

# MISSION MANDATE: **PREPARE**

Middle School & High School  
Sunday School Lesson  
November 15, 2020



# **Mission Mandate: Prepare**

Proper preparation is the key to success in missions and in life.



**Bible Passage**

Prepare yourself and be ready, you and all your companies that are gathered about you; and be a guard for them.

***(Ezekiel 38:7)***

# The Importance of Preparation

**IF YOU  
FAIL  
TO PLAN,  
YOU PLAN  
TO  
FAIL**

Benjamin Franklin said, “If you fail to plan, you are planning to fail.”

Think about the last time you were responsible for planning something.

- What were some things you had to do to properly plan?
- How did the amount of planning you did affect the outcome of the event?
- What would have happened if you had done no advance preparation?

**Planning for something directly impacts its outcome.** If we plan well, the event will go well. If we don't plan, the event likely will be a flop.

# The Benefits of Preparation

- Have you ever shown up to class without studying for the test? Did you feel panic in that moment?
- Preparation is not always fun, and spending time preparing is probably not preferable to doing whatever we want (like reading or hanging out with friends).
- However:
  - The due date, the beginning of the event, or the time for the test is coming.
  - Eventually we all must make good on our commitments.
  - The amount of preparation we have put into something directly impacts the success of it.



# Preparation Benefits Others

## Other people are counting on us:

- to make good on our commitments,
- to stand beside them in their time of need,
- to be an example to them,
- to share the gospel and God's love with them.



Preparation (or the lack of it) establishes the quality we present to other people.

- When you speak, do you know what you are talking about?
- When someone is coming over, have you prepared your house to receive that person?
- Are you ready to give an answer when others ask you questions about Jesus?

The way we live our lives is an example to others around us.

- People are watching to see the amount of effort and excellence we put into what we do.
- Preparation shows we care about our tasks and responsibilities.
- A commitment to excellence in preparation is a mark of good character.

# Reflection of Our Investment



- ✓ Preparation (or lack thereof) speaks for itself and has a lot to say.
- ✓ **Preparation speaks of how we feel about ourselves.** Do we take pride in our work? Do we take our responsibilities seriously?
- ✓ Preparation speaks of how we feel about others. Do we care enough about them to properly prepare to ensure they have the best experience possible?
- ✓ Preparation speaks of how we feel about God and His kingdom. Are we doing our best for God and His work? Does the amount of preparation we put into things express a care and concern for God and His people?

# God's Example of Planning

Several verses of Scripture show God's love and appreciation for planning and preparing in advance.

## ***Read Ephesians 2:10.***

Whose "workmanship" are we?



- We are an example of God's precise planning and preparation.
- What does this verse say God prepared in advance?
- **God prepared our good works in advance.** Not only did He take the time to carefully craft us with divine design, but He also designed us very specifically, for specific works He already had in mind.

## ***Read John 14:3.***

God, who planned out our existence—including every aspect of our personalities, physical features, and the works we are supposed to do for Him—also has prepared a place for us and all who love Him.

# God's Call to Plan



The Bible talks so much about the importance of planning.

- The Lord gave Noah specific instructions on how to build the ark. God told Noah the exact dimensions he would need, the type of materials he should use, and the supplies he would need to pack.
- God also gave very specific instructions regarding the construction of the Tabernacle. The layout, the setup, the different components, and the specified materials needed to create them were all clearly laid out for Moses.

**The Lord cares about planning and preparation because He cares about us having the most successful life and ministry possible.**

***Read Matthew 7:24–27.***

- What did Jesus say the people who hear His sayings and do not do them would be like?
- What did Jesus say the people who hear His sayings and do them would be like?

The Lord has set us up for success with the principles and precepts clearly outlined in His Word.

- The Lord gave us a blueprint of preparation for every area of life.
- If we know His Word and do His Word, we will be prepared for any circumstances that come our way.

# Planning for Battle

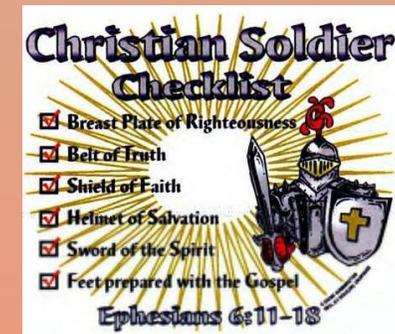
Every day we are fighting a spiritual war with the forces around us.

