

Preparation + the Spirit

Participant Handout

You're a Seasoned Pro, So Why Do You Need to Prepare?

Proverbs 21:31 – “*The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.*”

- Preparation is not a lack of _____, it's a practice of _____.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think experienced leaders sometimes avoid preparing?
 - How does Proverbs 21:31 reshape your perspective on preparation?
 - Can you recall a time when your preparation gave you confidence in ministry?
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Preparation Honors God

2 Timothy 2:15 – “*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*”

- Preparation shows _____ for God's Word and respect for His _____.

Discussion Questions:

- How does preparation show reverence for God?
 - In what ways can sloppy preparation dishonor Him?
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Preparation Displays Your Love for Others

Philippians 2:3 – “*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.*”

- When we prepare, we _____ others well. Preparation is an act of _____.

Discussion Questions:

- How does preparation demonstrate humility?
 - What are ways preparation helps people feel valued?
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Preparation Makes You Ready to Be Flexible

Matthew 10:19–20 – “But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

- The better _____ you are, the more _____ you are to follow the Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

- Jesus trained his disciples, yet he also reminded them not to worry in the moment. What’s the difference between flexibility and lack of preparation?
 - How have you experienced a moment when preparation allowed you to be flexible?
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Preparation Should Not Be About Control

James 4:15 – “Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’”

- Preparation is about _____, not about total _____.

Discussion Questions:

- How do you know when preparation turns into control?
 - What’s one practical way to prepare while still trusting God with the outcome?
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Preparation Is Not About Perfection

2 Corinthians 4:7 – “*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*”

- God calls us to _____, not _____.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is perfectionism a trap for leaders?
 - How can embracing imperfection point people toward God?
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Closing Thought

Luke 12:12 – “*For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.*”

- Preparation is more than planning—it’s a _____.

Discussion Question:

- What’s one step you can take this week to honor God through your preparation?
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Preparation + the Spirit

Teacher Guide

You're a Seasoned Pro, So Why Do You Need to Prepare?

Proverbs 21:31 – “*The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.*”

- Preparation is not a lack of **faith**, it's a practice of **obedience**.

Discussion Questions:

- Why do you think experienced leaders sometimes avoid preparing?
 - How does Proverbs 21:31 reshape your perspective on preparation?
 - Can you recall a time when your preparation gave you confidence in ministry?
-

Preparation Honors God

2 Timothy 2:15 – “*Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.*”

- Preparation shows **honor** for God's Word and respect for His **calling**.

Discussion Questions:

- How does preparation show reverence for God?
 - In what ways can sloppy preparation dishonor Him?
-

Preparation Displays Your Love for Others

Philippians 2:3 – “*Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.*”

- When we prepare, we **serve** others well. Preparation is an act of **love**.

Discussion Questions:

- How does preparation demonstrate humility?
 - What are ways preparation helps people feel valued?
-

Preparation Makes You Ready to Be Flexible

Matthew 10:19–20 – “But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”

- The better **prepared** you are, the more **free** you are to follow the Spirit.

Discussion Questions:

- Have you experienced a moment when preparation allowed you to be flexible?
 - What's the difference between flexibility and lack of preparation?
-

Preparation Should Not Be About Control

James 4:15 – “Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’”

- Preparation is about **trust**, not about total **control**.

Discussion Questions:

- How do you know when preparation turns into control?
 - What's one practical way to prepare while still trusting God with the outcome?
-

Preparation Is Not About Perfection

2 Corinthians 4:7 – “*But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.*”

- God calls us to ***faithfulness***, not ***perfection***.

Discussion Questions:

- Why is perfectionism a trap for leaders?
 - How can embracing imperfection point people toward God?
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Closing Thought

Luke 12:12 – “*For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.*”

- Preparation is more than planning—it’s a ***spiritual discipline***.

Discussion Question:

- What’s one step you can take this week to honor God through your preparation?