LEADER'S GUIDE

PREPARING *for the* GLORY

Getting Ready for the Next Wave of Holy Spirit Outpouring

JOHN & CAROL ARNOTT

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HELLO!

We want to thank you for partnering with us in leading our new course, *Preparing for the Glory*. We envision this course as an opportunity to prepare others for the power of God that we have so profoundly experienced. It is our desire to equip leaders who have also been ignited in revival to lead others to Him in this way as well.

Over the course of the next eight weeks, you will equip your group as they discover what it means to be anointed of the Lord, how to steward His presence and glory in their own lives, and why it's so important to walk in holiness and honor as they pursue the things of God. It is our hope that through leading this course, you will find a renewed passion to empower those around you as they seek revival.

Thank you again for taking the time to be with us. We are praying for you as you lead your group toward the glory of God!

Blessings,

John and Carol Arnott

Basic Leader Guidelines

This study is designed to help you develop into a believer who can cultivate, sustain and carry revival wherever you go. From *this* perspective, you will partner with God to see impossibilities bow at Jesus' name and step into the destiny God has for you!

There are several different ways that you can engage this study. These are the standard outlets recommended to facilitate this curriculum. We encourage you to seek the Lord's direction, be creative, and prepare for supernatural transformation in your Christian life.

When all is said and done, this curriculum is unique in that the end goal is *not* information—it is transformation. The sessions are intentionally sequenced to take every believer on a journey from information, to revelation, to transformation. Participants will receive a greater understanding of what partnership with Heaven looks like and learn how to practically live this supernatural lifestyle on a daily basis.

Here are some of the ways you can use the curriculum:

1. Church Small Group

Often churches feature a variety of different small group opportunities per season in terms of books, curriculum resources, and Bible studies. *Preparing for the Glory* would be included among the offering of titles for whatever season you are launching for the small group program.

It is recommended that you have at least four to five people to make up a small group and a maximum of twelve.

For a small group setting, here are the essentials:

- *Meeting place*: Either the leader's home or a space provided by the church.

- *Appropriate technology*: A DVD player attached to a TV that is large enough for all of the group members to see (and loud enough for everyone to hear).
- *Leader/Facilitator*: This person will often be the host, if the small group is being conducted at someone's home; but it can also be a team (husband/wife, two church leaders, etc.). The leader(s) will direct the session from beginning to end, from sending reminder e-mails to participating group members about the meetings, to closing out the sessions in prayer and dismissing everyone. A detailed description of what the group meetings should look like will follow in the pages to come.

Sample Schedule for Home Group Meeting (for a 7:00 P.M. Meeting)

- Before arrival: Ensure that refreshments are ready by 6:15 P.M. If they need to be refrigerated, ensure they are preserved appropriately until 15 minutes prior to the official meeting time.
- 6:15 P.M.: Leaders arrive at meeting home or facility.
- 6:15–6:25 P.M.: Connect with hosts, co-hosts, and/or co-leaders to review the evening's program.
- 6:25–6:35 P.M.: Pray with hosts, co-hosts, and/or co-leaders for the evening's events. Here are some sample prayer directives:
    - For the Holy Spirit to move and minister freely.
    - For the teaching to connect with and transform all who hear it.
    - For dialogue and conversation that edifies and is transparent among the group members.
    - For the presence of God to manifest through testimonies and answered prayers.
    - For increased hunger for God's presence and power.
- 6:35–6:45: Ensure technology is functioning properly!
    - Test the DVDs featuring the teaching sessions, making sure they are set up to the appropriate session.

  - If you are doing praise and worship, ensure that either the MP3 player or CD player is functional, set at an appropriate volume and that lyrics are available for everyone to sing along.

- 6:45–7:00 P.M.: Welcome and greeting for guests.
- 7:00–7:10 P.M.: Fellowship, community, and refreshments.
- 7:10–7:30 P.M.: Introductory prayer and worship.
- 7:30–7:40 P.M.: Ministry and prayer time.
- 7:40–8:00 P.M.: Watch DVD session.
- 8:00–8:20 P.M.: Discuss DVD session.
- 8:20–8:35 P.M.: Activation time.
- 8:35–8:40 P.M.: Closing prayer and dismiss.

This sample schedule is *not* intended to lock you into a formula. It is simply provided as a template to help you get started. Our hope is that you customize it according to the unique needs of your group and sensitively navigate the activity of the Holy Spirit as He uses these sessions to supernaturally transform the lives of every person participating in the study.

2. Small Group Church-Wide Campaign

This would be the decision of the pastor or senior leadership of the church. In this model, the entire church would go through *Preparing for the Glory* in both the main services and ancillary small groups/life classes.

The pastor's weekend sermon would be based on the principles in *Preparing for the Glory,* and the Sunday school classes/life classes and/or small groups would also follow the *Preparing for the Glory* curriculum format.

