

Study #9: Preparing and Gifting: Finding the right people

PREPARE

Quiet your thoughts and welcome the presence of the Holy Spirit in your midst.

Begin with prayer. What do you most want to receive from the Lord this day? Perhaps it's the warmth of His loving presence; or you are waiting to hear specific guidance or direction. Take a few moments to release the anxieties and worries you have and receive His good, pleasing, and perfect plan for you today. This time of prayer will be different for everyone.

Read/Pray/Memorize Romans 12:1-2

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. 2 Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

REFLECT

Personally, or in your core group, briefly reflect on these questions.

1. When have you most felt that God has you in a place where you were best using your gifts?
2. What keeps people from volunteering to use their gifts and abilities?
3. How is your week going? Where have you seen God at work? What are you worried or anxious about? What are you praying about?

STUDY

Read Acts 6:1-7

4. What is the situation which causes the apostles to form this new team?

5. What qualities or requirements are present in the people chosen?
6. How are they empowered for ministry and what are the results?

Individual Study

Read the following Scriptures and journal about the different ways God prepares and chooses people for ministry and the gifts He gives. (Core Groups maybe just pick one or two):

- Acts 13:1-3
- Acts 16:1-5
- Romans 12:3-8
- 1 Corinthians 12:7-31
- Ephesians 4:11-16
- 1 Peter 4:7-11

Response:

1. What gifts for ministry has the Lord given to you?
2. How has God prepared you personally to impact the lives of other people?
3. How do our times specifically open up opportunities for you to impact others?

Prayer:

Lord Jesus – Help me to see the needs in my community for which you have gifted me to meet. Show me the ways you have prepared me to serve in my church and in my community. Encourage my heart and strengthen me for every good work... let me not grow discouraged when things are difficult, and results are hard to see. Thank you for the gifts, abilities, and experiences you have given me, and may I step into those roles which strengthen your Church. Amen.

Prayer Requests: