

Season of Mercy | Preparing, Celebrating, Discipling

I. Prepare

- **Prepare Your Heart.**
 - We prepare our hearts by spending time in the Word and praying.
 - Take some time to read the provided passages and ponder them and study them. Pray over them. Ask God to prepare your eyes to see His mercy in places you never saw it. Ask Him to help you show that mercy to the people in your life.
 - Psalm 86
 - Psalm 145
 - Lamentations 3:22-23
 - Matthew 5:8
 - Ephesians 2:4-10
- **Prepare Your Wall.**
 - The key component of the Celebration Wall is Bible.
 - Make the Scripture a priority. If you have *nothing else* on your Celebration Wall other than Bible verses, you're doing really well.
 - Of course — you may add whatever else will help you praise and worship God for His mercy.
- **Prepare Your Disciples.**
 - One of the best ways to help the people with whom you have a discipleship relationship is to teach them about what's up on the wall. We may read them the passages, invite them to read the passages, start working on memorizing the verses, discuss the prayer requests . . . honestly, if we're using the Celebration Wall the right way, we could talk about anything and everything up there and it should point back to God.
 - Another good way to invite your friends and family into this process is to decorate and fill the Wall together, talking about it as you go.
 - Basically, the same way that you would prepare your own heart for the Season of Mercy is how you're going to want to help the other people in your life prepare their's.

II. Celebrate

- **We need to think about what matters.**
 - Philippians 4:8; I Timothy 3:14
 - Wouldn't it be sad if we spend all this time setting up our Celebration Walls and teaching our kids about it and even taking about it at dinner, but then we never think about it the rest of the day?
 - Learning is often a cognitive process, and the best kind of learning is that in which we continue.
- **We need to talk about what matters.**
 - Psalm 1
 - God created us to desire connection. Even the shyest person often judges their value and purpose on the relationships they value.
 - People crave communication, but God warns us that much of the communication out there is destructive and damning. And we know why too, Jesus told us in Matthew 12 and 15 that what comes out of the mouth started first in the heart.

- **We need to do what matters.**
 - Matthew 5:14
 - Your good works motivated by love and celebration of God should actually motivate others to celebrate God!
 - That's an amazing privilege and responsibility.

III. Disciple

- **Pray for wisdom.**
 - James 1:5
 - Too many people think that wisdom is synonymous with knowledge. We imagine that wisdom is some special knowledge that can be written in a book. But here's the problem with that . . . wisdom isn't what you know, it's what you do with what you know.
 - Wisdom would be taking what I know God expects of me and commands in His Word and acting off that information by celebrating Him and leading others in that same celebration.
 - Wisdom would be to recognize that God expects me to worship God and teach others to do the same, so I need to take what I know about God, myself, and the people in my life to choose the best individuals in whom I should invest.
 - And if you're concerned that you're not yet wise enough to make the decision, the Lord invites you to ask Him . . . and He will provide. And when He does, you'll have one more reason to celebrate Him!
- **Invite others to participate in the Preparations, Celebrations, Observations, and Anticipations.**
 - One of the easiest way to get started in a discipleship relationship or keep one going is to do life together. It's really easy to start that process by inviting them to help me prepare, celebrate, observe, and anticipate as we work our way through the Celebration of God.
 - Another wonderful way to do this is to share this podcast with people. All adults and most children will be able to appreciate and understand the content of these shows, and they'll help you be on the same page.
- **Teach them, confront them, correct them, train them.**
 - Matthew 28:19-20; II Timothy 3:16
 - The Great Commission is the framework for discipleship. But one of the key components that's often overlooked is the part about teaching them to observe all that Christ commanded us.
 - Where would we find that information? Obviously, in the Scriptures.
 - II Timothy 3:16 beautifully explains the four great purposes of the Bible. The passage explains that the Word of God can be used to teach, confront, correct, and train.

We must prepare for the Season of Mercy by preparing our hearts, Celebration Walls, and disciples.

We must celebrate the God of Mercy during the Season of Mercy by thinking right, talking right, and acting right.

And we must disciple using the Season of Mercy by asking God for wisdom, inviting our brothers and sisters in Christ to prepare, celebrate, observe, and anticipate with us, and teaching, confronting, correcting, and training each other using the Bible.