



Declutter.

January 14 & 15

Create Margin in Our Schedule

Chip Uhrmacher, CF Campus Pastor

Introduction

The start of a new year is often a time for reflection and new directions... decluttering our lives to make a fresh start. In our *Declutter* series, we examine how we can create more margin in our lives by eliminating the clutter to make room for what matters most. This week, Pastor Chip helps examine ways we can create margin in our schedule.

Discussion

1. Jesus is inviting us into an incredible life with Him, but too often we miss it. Either we guard our time and schedule to the point of hoarding it or we fill them so full we leave no margin to enjoy time with God. Do you tend to "hoard" or "fill"? What can you do to change that habit?
2. **Read Ephesians 5:8-16.** The scripture clearly directs us to live not as unwise but as wise. Reflect on your schedule. Do you see any unwise usage of your time? Share one thing you could remove from your schedule.
3. As we continue to look at our schedules, here are a couple questions to answer. Why are we so busy? What is underneath our incessant drive to work more, to be busy, to over schedule? Is it to earn approval of others, earn more money, avoid painful feelings, or is due to the Fear of Missing Out? After sharing one thing you can remove from your schedule, share why you believe it is in your schedule.

Think About It

Our schedules should be less about what we need to get done and more about who God wants us to become. It really isn't about removing things from our calendar. It's about creating margin for the most important things and doing those. For some, that will mean adding things in their schedule. For others, removing. Still others will just need to tweak and adjust a bit. We ultimately need to understand time belongs to God, and we need to carefully steward it.

Do Something

1. When asking yourself the question, "How do I declutter my schedule?", Pastor Chip offered four steps to creating margin for God. During the next few weeks, begin to work on accomplishing one step at a time.
2. Commit to praying for each other this week about decluttering your schedule. If you do not have an accountability partner, find someone in your circle or group who can encourage you and keep you accountable as you readjust your schedule. Revisit this discussion at the beginning of your next small group meeting, and share any victories or struggles you are having.