

# *Blur*

## *“Stopping 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 select the material that is relevant for your group

### 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 fix our damaged relationship with time on this earth. Pray that the Lord would continue to give show us the importance of keeping the Sabbath day holy in our lives and recognizing a rhythm of rest. Finally, pray that we would continue to abide in Jesus as we depend on your authority to maximize our time on this earth!

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

##### What’s Going on This Week

This Sunday, Pastor Danny led us into the third and final week of our series titled *Blur*. Pastor Danny focused our attention on passages that talk about the Sabbath in order to discuss our broken relationship with time and how Jesus is calling us to come to Him, the God who exists outside of time, in order to experience rest. Pastor Danny uses this final sermon in the series to challenge us that perhaps living a life in prayer and worship is the most efficient way to live if we believe that Jesus is the Lord over all the earth and can accomplish things in an instant that would normally take us a long time.

**“If what we believe is true about the scriptures, about what we say about Jesus, and the work of the Spirit in our lives...then the most efficient way to live would be to slow down and listen to God and merely respond to what he says...”– Pastor Danny Strange**

## Suggested Questions

**Check-In:** Review *Ephesians 5:15-21*: Last week, the conversation revolved around living our lives with our vision in eternity and our hearts in the moment by moment circumstances in order to savor each moment that God has given us. What were the challenges of balancing your view of eternity and savoring the moment by moment aspects of life?

- Read *Ecclesiastes 1:12-18, 3:1-15, 9:10-12* *Genesis 2:1-3; Numbers 14:20-35; Joshua 10:12-15; 2 Timothy 1:9-10*: Pastor Danny used the passages in *Ecclesiastes* and several examples in the Old Testament to make the point that something about our human relationship with time is broken. However, Pastor Danny also notes that God is outside of time and is calling us into a relationship that suspends our worry about time. After going through this blur series, how do you feel about our own relationship with time? How is God calling you to rethink your commitments as you think about your schedule and stewarding your time well on this earth?
- Read *Exodus 20:8-1, 31:12-17; Numbers 15:32-36; Matthew 12:1-14; Mark 2:27*: Next, Pastor Danny challenges the church by questioning why our modern Christian culture does not take the practice of Sabbath seriously even though it is the longest of the ten commandments. Pastor Danny encourages us to then look at our relationship with the Sabbath as an indicator of something not right with our relationship with time. As you reflect on the seriousness of the Sabbath and see how Jesus treated it, how is God calling you to change your own view about keeping the Sabbath holy? What are some of the challenges that prevent you from engaging in a Sabbath rest and how does that open your eyes to your current relationship with Jesus?
- Read *Matthew 6:9-13; 11:28; John 5:16-20, 14:5-7; Philippians 4:4-9*: Finally, Pastor Danny challenges us by proposing that resting in God offers us the most efficient way of life and offers the most return on this earth. Pastor Danny proves that time is irrelevant in the kingdom of God by reminding us that it only took 3 years of ministry for Jesus to become the most influential human to live! How can we challenge each other to continually surrender our time to God and draw closer to him, slow down, and listen to Him?

### **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 Him from the grave so that we may have eternal life! Pray that the Holy Spirit would continue to teach us how to alleviate our time restraints by resting in Him. Finally, pray that the Holy Spirit would draw us closer and closer to Jesus so that we can follow Him as we look to perform the works He has prepared for us.

### **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 your vision of the future and your heart for the present moment!** Reflect on which of these needs adjustment in your life and what spiritual disciplines help you bring clarity in these two categories.

**-Pray and Fast for 3Crosses Community Groups on TUESDAY September 17<sup>th</sup>!** 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! The prayer room will be open on Tuesday so make sure and stop by 3Crosses if you can!

**- 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)