

WEAVER STUDY GUIDES

Prepared Hearts

Study Guide

New Testament Studies

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A lesson-by-lesson companion for reading, discussion, and written responses.

Downloadable classroom edition | 8.5 x 11 inches

Name / group

Date

Contents

Lesson 1: Prepared Hearts - Part One 3

Major Themes 3

Key Arguments 4

Scripture References 5

Discussion Questions 8

Applications 11

Personal Application and Notes 13

Lesson 2: Prepared Hearts - Part Two 14

Major Themes 14

Key Arguments 15

Scripture References 17

Discussion Questions 20

Applications 23

Personal Application and Notes 25

Online Lecture Resources 26

Using this guide

Read the corresponding chapter, then work through the themes, arguments, and Scripture references.

Write your responses before discussing the questions with others. Use the application pages to identify a practical next step.

The study material is retained from the existing lecture study guides. Added writing prompts provide space for your own response.

Print at Actual Size / 100% on US Letter paper. Single-sided and double-sided printing are both suitable. Lessons begin on the next available page; no blank pages are inserted.

Reading assignments refer to the September 30, 2026 edition of the companion book. Online lecture links and QR codes are collected at the end.

LESSON 1

Prepared Hearts

Part One

October 24, 2004

Read Chapter 1 in the companion book, pages 5-23.

Major Themes

The Necessity of Heart Preparation

A prepared heart is essential to avoid failure in the Christian life; without it, believers are prone to stumble into sin.

Lecture support: Weaver asks why so many Christians fail and answers that they have not prepared their hearts, citing Rehoboam and Ezra as contrasting examples.

Sovereign Grace as the Source of Preparation

All true heart preparation originates from God; man cannot prepare his own heart apart from divine grace.

Lecture support: Proverbs 16:1 states 'the preparations of the heart in man...is from the Lord,' and Romans 3:10-11 shows none seek God on their own.

Human Responsibility in Seeking God

Though ability comes from God, believers are commanded to actively break up their fallow ground and seek the Lord.

Lecture support: Hosea 10:12 commands 'break up your fallow ground...seek the Lord,' and Weaver explains that responsibility remains even when ability is lost.

Radical Dealing with Sin

Breaking up fallow ground means thoroughly uprooting sin, hardness, and rebellion, not merely a shallow emotional response.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that fallow ground must be plowed deeply, weeds and thorns removed, and that God desires a broken and contrite heart.

The Consequences of Unprepared Hearts

Failure to prepare the heart leads to personal, familial, church, and national breakdown.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'We must either break up or break down,' and applies this to families, churches, and the nation.

Continual Nature of Heart Preparation

Heart preparation is not a one-time event but a daily, ongoing discipline of seeking God and repenting.

Lecture support: Weaver compares it to farming: one cannot live off last year's harvest; we must continually plow, plant, and seek the Lord.

Key Arguments

Christian failures stem from unprepared hearts

The prevalence of moral failures among professing Christians is due to a lack of heart preparation, not merely weak teaching or counseling.

Lecture support: Weaver asks why so many stumble and answers, 'The answer is you haven't prepared your heart.'

God must initiate heart preparation due to total depravity

Because no one seeks God naturally, the rise of heart preparation must originate in God's sovereign grace.

Lecture support: Cites Romans 3:10-11 and Proverbs 16:1, and quotes John Gill: 'man can neither think nor speak without God.'

Responsibility is not nullified by inability

Man's loss of ability through sin does not remove his responsibility to obey God's commands; he must seek God for the ability to obey.

Lecture support: Uses the illustration of a bank loan: inability to pay does not cancel the debt; likewise, God's commands remain binding.

Breaking up fallow ground requires thorough, painful work

Spiritual preparation involves deep repentance, uprooting sin, and removing all hindrances, not superficial religious activity.

Lecture support: Explains the agricultural process of plowing, removing stumps and thorns, and cites Jeremiah 4:3 and Hebrews 12:15.

A broken and contrite heart is the mark of preparation

God looks for and dwells with those who have a broken spirit and tremble at His Word, which is the result of heart preparation.

Lecture support: Cites Psalm 34:18, Psalm 51:17, Isaiah 57:15, and Isaiah 66:2.

Heart preparation must be continual, not occasional

Just as farming requires annual cycles, spiritual life demands daily repentance, seeking, and obedience; past devotion is insufficient.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I cannot live off repentance that I gave ten years ago. I must repent now.'

Scripture References**Proverbs 16:1**

The preparations of the heart in man and the answer of the tongue is from the Lord.

Hosea 10:12

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy, break up your fallow ground, for it is time to seek the Lord till he come and reign righteousness upon you.

2 Chronicles 12:14

And he did evil because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.

Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments.

1 Samuel 7:3

And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If you do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroath from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only.

