

SUMMER READING

Summer Reading

Small Group Questions: Part 2 Own the Moment

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Read

John 4:27–42; Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28; and Ephesians 3:20

Reflect

In John 4, Jesus begins a conversation with a Samaritan woman at Jacob’s well. Although the woman is surprised that he, a Jew, would speak to her, she willingly engages in the moment, foregoing her task to collect water. Ultimately, this decision changes her life. She is the first person to whom Jesus reveals he is the Messiah. She becomes a believer, and her testimony leads many to Christ. Yet the disciples, more focused on their own hunger, miss out on this incredible moment. When have you looked back and realized you probably missed out on some turning-point moments? How might your thoughts and behavior change if you assume that God is active in every conversation and interaction?

Pastor Josh Walters discusses three key points from the book: *Own the Moment* by Carl Lentz. Learn how we can own the moment:

1. Anticipate the moment.
 - a. What kind of environments or experiences do you think God is preparing for you tomorrow?
 - i. What are you basing your expectations on? –On what you think you deserve...what you’ve experienced in the past? Explain
 - ii. Do you believe God wants to prosper you? How difficult is it to anticipate something different—something greater, something more?
 - b. How has God shown you through your experiences that he does want the best for you?
 - i. How can you better prepare spiritually? How can you better prepare practically?
2. Be in the moment.
 - a. What can we learn from the disciples about needing to be more conscious of the present?
 - b. How often do you find yourself fearing the future and regretting the past?
 - c. How hard is to focus on the present?
 - d. What patterns and habits do you need to alter in order to focus on the here and now?
 - i. When does your mind tend to wander? When do you feel emotionally or spiritually absent?
 - ii. What are some upcoming “expected” special moments that you can plan and prepare for?
 - iii. What are some “unexpected” but blessed moments God has given you?
3. Celebrate the moment.
 - a. Jesus stayed with the Samaritans for two days, and many became believers. Are you taking the time to celebrate and reinforce important moments?
 - b. Who or what do you need to celebrate and acknowledge?
 - c. Ask family and friends what moments have been the most important in their lives. What can you learn from them?

Respond: Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you?