The Story of the Jar (Anonymous)

Reflect on this story as you consider the Time Management discussion this week. The moral of the story is one that will help you in all areas of life. Enjoy!

A professor stood before the class and had some items in front of him. When the class began, wordlessly, he picked up a large jar and proceeded to fill it to the top with rocks.

He then asked the students if the jar was full. The students said, yes.

The professor then picked up a box of pebbles and poured them into the jar. The pebbles rolled into the open areas between the rocks.

He then asked the students again if the jar was full. The students said, yes.

Next, the professor picked up a small bag of sand and poured it into the jar. Of course, the sand filled up everything else.

He asked once more if the jar was full. The students responded again with "yes."

The professor then took a glass of water and poured the entire contents into jar, effectively filling the empty spaces in between with water.

The students then laughed.

The professor said, "I want you to recognize that

**the jar** represents your life.

**The rocks** are the important things, top priorities like family, children, health, friends, and favorite passions. These are things that if everything else was lost and only these things remained, your life would still be full.

**The pebbles** are other important things like your job, education, house and car.

**The sand** represents everything else.”

"If you put the sand into the jar first, there is no room for the rocks or the pebbles. The same goes for life. If you spend all of your time and energy on the small stuff, you will never have room for the top priorities that are important to you.”

The moral of the story is to first deal with your top priorities—the big rocks and pebbles—since these are the things that really matter. Set your priorities and follow them.

One of the students raised her hand and asked what **the water** represented. The professor smiled. "I'm glad you asked. It just goes to show you that no matter how full your life may seem, there's always room for a little bit of the small stuff."