2 Chronicles 19:3

Nevertheless, there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast prepared thine heart to seek God.

2 Chronicles 20:33

Howbeit the high places were not taken away: for as yet the people had not prepared their hearts unto the God of their fathers.

2 Chronicles 27:6

So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God.

Romans 11:36

For of him, and through him, and to him are all things.

Romans 3:10-12

There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Isaiah 64:6

But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags.

2 Chronicles 29:36

And Hezekiah rejoiced in all the people, that God had prepared the people: for the thing was done suddenly.

2 Chronicles 30:12

Also in Judah the hand of God was to give them one heart to do the commandment of the king and of the princes by the word of the Lord.

John 6:37

No man can come unto me except the Father who sent me draw him.

John 15:5

Without me, you can do nothing.

1 Corinthians 3:9

For we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building.

Jeremiah 4:3

Break up your fallow ground and sow not among thorns.

Joel 2:13

And rend your heart, and not your garments, and turn unto the Lord your God.

Luke 8:7,14

Some fell among thorns...choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life.

Hebrews 12:15

Looking diligently lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think so many professing Christians, including leaders, fall into serious sin?

Consider: Weaver opens by asking why failures are so common, even among elders and pastors.

2. How does the truth that 'the preparation of the heart is from the Lord' affect your view of personal responsibility?

Consider: Weaver explains that ability comes from God, but we are still commanded to seek Him.

3. What does it mean practically to 'break up your fallow ground' in your own life?

Consider: Weaver describes the hard work of plowing, removing thorns, and dealing with sin thoroughly.

4. Why is a broken and contrite heart so valuable to God?

Consider: Weaver cites Psalms and Isaiah to show God dwells with the contrite.

5. In what areas of your life might you be 'sowing among thorns'?

Consider: Weaver warns against allowing cares, riches, and pleasures to choke out the Word.

6. How can we cultivate a daily habit of heart preparation?

Consider: Weaver stresses that heart preparation must be continual, like farming.

7. What is the relationship between personal heart preparation and the health of the church and nation?

Consider: Weaver states that breaking up hearts prevents breakdown in families, churches, and nations.

8. How do you respond to the tension between God's sovereignty and human responsibility in spiritual growth?

Consider: Weaver addresses this tension using Proverbs 16:1 and Hosea 10:12.

Applications

Examine your heart for unpreparedness

Recognize that many failures come from not preparing the heart; honestly assess areas of hardness or neglect.

Lecture support: Weaver asks why Christians fail and answers, 'you haven't prepared your heart.'

Depend on God for the ability to prepare your heart

Acknowledge that you cannot prepare your own heart; cry out to God for grace to seek Him.

Lecture support: Proverbs 16:1 and the quotes from Gill and Trapp emphasize divine enablement.

Actively break up your fallow ground

Engage in the hard work of repentance: identify and uproot specific sins, attitudes, and idols.

Lecture support: Hosea 10:12 commands breaking up fallow ground; Weaver explains it means thorough dealing with sin.

Cultivate a broken and contrite spirit

Pursue humility and trembling at God's Word, not mere emotionalism or external religion.

Lecture support: Isaiah 66:2 and Psalm 51:17 show God looks for contrition.

Remove thorns before receiving the Word

Lay aside filthiness and worldly distractions so that God's Word can take root and bear fruit.

Lecture support: James 1:21 and the parable of the sower illustrate the need to clear hindrances.

Make heart preparation a daily discipline

Do not rely on past repentance; each day seek the Lord, confess sin, and obey His commands.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I cannot live off repentance that I gave ten years ago. I must repent now.'

Seek the Lord while He may be found

Respond to seasons of special grace and conviction; do not delay repentance and seeking.

Lecture support: Isaiah 55:6-7 is cited to urge immediate seeking.

Sow righteousness through obedience

Actively obey God's Word in every area of life, knowing that actions are seeds that will produce a harvest.

Lecture support: Hosea 10:12 commands sowing righteousness; Weaver explains it means obeying Scripture.

Study notes

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Personal Application and Notes

Which application will you work on, and what specific step will you take?

What Scripture or teaching will you return to as you put this into practice?

Additional notes or questions to discuss

LESSON 2

Prepared Hearts

Part Two

October 31, 2004

Read Chapter 2 in the companion book, pages 25-43.

Major Themes

God as the Source of Heart Preparation

True heart preparation originates from God; we cannot prepare our own hearts apart from His grace.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'The preparations of the heart in man are from the Lord' (Proverbs 16:1) and emphasizes that everything is of Him originally.

Human Responsibility in Heart Preparation

While God gives grace, we are responsible to seek Him, break up fallow ground, and keep our hearts.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Hosea 10:12 ('break up your fallow ground') and Proverbs 4:23 ('keep thy heart with all diligence') as commands requiring our action.

