



Make Ready: Preparing to Possess God's Promises - Week 2

Opening Ice Breaker:

Share about a time when you faced a significant obstacle in your life. How did you overcome it?

Key Scripture:

Joshua 1:10-11

Main Points:

1. Darkness can only be overcome by the light
2. Pray for the strength to do now what one day you'll wish you did
3. Never give up

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon mentions the Jordan River as an obstacle for the Israelites. What "Jordan Rivers" are you facing in your life right now?
2. How can we practically be "light" in the darkness of our current culture? Share specific examples.
3. The story of Derek Redmond was shared. How does this relate to our spiritual journey? In what ways does God "run to us" when we struggle?
4. Discuss the importance of prayer in overcoming obstacles. How has prayer helped you in difficult times?

5. The sermon emphasizes "Never give up." How can we encourage each other to persevere in our faith, especially during challenging times?

6. How can our church be a "lighthouse in the darkness" for our community? What specific actions can we take?

Key Takeaways:

1. God calls us to "make ready" for the promises He has for us.
2. We are called to be light in a dark world.
3. Prayer is crucial for overcoming obstacles and staying strong in faith.
4. Perseverance is key in our spiritual journey.

Practical Applications:

1. This week, identify one area of "darkness" in your life or community. Commit to being a light in that situation through a specific action.
2. Set aside dedicated prayer time each day to seek God's strength for current challenges.
3. Reach out to someone who might be struggling and offer encouragement to "never give up."
4. Reflect on ways you can be more involved in your local church to help it shine brighter in the community.

Closing Prayer:

Close the session by praying together, asking God for strength, perseverance, and opportunities to be light in the darkness.



Don't let the message end when the service does. Take these questions into your week—ask them at dinner, in the car, on a walk, or online. Let them open doors for faith to grow and for hearts to be stirred toward Jesus.

How can we be 'lights' in our community during times of darkness and division? What specific actions can we take to shine God's light in practical ways?

The sermon mentions 'crossing our Jordans'. What is your personal 'Jordan' right now, and how can you prepare to cross it with faith?

How does the story of Pirate and his encounter with darkness illustrate the power of persistent love and light? Have you ever experienced a similar situation where your light impacted someone in darkness?

In what ways can we as a church 'make ready' for transitions and challenges, both individually and collectively?

The sermon emphasizes the importance of prayer in times of crisis. How can we cultivate a deeper prayer life, especially when facing obstacles?

How does the story of Derek Redmond and his father relate to our relationship with God during times of struggle? Can you recall a time when you felt God's presence supporting you through a difficult situation?

The phrase 'Never give up' is highlighted. In what areas of your faith journey or personal life are you tempted to give up, and how can you find renewed strength to persevere?

How can we balance being aware of the darkness in the world while maintaining hope and not becoming overwhelmed? What role does our faith play in this balance?

The sermon mentions the decline in church attendance and relevance. How can we as believers work to make the church more relevant and impactful in today's society?

Reflecting on Thomas Edison's persistence, how can we reframe our own failures or setbacks as steps toward spiritual growth and fulfilling God's purpose for our lives?

**Day 1: Overcoming Darkness with Light**

Reading: John 1:1-5, Ephesians 5:8-14

Devotional: In a world often shrouded in darkness, we are called to be bearers of God's light. Just as the transcription mentions, "Darkness can only be overcome by the light." This truth echoes throughout Scripture, reminding us of our divine purpose. As you read John's powerful words about the Light that cannot be overcome, reflect on areas in your life or community where darkness seems prevalent. How can you actively shine God's light in these places? Remember, even small acts of kindness, forgiveness, or service can pierce through the deepest darkness. Today, pray for opportunities to be a beacon of hope and ask God to strengthen you to stand firm in His light.

Day 2: The Power of Prayer in Times of Crisis

Reading: Matthew 26:36-46, Philippians 4:6-7

Devotional: "Pray for the strength to do now what one day you'll wish you did." This wisdom from the sermon reminds us of the vital importance of prayer, especially in challenging times. As you read about Jesus praying in Gethsemane, notice how He turned to the Father in His moment of greatest need. What crises or challenges are you facing right now? Instead of relying solely on your own strength, take time today to bring these burdens before God. Ask Him for the courage and wisdom to act faithfully now, rather than regret inaction later. Remember, prayer isn't just about asking for help—it's about aligning our hearts with God's will and finding peace in His presence.

Day 3: Perseverance in Faith

Reading: Hebrews 12:1-3, James 1:2-4

Devotional: "Never give up" – these simple words carry profound spiritual truth. The Christian journey is often likened to a race, requiring endurance and perseverance. As you read about running the race set before us, consider the obstacles you're facing in your faith walk. What makes you want to give up? Remember that even Jesus endured opposition, yet He persevered for the joy set before Him. Today, ask God to renew your strength and commitment to the faith. Identify one area where you've been tempted to quit, and make a conscious decision to press on, trusting in God's faithfulness and the ultimate victory He promises.

Day 4: Preparing for God's Promises

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9, Ephesians 6:10-18

Devotional: The sermon speaks of "making ready" to possess God's promises. As you read God's encouragement to Joshua, reflect on the promises God has given you. What "Jordan Rivers" stand between you and God's intended blessings? Remember, preparation is key. Just as the Israelites were told to prepare provisions, we too must equip ourselves spiritually. Today, take inventory of your spiritual "provisions." Are you regularly in God's Word? Are you clothed in the armor of God? Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any areas where you need to strengthen your spiritual readiness, and commit to taking practical steps to prepare for the promises God has for you.

Day 5: Being Steady in Turbulent Times

Reading: Psalm 46, 2 Timothy 1:7

Devotional: In a world of chaos and uncertainty, God calls us to be steady. The sermon's imagery of a father encouraging his son with "Steady, son. Steady" beautifully mirrors our Heavenly Father's voice to us. As you read Psalm 46, let its powerful affirmations of God's presence and power wash over you. In what areas of your life do you need to hear God's steadying voice? Remember, we have not been given a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and self-discipline. Today, whenever you feel overwhelmed by circumstances, pause and listen for God's whisper: "Steady, my child. Steady." Ask Him to anchor your soul in His unchanging nature and to help you be a calm, steady presence for others in the storm.