3. Church Class | Midweek Class | Sunday School Curriculum

Churches of all sizes offer a variety of classes to develop members into more effective disciples of Jesus and agents of transformation in their spheres of influence.

Preparing for the Glory would be an invaluable addition to a church's class offering. Typically, churches offer a variety of topical classes targeted at men's needs, women's needs, marriage, family, finances, and various areas of Bible study.

4. Individual Study

While the curriculum is designed for use in a group setting, it also works as a tool that can equip anyone who is looking to strengthen his or her spirit and soul.

Steps to Launching a *Preparing for the Glory* Group or Class

Prepare with Prayer!

Pray! If you are a **church leader**, prayerfully consider how *Preparing for the Glory* could transform the culture and climate of your church community! Spend some time with the Holy Spirit, asking Him to give you vision for what this unique study will do for your church, and ultimately, how a Kingdom-minded people will transform your city and region.

If you are a **group leader** or **class facilitator**, pray for those who will be attending your group, signing up for your class, and will be positioning their lives to be transformed by the power and presence of God in this study.

Prepare Practically!

Determine how you will be using the Preparing for the Glory curriculum.

Identify which of the following formats you will be using the curriculum in:

- Church-sponsored small group study
- Church-wide campaign
- Church class (Wednesday night, Sunday morning, etc.)
- Individual study

Determine a meeting location and ensure availability of appropriate equipment.

Keep in mind the number of people who may attend. You will also need AV (audio-visual) equipment. The more comfortable the setting, the more people will enjoy being there, and will spend more time ministering to each other!

A word of caution here: the larger the group, the greater the need for co-leaders or assistants. The ideal small group size is difficult to judge; however, once you get more than ten to twelve people, it becomes difficult for each member to feel "heard." If your group is larger than 12 people, consider either having two or more small group discussion leaders or "multiplying" the larger group into two smaller ones.

Determine the format for your meetings.

The presence of the Lord, which brings transformation, is cradled and stewarded well in the midst of organization. Structure should never replace spontaneity; on the contrary, having a plan and determining what type of format your meetings will take enables you to flow with the Holy Spirit and minister more effectively.

Set a schedule for your meetings.

Once you have established the format for your meetings, set a schedule for your meetings. Some groups like to have a time of fellowship or socializing (either before or after the meeting begins) where light refreshments are offered. Some groups will want to incorporate times of worship and personal ministry into the small group or class. This is highly recommended for *Preparing for the Glory*, as the study is designed to be founded upon equipping and activating believers through encountering God's presence. The video portion and discussion questions are intended to instruct believers, while the worship, times of ministry, group interaction, prayer time, and activation elements are purposed to engage them to live out what they just learned.

Establish a start date along with a weekly meeting day and time.

This eight-week curriculum should be followed consistently and consecutively. Be mindful of the fact that while there are eight weeks of material, most groups will want to meet one last time after completing the last week to celebrate, or designate their first meeting as a time to get to know each other and "break the ice." This is very normal and should be encouraged to continue the community momentum that the small group experience initiates. Typically, after

the final session is completed, groups will often engage in a social activity—either going out to dinner together, seeing a movie, or something of the like.

Look far enough ahead on the calendar to account for anything that might interfere. Choose a day that works well for the members of your group.

Advertise!

Getting the word out in multiple ways is most effective. Print out flyers, post a sign-up sheet, make an announcement in church services or group meetings, send out weekly e-mails and text messages, set up your own blog or website, or post the event on the social media avenue you and your group use most (Facebook, Twitter, etc.). A personal invitation or phone call is a great way to reach those who might need that little bit of extra encouragement to get involved.

Gather your materials.

Each leader will need the *Preparing for the Glory* Leader's Kit, as well as the *Preparing for the Glory* book.

Additionally, each participant will need a personal copy of the *Essential Training for Preparing for the Glory* study guide. It is recommended they also purchase the *Preparing for the Glory* book for further enrichment and as a resource to complement their daily readings. However, they are able to engage in the exercises and participate in the group discussion apart from reading the book.

We have found it best for the materials to all be purchased at one time—many booksellers and distributors offer discounts on multiple orders, and you are assured that each member will have their materials from the beginning of the course.

Step Forward!

Arrive at your meeting in *plenty* of time to prepare. Nametags are a great idea, at least for the first couple of meetings. Icebreaker and introduction activities are also a good idea for the first meeting.

Pray for your members. As much as possible, make yourself available to them. Embrace the journey that you and your fellow members are embarking on; transformation begins within *you*!

THANK YOU

Thank you for embarking on a journey to equip the body of Christ to be empowered to carry and sustain revival in their lives and communities.