The Danger of Temporary Obedience

Christians often obey for a time but then grow weary; Rehoboam's example shows that ceasing to prepare the heart leads to evil.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'Have you ever known people who are interested in doing right temporarily? ... weariness in the things of God is a sin.'

A Fixed Heart Determines to Obey Beforehand

A prepared heart makes decisions in advance to do right, as David did when he refused to kill Saul.

Lecture support: Weaver explains, 'David had already prepared his heart to know what he would do and what he would not do.'

Evidence of a Prepared Heart: Turning from Sin and to God

A prepared heart is demonstrated by putting away sin (negative) and actively seeking God's Word (positive).

Lecture support: Jehoshaphat removed idols (2 Chronicles 19:3) and Ezra prepared his heart to seek the law (Ezra 7:10).

The Necessity of Preaching for Spiritual Maturity

God ordained preaching, teaching, and admonishment as essential means for perfecting the saints.

Lecture support: Weaver cites Romans 10:17, Ephesians 4:11-14, and Colossians 1:28 to show that faith and maturity come through the preached word.

Dependence on God in All Means of Grace

Bible reading, prayer, and preaching are only effectual when we depend entirely on God to work through them.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'All of my Bible reading will be useless unless God opens my eyes.'

Prayer for Deliverance from Evil

We should pray like Jabez to be kept from evil, not just delivered after falling into it.

Lecture support: Weaver references 1 Chronicles 4:10 and says, 'I'd rather God save me from all of those things and keep me out of the gutter.'

Key Arguments

Heart preparation is both divine and human

God must prepare the heart, but we must seek Him to do so; grace and responsibility work together.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'The ability is his, and the responsibility is ours.'

Continual heart keeping is essential

We cannot live off past spiritual experiences; the heart must be constantly prepared and guarded.

Lecture support: Weaver compares it to farming: 'you cannot continue to reap fruit and to live off harvest that you picked ten years ago.'

Rehoboam's failure proves the necessity of heart preparation

Rehoboam did evil because he stopped preparing his heart, showing that initial obedience is not enough.

Lecture support: 2 Chronicles 12:14: 'he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord.'

A fixed heart resists temptation by prior determination

David's example in the cave shows that deciding beforehand to obey God enables right action under pressure.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Part of our heart preparation is determining beforehand what we will and what we will not do.'

True heart preparation involves both negative and positive aspects

It is not enough to turn from sin; we must turn to God and His Word, as seen in Jehoshaphat and Ezra.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'It does you no good to turn from unless you turn unto.'

Prepared ways naturally follow a prepared heart

If the heart is fixed on obeying God, we will plan our ways to avoid temptation and pursue righteousness.

Lecture support: Weaver illustrates with drunkenness: 'If you and I really and truly want to avoid drunkenness, we've got to prepare our way.'

Preaching is a divinely ordained means for heart preparation

Faith and maturity come through the preached word, not just private study; pastor-teachers are God's gift for edification.

Lecture support: Weaver argues from Romans 10:17 and Ephesians 4:11-14 that 'there are truths that you learn from preaching that you will never learn any other place.'

We must pray to be kept from evil, not just delivered after falling

Jabez's prayer (1 Chronicles 4:10) models asking God to prevent sin, which is better than rescue from its consequences.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I'd rather God save me from all of those things and keep me out of the gutter.'

Scripture References

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the Lord. Used to show God as the source of heart preparation.

Hosea 10:12

Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the Lord. Used to emphasize human responsibility in heart preparation.

Proverbs 4:23

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Cited as the command to guard the heart continually.

2 Chronicles 12:14

And he did evil, because he prepared not his heart to seek the Lord. Used to illustrate Rehoboam's failure.

2 Chronicles 11:1-4

Rehoboam initially obeyed the prophet Shemaiah and did not fight against Israel. Shows his early obedience.

2 Chronicles 11:17

They walked in the way of David and Solomon three years. Indicates Rehoboam's temporary faithfulness.

Galatians 6:9

Be not weary in well doing. Used to warn against weariness in spiritual duties.

2 Thessalonians 3:13

But ye, brethren, be not weary in well doing. Reinforces the warning against weariness.

1 John 2:1

My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. Shows that Scripture is given to prevent sin.

Psalm 119:9-11

Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? ... Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee. Emphasizes the Word's role in avoiding sin.

Psalm 57:7

My heart is fixed, O God, my heart is fixed. David's declaration of a prepared heart in the cave.

1 Samuel 24:1-7

David spares Saul's life in the cave. Historical background for Psalm 57.

Proverbs 23:7

As a man thinketh in his heart, so is he. Used to argue that actions reveal the heart.

