



Aperture Photography Group
Camera Skills Training
Apertures

www.aperturephotographygroup.co.uk



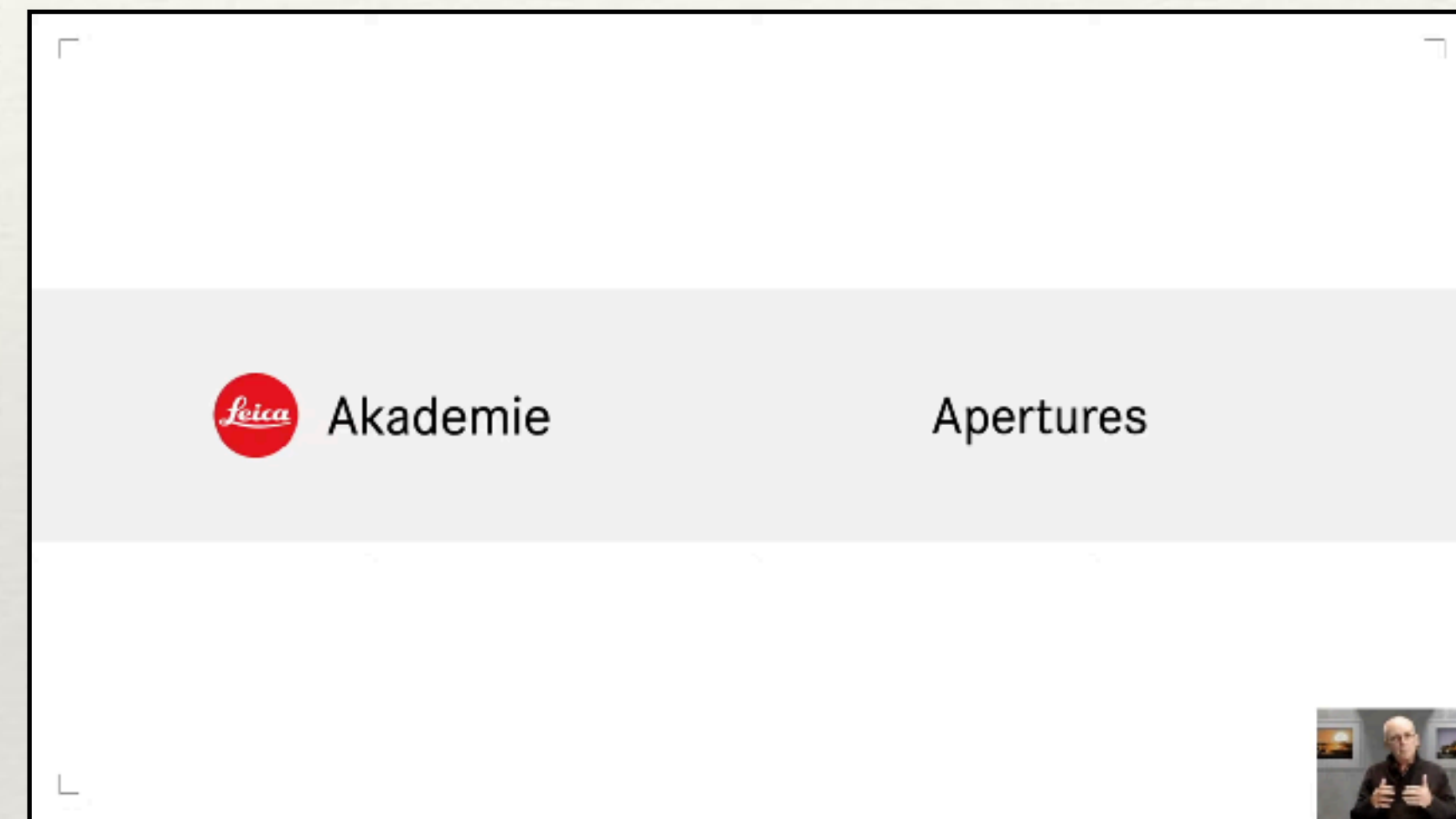
APG

Camera Skills - Aperture

Camera Skills

Tonight:

