

## Paying Attention

This weekend across all our campuses, many of our campus staff members preached on priorities and attention. Ask your group members whose message they listened to and what some of their favorite points were.

### Goal

To help us focus on what we can do rather than waiting on God to do something for us.

### Conversation Starters

- What's something at home you frequently walk past without paying attention to it? (e.g., dirty laundry, dishes in the sink, weeds in front of your house, etc.)
- What's something that most people consider a distraction that's easy for you to ignore? (e.g., noisy kids, hot/cold weather, television in the background, etc.)
- If you could remove one distraction from your life, what would it be?

### Review

#### ***Last week:***

Start by checking on how group members did with talking to someone from a different background after this past weekend's video "Come Out of Your Corner"

- Did you have a conversation with someone from a different background? What did you learn? How did your perspective shift?

#### ***This week:***

Ask eGroup members to share their favorite points from the sermon, what spoke to them, a phrase or moment from the sermon they related to the most, or questions they have. If members have a hard time recalling the sermon, talk through your notes and share your favorite points.

### Start with Scripture

#### **Read Acts 3:10.**

Encourage your eGroup to open their Bibles to Acts 3. Ask someone in your eGroup to read this passage.

- Peter and John were going to the temple, but they stopped because they noticed the man who was lame. Why do you think they chose to let their plans be interrupted? (*There could be many reasons: one could be because*

- they were on the lookout for ways to spread Christ's message and healing, and they gave that greater importance than their own plans. Let your group evaluate their own motives for why they might stop in a similar situation.)*
- Peter tells the man, "...what I do have, I give you." What can we learn from his statement? *(Just because we don't have something doesn't mean we can't give what we DO have. Peter didn't let what he didn't have keep him from serving God.)*
  - **Take It Further:** now look at Genesis 12:1-5. Abraham knew what he needed to do to seek God's will and favor, and he did it — even though it was a long and difficult journey — instead of waiting for God to show up where he wanted Him to. Why is God's will sometimes the most difficult path? *(God often does important work in us while we're following His direction to the place He wants us to be. Our faith doesn't grow if we stay where things are easy and familiar.)*

### **Make It Personal**

- What are some areas in your life where it's hardest for you to pay attention? Why?
- Acts 3:5 says, "So the man gave them his attention, expecting to get something from them." Why is it easier to give our attention when we're expecting to receive something?
- - How can this take our focus off God, if we're looking for what we can get? *(Sometimes God wants something FROM us, so it can be easy to miss those opportunities when we're looking for Him to give us something.)*
- In Acts 3:7, the man isn't healed until he attempts to stand up, even though he could have waited for God to heal him first before standing. Talk about a time when you waited (or are waiting) for God to make the first move.
- - What are the benefits of making the first move? *(Growing your faith, trusting God, showing God your intent and trust, etc.)*
- How can you grow your awareness to start looking for where God is moving, rather than waiting for Him to move where you want Him to?

### **Act On It**

- This week, **attention** is "your gate." How can you get in that gate this week? Identify one area in your life where you want a change — how you can give that area your full attention this week?

### **Praise Reports, Prayer Requests, and Prayer**

Ask eGroup members to share any prayer requests they have. Record any notes or prayer requests to pray for members during the week.

*Dear Lord, thank You for the many opportunities in our lives to serve You and know You better. We know that many times we walk right past those opportunities, so we ask that You would help us pay attention and see where You are moving around us. Give us the focus and strength to engage wherever You call us, and help us trust You to take care of the challenging areas of our lives in Your own time and way. In Jesus' name, amen.*