

Preparing for Change



Collegiate Quarterly

Teacher's Guide

Surveying the Source

1 Sam. 1:27; 1 Kings 2:1–4; Psalm 71; Matt. 20:20–22; Gal. 5:22, 23

Plotting the Course

The students will:

► Explore the mistakes that we make when we forget to prayerfully transition through life's changes.

► Express how they dealt with experiences of major life changes.

► Learn how to stand firm in Christ in the face of earth-shattering life changes.

Preparing to Lead

Thunderstorms are some of the most fascinating experiences for human beings. They may come after days of cloudy skies or they may appear after a sunny day. Regardless, when they take place, we tend to get scared or frightened at the very sound. And unfortunately,

lightning can claim the lives of those in its path. However, if we take safe refuge indoors, we can weather the storm. Life's changes can feel like thunderstorms that have a life of their own. But if we take refuge in Christ, we will always make it through the storm.

Getting Started

A. Life is often unpredictable and scary. Unfortunately, as you get older it does not seem to get any easier. Different life stages like marriage and death can bring either blessings or disaster. However, when we put God in the middle of our storm there can be a calmness that we have never experienced before. Have you ever had this experience? If so, how did you rely on God to make it through?

B. In Gal. 5:22, 23, Scripture describes the preparation for marriage. Preparation for life's storms are one of the ways that God gives us opportunity to mitigate the potential damage that may come. How can we take advantage of those opportunities by getting prepared? What have you done in preparation for changes taking place in your life?

Materials

Reproducible Activity, Bibles, dry erase board, dry erase markers, dry erase board eraser

Delving Into the Word

A. As a class, *read* Acts 5:1–10. This text reveals the way that Ananias and Sapphira were unprepared to return their possessions to Christ. Both Ananias and Sapphira pledged to give everything they had for the work of Christ. Instead of keeping their word, they panicked and failed to trust God to take care of everything. They took matters into their own hands and it cost them their lives. Let’s learn from this husband and wife that we may not be found wanting when Christ returns.

B. As a class, *read* 1 Kings 2:1–4. Here, David is preparing his son Solomon for his death. He has a conversation with his son and instructs him to walk in the way of the Lord so that God will keep the promise He made to David. David is realizing that he is about to die and in preparation for his death he is doing his due diligence as a father by giving his son all the proper instructions. He tells him to be obedient and to walk in the way of the Lord by keeping all of His commandments. In doing this, David put God in the midst of his dying. Let us take heed to Scripture by putting God first as we prepare for life’s major changes.

Discussing the Ideas

1. What would you advise another young adult believer to do when preparing for a major life change?

2. In retrospect, how would you have managed past major life changes differently, and why?

3. What are some of the admirable ways that your peers or elders managed or prepared themselves for changes in their lives?

4. How does Scripture set us up for success when conquering life’s changes?

5. Can you describe a moment when

you had victory in a major life decision or change that you were not expecting?

6. Can you describe a moment when you did not have victory in an unexpected major life decision or change?

7. What are some ways to encourage non-believers to rely on what God says about life’s challenging moments?

8. Describe some ways that we can demonstrate God’s intention for preparation for those outside of church so that they may be ready not only for life’s struggles but also for His return.

Closing the Activity

Say: “Many of us have had different experiences in life. This is what makes us special and unique. Although, these differing experiences may seem like instances that would make us all feel alone and isolated, we should see them as opportunities to huddle together as a community to take refuge in Christ. After sharing our

personal stories and experiences, we should use them as motivation for the future. By reading the Word in its proper context, we can wisely prepare ourselves for whatever comes our way with God on our side. I urge everyone today to take heed to not only hearers, but doers of His Word.”

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In the box on the left, draw a picture that you feel symbolizes your life before a major life change. On the right, draw a picture that symbolizes what your life looked or felt like after God stepped in. Use the speech bubble to describe the import of your images.