- ❖ Aperture
- ❖ Recap the key points from the Nick Rains video
- ❖ Q&A



Aperture

- ❖ Definitions:
 - ❖ Aperture is the size of the iris in the lens
 - ❖ Shutter speed is how long the iris remains open when you press the shutter button
 - ❖ Exposure is the optimal light captured by the camera's sensor

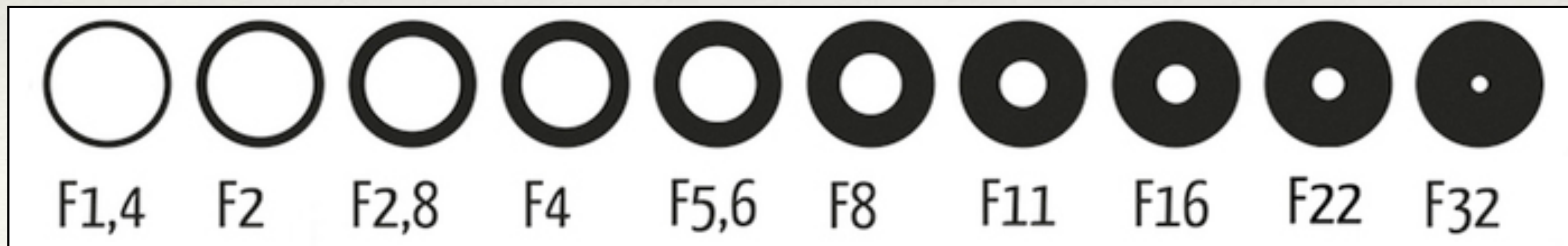


Aperture

- ❖ Using Aperture:
 - ❖ *For Exposure Purposes:*
Apertures control the amount of light entering the lens
 - ❖ *For Creative Purposes:*
Different apertures affect: depth of field (DOF), bokeh and image quality and thus the look of the image

