

LIFE GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

ARE YOU READY?

THE PREPARED AND THE UNPREPARED HEART

Scripture: Mark 14:27-72

Pastor Mingo Palacios, 16 Aug 2015

Pastor Mingo continued in our series “Are You Ready” speaking on the subject of being spiritually prepared. Looking at the night before Jesus went to the cross, we see a contrast between Peter and Jesus. Jesus spiritually prepared Himself for what He was about to endure; Peter did not. Spiritually prepared people have a plan for when relational disasters occur. Jesus plan not only helped Him endure the cross, but also prepared his followers for reconciliation after they had fallen away. It is far better to prepare for trials and temptations ahead of time rather than when we are on the brink of temptation or relationship disaster. A weakened or unprepared spirit in us will be vulnerable to the desires of the flesh and we need to avoid those areas of temptation.

MEMORY VERSES

Mark 14:38 Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak.”

DISCUSSION STARTERS

1. Last Sunday, pastor Mickey gave a message on being prepared for a disaster. Who would like to share what they did during the week to become more prepared?
2. Has anyone ever been falsely accused? How did you react? Was it hard to remain silent?
3. Are there times when we are afraid, hesitant or quiet about letting others know we are Christians or Rock church members?

STUDY QUESTIONS

Read Mark 14:27-31

1. We just concluded the 'Superman series'. Almost all superheroes have a vulnerability or weakness. From these passages, what do you think Peter's weakness or vulnerability was?



Read Mark 14:32-42

2. How did Jesus prepare Spiritually for a relationship disaster compared to Peter?
3. Do we pray and prepare more often before a relationship disaster or after it has already occurred? Why?
4. Think about what time of day would be ideal to spend the most amount of time in prayer. What times of day do we typically (actually) spent the most amount of time in prayer?

Read Mark 14:43-47

5. In John Ch. 18, Peter is identified as the one who cut off the servant's ear. When you experience relationship disasters, and have reacted by lashing out either physically or verbally, reflect on where you were at spiritually prior to the disaster. Can you see the importance of being prepared?

Refer back to verse 37

6. For Superman, his vulnerability or weakness was kryptonite - It was not a temptation or something he had to resist; it was something he simply had to avoid.
For us, there are temptations: **people, places** and **things we have to avoid**, or we will be drawn into sin. Once we are there *with* those people, places or things, it is much harder to resist the sin. It is much easier to avoid those AREAs in the first place than resist the temptation once we are there.
Spend a few moments in silent prayer and meditate on what trips you up? Identify **who**, where or **what** we have to avoid in order NOT to be tempted.

Now break up into smaller groups of 2 or 3.

In the smaller groups, share who or what or where you have to avoid or stay away from sin in the first place in order to be Spiritually prepared.

After sharing, pray for one another for Spiritual strength and the wisdom to avoid entering those areas of temptation.

7. What hangs us up in preparing Spiritually? What activity could we do less of and spend more time in prayer?

Suggest returning back into the full group.

Read Mark 14:53-61

8. How did Jesus respond when there were false accusations against Him?
If we live a life that has been Spiritually prepared, do we need to respond to false accusations?
If the life we live is less than exemplary, why do we offer excuses and justifications when questioned about our lifestyle and behavior?



PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

Pastor Mingo said, "People who fail to prepare in the Spirit will fold over and over again when challenged under pressure." Not only was Peter Spiritually unprepared, but in Mark 14:66-72, he was by himself when being accused of being a Jesus follower and denied Jesus 3 times.

- * What can you do each day this week to be spiritually prepared?
- * Who can you connect with to have an accountability partner to avoid getting into those areas of your temptation?

