

WEEK 2: PREPARE FOR YOUR CALLING BIBLE READING PLAN

Day 1: Persistent Preparation

Read 1 Samuel 17:32–50

David, a teenage boy, was able to defeat Goliath, a skilled warrior, using a sling and a stone — the same sling he used many times while watching his father's sheep. His consistent practice with the sling to defend the sheep and pass the time, is the very thing God used to help David defeat Goliath. His persistence prepared him for his calling.

What do you need to persistently practice in your life to be better prepared for your calling?

Day 2: Unlikely Assistance

Read 1 Samuel 22:1–2

While running from King Saul, who was trying to kill him, David hid in the cave of Adullam and 400 discontent, discouraged, fearful men come to him. They are not the kind of people you want with you when trying to defeat an enemy. Yet, these are some of the very same men who would become David's Mighty Men — the most courageous warriors of the time. God will often use the most unlikely of people to propel you into your calling.

Who might God be using in your life to prepare you for your calling?

Day 3: Prepared through Hardship

Read Genesis 37:12–28, 45:1–8

Joseph experienced a difficult time of preparation. He was betrayed by his brothers, sold into slavery, accused of rape, thrown in jail, interpreted dreams for inmates who forgot about helping him when they got out. It seemed as if everything was against him. But God used every part of Joseph's life to prepare him to be second in command of Egypt, and save his family from famine.

What difficult circumstances is God using to prepare you?

Day 4: Right Place at the Right Time

Read Exodus 2:11–25

Before he delivered the Israelites from Egypt, Moses was hiding in the desert tending sheep. One day while watering his flock, he saved seven young women from raiders — one of whom became his wife. Moses' circumstances led him to the right place and the right time to meet the right people to help live out his calling, even though they were less than favorable circumstances.

Who has God brought into your life to help you become the person you are today?

Day 5: Humbling Preparation

Read Acts 9:19–31

Paul — arguably the greatest apostle in scripture — didn't start out that way. After his life altering call from God, he spent time learning from the other disciples — people whom he would end up leading. He even faced judgment from the believers — many thought he was just trying to find a way to fool them and kill them. He knew he was called to something great, but had to learn humility and servanthood first. The same is true in your life. God will often put us in situations to humble us before He releases us into our calling all to work on our character.

In what ways is God humbling you and working on your character?

Day 6: Drastically Changed

Read Esther 2:12–18

Esther went through an intense process of preparation before she could see the king — 1 year of bathing, scrubbing, soaking, and changing her diet. She had to learn the protocol of the palace, meet the right people, and discover what the king liked in way of clothing for her to capture his attention and become queen. God's preparation process can often be intense and long — changing us from who we are into who we were meant to be.

How has God drastically changed your life and how might he use that for a greater purpose?

Day 7: Tested

Read Matthew 4:1–11

Before Jesus was released into his three years of world-changing ministry, he found himself alone, in the desert, being tempted by the devil. Scriptures tell us he was led there by the Spirit. God purposefully led Jesus into an extreme hardship in order to test him — and He will do the same for us. God will use seemingly difficult circumstances to test our faith and grow us more into the men and women He wants us to be. Testing is never fun, but it always produces growth in our character and intimacy with God.

How has God tested your faith, and how has it made your faith stronger?