

Beginning a New Year Wisely **Ecclesiastes 8:2-8**

Ice Breaker: A new year is the perfect time to resolve to use time effectively for high value purposes. Share a time from your life when you did one of the most valuable, effective things you've ever done. As each person finishes, group members please commend them verbally!

Digging Deeper: Vs. 5 - "The wise heart will know the proper time and procedure." is in the context of obeying the king! Before you discuss the affirmations below, discuss what characterizes a wise heart for those following Christ.

Discuss the DIFFERENCE each of the following 'New Year' Affirmations could make:

1. Today I will smile and resolve to be agreeable. I will not criticize.
2. Today I will begin by doing the most important thing first. If I get anything more done, it will be a bonus and I will be content.
3. Today I will refuse to worry about what might happen. Instead, I will make the right, good and loving thing happen.
4. Today I will study to improve myself in God's eyes, so that I may serve others in God-honoring ways.
5. Today I will do the things I should and not do the things I should not do.
6. Today I will not imagine what I would do if things were different. They are not different. I will make progress with what is and what I have.
7. Today I will act towards others (especially those closest to me) as though this might be my last day on earth.