

“Preparation”
A Personal and Small Group Experience

Things worth experiencing take preparation!

I have always been won who could dream and envision a little bigger and a little faster than what I was prepared to actually execute on. I have learned that I need to be coupled with someone that can discern what it takes to get from Point A to Point B especially what kind of advance preparation needs to be made in order to move forward when the time is right.

I think this idea of “preparation” is one of the most frustrating things about being a teenager. You are in the middle of high school and not really sure what direction you are headed but almost exclusively involved in activities of preparation—school primarily. All kids complain about subject matter that seems irrelevant to them. “When am I ever going to need to know what happened at Appomattox Courthouse in April 1865?” exemplifies such a complaint.

Preparation—when you are in the middle of it—is riddled with frustration and questions of relevancy. It is important however!

God was in preparation mode for eons in advance of breaking into the world of humanity in the person of His Son—Jesus!

Our entire old testament is in many regards a long preparation story.

For this study we are going to pick up on the tale end of the preparation story before the birth of Jesus. We are going to read Luke 1 and listen to God tell some of the back story building up to His entrance into the world.

As you read Luke 1—take it in the sections delineated in most bibles.

Discuss how God is using real people to be in the story.

Discuss what it means to be a part of God’s story.

Notice how He prepares people.

Notice what steps of faith He asks people to take to play their role in His story. Then consider deeply how He has been and is working in your life!

What is God doing in your life to prepare you and for you to experience His presence and Lordship?

*Enjoy **Luke 1** !*

What Songs Say!!!

“Connecting With God” Weekly Guide

This booklet is a resource to help you “Connect with God” this week. He deeply desires ongoing personal connection with you. You are that important to Him.

This Page has some scripture verses for you to meditate on each day this week. Notice the helpful hints section – these are great things to consider when personally engaging with God through His Word.

The Center Pages contain the notes and outline for the message given on Sunday. The message is also available as an audio download from www.pointofgracechurch.org

The Back Page has a study written specifically for a small group of people (or an individual) to drill down deeper into a particular aspect of the week’s theme. Small groups can review memorable points of the week’s message and then work through the study concluding with a time of prayer.

Scripture & Meditation Guide - December 12-17

Helpful Hints:

- 1) Find a quiet place along with 15-20 minutes!
- 2) Focus on God for a few moments asking His Spirit to speak to your heart and offload your heart of stifling, burdens, guilt, worry etc.!
- 3) Listen to Him by reading a section of scripture then rereading it several times, dwelling on “words and phrases” which grab your heart’s attention. As you read and reread keep asking God, “What do You want me to hear?” “Why this word at this time?” “How are You inviting me to respond? Keep talking it over with Him—chew!
- 4) Pray (and journal) everything that is on your heart and mind as you are ready!

Worship Him, Bless Him, Thank Him, Ask Him, Trust Him

Monday: Isaiah 11: 1-9

Tuesday: Isaiah 11: 10-12

Wednesday: Isaiah 9:1-7

Thursday: John 1:1-14

Friday: Isaiah 40:1-5

Saturday: Isaiah 40:21-31