

One Heart **ONE VOICE**



PREPARING TO BE EFFECTIVE
DISCIPLE-MAKERS
FOR THE KINGDOM



One Heart | One Voice

(Preparing to be Effective Disciple-Makers for the Kingdom)

Full 12 Lessons will be Released in October 2026



General Conference
Ministerial Association

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Lesson 1 | **PREPARE** | The Study

If you heard the following statements, what time would you say it was?

- “Lunch is ready!” – It’s time to _____!
- “Recess is over!” – It’s time to _____!
- “Get in bed please and turn out the lights.” – It’s time to _____!
- “My contractions have started!” – It’s time for _____!
- “Let’s get in the car.” – It’s time to _____!

[Leader Tip: If leading this study with small groups, ask small group participants to help you fill in the blanks above and then create fill-in-the-blank questions of their own for their small group members to guess. After three minutes are up, ask for feedback from 2-3 people about what were some of the “It’s time to....” situations they thought up.]

Of course no one wants to be late for lunch. And it’s always exciting when the time comes for that birthday party or that long-awaited baby to be born. But it’s almost time for something even more exciting to happen.

Read the following Bible passages and learn what “time” it is for us today.

- **Romans 13:11-14**
- **Revelation 1:3**
- **Luke 21:34**

What speaks to your heart most from the passages you just read above? Do you think it’s important we prepare for “the day” that is about to come?

Ellen White writes, “Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. The tremendous issues of eternity demand of us something besides an imaginary religion, a religion of words and forms, where truth is kept in the outer court. God calls for a revival and a reformation” (*Prophets and Kings*, p. 626).

Question: If you are preparing to host a special celebration, what are 2-3 things that you would do? Write down your answers or share them with a study partner.

[Leader Tip: This time, ask small group participants to divide into groups of two (within their small group) and take 2-3 minutes to quickly share with one another the answer to the above question. Then ask for feedback from 3-4 people about what some of the things they will do to prepare to host

a special celebration. For example: "I make sure I have a good place to host the celebration, the right outfit, enough food to feed everyone." Etc.]

When we are preparing a grand celebration, whether it's a birthday party, a retirement party, an anniversary celebration, or any other exciting event, we prepare in very practical strategic ways.

The same must happen in the spiritual realm. Jesus is soon to return. As we just saw in the passages above, *the time is near*. We have the biggest celebration party of all ages just ahead of us, and we have been given a great commission to invite everyone to be part of this event—in other words, we are called to share the Good News of Salvation with our world. However, before we can share this message effectively with one heart, with one voice, and with Holy Spirit power, a practical strategic heart preparation must take place within our ranks.

Instead of complaining about all the things that are going wrong with the church, and how everyone needs revival, let's be honest with ourselves. *We are the church, and we need revival!* This revival must start with us. And only when it starts with us can we share with one heart and one voice power!

Look up the following Bible passages and write down, or discuss with a study partner, what these passages tell us about the significance of "heart preparation."

- **Ezra 7:10**
- **1 Samuel 7:3**
- **Job 11:13-14**
- **Psalms 10:17**
- **Luke 12:47**
- **2 Chronicles 12:14**

[Leader Tip: Ask small group participants to read these passages together and discuss what they learn from each one about the significance of heart preparation. Consider having a white board and asking them to come write out key points they are learning. Give about 7-10 minutes for this study.]

Now that we've established the importance and need of heart preparation, what are some ways that we could/should prepare? Look up the following Bible passages and discuss.

- **Psalms 139:23-24**
- **Psalms 51:10-13**
- **Matthew 26:41**
- **Ephesians 4:30-32**
- **2 Timothy 2:15**
- **1 Peter 4:7-8**
- **Isaiah 62:10-12**

[Leader Tip: Ask small group participants to read these passages together in groups of two. Discuss some of the practical actions, from each passage, that God is asking us to take. Give about 10-12 minutes for this study. Then share the following testimony by Keith LaRoy.]

Have you ever felt really, really dirty, and you wondered how you would ever get clean? Perhaps that's the way that you feel, even now, as a follower of Jesus. You know He's called you to live a certain way, to change the way you talk, the way you think, and to be His witness to those around you, but you are dry, living with your own spiritual compromises and failures, and you have no idea how to become who He's calling you to be. You have no idea how to clean up your life or change your heart.

As we bring this first lesson to a close, consider the following testimony from mission pilot Keith LaRoy. Keith is president of *Wings of Life*, a non-profit ministry, dedicated to sharing God's love in Central America. He is one voice, among many, seeking to sharing Christ' love with a dying world.

Testimony ~ When God Answered a Simple Prayer

"Do you think I could go and ask them for water?" Heather pointed to a cement truck that was parked on the side of the road.

"Sure, go for it, you never know," I responded.

I had also noticed the cement truck park earlier on the side of the road, just outside the hotel parking lot. It seemed rather odd that he had parked in that particular location at this time of night.