***Read II Corinthians 10:4.***

We are fighting a spiritual battle with spiritual weapons.

***Read Ephesians 6:10–18.***

- We must put on the whole armor of God.
- We must prepare to stand against the forces of the enemy.



**We are fighting a spiritual battle, and we must prepare for that battle by wearing our armor and planning out strategies.**

- If we have not prepared by wearing armor, we will be defenseless.
- If we have not prepared by feeding ourselves the spiritual bread of God's Word, we will be weak.
- If we have not prepared by strengthening our relationships with other Christians, we will fight alone.

# Planning for Battle (cont.)

## ***Read Proverbs 21:31.***

- Why is it important to prepare for battle?
- Ultimately victory belongs to whom?
- We are obligated to do our best to prepare for coming situations, experiences, and trials, but **we can trust that our God will provide; victory is in His hands.**



## ***Read I Peter 3:15.***

- What are we called to do in our hearts?
- What are some ways we can be ready to give an answer to those who ask what we believe?
- Why is it important to be prepared when others ask us questions about God, who He is, and why we serve Him?

# Preparing by Planning



*(For those that may be interested in Mission work.)*

## Save your money.

- Open a savings account specifically for money for missions.
- Save your spare change in a jar; you will be surprised at how quickly it adds up.
- Perform odd jobs for others, setting that money aside specifically for missions.

## Do your research.

- Look up a country you are interested in going to and find out more about life and the culture there.
- Find recipes from that country and try cooking them.
- Go to your local library and check out books on the country or continent.

## Learn the language.

- If residents of that country speak a different language, look up online resources or classes and begin learning the language.



# Preparing by Participating



Look up the missionaries in the country of your choice.

- Find out if there are projects or needs you could help with right now, right where you are.
- Contact the missionaries and express your interest in visiting on a short-term mission's trip.
- Pray for the place you long to make a part of your future.

**You do not have to wait until you are physically present in a place to make a difference.** There are many ways you can be a part of blessing that place and its people right where you are.

- Be active in your own local church.
- Be faithful in your attendance.
- Show up for church cleaning days.
- Pay your tithes and give in the offering.
- Reach out to others in the congregation who might need strength or encouragement.
- Give yourself to prayer and fasting.

# Preparing by Participating (cont.)

## Be a strength to your own family.

- Contribute to your household.
- Allow the way you live your life to be an example to others of how a relationship with Jesus Christ should look and be.
- We may long for other places and want to make a difference for God somewhere else; however, faith begins at home. We must be the best Christians we can be, spreading the gospel right where we are and showing God's love and kindness to others—especially in our own homes.

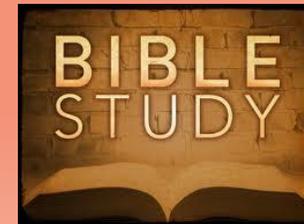
## Reach out to your community.

- Show up to church outreach events.
- Volunteer at a local homeless shelter.
- Host a clothing drive and donate to others in need.
- Witness to your friends at school or the people you encounter daily.
- You will be surprised at how easy it is to share your faith with others. Just be friendly and willing to talk to people you encounter. Once you start a conversation, you will be amazed at how quickly faith will come up.



# Teaching a Home Bible Study

- We cannot expect to take the gospel overseas if we are not willing to share our faith with those around us right now.
- Teaching a home Bible study will prepare us to adequately express the gospel to those who need to hear it.
- Teaching a home Bible study will prepare us by developing our people skills.
- Yes, overseas is a mission field, but right next door is also a mission field. Being active in one will prepare us for the other.



# Extra for the Road . . .



God has a specific plan for each person's life. What do you feel like God's plan is for you? How can you prepare to live out that plan? Who Can help you make plans to achieve things for God?

Sometimes planning can seem like a very mundane, boring thing to do. We want to jump right into the action and get involved. After all, souls need to be saved, so should we really be sitting on the sidelines putting together plans? Preparation doesn't seem particularly spiritual. If Jesus has called us to do something, can't He just give us the ability to do it? Yet planning and preparation are very spiritual.

Many times in the Bible Jesus called someone to make a difference; then He spent time working with the person to put a plan together, and He helped that person prepare for the plan. If you feel Jesus calling you, sit down with a spiritual leader in your life to figure out what you can do to move toward it.