2 Chronicles 19:3

Nevertheless there are good things found in thee, in that thou hast taken away the groves out of the land, and hast prepared thine heart to seek God. Jehoshaphat's evidence of heart preparation.

Ezra 7:10

For Ezra had prepared his heart to seek the law of the Lord, and to do it, and to teach in Israel statutes and judgments. Positive example of heart preparation.

Romans 1:1

Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the gospel of God. Illustrates positive separation unto God.

1 Thessalonians 1:9

How ye turned to God from idols to serve the living and true God. Shows turning from and turning to.

2 Chronicles 27:6

So Jotham became mighty, because he prepared his ways before the Lord his God. Links prepared ways to a prepared heart.

Romans 10:17

So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God. Used to emphasize the preached word.

Ephesians 4:11-14

God gave pastor-teachers for the perfecting of the saints. Shows the necessity of preaching for maturity.

Study notes

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it dangerous to rely on past spiritual experiences instead of continually preparing our hearts?

Consider: Weaver compares heart preparation to farming, saying we cannot live off harvest from ten years ago.

2. How does Rehoboam's example challenge the idea that initial obedience guarantees lasting faithfulness?

Consider: Rehoboam obeyed for three years but later did evil because he stopped preparing his heart.

3. What does it mean to have a 'fixed' heart, and how can we cultivate such a determination in advance of temptation?

Consider: David's heart was fixed not to kill Saul, showing prior decision-making.

4. In what ways do our actions and words reveal the true condition of our hearts?

Consider: Weaver cites Proverbs 23:7 to argue that the heart is manifested outwardly.

5. Why is it insufficient to only turn from sin without actively turning to God and His Word?

Consider: Weaver uses the analogy of the swept house and 1 Thessalonians 1:9 to stress the positive aspect.

6. How can we practically 'prepare our ways' to avoid temptation in areas where we are weak?

Consider: Weaver illustrates with drunkenness: avoiding bars and liquor stores.

7. What is the unique role of preaching in heart preparation and spiritual maturity, according to Ephesians 4 and Colossians 1?

Consider: Weaver argues that preaching, warning, and teaching are essential for maturity.

8. How does Jabez's prayer challenge our typical prayers about sin - do we pray more for deliverance after sin or for prevention?

Consider: Weaver contrasts testimonies of deliverance from the gutter with the desire to be kept from evil.

Applications

Seek God continually for heart preparation

We must actively seek God to prepare our hearts, not relying on past grace or experiences.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'It is our responsibility to seek him, to prepare our hearts.'

Guard your heart daily

Keep your heart with all diligence by constant vigilance and use of God's means.

Lecture support: Proverbs 4:23 is cited as a command to set double guards around the heart.

Determine beforehand to obey God in specific situations

Like David, decide in advance what you will and will not do when faced with temptation.

Lecture support: Weaver states, 'Part of our heart preparation is determining beforehand what we will and what we will not do.'

Remove idols and sins from your life

Negatively, heart preparation involves putting away anything that competes with God, as Jehoshaphat removed the groves.

Lecture support: Weaver explains that Jehoshaphat's removal of idols evidenced his prepared heart.

Fill your heart with God's Word

Positively, prepare your heart by seeking, doing, and teaching Scripture, like Ezra.

Lecture support: Ezra 7:10 is given as the model: seek the law, do it, teach it.

Plan your ways to avoid temptation

If you want to avoid sin, prepare your path by steering clear of compromising situations.

Lecture support: Weaver illustrates: 'If you and I really and truly want to avoid drunkenness, we've got to prepare our way.'

Sit under faithful preaching for growth

Regularly hear the preached Word, as it is a primary means God uses to build faith and maturity.

Lecture support: Weaver argues from Romans 10:17 and Ephesians 4 that preaching is essential for edification.

Pray for God to keep you from evil

Make Jabez's prayer your own, asking God to prevent sin rather than just rescue you from its consequences.

Lecture support: Weaver says, 'I'd rather God save me from all of those things and keep me out of the gutter.'

Study notes

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Personal Application and Notes

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Additional notes or questions to discuss

Online Lecture Resources

Scan a code or select the lecture link in the PDF. The original lecture identifiers and destinations are preserved.

Lesson 1: Prepared Hearts - Part One

Lecture JW00999

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00999&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



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Lesson 2: Prepared Hearts - Part Two

Lecture JW00998

[Open the formatted lecture online](https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00998&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted)



https://weaverbiblecollege.com/transcript.php?library=weaverbiblecollege&lecture=JW00998&transcript=ai&pc_view=formatted

Source information

Study material: existing Major Themes, Key Arguments, Scripture References, Discussion Questions, and Applications from the corresponding Weaver Bible College lecture records. Original lecture titles and provenance are retained in those source records.

Layout upgraded September 30, 2026. Original manuscripts, study-guide data, and previous PDFs have not been changed.