Our ministry, *Wings of Life*, was in the middle of a short-term mission project in Costa Rica with a group of teenagers and chaperones from Walla Walla Valley Academy. We had just finished supper and our evening worship. It was Friday night, and a large group sat in a common semi-outdoor area at the hotel.

But there was a smelly problem on our hands.

There was no water. Meaning no water for showers, toilets, and sanitation. After having worked outside under the tropical sun in 90-degree temperatures on our building project, showers were a definite necessity for us, not a luxury.

From the hotel manager, we had learned that further up the road, a water pipe had burst and that no one in the area had water. While we heard that local crews were working on restoring the water, it had already been many hours, and there was just no guarantee when we'd have water again. Tonight? Tomorrow? We just didn't know.

Ignoring the backed-up toilets and the grimy, sweaty feeling, our group of 44 volunteers and 10 *Wings of Life* staff gathered for a heart-moving time of worship together. As our voices raised in song, our spirits were encouraged.

At the end of worship, several testimonies were shared by people about God answering the prayers of His people for water. We remembered the story of Elijah during the time of no rain. Inspired, Bob, the volunteer group leader, asked if there was a volunteer to pray for water for our group. Another chaperone responded and led the group in a simple but moving prayer asking God to provide water for our group. Worship over, we all were relaxing as best we could.

Sometime later, I was watching as Heather spoke with the cement truck driver. To my amazement, I noticed the truck driver start his engine and begin to back down the hotel driveway into the parking lot. Parking the truck, he got out and went to the back of his truck. Unfurling a garden hose from the side of his vehicle, which was connected to a pressurized water holding tank, he opened the nozzle. A group of students gathered around as someone shouted, "It's shower time!"

Quickly changing into swimsuits and grabbing shampoo and soap, our group gathered around for a large open-air shower courtesy of the cement truck driver. In fact, there were so many students that he called a colleague who also drove up with another cement truck. While most were showering, others quickly took buckets to run and fill/flush the various toilets. Finally, the water ran out of both cement trucks. But everyone was now clean.

We all stood back in amazement. Not long before, we had prayed for water, and the Lord had answered in a most dramatic and creative fashion. We were praising the Lord! But we wondered about the rest of the surrounding community. We had prayed that the Lord would provide water for them also.

As we all started to make our way to bed around 9pm, some 20 minutes after the cement trucks had left, another shout went up. "The water is on!" Sure enough, all the water was back on. Not only did the Lord provide water for our group, but He also provided water for the whole community that night. And a very meaningful memory for the student volunteers.

~ The Closing Appeal ~

In this first lesson we have learned that heart preparation is necessary if we are going to be prepared for Jesus' soon coming and be vessels that can speak with one heart and one voice to our dying world. We don't have time to delay. The time to get ready is now!

However, we have no ability to change our hearts. Just as we heard in the testimony of the missionaries that had no water, we too are filthy, covered in the dirty grime of selfishness, self-righteousness, and sin. We may be doing a good work for Jesus, but we need heart transformation from above. We need water which we do not have, to clean us from the inside out. We need a

supernatural miracle, both for ourselves and for those we are trying to reach. Only God can give us this miracle.

In *Christ's Object Lessons*, we read, "No outward observances can take the place of simple faith and entire renunciation of self. But no man can empty himself of self. We can only consent for Christ to accomplish the work. Then the language of the soul will be, Lord, take my heart; for I cannot give it. It is Thy property. Keep it pure, for I cannot keep it for Thee. Save me in spite of myself, my weak, unchristlike self. Mold me, fashion me, raise me into a pure and holy atmosphere, where the rich current of Thy love can flow through my soul. It is not only at the beginning of the Christian life that this renunciation of self is to be made. At every advance step heavenward, it is to be renewed. All our good works are dependent on a power outside of ourselves. Therefore, there needs to be a continual reaching out of the heart after God, a continual, earnest, heartbreaking confession of sin and humbling of the soul before Him. Only by constant renunciation of self and dependence on Christ can we walk safely" (p. 159).

Has God convicted you of something in this first lesson that you need to surrender to Him? Maybe it's your time. You've been wasting time, and He's calling you, "My child! Time is running out. It's time to redeem the time." Maybe it's your attitude, your priorities, or something else. Now is the time to lay all on the altar as we resurrender our hearts and lives to Him. Would you join me on your knees in prayer?

Let's pray!

[Leader Tip: Invite those present to come forward and join in united prayer, confessing sin, praising God for His goodness, and asking for help to surrender all to Him while we still have time. For tips on leading United Prayer, see the Appendix. After United Prayer, close with your own prayer, or the following.]

Dear Heavenly Father, we admit that we have fallen short of Your glory. We are not where we need to be. We need You to change us! Please forgive us for our sins, for our spiritual compromise, for the ways we have failed You. Change us from the inside out we pray. Thank you that You can do this, and You will do this! You are good. And You have heard our cries. We resurrender our hearts to You and ask that You would help us redeem the time. Help us to be prepared for the task ahead, to be one heart and one voice for Your glory. We pray in Jesus' name, Amen.