

# **Blur**

## ***“Steward Time”***

### **PREPARATION**

- Familiarize yourself with this Study Guide.
- If you missed it, watch the sermon online [HERE](#).
- Spend some time in prayer before your group gathers.
- As a leader you **always** have the option to use some or all the questions and/or prepare your own questions.

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **Opening Prayer:** (1-5 minutes)

*In light of what God is saying through this week’s message, here’s some suggestions of how your group can invite God into your time together.*

Father, SLOW US DOWN! As we seek to listen and obey the Lord, pray that God would teach us how to steward our time wisely. Pray that the Lord would expose everything activity that may distract us from drawing closer to Him so that He might permeate our lives. Finally, pray for the strength and boldness to obey the instruction of the Lord even in the midst of our busy lives!

#### **Discussion:** (30 minutes)

#### **What’s Going on This Week**

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the first week of our new series titled *Blur*. Pastor Danny focused our attention on Ephesians 5:14-21 to begin a conversation about how we ought to steward the remaining time we have here on this earth. Pastor Danny uses the scripture to challenge us to live wisely with our time, let God dictate our every move, and waste time on what matters.

**“Life is too short to waste our time on things that do not matter.”– Pastor Danny Strange**

## Suggested Questions

**Check-In:** Review *Esther 4:13-14*; *Ephesians 2:8-10*: In our last series, the book of Esther taught us to boldly step into the works that God has prepared for us. This new series further encourages us to step into the works that God is calling us into because our time on this earth is fleeting. What are some of the works that you believe God is calling you into that you have been processing throughout last series and this series? How does time play a factor in how you decide to proceed in obedience to Jesus?

- *Read Ephesians 5:7-16*: Pastor Danny uses this passage to point out Paul's description of the passing days as evil. Pastor Danny challenges us to think like Paul and see time as a resource that must be stewarded with wisdom because it is constantly diminishing, it is scarce, and it can completely be taken away from us at any moment. As you reflect on your own life, what are the elements of your day that take up most of your time and energy? What are the ways in which God is calling you to rethink your schedule / priorities in order to become wise about how you spend your time?
- *Read Ephesians 5:17-18*; *Luke 12:13-21*; *Matthew 16:24-28*: Pastor Danny uses these next passages in order to challenge us to reflect on how God wants us to submit to His will in every situation that involves a time-consuming decision. Pastor Danny makes the point that we can live foolishly in two ways – by not investing at all for the future and living every day seeking pleasure as if today was our last day or by investing too much for the future and living for future pleasures as if we are going to live forever. Considering the review question about the good works God has called you into, what are the specific opportunities that you need to take advantage of so that you can begin to work alongside God toward this calling today?
- *Read Ephesians 5:19-21*; *James 4:13-17*; *1 Corinthians 15:12-22*: Pastor Danny concludes his sermon by challenging us to “waste our time on what is important” in light of God's kingdom and the truth of His resurrection! He mentions that a lot of the actions Paul lists seem like a waste of time to the world, but draws us closer and closer to Jesus if he has indeed resurrected! What are the “time-consuming” disciplines that you want to engage with but do not have the time for? What encourage do we need to offer each other in order to take the time to draw closer to God daily in our lives?

### **Closing Prayer: (5-15 minutes)**

*In light of what God is saying through this week's message, here's some suggestions of what your group could talk about with God in prayer.*

Thank our Heavenly Father for sending Jesus to die on the cross for our sins and raising from the grave so that we may have eternal life! Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to teach us how to steward our time in light of the fact that eternity with or without God is an urgent reality as our time on earth grows shorter and shorter. Finally, pray that God would give us the courage to obey regardless of what time constraints we may have.

### **THROUGHOUT THE WEEK**

**- Find out how to pray for two people in your group this week!** Follow up with two people in your group and offer them encouragement them to slow down and draw near to God!

**-Keep track of every opportunity God lays out in front of you!** Reflect on how time constraints influenced your decision making. Be prepared to share your experience next week!

**-Stop by the prayer room at 3Crosses on TUESDAY 8/27!** Continue to remind yourself that fasting is to long for our heavenly home, loosen the grip of sin, express a need to God, and anticipate God's movement! It is a great reminder that our time is short on this earth and God is calling us to steward our time well!

**- Sign-Up for a Community Group! The Season begins September 22<sup>nd</sup>!** If you have any questions, feel free to email AJ at [avanegas@3crosses.org](mailto:avanegas@3crosses.org)