

Module

09

MARGINS FOR DISCIPLESHIP

Fun Fact: Do you know why notebooks and notebook paper have margins? Margins were originally added due to the presence and problem of rodents! We probably think of margins as a great place for teachers to write in red ink to make us aware of our numerous errors. In reality, these margins were added due to mice and rodents commonly chewing on loose paper and notebooks. The addition of margins ensured that the most important stuff on the paper could be preserved.

We live in a culture that devours our margins. Our busyness is often seen as a success, but in reality, it has begun to eat into the important things! One of the main reasons people give for not being disciplined or disciplining someone else is, "I do not have time." The goal of this next section is not a legalistic approach to scheduling our days, but an exercise to evaluate whether we have the "margins" to make disciples.

1. Priorities

What do you value most in your life?

In Matthew 22:36-39,

³⁶ "Teacher, which command in the law is the greatest?" ³⁷ He said to him, "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind. ³⁸ This is the greatest and most important command. ³⁹ The second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. Matthew 22:36-39

Jesus states that the main priority as a believer is to "Love the Lord your God..." with everything you have. Second, He says to "love your neighbor as yourself." Our overarching life priority should be to love God with everything. It is not only a responsibility but a privilege and response to who God is. As an extension of this, we love those around us, and we should want the same "good" for them as we want for ourselves.


How do we demonstrate our love for God?

How do we demonstrate our love for others while seeking ultimate "good" for them?

2. Evaluate Our Time

- a. Write down what time you get up.
- b. Write down what time you go to bed.
- c. Shade in time at work.
- d. Shade in other “set time” expenditures.
- e. What do you do with the rest of your time?

TODAY'S GOALS



REMEMBER



Task	Done
5:00 AM	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:00 AM	<input type="checkbox"/>
7:00 AM	<input type="checkbox"/>
8:00 AM	<input type="checkbox"/>
9:00 AM	<input type="checkbox"/>
10:00 AM	<input type="checkbox"/>
11:00 AM	<input type="checkbox"/>
12:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
1:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
2:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
3:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
4:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
5:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
6:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
7:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
8:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
9:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
10:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
11:00 PM	<input type="checkbox"/>
12:00 AM	<input type="checkbox"/>

⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me. ⁶ If anyone does not remain in me, he is thrown aside like a branch and he withers. They gather them, throw them into the fire, and they are burned. ⁷ If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you want and it will be done for you. ⁸ My Father is glorified by this: that you produce much fruit and prove to be my disciples.

⁹ “As the Father has loved me, I have also loved you. Remain in my love. ¹⁰ If you keep my commands you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father’s commands and remain in his love.

¹¹ “I have told you these things so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete.

John 15:5–11

3. Be Intentional

Refer to your day planner.

When do you spend time alone with God?

Where could you schedule time to walk with someone else as they seek God?

Where can you “Create Margins” if they are not there already?

Be creative! Look at the things you are already doing and consider how they could be used to seek God personally or invest in someone else.

Leader Note:

Give an example of personal space/time.

4. The Art of Saying No

³⁵ Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, he got up, went out, and made his way to a deserted place; and there he was praying. ³⁶ Simon and his companions searched for him, ³⁷ and when they found him they said, "Everyone is looking for you."

**³⁸ And he said to them, "Let's go on to the neighboring villages so that I may preach there too. This is why I have come."
Mark 1:35–38**

**Therefore, since we also have such a large cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, ² keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. For the joy that lay before him, he endured the cross, despising the shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.
Hebrews 12:1–2**

Jesus was quite generous with His time, attention, and resources, but even He said "no" at times.

We have to evaluate if there are things that are holding us back from "running the race." Hebrews says, "every hindrance, and sin..." Some of these things holding us back could be good things that are just out of place.

We must be honest and seek the BEST things and the BEST use of our time.

5. Evaluate Frequently

Creating and maintaining margins in your life is a never-ending journey. Time is one of our most valuable commodities and should be stewarded well.

There will always be something new that wants a piece of your time. Consider the cost.

Loving God and loving others must be a priority. Our commitment will often be demonstrated in how we "manage the clock."