



# Prepare for Purpose

## Discussion Guide

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In three weeks, we are starting a new series called *Chapter Two*. We feel strongly that God is leading us into this series to transform our church and our hearts. This week, we will focus on how to prepare for that. It is one thing to be physically ready, but we have to be mentally and emotionally ready to encounter the Holy Spirit and step into all He is calling our church—and each of us—to be. Let's dig in!

### Jump Start

1. Name something (past or present) you prepared for physically, emotionally, or mentally. What was that process like? What would have happened if you had not been thoroughly prepared?
2. *Identify Purpose.* Read [John 17:9, 14-17](#), [Romans 10:17](#), and [Jeremiah 29:13](#). Following Jesus is a series of "Go Moments." Have you ever felt God's nudging you to do something? How do these verses outline for you how God speaks to us? What was the last thing you believe God told you to "go and do"?
3. *Transform Through Truth.* Read [John 17:18-21](#), [John 15: 3](#), and [2 Corinthians 3:18](#). How do these verses outline what it means to be sanctified by truth?
4. *Establish Unity.* Read [John 17:20-21](#) and [Psalm 133:1](#). Share with the group why unity is important to you? To the Church? With whom is God calling you to unite? Where do you see disunity in your life? Who do you need to apologize to in order to establish unity again?
5. **Pray This Prayer:** Preparing your heart and head is an act of surrender to the will of God. Pray this prayer or even write your own: *"Father, let the words I read change my heart, my mind, and my actions. Teach me, loving Father; reveal and remove the attitudes and actions I need to change. Allow the Holy Spirit to teach me how to live each day. Empty from my life the things in me that do not bring You glory. Help me to hear Your voice clearly and help me follow after You all the days of my life. God, I am available to do Your will. I am preparing for Your purpose in my life. Thank you for Jesus. Thank you for the Cross. Thank you for loving me. Thank You, Father."*

### Deeper

We will learn how to complete a **S O A P Bible Study** by looking at a passage of Scripture and breaking it down. **S O A P** stands for **S**cripture **O**bservation **A**pplication **P**rayer. Let's get ready to sit down with the Bible and see to what God wants to show us. Completing this study during your quiet time, then sharing with your Life Group, can allow for deeper understanding and revelation of new perspectives. **Things you will need:** Bible, Notebook, Pen.

Following God is a series of "Go Moments." To live out the purpose which God has for our lives, we must know His voice. This week, we will look at Samuel and how God was calling him. Yet, Samuel did not immediately recognize God's voice. However, he never stopped going, pursuing, and obeying until he fully understood and heard. Pray the prayer in Question 5 (above) before you dive in.

6. **Scripture.** Read [1 Samuel 3](#). What stood out to you the most about this story of Samuel's life?

*Take time to read this passage and allow God to speak to you. Jot down anything that made you stop and pause or anything that you questioned. When you are done, look for a verse that particularly spoke to you and write it out fully in your journal.*

7. **Observe.** What is God saying to you in these verses? What overarching theme or promise did you see? What did the specific verse that you were drawn to teach you?

*What do you think God is saying to you, personally and specifically, in these Scriptures? (You can even have a short prayer at this point, asking the Holy Spirit to teach you and reveal Jesus to you. Remember that He promised to give us wisdom and reveal truth to us when we ask.)*

8. **Application.** How will you apply what God showed you through these verses? How does this encourage you in your journey so that you will know God's voice when He calls to you?

*Personalize what you have read by asking yourself how it applies to your life right now. Perhaps it is instruction, encouragement, a new promise, or correction in an area of your life. Write down how this Scripture applies to you today.*

9. **Pray.** Pray about what you read in [1 Samuel 3](#). Pray about what God revealed to you, asking Him to help you understand and apply it.

*This prayer can be as simple as asking God to help you use this Scripture, or even a prayer for a greater insight on what He may be revealing to you. Remember, prayer is a two-way conversation, so take time here! Be sure to listen to what God has to say! Now, write it out. Journaling your quiet time helps you to see what God is teaching you over time.*