

# Ready, but Not Rigid – A Discussion Guide for Leaders

The Spiritual Side of Preparation

**Approximate Time:** 45–60 minutes

**Purpose:** Help participants understand how spiritual preparation shapes not just what we teach, but how we lead, creating space for God to work beyond our plans.

**Best For:** Small group leaders, ministry teams, or anyone leading Bible studies or discussions.

**Facilitator Prep:** Before leading this discussion, read the full blog post “*Ready, but Not Rigid: The Spiritual Side of Preparation*” at [redeemedblog.com](http://redeemedblog.com) for deeper context and teaching on each section.

**Materials Needed:** In the following documents, you will find:

- A **Teaching Guide** with fill-in-the-blank answers and discussion questions
- A **Participant Follow-Along Guide**

Print enough copies of the Participant Guide for each person.

# Ready, but Not Rigid – Teacher Guide

Fill in the blank answer key and discussion guide.

*These notes are for the facilitator only. They are not meant to be distributed to participants. Use them to lead the fill-in-the-blank portions confidently and to guide the group toward the key ideas in each section.*

*Opening Prompt: How do you typically approach preparing for something you're leading? Allow participants to share briefly before moving into the Scripture.*

**Proverbs 21:31** — “The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.”

## 1. PREPARATION HONORS GOD

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**2 Timothy 2:15** — “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

### TEACHER ANSWERS

“Preparation shows **honor** for God’s Word and respect for His **calling**.”

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does preparation show reverence for God?
2. In what ways can sloppy preparation dishonor Him?

## 2. PREPARATION DISPLAYS YOUR LOVE FOR OTHERS

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**Philippians 2:3** — “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

### TEACHER ANSWERS

*“When we prepare, we **serve** others well. Preparation is an act of **love**.”*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does preparation demonstrate humility?
2. What are ways preparation helps people feel valued?

## 3. PREPARATION MAKES YOU READY TO BE FLEXIBLE

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**Matthew 10:19–20** — *“But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”*

### TEACHER ANSWERS

*“The better **prepared** you are, the more **free** you are to follow the Spirit.”*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus trained his disciples, yet he also reminded them not to worry in the moment. What's the difference between flexibility and lack of preparation?
2. How have you experienced a moment when preparation allowed you to be flexible?

## 4. PREPARATION SHOULD NOT BE ABOUT CONTROL

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**James 4:15** — *“Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.’”*

### TEACHER ANSWERS

*“Preparation is about **trust**, not about total **control**.”*

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you know when preparation turns into control?
2. What's one practical way to prepare while still trusting God with the outcome?

## 5. PREPARATION IS NOT ABOUT PERFECTION

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**2 Corinthians 4:7** — “But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”

### TEACHER ANSWERS

“God calls us to ***faithfulness***, not ***perfection***.”

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is perfectionism a trap for leaders?
2. How can embracing imperfection point people toward God?

## CLOSING THOUGHT

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**Luke 12:12** — “For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”

### TEACHER ANSWERS

“Preparation is more than planning—it’s a ***spiritual practice***.”

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What’s one step you can take this week to honor God through your preparation?

### REFLECT & CONNECT

Close by reminding your group that the goal is never a flawless lesson—it’s a faithful leader. Invite one or two people to share their commitment for the week before closing in prayer.

# Ready Not Rigid – Participant Follow Along Guide

Fill in the blanks and discuss each section with your group.

*Opening Prompt: How do you typically approach preparing for something you're leading? Take a moment to write down your thoughts before the discussion begins.*

**Proverbs 21:31** — “The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory belongs to the Lord.”

## 1. PREPARATION HONORS GOD

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**2 Timothy 2:15** — “Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

Preparation shows \_\_\_\_\_ for God's Word and respect for His \_\_\_\_\_.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

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2. In what ways can sloppy preparation dishonor Him?

## 2. PREPARATION DISPLAYS YOUR LOVE FOR OTHERS

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**Philippians 2:3** — “Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves.”

When we prepare, we \_\_\_\_\_ others well. Preparation is an act of \_\_\_\_\_.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How does preparation demonstrate humility?
2. What are ways preparation helps people feel valued?

### 3. PREPARATION MAKES YOU READY TO BE FLEXIBLE

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**Matthew 10:19–20** — *“But when they arrest you, do not worry about what to say or how to say it. At that time you will be given what to say, for it will not be you speaking, but the Spirit of your Father speaking through you.”*

The better \_\_\_\_\_ you are, the more \_\_\_\_\_ you are to follow the Spirit.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus trained his disciples, yet he also reminded them not to worry in the moment. What’s the difference between flexibility and lack of preparation?
2. How have you experienced a moment when preparation allowed you to be flexible?

### 4. PREPARATION SHOULD NOT BE ABOUT CONTROL

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**James 4:15** — *“Instead, you ought to say, ‘If it is the Lord’s will, we will live and do this or that.’”*

Preparation is about \_\_\_\_\_, not about total \_\_\_\_\_.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. How do you know when preparation turns into control?
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**2 Corinthians 4:7** — *“But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us.”*

God calls us to \_\_\_\_\_, not \_\_\_\_\_.

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Why is perfectionism a trap for leaders?
2. How can embracing imperfection point people toward God?

## CLOSING THOUGHT

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**Luke 12:12** — *“For the Holy Spirit will teach you at that time what you should say.”*

Preparation is more than planning—it’s a \_\_\_\_\_.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. *What’s one step you can take this week to honor God through your preparation?*

### REFLECT & CONNECT

*The goal is never a flawless lesson—it’s a faithful leader. When we prepare with humility and release the outcome to God, we create space for the Spirit to move. How will you prepare differently this week?*