



REDEEM THIS TIME

A Quick Guide to Small Groups





Summary

Like Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Jonah and the Apostle Paul, maybe God is preparing us for something more. It's time to redeem our time.



Small Group Commitment #1
Spiritual Growth



Two Minute Read



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Recently, our world has come to a screeching halt. From stay-at-home orders, to the closing of schools and non-essential businesses, people are hunkered down, and life is strangely different. This isn't a snow day or a vacation. None of this is up to us. It's forced on us. But in the midst of what's happening, please don't miss the silver lining. God wants to redeem this time.

More than any mandate from our governing leaders, God has given you a rare opportunity to grow in biblical proportions. Are you interested?

Social distancing is not a new thing. In fact, it's an ancient practice that might actually do us some good. Since the first book of the Bible, God has used social distancing to grow His people to become more like Him.

Throughout Scripture, God went to extreme lengths to orchestrate unusual events so He could prepare His people to look more like Him.

Before God used Abraham in a great way as the father to many nations, God took Abraham away from his home, land and people. God stripped Abraham from his identity and asked him to go to "the land that I will show you."

Before Joseph rose in power and became the number two leader over Egypt, he had to shelter-in-place for 13 long and lonely years as a slave and in prison. Put yourself in his shoes. What we're called to do today isn't that hard.

Israel wandered in circles throughout the desert for 40 years before they could come back to society.

Both Moses and David spent years in isolation before they were called to lead God's people.

Jonah spent three bizarre and smelly days in the belly of a whale. When he came out, he had a whole new attitude.

Before Jesus started His earthly ministry, He spent 40 days in remote isolation. No human contact, only temptation.

The Apostle Paul was blind for three days and had to shelter-in-place before God altered the course of his life.



Theological Truth

You only have two things that are eternal. Your relationship with God and your relationship with others. These are matters of first importance. And this hasn't changed. In fact, you probably have more time than ever to spend in solitude with the Lord and those closest to you. What a blessing. What an opportunity.

I'll be honest. At first, working remotely was a struggle. Though I love to be home and with my family, this was new. Over this month, as my family has been together 24/7, the cracks are starting to show. Does this sound familiar? If things in your life are beginning to feel exposed and life feels a bit fragile, I want to encourage you.

Nothing is wasted. You have a choice. Don't miss this opportunity.

Like Abraham, Joseph, Moses, David, Jonah and Paul, we all have something in common. God has given us an opportunity to withdraw and focus more on Him. Let's not waste this once in a lifetime opportunity for God to work in our lives in a new way. God has given us the most precious thing on the earth. He's given us *time*. God has given us the opportunity to spend time with Him and those we love. Every day, ordinary, uneventful time.

Right now, we have an opportunity to do something that will echo into eternity. This starts at home. This starts with a relationship with God and our relationship with people around us. *It's time we start redeeming our time.*