

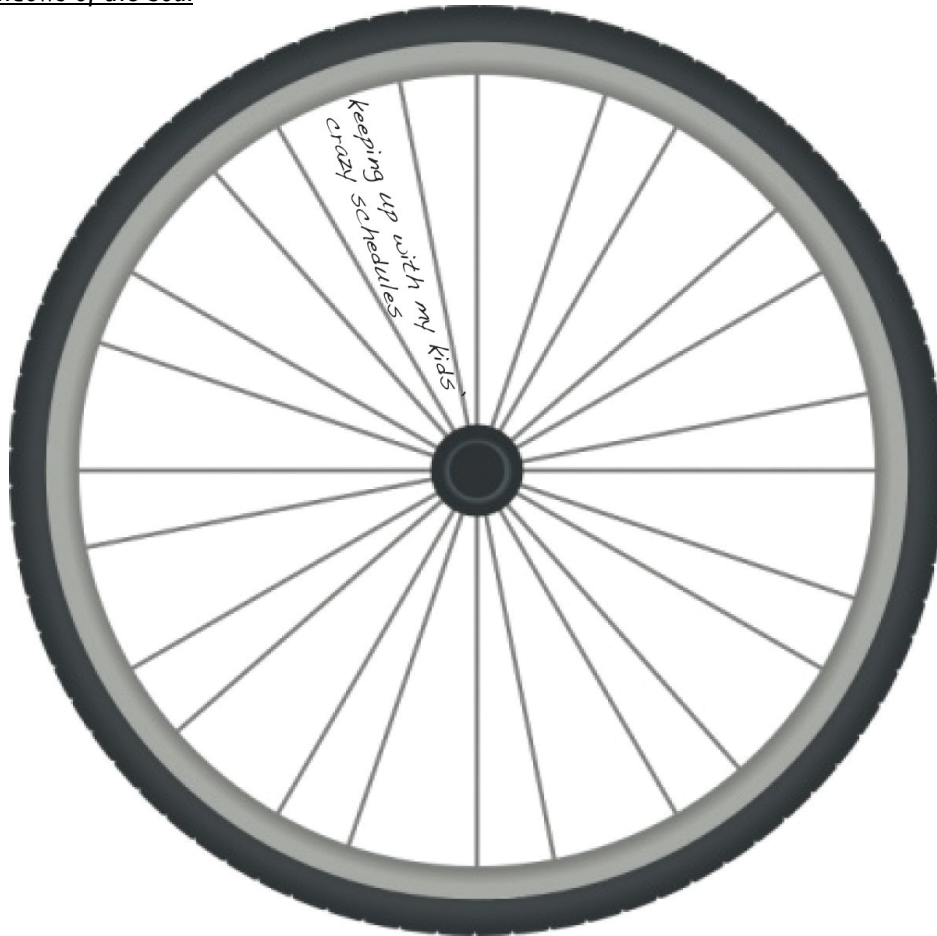
Lesson 8: Putting First Things First

We are at the end of our time together. But, God is NOT FINISHED with us; we're only at the starting line of this race! Consider the following as we work through today's lesson:

- ★ We can choose Him to be the still axis in our lives...or we can continue to spin out of control.
- ★ Let our prayer be "CHANGE ME, LORD" as we move closer to Him each day.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

"The still axis...is able to maintain its center no matter how fast the wheel is turning. It is, in fact, what keeps the wheel turning. Without the axis being still, the wheel would wobble off or else bind up and bring everything lurching to a stop. Stillness is what gives stability. And it is what keeps the wheels from falling off our lives."
Ken Gire, Windows of the Soul



- 1) On the wheel above, label the "moving parts" of your life that distract you from the "one thing." (I've given you one as an example.) If necessary, in the margin write out details, names, places, or other key words. Now in a colored pen, label the still axis as Christ.

- 2) We sometimes need to be reminded that God’s love for us is the same yesterday, today, and tomorrow. What stands out to you in following verses about His love for us:

Romans 8:38-39 _____

Ephesians 2:8-9 _____

Lamentations 3:22-23 _____

- 3) How does God speak to Elijah in the following verse:

1 Kings 19:18 _____

- 4) Can you remember a time that – looking back – He was speaking to you, but maybe He was just whispering? Did you get still and listen? OR, was this a time when you missed His voice? _____

- 5) What “moving parts” in your life might be drowning out His voice? _____

- 6) How will you change your priorities to put your focus FIRST on listening/praying/worshipping God and pursuing everything else second? _____

- 7) Was there something in the study that was particularly meaningful to you? How will you make changes in your life based on what He’s shown you in this study? _____

“I’m not saying that I have this all together, that I have it made. But I am well on my way, reaching out for Christ, who has so wondrously reached out for me. Friends, don’t get me wrong: By no means do I count myself an expert in all of this, but I’ve got my eye on the goal, where God is beckoning us onward—to Jesus. I’m off and running, and I’m not turning back.” Philippians 3:12-14 (The Message)

- 8) Circle the key words in the above passage. Then, rewrite it in your own words below. Use this as a prayer and/or a personal mission statement. Ask God to keep it before you as you run the race for the prize. _____

