



BY GRACE

SPIRITUAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Title: Priority of Preparation

Speaker: Dr. Mark Rasmussen

“Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth her food in the harvest.” (Proverbs 6:6–8)

“Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.” (1 Corinthians 10:31)

PREPARE: _____

1. _____ **Prepared** (Ephesians 6:10–17)

A. _____ memory

*“Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.”
(Psalm 119:11)*

1. Having God’s Word memorized is vital to your Christian walk when daily trials and struggles come up (losing your temper w/students, home difficulties, etc.)
2. The Holy Spirit will often bring to mind memorized verses/passages you can use in your teaching (but it’s hard to recall something that was never learned!)
3. Because Scripture memory is a discipline, it will help keep your mind sharp.

B. _____

*“Oh how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day.”
(Psalm 119:97)*

1. You can’t always have your Bible in front of you, but try to grasp one key idea during your quiet time you can take with you through the day.
2. Another easy way of meditation is to write a verse or thought on an index card and carry it with you through the day.

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C. _____

1. Who you are in private is much more important than who you are in public.
2. Consistency is truly the key to the Christian life.
3. If your inner world is in disarray, you cannot hope to have an ordered life in public – eventually, you will fall apart.

D. Love for _____ and _____

1. Learn to absorb all you can in the few chances you have to be a listener rather than a teacher.
2. Something useful can be gained from every sermon or lesson (Dr. Goetsch is a master at this in closing chapel services).

2. _____ Prepared

A. _____

1. Learn how much sleep you need and make sure you get that amount (Different people need different amounts – you and Dr. Goetsch) – set alarm 15 minutes earlier every few days until you find the time when you begin to be tired before the end of the day.
2. You will need different amounts of rest under different circumstances.
 - a. You may be able to get away with staying up late for a few days or so, but plan on some down time afterwards to rest.
 - b. Under much stress, you will need more rest – this is perfectly normal!
 - c. Physical changes (sickness, pregnancy, etc.) will also dictate the amount of rest you need.
3. There is a difference between rest and actual sleep – make sure you plan times to relax into your day/week. Your body and your brain need time when you are not working to unwind in order to avoid fatigue.

B. _____ and _____

1. Your health is vital as a teacher – you can't teach if you're not there!
2. Try to fit in some type of exercise several times a week (even taking a walk while you pray).
3. Schedule a time to exercise or you won't do it.
4. Guard your health – take vitamins especially during busy times.
5. If you need to take a day off because you are getting sick, remember one day is better than a week if you let it go too long! (You must know your body and its signals to slow down).
6. If you are having trouble keeping up with the load, request an aide, or at least find jobs to delegate (any child would love to vacuum, wash chalk boards, even help w/bulletin boards).

3. _____ **Prepared**

“Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” (Matthew 6:34)

QUOTE: “To avoid getting overwhelmed, determine to focus on only at one day at a time.”

QUOTE: “An entire year's worth of lesson plans/tests, etc. may seem impossible, but anyone can focus on one day.”

A. Put aside _____ of home

1. Students cannot suffer because of home problems.
2. Pray that the Lord would allow you to have clarity of thought while you are teaching and not to be distracted by what is happening in your life (your students deserve your best).
3. When possible, clean up the house a little and start dinner before you leave so they are not on your mind all day.

B. Devote yourself wholeheartedly to _____

1. If needed, have quiet music in the background to keep you awake while studying, but try not to be in a heavy traffic area.
2. Keep a notepad or scratch paper to write down thoughts as they come to you about other things so you can go back to them later.

3. Be intense about your study – find a method/time that works for you.
 - a. Some like to walk around while studying.
 - b. Some study well late at night (esp. w/children).

C. Devote yourself to your _____

1. When they are talking to you, pay attention only to them – make eye contact.
2. Don't do other things while they are talking to you – this makes them seem unimportant.
3. Always be available for them.

4. _____ Prepared

A. _____ plans

1. Schools have varying policies on this, but most require at least a week in advance.
2. You'll find you need more detailed lesson plans as a beginning teacher – write as much as you need in order to remember.
3. Write information legibly and clearly so a substitute could take over when needed.
4. Constantly revise lesson plans if you cover more or less than expected.

B. _____ the night before

1. Keeps material fresh in your mind.
2. Allows you to stray from your notes – better eye contact.
3. Write additional notes in margins as you think of them beforehand.

C. Prepare _____ to teach, not just _____ to teach

1. Decide if you want to lecture, discuss, debate, etc.
2. Vary your teaching style to improve learning (more covered about this in another lesson).

If you have a question for one of the Q&A sessions, please submit it to **QA@lancasterbaptist.org**.

