

2023



SMALL FOXES OF PROCRASTINATION

SMALL FOXES SERIES

SMALL GROUP STUDY GUIDE

Song of Songs 2:15 NIV - Catch for us the foxes, the little foxes that ruin the vineyards, our vineyards that are in bloom.

Everyone procrastinates to some level; putting off things we need to do either to shift and understand your priorities or for no reason at all. Today is about the small fox of procrastination. Procrastination is a self-defeating behavior pattern that yields short-term benefits with long-term costs. It is a result of control issues. Procrastination is an enemy and not your friend.

PROCRASTINATE:
THE ACTION OF DELAYING OR POSTPONING SOMETHING

The future is coming and we have great expectations for our future. To get the results you desire you have to put in the work to achieve the goal. God doesn't give anyone finished products, He gives us all raw materials. The manifestation you see is a direct result of how you use what God puts in your hands. Declare that whatever God puts in your hands you will turn into more.

THIS WILL BE YOUR RECORD BREAKING YEAR.

We have to get to work. There is a window of time to get done what God has asked you to do. You cannot delay.

- If Moses had delayed, the children of Israel would not have experienced freedom
- If Noah delayed in building the arc, his whole family would have died.
- If Joseph delayed storing during the famine, the people would have had no food.
- If the disciples had delayed in preparing the room, there would have been no last supper.

There is too much at stake waiting on you to get out of delay. Some opportunities if missed will never come again. Decree and declare you will not miss your moment.

What window of opportunity have you missed due to your delaying (procrastination)?

Delay is not your friend. The spirit of delay is about to be rebuked in your life. You must believe that God still has time to do something in your life. We are no longer comfortable, we are not settling. God is calling us into the deep. We have to make sure we have the right ones around us because association matters.

In this season you cannot afford to be around people who aren't going anywhere. In Matthew 25, we see ten virgins, five are wise and five are foolish. Normally the wise and foolish do not associate with each other, but we get to learn essential lessons to secure our future from the ten virgins.

- All of them were in the same place, at the same time, with the same opportunities and same characteristics.
- The only difference is some are called wise while others are called foolish .
- The virgins show us the difference between what you get and what you have is how you manage your time.
- Don't be foolish and think you can't learn from those further along

Who are you hanging with? What have you been able to learn as a result of being around them?

LORD HELP US MANAGE THE GIFT OF TIME YOU HAVE GIVEN US!

PREPARATION

THEY DIDN'T FOLLOW THE EXAMPLE OF THE WISE

*Matthew 25:3-4 NIV - [3] The foolish ones **took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.** [4] The wise ones, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps.*

- Preparation is key to your future success
- Your expectation is connected to your preparations
- Benjamin Franklin said "By failing to prepare, you're preparing to fail"
- Abraham Lincoln said "If you give me six hours to chop down a tree, I will spend the first four sharpening my ax"
- Preparations is an expectation of your preferred future
- The worst thing is to be where you belong without having what you need
- The fastest way you can go further is to learn from the experiences of others
- They are called fools because they aren't learning from who they are around
- You either learn from the school of experience or example
- God's deliverance is preventative in the experiential
- Don't allow pride and arrogance to prevent you from learning from the wise
- Don't show up in your future with high expectations and no preparation

Who looks like the future you desire that you can learn from?

*Psalms 37:37 NLT -**Look at those** who are **honest** and **good**, for a **wonderful future awaits** those who love peace.*

- Get around where you're going, not where you've been

- Go further faster by learning from others
- Stop looking for oil when you should be getting lessons
- Desire what is in the head and not in the hand
- Your preparation will show your manifestation

What are you preparing for? Who are you marking (using as an example) to prepare yourself for your promises? Where are you recording your process?

PLANNING

THEY DIDN'T TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE TIME TO PLAN

Matthew 25:5 NIV - The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep.

- Planning is the success principle of life
- Planning teaches you to control time and change
- Planning is proof that you have faith
- It's not if you wait, but how you wait
- Your posture attention span matters
- The more time passes for a promise, the more passive we become
- The foolish people are sleep when they should be working
- The wise rest and fools fall asleep

How can you stay in the right posture while you wait? Have you planned for the future? Why or why not? What is the importance of planning for the future?

Proverbs 6:9-11 NIV - [9] How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? [10] A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest – [11] and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

- You can't take advantage of which you have not prepared nor planned for
- Laziness is the thief of present and future opportunities.

What is stopping you from pursuing what God has instructed you to do?

PROCRASTINATION

THEY DIDN'T PREPARE FOR THE BRIDEGROOM

Matthew 25:6-10 NIV - [6] "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!'" [7] "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. [8] The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' [9] "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and

buy some for yourselves.' [10] "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut.

- Opportunity comes at midnight when most people are sleep
- Opportunity comes suddenly, you don't have time to go get what you need you must be ready
- If you know it's coming act like it
- Learning to say no is vital to get important things done
- You cannot deplete yourself to satisfy the needs of others
- Put a demand on others to use what they have to get what they need
- No's are meant to make you determined
- Lack of planning on your part does not constitute an emergency on my part
- "Really successful people say no to almost everything" - Warren Buffett

What opportunity are you prepared for? How do you know you're ready?

Revelation 3:8 NIV - I know your deeds. See, I have placed before you an open door that no one can shut. I know that you have little strength, yet you have kept my word and have not denied my name.

- God is preparing something specifically for you
- Write the vision and make it plain, so you can access what God has
- God see you but you must do the work, stop settling
- Worship God that everything you have been through has prepared you for your open door

What open door has your past prepared you to be placed in front of? How were your previous delays beneficial to getting you to this season?

THE CLOSE

Matthew 25:11-12 NIV -[11] "Later the others also came. 'Lord, Lord,' they said, 'open the door for us!' [12] "But he replied, 'Truly I tell you, I don't know you.'

- The worst thing you can do is get out of place because you weren't ready
- You can't get that time back, be ready
- God gives us time to get ready don't waste it while you wait on your promise
- Wake up everyday like this could be the day

What does a twenty four hour rotation of time look like to you? How many of those hours are wasted time?

Ecclesiastes 9:10 NIV - Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the realm of the dead, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

- *Fill every moment on earth with meaningful activities.*
- *Prepare, Work, Plan, Save, because when this life is over it's over.*
- *Whatever you do it with excellence as if today was the last day to do it.*

QUESTION

Are you planning, working, preparing and saving for your next opportunity?

DECLARATION

I'M GOING TO STAY READY AND LIVE READY FOR WHAT GOD HAS FOR ME.

PRAYER

Father God, help me to honor You with my time. Help me to be a good steward of the time You have given me so that I can accomplish what You have entrusted unto me. I promise to work diligently at preparing and planning so that I will always be ready. I will work at it with all my heart and might in Jesus' name, Amen!