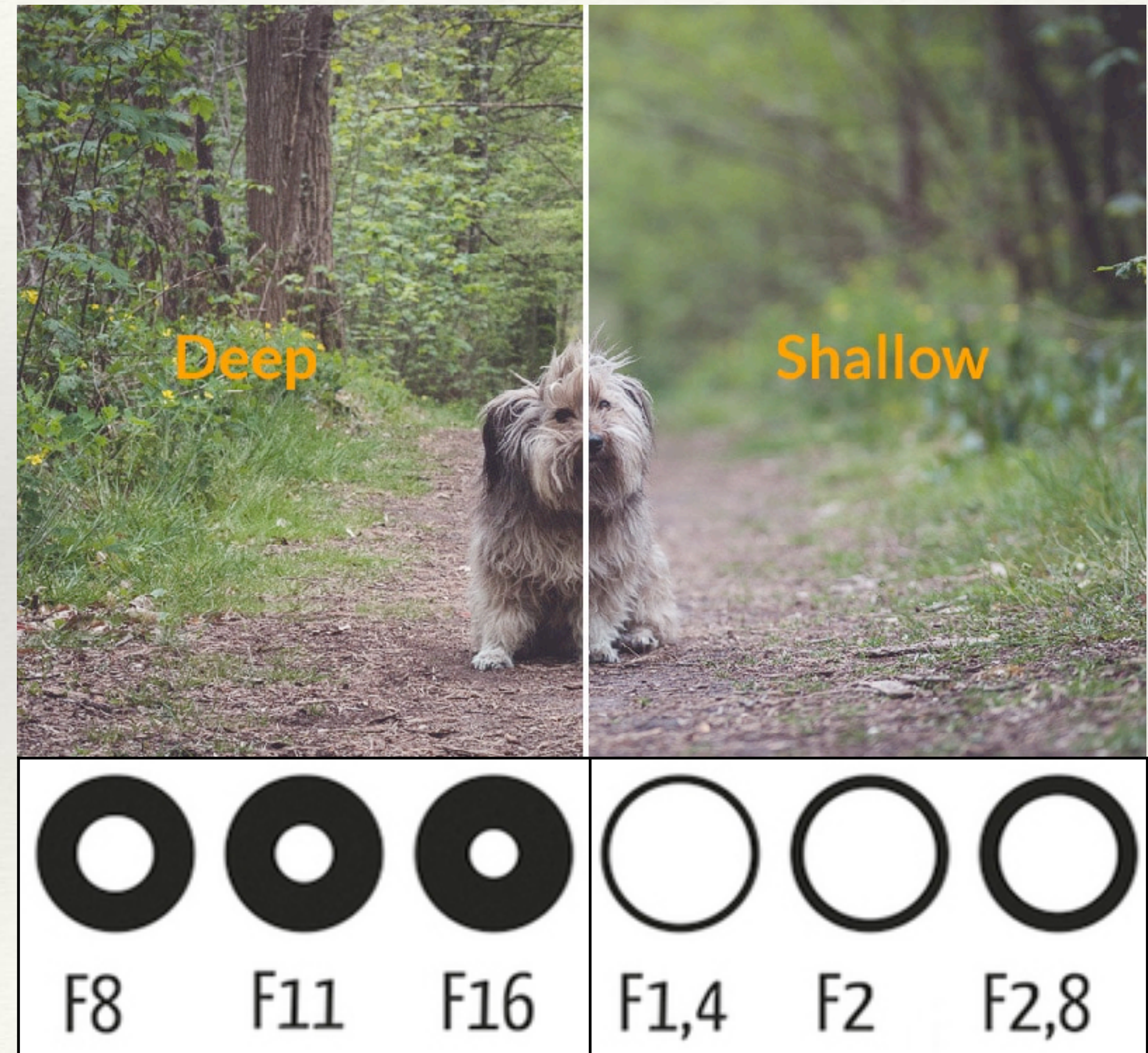
Aperture

- ❖ Apertures control the volume of light falling on the sensor (hosepipe and bucket example)
- ❖ Each change in the size of the aperture changes the amount of light hitting the sensor
- ❖ The smaller the aperture, the bigger aperture number and vice versa



Aperture

- ❖ Apertures affect the apparent depth of field
- ❖ The smaller the aperture the more depth of field you get and vice versa
- ❖ If you want to separate a subject from the background you will need a shallow DOF
- ❖ The widest aperture on your lens will give you the most subject separation
- ❖ Separation removes your attention from the supporting background elements



Aperture

- ❖ Your eye is drawn to whatever is sharp in the frame
- ❖ If two elements in the frame are equally sharp, your eye will be confused
- ❖ Faces (especially the face of your subject) nearly always have to be sharp
- ❖ Make your intentions clear in what you show in your image



Aperture

- ❖ Some subjects suit shallow DOF and vice versa
- ❖ Apertures above $f8$ give you a lot of DOF - no subject separation



Aperture

- ❖ Sometimes the choice of aperture is not important:
 - ❖ Where a subject is some way off, you will get a wide DOF regardless of aperture
 - ❖ Where a subject is very close you will get a shallow DOF regardless of aperture



