

Think It Over: This section is about turning what God is saying to you into action steps. These talking points, questions, and scriptures are designed to help you take your own next step. If you are leading a group through this guide, don't feel like you have to answer every question. Pick out those questions that will stir up conversation and action among your group.

- What are some of the worst shortcuts you have seen or experienced at work, school, home, or life in general? Why do you think it looked like a good idea at first? How long did it take for people to realize this shortcut was a dead end? How would you compare a shortcut with a life hack? What are some of the positive life hacks you have seen or experienced?
- Read Ephesians 5:15-16. How much time do people think they have? How does the answer to that question affect how we use time? What is the best use of our time? How should following Christ affect our answer? What would a time-use audit for your life reveal about your priorities?
- Review the ➡ *Understanding God's best* section. How do people initially feel about God's best? Have your thoughts on God's best changed? Why? If so, how does that happen? Read Psalm 119:1-6. How do you seek God's best - the life hack or a shortcut? What are your take-aways from Matthew 7:13-14 MSG? Where do you allow shortcuts, which pose as life hacks, into your life?
- Review the ➡ *Focusing on God's best* section. What is Paul getting at in Ephesians 5:18? How ought it be applied more than just for wine? Why is it that God's best for us is being filled with the Spirit? How does a person go about being filled with the Spirit? Explain the four words regarding being filled with the Spirit?
- Review the ➡ *Living in God's best* section. Why is gratitude such an important element to living in God's best? How have you found gratitude crucial to living in God's best in your life? How can a person be genuinely thankful all the time? How would you currently describe your level of gratitude? What steals it?
- Review the ➡ *Centering on God's best includes focussing on others* section. Why is submitting to one another a mature expression of God's best? What makes it so hard?

Next Steps: What do you need to do to take God's best to the next place in your life? What needs to be removed and added to help that happen? It is the foundation to God's best life hacks!

Changing Your Mind: Choose one of the verses listed in the Message Guide and commit it to heart.



If you missed a message, visit www.scc.website or request a CD at Guest Services.



Making God's Best Our Best

¹⁵Be very careful, then, how you live—not as unwise but as wise, ¹⁶making the most of every opportunity...
Ephesians 5:15-16 NIV

→ How much time do you have?

²⁰"Just then God showed up and said, 'Fool! Tonight you die. And your barnful of goods—who gets it?' ²¹"That's what happens when you fill your barn with Self and not with God."
Luke 12:20–21 MSG

→ How do you waste your time?

¹⁶...because the days are evil.
Ephesians 5:16 NIV

→ What is the best use of your time?

¹⁶Make the most of every chance you get. These are desperate times!
Ephesians 5:16 MSG

If you had to audit your days,
how much of what you spend your time on
is neither urgent nor important?

➡ Understanding God's best

¹⁷Don't live carelessly, unthinkingly. Make sure you understand what the Master wants.
Ephesians 5:17 MSG

Command, Plural, Passive, Continual

➤ Digesting God's best

²Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you. Romans 12:2 MSG

➤ Seeking God's best

¹You're blessed when you stay on course, walking steadily on the road revealed by God. ²You're blessed when you follow his directions, doing your best to find him. ³That's right—you don't go off on your own; you walk straight along the road he set. ⁴You, God, prescribed the right way to live; now you expect us to live it. ⁵Oh, that my steps might be steady, keeping to the course you set; ⁶Then I'd never have any regrets in comparing my life with your counsel. Psalm 119:1–6 MSG

¹³“Don't look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don't fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do.

¹⁴The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention. Matthew 7:13–14 MSG

➔ Focusing on God's best

¹⁸Don't be drunk with wine, which will ruin your life, but be filled with the Spirit. Ephesians 5:18 ERV

➤ Dissipating God's best

¹⁴Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

¹⁵Instead, you ought to say, “If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.” James 4:14–15 NIV

➤ Fixing on God's best (Filled with the Spirit)

²⁵Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other. Galatians 5:25-26 NIV

²⁶That means we will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original. Galatians 5:26 MSG

➔ Living in God's best

¹⁹speaking to one another with psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit. Sing and make music from your heart to the Lord, ²⁰always giving thanks to God the Father for everything (any excuse for a song to God MSG), in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 5:19–20 NIV

Gratitude as a way of life

²¹What happened was this: People knew God perfectly well, but when they didn't treat him like God, refusing to worship him (thank him) , they trivialized themselves into silliness and confusion so that there was neither sense nor direction left in their lives. Romans 1:21 MSG

Our attitude, not our aptitude,
determines our altitude.

¹⁸Whatever happens, always be thankful. This is how God wants you to live in Christ Jesus. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 ERV

➔ Centering on God's best

includes focusing on others.

²¹Submit (courteous, support), to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21 NIV

What does this mean for me?

Bottom Line:

When we embrace God's best,
we won't be embarrassed by God's best!

*Pastor Dave often uses concepts and ideas from a variety of resources when writing a message. If you have any questions regarding these sources, please don't hesitate to contact Dave at daves@senecacommunitychurch.com.

To help you turn what God is saying to you into action steps, consider using the “Think It Over” section on the back.