God’s community, so that they would be able to better discern what was pleasing to Him. Paul explained that living wisely would require their efforts, their time, and their lives—and they shouldn’t waste any of it.

The same is required of us. We live in a world that wants to distract us from who we were meant to be. Sometimes it is not the biggest, most terrible sins that we get hung up on. Sometimes what keeps us from being shining lights can be the small things. We get self-consumed, we become lazy, and we are afraid to rock the boat of those around us. So we settle for the darkness. We think that there will be time to live wisely tomorrow, but Paul explained that today is the day. We need to live like children of the light and seize the day!

CONNECTION QUESTIONS

1. How does Paul’s message to the church at Ephesus in this passage translate to you and your life today?
2. What does it look like to live as a child of the light?
3. What darkness surrounds you and your family in different areas of life?
4. How will you make sure that your family spends its time wisely so that the world around you sees the light of Christ?
5. What are there some changes to your daily schedules that might need to be made?