

Summer Issue

TEACHING OBEDIENCE, DISCIPLESHIP, AND AGAPE TO YOUTH

2003

FOR CHURCH, HOME, AND SCHOOL

## “IT’S ABOUT TIME”

By Flavious Adkins



**“I’m sorry, I’ve got so many things to do that I just can’t do it!! I don’t have time.”**

How many times have we heard this excuse? How many times have we used it ourselves? When our children want something of us; to play, to read a story or just listen, do we take time? When was the last time you took the kids for a hike in the woods or had a family picnic or flew a kite?

Maybe someone asks us to help with some project or other and we have to decline because we don’t have time.

What is this thing called time? It’s been around for a long, long while. One humorist says that time is what keeps everything from happening all at once. But Solomon says there is time in Ecclesiastes 3:1. “To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” (Read Verses 1-8)

Time is eternity that we have divided into pieces so we can understand it a little better. A certain portion of it we call years. A division of this amount of time is months. A further breakdown and we have weeks made up of days, which are divided, into hours, which are broken down to minutes and seconds. Now in our computer age this division continues down to the thousands and millions of parts per second.

But even with all this breakdown of time why do some people have time to do the things they want while others do not?

Our constitution claims that we are all created equal but it’s not altogether true. Some of you seem to have more brains than I do. On the other hand I seem to have gotten most of the good looks, even though my wife claims that her feet are prettier than mine. But time is one area where we are indeed equal, each of us are given 24 hours each day – no more, no less. Only the amount of days vary for each of us.

It is how we use this time we are given that determines whether there is enough. It is the priority that we give to the time we use or waste. We can try to extend the

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## Personal Note

*Hello Everyone,*

*Do you realize that the Spring Holy Days are past, along with Pentecost, and here we are. Summer has over taken us and the Fall Holy Days will be here before we know it?*

*Where has the time gone? Are we wasting our time or making the most use of our time? Is time one of our most valuable assets, given as a gift from God to us? We seem to think about how to spend time but are we thinking about how wisely we should use the few precious days, weeks, months and years we have?*

*In this issue, the lead article concerns time. Be sure and read "It's about Time" written by Flavious Adkins. We all have to make choices every day, and we should make wise decisions, especially when it comes to our family, children, friends and neighbors.*

*Are we spending enough time with our family, especially our children? Are we using this precious commodity to teach, train, love and enjoy the time we have with our children? Or do we just let it go by as we go about our own life, pursuing our desires, watching television, gabbing on the phone, doing what we want to do without any thought to the time we should be spending with our children.*

*Our children grow up so fast these days. They have knowledge of more things at an earlier age than we did when we were growing up. Some children have to become an adult way before they should, due to circumstances that they have no control over. And that is sad! Many children are living in homes where there is only one parent. And that parent has to work to provide a living for them. There is hardly any time to spend with the children.*

*So take every opportunity to use the time that you do have wisely, and set aside as much time as possible for your children. Children that live in a home where parents make time to do things with them usually are happier, healthier and get along better with others*

*than children that grow up taking care of themselves because their parents are not there for them.*

*Until next time,*

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### BEATITUDES FOR THE HOME



Blessed is the home where God is at home and where the spirit of Christ rules.

Blessed is the home where children are welcomed and given their rightful place.

Blessed is the home having a church home where father, mother and children worship regularly together.

Blessed is the home where each puts the other's happiness first.

Blessed is the home where all show their love in ways that mean the most to those they love.

Blessed is the home where each seeks to bring out the best in the other, and to show his own best self at all times.

Blessed is the home where all have learned to face their daily problems in a Christian spirit and to disagree without being disagreeable.

Blessed is the home where children grow up and grown-ups do not act like children.

Blessed is the home having the assurance of a heavenly home.

(By Theodore F. Adams)

“It’s About Time” - Continued from Page 1

use of our time by some thoughtful planning. But it seems that many times something will come up to completely nullify our plans.

I suspect that many of the young people feel that they are immune from the effects of time. They don’t appreciate time because there seems to be so much of it. Teenagers have a hard time thinking that they were ever like the little ones on their blankets on the floor, but they were. It is hard for them to imagine that one day they will be old like their parents beside them, or even more horrifying, like the grandparents. **It’s just a matter of time.**



As we grow older we can see that time is like the sand in an hourglass running from the top glass to the bottom one, and as we see the final grains of sand remaining, we realize that indeed there is an end of time for us. But as Christians we live with the faith that when our time runs out, our hourglass will be turned over again filled with the sands of eternity.

**However, while we are on this earth, we are all subject to time.** Ben Franklin said, “Don’t waste time, that is the stuff life is made of.” If you neglect education during the learning time of your life, you may pay dearly for it. Many want to quit school and get a job – get on with living because they fear there is not enough time to get it all in.

Perhaps this sense of never having enough time keeps us from doing the things that are the most important in life. Some people get the idea that they peak at 50 or 40 or even 20. **This attitude of “so little time” suffocates the human spirit.** Most people say that as you get old, you have to give up things. Maybe it’s because you give up things, that makes you old. It may not necessarily be the material things, but the things that you do that make a contribution.

