



## **Week One: Clear – Study Guide**

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Life is an incredible gift that God intends for us to use for Him. What we do with it, and make of it, are of utmost importance. We all tend to put off, at times, what we're supposed to do and waste both the time and calling God has on our lives. Everyone needs to set something aside to follow Jesus more closely. What is it for you?

### **Where Am I Today?**

- 1) What do you tend to procrastinate doing the most?

### **Into the Bible**

- 2) Giving money was something the Corinthian church put off, which is pretty common. Read **2 Corinthians 8:6-17** to see how Paul encouraged and coached the Corinthians. How did he motivate them? What was at the root of their hesitation?

## JUMP START

### WEEK ONE: CLEAR – STUDY GUIDE

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- 3) Paul sums up much of 2 Corinthians, chapters 8 and 9, in two verses.  
Read **2 Corinthians 9:11-12** to see how he does that. Why does God provide for us? What is the greatest purpose and motivation for giving?
  
- 4) Fear is at the root of much procrastination. Paul related fear to a spiritual issue in **2 Timothy 1:7**. If God didn't give us a spirit of fear, what happens when we're overwhelmed by fear?

### How Does This Apply?

- 5) Sometimes the problem isn't that you never started something, but that you never finished it. What have you started that you never finished? What's your first step to getting back on track?
  
- 6) Living wisely and responsibly is important, but sometimes we take it to the extreme—living safely and taking no risks. In what ways are you living too safely? What risks do you believe God is calling you to take? What fears will you have to overcome?

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- 7) This week Mike encouraged us to isolate our fears, be open about our bad habits, set priorities, look at our excuses, plan our strategy, and create a follow up plan. What excuses are you going to leave behind? What's your follow up plan?

### **Prayer Focus**

As a church, we are praying together for several things this week:

- Pray that things come together so we can close on the Statesville Campus building in September.
- Pray for Cove teams going out across the country and world. Also, pray specifically for the thousands of Syrian refugees fleeing conflict.
- Pray for our students that the new school year provides great opportunities to live out their faith.

### **Continue Learning on Your Own**

- 8) Time is a spiritual thing. Like any other resource, God created it to be used for His purposes. Wasting it is more than a simple stewardship issue; it's frequently a sin. That's what Paul was getting at when he said, "[make] the best use of the time, because the days are evil." Simply put, ever since the first sin in the Garden of Eden, we have been living in evil days. There is a "god of this world" who is not God. There is a way to make the best use of time, and a way to let evil days run their course without fighting against it. What are some ways that you can make the best use of your time? How is it easy to give way to the evil days in which we live?

Read: **Ephesians 5:15-17, 2 Corinthians 4:4**