

Prepared Receivers

John 4:1-42

Discover

Prepared means to make something ready. A receiver is someone who opens up their mind, heart, and family to receive salvation from Jesus Christ, our Soul Rescuer.

The world was once doomed to annihilation by famine; however, God had been preparing Pharaoh to meet Joseph who would interpret his dreams. He also prepared Joseph to receive a worldwide deliverance plan. (Genesis 41:25-40)

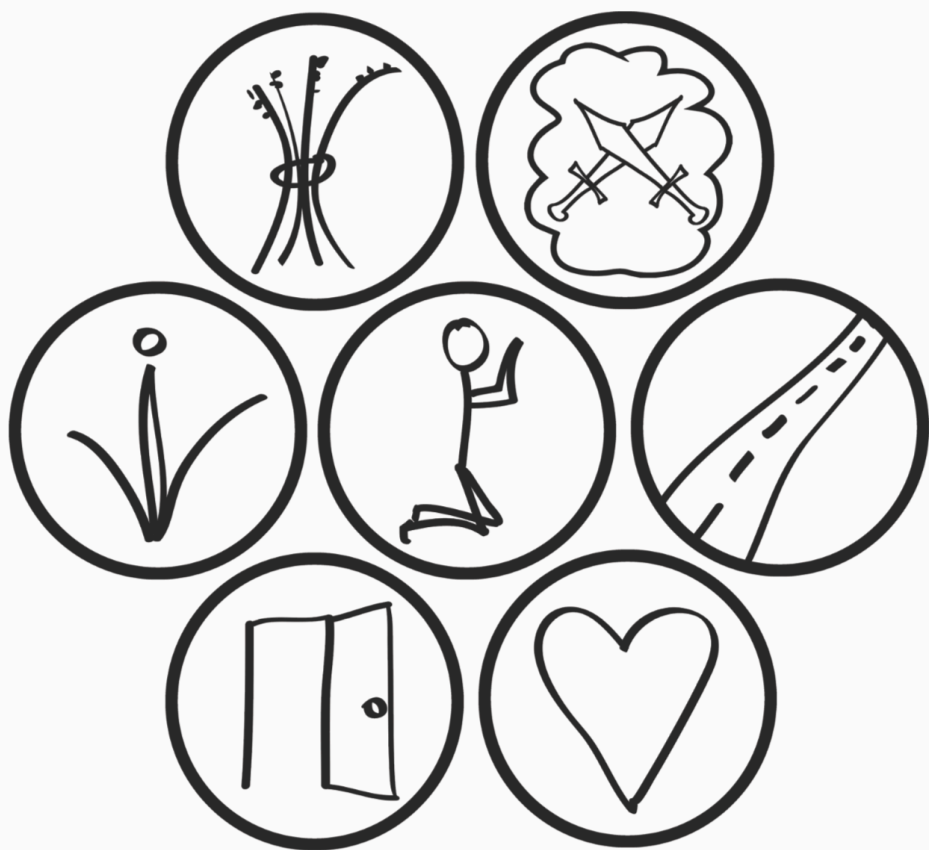
King Nebuchadnezzar was a prideful, pagan king who sought only to exalt himself. The Holy Spirit humbled him by giving him the mind of a beast. Then, he repented and received a new heart to worship God alone. (Daniel 4:33-37)

God is preparing the nation of Israel to receive Jesus Christ as their Victorious Messiah. Though many Jews still reject Jesus today, the Bible is full of prophecies revealing clues about this Righteous King of Everlasting Light. (Isaiah 9:1-7)

Jesus prepared his disciples to expect his arrest, false trial, crucifixion, death, and resurrection. Peter resisted Jesus' prophecies, revealing his hard heart. (Matthew 16:21-23)

Jesus loved Peter, even though Peter denied knowing him three times during the night watch of his false trial. After his resurrection, he met with Peter, forgave him for the betrayal, and reestablished him as a faithful disciple. (John 21:15-19)

This lesson focuses on our hearts' condition. The Holy Spirit prepares us to hear and receive truth. We are unable to receive what God wants to give us, because we have dead hearts. We need Jesus to give us new hearts so that we will desire to follow wherever he leads. (Ezekiel 36:24-28)



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Draw

Spiritual Worship: praying person - Most people in the world grow up learning that worship is physical: go to a religious temple, give some money, and be a good person. Jesus teaches us to seek our Father with all our minds and hearts, and to worship him in the Holy Spirit and truth. (4:23-24)

Hidden Battles: cloud & swords - Everyone we meet is fighting hidden, personal battles. The woman Jesus met had experienced many broken relationships and was confused about who God is and how to worship. (4:16-22)

Intentional Compassion: road - The lost are outside in the world; we must go to places where we will meet them, just like Jesus did. Even though Jesus was tired, he loved this stranger and showed earnest compassion for her life. (4:1-9)

Thirsty Hearts: heart - Jesus knew exactly what to say to this woman to connect her thirsty heart with the gospel. The Holy Spirit helped Jesus communicate truth to this stranger in a way that cut through all her cultural and personal baggage to open her heart to receive God's love. (4:10-15)

Open Doors: open door - Once the woman discovered that Jesus was the answer to everything she had been searching for in worship, she went home and told everyone. She opened the door for them to meet Jesus too. (4:28-30)

Testifying Faith: fruitful plant - New faith in Jesus blossomed in this previously unengaged village because of the woman's faith-filled testimony. She was a prepared receiver: someone the Holy Spirit prepares for salvation. (4:39-42)

Harvest Season: wheat bundle - The kingdom of God is always flourishing with a great spiritual harvest. Jesus describes the different seasons of ministry, and how they all work together to produce glorious harvest crops. (4:31-38)

Discuss

Read John 4:7-26. Jesus used one simple conversation to prepare this woman to enter his kingdom. How did Jesus engage her culture and beliefs? How did Jesus engage her heart? How did Jesus guide her patiently into the truth?

Read John 4:31-38. What food is Jesus talking about? What are the different stages of preparing for harvest season? Why is it hard to serve the Lord when you do not see any visible results? How does Jesus help us to persevere?

Read Isaiah 42:16. We discover a prophecy about Jesus as our Faithful Guide. Who are the blind, and why are they wandering in darkness? Why do we need God to guide us? How can these promises prepare a heart to believe?

Read Isaiah 62:10-12. Jesus creates clear paths for truth to be received where there were only closed doors and cold hearts before. How does God create clear paths in our minds to understand his will? Why do we need God to give us clear sight to see him? What happens when we see him?

Disciple

Let's get practical. Think about the people you already know. Pray for them right now. Ask our Father to bless them, pour out his Holy Spirit upon them, and create clear paths of understanding for them to know him. Out of everyone you know, who is one person the Holy Spirit is prompting you to visit and guide them closer to Jesus?

Dedicate

Father, thank you that Jesus is the Radiance of Heaven's Glory! Please help us to rest in your grace and shine your truth to all those around us. Please guide us to prepared receivers, in Jesus' name and for his glory we pray, amen.