

Idea Card

TIME WISE

Best Use

Use as a family time activity to illustrate the importance of using our time wisely.

Advance Preparation

Have the following supplies ready for family time:

- About ten toy blocks, wood pieces, or pieces of paper of various lengths
- A coffee table or flat surface shorter than the combined length of the blocks, wood pieces, or pieces of paper
- A marker
- A Bible

During the Family Time

Follow these steps to have a great experience:

1. Assemble the blocks from largest to smallest or have the child help you cut the wood/paper into pieces of various length.
2. Have a child write one of the following words on each of the longer pieces representing the "Should Do" activities in his or her day: Sleep, Eat, School, Bathe, Chores, Read, Pray, Practice, etc.
3. Now have them write one of the following "Could Do" words on each of the shorter pieces of wood: Television, Games, Play with Friends, Play with Toys, Eat Ice Cream, etc.
4. Invite the kids to your "24 Hour Table" or flat surface. (Be sure the length of the surface is shorter than the combined length of the wood/paper blocks.)
5. Invite each child to design his or her ideal day by selecting the ones that represent what they would like to do most and placing them end-to-end on the surface until they run out of table. The child will quickly discover that there is not enough room on the table for several of the "Should Do's" such as "bathing" or "sleeping" or "school."
6. Now invite each child to place the pieces on the "24 Hour Table" in order of importance – deciding which of the "Could Do" blocks should be lowest priority. Share that we should protect some time for fun activities, but we might not get to do everything we enjoy every day.
7. Read Ecclesiastes 3:1 and Matthew 25:14-29 together and discuss ways to become wise with the time God gives us.

Memorize: "Should Do before Could Do!"

Pray: Close your time together in prayer, asking God to help you put the "should do's" before the "could do's."