**Proverbs 17:1-3**

**Better is a dry morsel, and quietness therewith, than an house full of sacrifices with strife.**

**A wise servant shall have rule over a son that causeth shame, and shall have part of the inheritance among the brethren.**

**The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the Lord trieth the hearts.**

What is important? It’s the kind of question that we grapple with every day. We spend time, effort, and money on those things that we decide are important. Consider this past week. If someone followed you around, marking down your activities for each hour of the past week, what would your top commitment be? What’s most important? For many of us, the most important thing would probably have to do with our jobs. We spend a lot of time at work, after all, and work is important. Of course, we do want to keep the first verse here in mind. It’s better to have less with contentment than more with strife. Still, work is a blessing given by God, and it is important to do our work well. But besides paid work, how did you spend your time this week? Perhaps you directed your efforts to benefit your family—teaching the kids, doing the dishes, washing clothing, preparing meals and so forth. Certainly family is very important, and caring for a family is a major time commitment. Many of us probably spend quite a bit of our time contributing to our families, which is as it should be. We don’t want to be the son that “causeth shame” of the second verse! But thinking over the past week, you might want to consider how much time you have invested in just enjoying yourself. Things like watching TV (or movies or YouTube), playing games, or reading novels use up time in a way that doesn’t benefit our families, churches, or anybody else. Too much of that and we might be subject to that second verse! Worse yet, we might come out on the wrong side of the third one. Because the way we spend our time reflects the things that we value as important. And there’s only one thing that is most important: walking with our God. So we spend time on our work, our families, and ourselves… how much time did you spend on Him this week?

[](https://blog.humanesociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/CECIL-LION-PORTRAIT-116925035_292147-1192x820.jpg)**Lions**

[](http://4.bp.blogspot.com/_U6R4N6aJNLU/SeCTiLj5DcI/AAAAAAAAC2s/8LVR30Ep-VI/s1600/ThreeHotLions.jpg)This species, the African Lion, is probably quite familiar to you. One of the most widely recognized animal symbols in human culture, the lion has been extensively depicted in sculptures and paintings, on national flags, and in contemporary films and literature. Lions have been kept in menageries since the time of the Roman Empire and have been a key species sought for exhibition in zoological gardens across the world since the late 18th century. Basically, lions are pretty well known. Even if nature isn’t really your thing, you’re probably aware that they live together in groups called “prides,” that the males have manes, and that the lionesses hunt cooperatively. Lions are really well known. So we know what is important for them, right? What do you think lions need most? A generous territory, for instance. Lions also need strong muscles and jaws to bring down their prey. They need water—sometimes a problem in dry, dusty Sub-Saharan Africa. Would you have guessed one of these things? Certainly they seem most obvious. What about intellect? Social learning? I bet these wouldn’t have made your list. But it turns out that the lion is the only big cat that we know for sure is a social animal. Like other social animals, they need to be able to manage complex interactions. They have to work together, learn from each other, and navigate all the tricky aspects of social hierarchy. Fortunately, God knows everything that is important for the lions, and He make sure that they have it. Which is why scientists are now investigating the social intelligence of lions—and discovering that they are quite clever! God also knows everything that is important for us, even when we get confused about it. And just as He does for the lions, He makes sure that we can have it. Which is why you CAN make time for daily Bible study and regular prayer—even if you really don’t seem to have time. Difficult though it certainly is, take the time for the truly important things. You won’t regret it.

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Nature: Super Cats

Season 1

Episode 3: “Science and Secrets”

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