

Using Every Opportunity to Help More People Love God

Message 1 of 6 in the series: "Kairos"

Kairos = A God-given moment or season, a window of opportunity.

A. God is giving us great opportunities in these evil days to bring many people out of spiritual darkness and into a personal relationship with Jesus.

"Carefully determine what pleases the Lord. Take no part in the worthless deeds of evil and darkness; instead, expose them. It is shameful even to talk about the things that ungodly people do in secret. But their evil intentions will be exposed when the light shines on them, for the light makes everything visible. This is why it is said, 'Awake, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will give you light.' So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. **Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days.**" Ephesians 5:10-16 (NLT)

1. God has given **us** incredible opportunities to be bright lights for Christ in our schools, workplaces, families, and communities.

"You are the light of the world—like a city on a hilltop that cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and then puts it under a basket. Instead, a lamp is placed on a stand, where it gives light to everyone in the house. In the same way, let your good deeds shine out for all to see, so that everyone will praise your heavenly Father." Matthew 5:14-16 (NLT)

2. If we want to see a spiritual awakening in our culture, it needs to start with us.

"For God is working in you, giving you the desire and the power to do what pleases him. Do everything without complaining and arguing, so that no one can criticize you. Live clean, innocent lives as children of God, shining like bright lights in a world full of crooked and perverse people."

Philippians 2:13-15 (NLT)

B. God wants us to act thoughtfully about how we can make the most of the opportunities we have.

"**Don't act thoughtlessly but understand what the Lord wants you to do.** Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 5:17-20 (NLT)

1. We can pray for our Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, and Neighbors asking God to open their hearts and minds to the Good News about Jesus.

"I urge you, **first of all, to pray for all people.** Ask God to help them; intercede on their behalf, and give thanks for them. Pray this way for kings and all who are in authority so that we can live peaceful and quiet lives marked by godliness and dignity. **This is good and pleases God our Savior, who wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth.** For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time." 1 Timothy 2:1-6 (NLT)

2. We can pray that God will give us boldness and the right words in our conversations with Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, and Neighbors who are not believers.

"Live wisely among those who are not believers, and **make the most of every opportunity.** Let your conversation be gracious and attractive so that you will have the right response for everyone."

Colossians 4:5-6 (NLT)

"Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. And pray for me, too. **Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike.** I am in chains now, still preaching this message as God's ambassador. So pray that I will keep on speaking boldly for him, as I should." Ephesians 6:18-20 (NLT)

3. We can invite our unbelieving Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, and Neighbors to join us for worship each Sunday.
 - We will always teach God's Word so everyone can gain a better understanding of God's will and God's ways. "Preach the word of God. Be prepared, whether the time is favorable or not. Patiently

correct, rebuke, and encourage your people with good teaching. For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.” 2 Timothy 4:2-3 (NLT)

- We will always sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that will help us worship God with thankful hearts. “Let the message about Christ, in all its richness, fill your lives. Teach and counsel each other with all the wisdom he gives. Sing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs to God with thankful hearts.” Colossians 3:16 (NLT)
- We will always do our best to make everyone feel welcome. “And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.” Acts 15:19 (NLT)
- We will always invite people to become part of God’s family through a personal relationship with Jesus. “Even before he made the world, God loved us and chose us in Christ to be holy and without fault in his eyes. God decided in advance to adopt us into his own family by bringing us to himself through Jesus Christ. This is what he wanted to do, and it gave him great pleasure.”
Ephesians 1:4-5 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

Read Ephesians 5:10-20, and then discuss the following questions:

1. Share one God-given opportunity you have made the most of. If you’re willing, share a God-given opportunity you missed out on. What was the same? What was different?
2. Matthew 5:14-16 & Philippians 2:13-15. Do you think our church has some God-given opportunities for reaching out to people right here, right now? How should we act on these opportunities?
3. Discuss the following ways our church leadership has thought through creating an environment that makes it easy for us to invite our unbelieving Friends, Relatives, Acquaintances, and Neighbors to join us for worship each Sunday.
 - We will always teach God’s Word so everyone can gain a better understanding of God’s will and God’s ways. (2 Timothy 4:2-3)
 - We will always sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs that help us worship God with thankful hearts. (Colossians 3:16)
 - We will always do our best to make everyone feel welcome. (Acts 15:19)
 - We will always invite people to become part of God’s family through a personal relationship with Jesus. (Ephesians 1:4-5)
4. Discuss the following quotations:

“These Christians are very strange. They meet together in an empty room to worship. They do not have an image. They speak of one by the name of Jesus, who is absent, but whom they seem to be expecting at any time. And my, how they love Him and how they love one another.” Roman spies reporting on early Christian worship gatherings

“Sing all. Sing lustily and with good courage. Beware of singing as if you were half dead or half asleep. Do not bawl so as to be heard above the rest of the congregation but strive to unite your voices together. Sing in time and do not sing too slowly. Above all, sing spiritually. Have an eye to God in every word you sing.”
John Wesley’s directions for singing, 1761
5. Read 1 Timothy 2:1. Identify at least one Friend, Relative, Acquaintance, or Neighbor who needs the Lord in his/her life. Share with your group how to pray for him/her.
6. Spend some time as a group praying for the people in question #5, then also pray for each other. (Colossians 4:5-6, Ephesians 6:18-20)