It seems that people who really make a contribution tend to act as if they were already immortal and that they have all the time in the world. Because they act as if life were eternal, these people always feel that they have time to be available to others. You can read it in

their faces and their posture. The person who is at your disposal turns toward you, tilts a head, bends an ear, lights an eye. **What a miracle that simple act of being available can work.** All of us remember these special moments. The occasion when people have released our spirit just by lending us a sympathetic half hour. Availability can be brief but it must be sincere to lift the spirit. A casual friend parts with “call me anytime, I’m at your disposal”, but will he be on hand without begrudging in your time of crisis and will he be there to toast you without envying your good fortune?



Bored and lazy people have time but may have little to offer because they are hoarding what little time they have for themselves. **The people most available to us are often the busiest and most important.** Important, yes but not self-important. Often those who are burdened with egos, money or degrees allow no one else to enter their inner world. They close themselves off and become dried up like autumn leaves.

**Nothing dries up the soul faster than the delusion that it is too late.** This delusion permeates our culture. We are told that physicists do their most creative work before the age of 30 and almost all athletes are old by the age of 30.

I’ve heard people say “I wish I could play the piano” or “I wish I could paint”. **Why can’t you? What’s stopping you?** There is no time we cry! And turn our backs on others and on the future.

As I said earlier, **it takes a sense of eternity to make one realize that there is time, time to be available and to create.** Nothing creates the sense of available time more firmly than religious faith, the idea of God and eternity. Perhaps that is why with the whole universe to take care of, He can take the time to be available for us. He has all the time in the world.

**It begins with a choice** – I shall make time – I will not be closed off and dried up. We must, of course, sometimes close the door



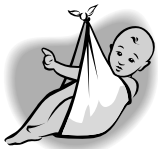
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# SEASONS OF LIFE

## Youth Bible Study:

Ages 9-12

In Ecclesiastes 3, it begins, "To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose." Fill in the blanks in the verses below. You may use the Word Pool or look up the scriptures in **Ecclesiastes 3**.



A time to be born, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_.

A time to plant, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_ what is planted.

A time to kill, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_.

A time to break down, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_ up.

A time to weep, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_.

A time to mourn, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_.

A time to cast away stones, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_ stones.

A time to gain, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_.

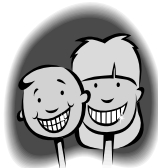
A time to keep, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_.

A time to tear, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_.

A time to keep silence, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_.

A time to love, and a time to \_\_\_\_\_.

A time of war, and a time of \_\_\_\_\_.



### Word Pool

pluck	gather	hate	heal
build	peace	sew	lose
laugh	speck	dance	gather
refrain from	throw away	die	

2003 By Shelby Faith

# FEEDING THE FIVE THOUSAND

**Youth Bible Study: Ages 4 - 8**

**Scriptures: John 6:1-13**

As the Passover was drawing near, a great multitude of people were following Jesus. Jesus went up onto a mountain with his disciples and looked out at all the people. He asked Philip "Where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?" (John 6:5)

One of His disciples, Andrew, said to Him, "There is a lad here who has five barley loaves (bread) and two small fish...." (Verses 8 - 9)

Then Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." So the men sat down, in number about five thousand. (Verse 10) Besides women and children. (Matthew 14:21)

Then Jesus took the loaves and gave thanks, and He had the disciples give them to all the people. Likewise of the fish and the people had as much as they wanted. (Verse 11)

And when they were all filled, the disciples gathered up all that was left, and it filled twelve baskets. (Verses 12 -13)

1. There are 2 loaves of bread and 2 fish in the picture below. How many should there be? \_\_\_\_\_ Add the missing loaves of bread to this picture.



2. Circle the number of baskets of food that was left over after everyone had ate?

**8      3      7      10      12**

3. Draw all the baskets that were left over. Use the back of this page if you need more space. Color the pictures of the bread, fish and baskets.



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“It’s About Time” (Continued from Page 3)

to be alone with our thoughts, with books, to meditate and be with God. **This restores and renews our inner core.** Without this renewal, we can’t be usefully available to others. In private hours become the person who will be available. Then we can offer them the gift, not of what we have but of what we are. In prayer and meditation, in reading and in thought we can hear the voice of God that reminds us of eternity.



Then we can take down our “do not disturb” signs, knowing that on our way to eternity we can find the time to be available to others.

**Time is truly our most valuable gift that we can give to others,** for everything else we can replace but once time is given, used or wasted, it is gone forever for you. A part of your life is gone.



“Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends.” (John 15:13) I’m sure we can imagine ourselves stepping forward gallantly to exchange our life for a brother or a friend, but what about the little things. Jesus was always getting to the heart of the matter. What about stopping to talk to a child or visiting someone whom is ill or sending a card of sympathy or thanks to someone who needs it. **What about making yourself available?**

When Jesus says that there is no greater love than giving your life for a friend, he paid the ultimate price by giving His life for us. I’m sure that he may also have been talking about time as well, for time is the stuff your life is made of. **Time, a piece of your life given to a friend – the most precious gift of all. Are you available? Don’t you think it’s about time?**



## SABBATH SCHOOL ACTIVITY

On June 7, 2003 Aaron Adkins, Fiona Meeker, Katie Adkins and Jonathon Everman performed a play they had written called “David The Super Servant” before about 22 people in the Sabbath Class (including other students and parents). These students attend Sabbath School with the United Church of God in St. Louis, Mo. Jonathon Everman played the lead part of “David”. This is a bible story told in a humorous way with a modern twist. The play was overseen and edited by Dianne Bonifili, Sabbath School teacher.

