

PREPARE FOR BATTLE.

Victorious : Lesson 2 of 4 : MANUP.org

*A soldier would NEVER go
into battle without PREPARATION.*

3 Ways to Prepare for Battle.

1. Prepare your HEART.
2. Prepare your MIND.
3. Prepare your WEAPONS.

*The time you spend PREPARING will
determine whether you WIN or LOSE.*

Prepare Your HEART.

1 Samuel 13

⁸ Saul waited there seven days for Samuel, as Samuel had instructed him earlier, but Samuel still didn't come. Saul realized that his troops were rapidly slipping away. ⁹ So he demanded, "Bring me the burnt offering and the peace offerings!" And Saul sacrificed the burnt offering himself.

¹⁰ Just as Saul was finishing with the burnt offering, Samuel arrived. Saul went out to meet and welcome him, ¹¹ but Samuel said, "What is this you have done?"

Saul replied, “I saw my men scattering from me, and you didn’t arrive when you said you would, and the Philistines are at Micmash ready for battle. ¹² So I said, ‘The Philistines are ready to march against us at Gilgal, and I haven’t even asked for the LORD’s help!’ So I felt compelled to offer the burnt offering myself before you came.”

¹³ “How foolish!” Samuel exclaimed. “You have not kept the command the LORD your God gave you. Had you kept it, the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. ¹⁴ But now your kingdom must end, for the LORD has sought out a man after his own heart. The LORD has already appointed him to be the leader of his people, because you have not kept the LORD’s command.”

- God is more interested in your HEART than your PERFORMANCE.
- God CAN’T use a heart of PRIDE.
- Sin is telling God “NO” . . .
Repentance is telling him “YES.”

Q: Do you have a heart of repentance?

Prepare Your MIND.

^{13:15} Samuel then left Gilgal and went on his way, but the rest of the troops went with Saul to meet the army . . . when Saul counted the men who were still with him, he found **ONLY 600 WERE LEFT!**

- The BIGGEST battle you'll ever face is the battle of your MIND.
- The enemy will always attack your THOUGHTS, FEELINGS, and BELIEFS.
- The ONLY way to win the battle of your mind is to FILL it with God's TRUTH.

Q: What lies are you tempted to believe?

Prepare Your WEAPONS.

^{13:19} There were no blacksmiths in the land of Israel in those days. The Philistines wouldn't allow them for fear they would make swords and spears for the Hebrews. ²⁰ So whenever the Israelites needed to sharpen their plowshares, picks, axes, or sickles, they had to take them to a Philistine blacksmith . . . ²² So on the day of the battle none of the people of Israel had a sword or spear, except for Saul and Jonathan. ²³ The pass at Micmash had meanwhile been secured by a contingent of the Philistine army.

- Sharpen the weapon of VISION.
- Sharpen the weapon of FAITH.
- Sharpen the weapon of HABITS.
- Sharpen the weapon of COMMUNITY.

Q: What do you need to add to your arsenal?

Group Discussion.

- What was the most impactful truth from today's lesson?
- What happens when you focus on your PERFORMANCE and ignore your HEART?
- Which one of these weapons needs sharpening?
Your Vision - Your Faith - Your Habits - Your Community
- What are you doing to prepare for the battles in your life? What have you found to be helpful?
- What are you going to DO with what you learned today? What's your next step?

Personal Reflection.

- **ASK:** What do you need to STOP doing, START doing, or KEEP doing to be ready for the battle?
- **READ:** "My child, pay attention to what I say. Listen carefully to my words. Don't lose sight of them. Let them penetrate deep into your heart, for they bring life to those who find them, and healing to their whole body. Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." - Proverbs 4:20-24
- **PRAY:** Give me the CLARITY to know what to do next and the COURAGE to actually do it.