

friends into serving HIM

teen Talk

Q: Classes, sports, friends, the fall play, my job, and youth group — I'm so busy! People keep telling me to enjoy my high school years and not to let opportunities go by. The problem is, I'm so busy doing everything, that I don't have much time to enjoy anything. I am constantly concerned with my schedule and to-do list. Help me find a solution!

A: You are not alone. In fact many adults will confess to having the same problem. Depending on the size of your school, there can be a lot of pressure to be in every activity. You still are the "boss of you"— just like in kindergarten. You get to decide, for the most part, what is important for you to do with your time. Obviously classes and homework need to come first as they are truly the reason you are in school. After that, prayer and parents are your best help in setting priorities. Consider which activities give you the most joy and allow you to use the talents God has given you. Be sure to leave time in your busy days to spend alone with the Lord. Be in the Word every day so that He can "show you the way to go" (Deut. 1:33b).

devotion

"God's Word-A Gift of Light for You"

A story is told that during the Vietnam War, a number of prisoners of war were kept in solitary confinement in terrible conditions. Day after day the only contact with the outside world was the man who slid a tray of meager food into the dark cell. Few of the men survived, but one who did shared his secret to survival.

The prisoner of war had regularly attended his Sunday school class as a youngster and had dutifully memorized many Bible passages. During his confinement, the "light" in the darkness was his ability to recite those Bible passages and to draw strength from their message. It was the only light he had.

God's Word provides strength in many difficult situations — many not so dramatic as a prison camp. The Bible is a gift from God to us. It is meant to be studied by us and shared with others. God's Word was not just meant for people thousands of years ago. It is a timeless book with application for us today. God's Word can light the darkest paths we have to walk in this life.

Prayer: *Gracious God, You have given me the gift of Your Word. Help me to read it and grow from it that I might be Your faithful disciple. Give me an understanding so that I might share that message with others. I pray in Your name. Amen.*

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Send your news, ideas and photos to LWQ Teen News, readersrespond@lwml.org



Teens from Laurel, Nebraska, are not only "into serving Him" but also have a great way of showing appreciation for pastors. The group challenged their congregation to give a card of thanks (along with their mites!) to their pastor for each day in October. The LWML society matched the donations, and the teens went a step further by sending appreciation cards to their LCMS District President Rev. Russ Sommerfeld and LCMS President Dr. Gerald Kieschnick! In a meeting with LWML President Wendorf, Rev. Sommerfeld shared the card that he had with him!