

“Stewardship – Time”

Our great grandparents would perhaps laugh at us today if they were to hear us complain about the lack of time. Think about it! Most of us do not have to go out in the garden and plow the fields, harvest the vegetables, milk the cow, sew our clothes, dry our laundry on the clothes line, or make our own candles and soap. They would be amazed at all the time saving devices that we have available to us in today’s world.

We have ready-made dinners that can be popped in the microwave and ready in a few minutes. We have automatic clothes washers and dryers and dishwashers. And, we don’t even have to go to shopping in a store because we can order whatever we want on-line and have it delivered to our door. Yet, we have no time!

The reality is that busyness is a challenge. There seems to be too much to do in too little time. And yet, it is important to teach your child how to manage their time. If they do not learn it when they are small, you can count on them having a struggle with being on time for college classes or being on time every morning at their jobs when they are adults.



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Here are some ways to teach your young child to manage their time wisely:

1. As a parent do you have good time management skills?

How do you manage your time? Your child is watching and learning from you. Do you do everything at the last minute or do you plan well in advance?

2. Help your child meet his/her scheduled appointments on time.

This will teach your child that when something has a start time, it is appropriate to turn up just before that time. This applies to being at the babysitter, preschool, or Sabbath School on time.

3. Give your child a kitchen timer or an alarm clock.

You may teach the value of time by giving your child an alarm clock or a simple kitchen timer. Set the kitchen timer for tasks such as cleaning their room or getting ready for bed. For example, when it is fifteen minutes before bedtime you can set the timer. As they see the minutes tick by, they will soon understand how long that is. Stick to the schedule and times you set! As they grow you may want to give them an alarm clock, teach them how to set it, and allow them to get themselves up at the same time every morning. This will teach them time management skills and how to tell time.



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4. Have a regular morning and evening routine.

These should cover the important basics such as teeth brushing, showering and homework. Once again, a regular schedule with routines will teach them time management skills. Post a daily schedule and stick to it!

5. Allow your child to have increased choices in managing their time.

You child will learn responsibility and time management by having more control over their own time as they get older. Start simple and increase choices as they show responsibility with time. If two things need to be accomplished before bedtime, give them a choice as to which they will tackle first. Allowing them to make simple choices now will teach greater responsibility later on.

We all have the same twenty-four hours in a day. Yet how we use these hours depend on the choices we each make. Your child will need proper role modeling and guidance in order to develop good time management skills.



North American Division
Family Ministries
Children's Ministries

9705 Patuxent Woods Drive
Columbia, MD 21046

Phone: 443-391-7200
www.nadfamily.org
www.childmin.com



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