



ALWAYS READY

Be Prepared for God's Calling

Do you feel like your life is stagnant? Do you want God to do something in your life? Are you searching for your purpose, but can't seem to find it?

God is calling you to do something new and something great. The opportunity may already be in front of you, but you do not see it and are not prepared for it. Always being ready to answer God's call means preparing our hearts for what he wants to do.

In this 5-part Bible study, learn how you can always be...

1. Ready to Pray
2. Ready to Serve
3. Ready to Give
4. Ready to Share
5. Ready to Move

Use it for your own personal devotional or as a small group Bible study. We're praying that this will help prepare you for what God has in store for your life.

1. Ready to Pray

Read

“Devote yourselves to prayer, being watchful and thankful.” - Colossians 4:2

Reflect / Discuss

- What does it mean to be “watchful and thankful” in prayer?
- What are some of the things you pray about? Would they be considered watchful or thankful?

Consider

All throughout the Bible, prayer always precedes action. It is never a short “quick prayer” like we have become accustomed to. It is intentional. Prayer allows us to connect with God and be in sync with how He is moving in our lives and in our community. It prepares us for action.

This passage tells us to be watchful in prayer. Sometimes we can be so concerned with our own lives that we miss the bigger things that God is doing. Instead, we should be attentive to what’s going on around us and in the world, and be ready to pray for those things.

Act

- Be thankful - thank God for a prayer he has answered or something he has provided, but you have overlooked.
- Be watchful - think of a person or situation that you haven’t prayed for, and spend time praying for them.
- Join the Prayer Team at Guidelines to get prayer updates on how God is moving around the world - sign up at [guidelines.org/prayerteam](https://www.guidelines.org/prayerteam)

Dig Deeper

- A Prayer for Every Day:
<https://www.guidelines.org/devotional/a-prayer-for-everyday/>

2. Ready to Serve

Read

“For we are God’s handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” - Ephesians 2:10

Reflect / Discuss

- If you were created to do good works, is much of your life actually spent doing that?
- In what ways has God been shaping and preparing your life for good works?

Consider

God has a purpose for each of our lives. He has shaped our skills, personalities, and experiences uniquely to accomplish good in the world. Yet many of us are still waiting for a sign or clarity on God’s calling, and it can leave us paralyzed.

God has clearly prepared good works for you to do, and many of them are already right in front of you. You were created to do good, so just do the good that is in front of you. That will ultimately prepare you to do even greater things in the future.

Act

- What talents and skills do you have that you haven’t used for God’s work? Find a way to volunteer them through your church or a local nonprofit.
- Think of someone you know who has an immediate need that you can help with, and offer assistance.

Dig Deeper

- How Do I Love My Neighbor?:
<https://www.guidelines.org/devotional/how-do-i-love-my-neighbor/>

3. Ready to Give

Read

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” - 2 Corinthians 9:7

Reflect / Discuss

- Have you ever given out of guilt or begrudgingly? Why was that?
- How do you give with joy?

Consider

Giving is often an afterthought for many of us. After we have calculated our living expenses, our personal spending, and how much we want to save, we think about how much we want to give. It comes out of our leftovers. It is often spur of the moment only when we are asked to give, so we give what we can spare and what we feel like giving.

But this passage frames giving as something that is highly intentional. It's an offering that is already decided and prepared ahead of time. God does not need our gift, but it is a means to develop generosity as the core of who we are. To be a cheerful giver, prepare your heart to be generous and give God your first and best, not the scraps.

Act

- If you don't already give to your local church, consider an amount to set aside to give regularly.
- Think of someone you know who is in need, and set aside an amount to give to them.
- Make a donation to help others know Jesus at [guidelines.org/donate](https://www.guidelines.org/donate)

Dig Deeper

- Give Your Money a Job to Do:
<https://www.guidelines.org/devotional/give-your-money-a-job-to-do/>

4. Ready to Share

Read

“But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.” 1 Peter 3:15

Reflect / Discuss

- Has anyone ever asked you about your faith? If not, why do think they haven't?
- If you only had a few minutes to tell someone about God, what would you say?

Consider

Sharing the Gospel can be difficult for a lot of us. We are nervous about what to say or how other people will react. So when presented with the opportunity, we often shy away because we are unprepared.

Telling others about God does not need to be complicated. The first part of this verse says to revere Christ in our hearts. That means that anything we say about Jesus will come out of our relationship with Him. Being ready to share the Gospel is not about having a memorized script or testimony. It's simply talking about what God has done in your life.

Act

- Share your testimony in a public way, whether it's in person with someone you know, or online through a blog post, social media post, or video.
- Think of people you can help and serve regularly, so that you will be in a position when they ask you about your kindness and the hope you have.

Dig Deeper

- How to Say the Right Thing at the Right Time - <https://www.guidelines.org/devotional/how-to-say-the-right-thing-at-the-right-time/>

5. Ready to Move

Read

“See, I am doing a new thing! Now it springs up; do you not perceive it? I am making a way in the wilderness and streams in the wasteland.” - Isaiah 43:19

Reflect / Discuss

- Are there areas of your life or your community that seem like a wasteland?
- Have you ever felt like God was calling you to step into something that made you feel uncomfortable?

Consider

As we settle into the routine of life, it can be easy to get comfortable and complacent. God may be calling you to something new, but it will be uncomfortable. This could be stepping into a new job, a new location, or a new friend.

In order to be ready to move wherever God calls us, we have to be ok with being uncomfortable. We have to be willing to let go of the things that give us security. This is how we prepare ourselves to move with God into new seasons.

Act

- Look for an opportunity in your church where you can be more involved.
- Find an area of your life that God is calling you to step forward into.

Dig Deeper

- Simple Faith and Obedience:
<https://www.guidelines.org/devotional/simple-faith-obedience/>

Congratulations on completing this Bible study series. We hope it will help grow your faith and character so you'll be ready for whatever God plans for you.

We would love to hear how this study went for you. If it has impacted your life, please share with us by emailing info@guidelines.org

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