Act I started with two lions (played by Katie Adkins and Fiona Meeker) wondering where they were going to eat, because they were getting hungry. They went to one restaurant first, then decided that wasn’t what they were looking for. Then they passed MacDonald’s, but that didn’t seem to be it either. Then they came upon a flock of sheep and decided this was what they were hungry for. However, as they were ready to attack, the shepherd boy David came out and killed them.

In Act II David was sent by his father Jesse (Aaron Adkins) to take food to his brothers (again played by Fiona and Katie). He stopped by and ordered pizza at Dominoes. Act III was called “Warrior Star Search” and the show was looking for the best warrior. Of course David (Jonathon Everman) was the winner using his sling shot.

In Act IV David went up against Goliath (played by Aaron Adkins). With his sturdy sling shot, he shot a paper wad at Goliath and Goliath went down. Therefore David proclaimed “With the help of God I can do anything. I’m David the Super Servant”.

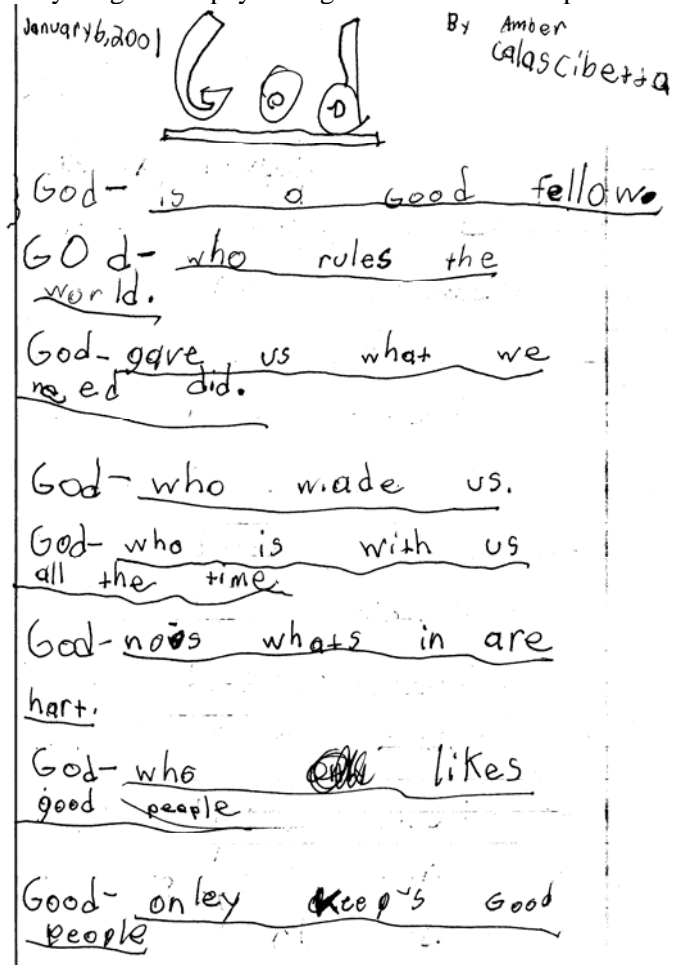
After the final act, the players were given a hearty round of applause. Then it was decided that this play should be performed before a larger audience. So after Sabbath Service was over, the audience was treated to “David The Super Servant”.

*(Note: If your Sabbath School class has written a play, sing as a choir, or did other crafts or activities, please send us a note and let us know about it. Also send pictures if available. Send any information to address on page 2 of this newsletter)*



## KID'S CORNER

At Sabbath service one day I asked my granddaughter, Amber, if she would take notes of the sermon. She was about 8 1/2 years old but I just wanted to see if children this young could pay enough attention to the speaker to



The minister's sermon was about God's goodness and what all He has done for us and how He wants to give us good things.

### Amber Calascibetta



Then Age 8 1/2



Now Age 11

(Needless to say, I was thrilled that Amber had gotten so much from the sermon. She couldn't spell all the words, but she tried. You might want to try this with your children. Let me know how the results turn out and send me a copy so that I can put it in the newsletter. And also a picture. (See my address on page 2.)

By Shelby Faith

### Needed Contributors!

Please contribute any articles, ideas, lessons, crafts, resources and methods that you use in teaching children, either at home or in Sabbath School. Please send any of the above to the address listed on page 2.

Thanks! Thanks! Thanks!

**T.O.D.A.Y. NEWSLETTER**  
*A Quarterly Publication by:*  
**Churches of GOD Outreach Ministries**  
**P.O. Box 54621, Tulsa, OK. 74155-0621**

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**And YOU!!**

*"Children's children are the crown of old men; and the glory of children are their fathers"* Proverbs 17:6