Tips on Using the Portrait Mode to Blur the Background Compiled by Bob Spalding



The biggest reason to blur the background in a photo is to make the subject stand out more. You see this in flower photography. One or more flowers are in focus and the background is out of focus. In photography this is called Depth of Field (DOF). Basically it's how much of your image is in focus.

How much you can adjust your DOF will depend on the iPhone model. On the models Xs and later, you have a control slider that will allow you to adjust your DOF.

Adjust DOF (models Xs and later)

- Open your camera app -> select Portrait Mode -> then compose your photo.
- In the upper right hand corner, you will see a (f) in a circle (your DOF button). Tap on it;
 - This will open up a Control Slider at the bottom of the screen.
- Control Slider
 - The Slider goes from f1.4 to f16
 - The higher the f number to more DOF you will have
 - o Slide the slider to achieve your wanted DOF
 - Most advanced photographers will take several photos of a specific subject using various f-stops.
 - After you have taken your photo in the Portrait Mode, you can make adjustments to the DOF in the Edit Program on your phone. More on this later.

- Older models iPhones
 - The only way to adjust your DOF is:
 - Have your subject between 2 to 8 feet from the camera.
 - If you are too close or too far away the camera will give you a message to change your distance.
 - You will get a message on your screen "Natural Light" or "Depth Effect"
 - This will tell you that the background will be blurred
 - To create a shallow DOF for both front and back, move in close to your subject – now move in closer
 - Then take the picture.