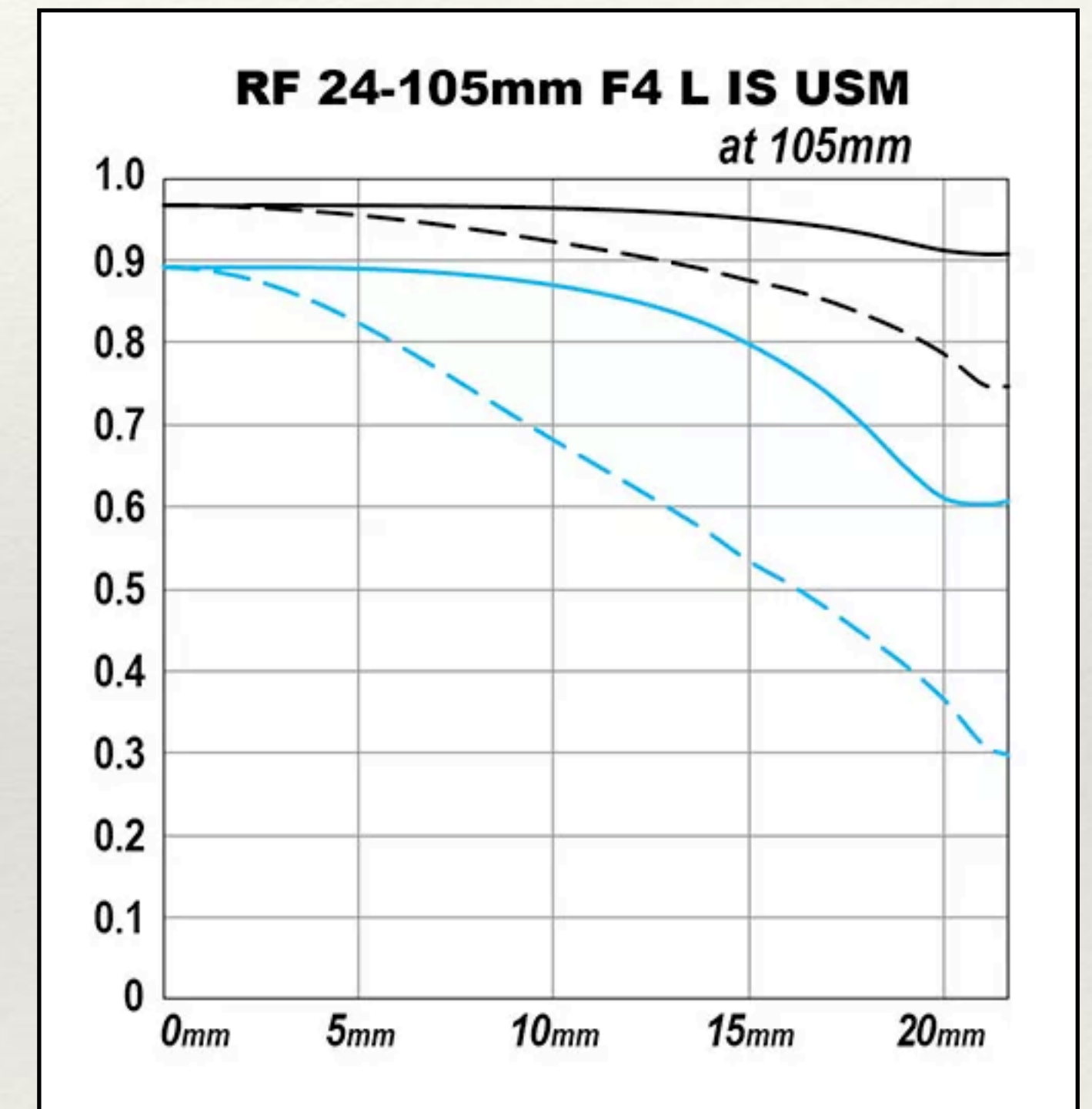
Aperture

- ❖ Aperture affects the quality of out of focus areas
- ❖ High quality bokeh has a smooth, blurry quality
- ❖ Prime lenses typically give the best bokeh



Aperture

- ❖ The choice of aperture will affect image quality
- ❖ If you choose a cheap zoom lens the image quality at wide apertures will be poorer
- ❖ Apertures that are 3 stops smaller than the widest aperture will be the sharpest



Aperture

- ❖ An aperture of f5.6 is a good starting point
- ❖ Don't get obsessed by the choice of aperture



Aperture

- ❖ Summary:
 - ❖ Apertures control:
 - ❖ The amount of light entering the lens
 - ❖ Depth of field
 - ❖ Bokeh
 - ❖ Image quality
- ❖ The exact aperture number is not that important
- ❖ When choosing an aperture - be clear in your intention
- ❖ Depth of field - Choose from either 'lots' (aperture = f8-f16) or 'not much' (the smallest apertures your lens offers)



Aperture

❖ Q&A