Leader Checklist

One to Two Months Prior

_____ Have you determined a start date for your class or small group?

_____ Have you determined the format, meeting day and time, and weekly meeting schedule?

_____ Have you selected a meeting location (making sure you have adequate space and AV equipment available)?

_____ Have you advertised? Do you have a sign-up sheet to ensure you order enough materials?

Three Weeks to One Month Prior

_____ Have you ordered materials? You will need a copy of *Preparing for the Glory* Leader's Kit, along with copies of the study guide and book for each participant.

_____ Have you organized your meeting schedule/format?

One to Two Weeks Prior

_____ Have you received all your materials?

_____ Have you reviewed the DVDs and your Leader's Kit to familiarize yourself with the material and to ensure everything is in order?

_____ Have you planned and organized the refreshments, if you are planning to provide them? Some leaders will handle this themselves, and some find it easier to allow participants to sign up to provide refreshments if they would like to do so.

_____ Have you advertised and promoted? This includes sending out e-mails to all participants, setting up a Facebook group, promotion in the church bulletin, etc.

_____ Have you appointed co-leaders to assist you with the various portions of the group/class?

First Meeting Day

_____ Plan to arrive *early!* Give yourself extra time to set up the meeting space, double-check all AV equipment, and organize your materials. It might be helpful to ask participants to arrive 15 minutes early for the first meeting to allow for distribution of materials and any icebreaker activity you might have planned.

Session Discussion Questions: Weekly Overview of Meetings/Group Sessions

Here are some instructions on how to use each of the weekly Discussion Question guides.

Welcome and Fellowship Time *(10–15 Minutes)*

This usually begins five to ten minutes prior to the designated meeting time and typically continues up until ten minutes after the official starting time. Community is important. One of the issues in many small group/class environments is the lack of connectivity among the people.

Welcome: Greet everyone as they walk in. If it is a small group environment, as the host or leader be intentional about connecting with each person as they enter the meeting space. If it is a church class environment, it is still recommended that the leader connect with each participant.

Refreshments and materials: In the small group, you can serve refreshments and facilitate fellowship between group members. In a class setting, talk with the attendees and ensure that they purchase all of their necessary materials (study guide and optional copy of *Preparing for the Glory*). Ideally, the small group members will have received all of their resources prior to Week 1, but if not, ensure that the materials are present at the meeting and available for group members to pick up or purchase.

Pray! Open every session in prayer, specifically addressing the topic that you will be covering in the upcoming meeting time. Invite the presence of the Holy Spirit to come, move among the group members and stir greater hunger in each participant to experience *more* of God's glory in their lives.

INTRODUCTIONS *(10 Minutes—First Class Only)*

Introduce yourself and allow each participant to briefly introduce him/herself. This should work fine for both small group and class environments. In a small group, you can go around the room and have each person introduce himself/herself one at a time. In a classroom setting, establish some type of flow and then have each person give a quick introduction (name, interesting fact, etc.).

Discuss the schedule for the meetings. Provide participants an overview of what the next eight weeks will look like. If you plan to do any type of social activities, you might want to advertise this right up front.

WORSHIP *(15 Minutes—Optional for the First Meeting)*

Fifteen minutes is a solid time for a worship segment. That said, it all depends upon the culture of your group. If everyone is okay with doing 30 minutes of praise and worship, by all means, go for it!

For this particular curriculum, a worship segment is highly recommended, as true and lasting transformation happens as we continually encounter God's presence.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME *(5–15 Minutes)*

At this point, you will transition from either welcome or worship into a time of prayer.

Just like praise and worship, it is recommended that this initial time of prayer be five to ten minutes in length; but if the group is made up of people who do not mind praying longer, it should not be discouraged. The key is stewarding everyone's time well while maintaining focus on the most important things at hand.

The prayer component is a time where group members will not just receive prayer, but also learn how to exercise Jesus' authority in their own lives and witness breakthrough in their circumstances.

After the door is opened through worship, the atmosphere is typically charged with God's presence.

Transition Time

At this point, you will transition from prayer/ministry time to watching the *Preparing for the Glory* DVDs.

Group leaders/class teachers: It is recommended that you have the DVD in the player and are all ready to press "play" on the appropriate session.

Video/Teaching *(20–25 Minutes)*

During this time, group members will answer the questions in their study guides and have a place to take notes.

Summary

There is also short summary of the week's topic before the discussion questions. You can read this prior to the group meeting to provide you with a summary of that week's session.

Discussion Questions *(20–30 Minutes)*

In the Leader's Guide there will be a number of questions to ask the group. Some questions will be phrased so you can ask them directly, others may have instructions or suggestions for how you can guide the discussion.

Some lessons will have more questions than others. Also, there might be some instances where you choose to cut out certain questions for the sake of time. This is entirely up to you,

and in a circumstance where the Holy Spirit is moving and appears to be highlighting some questions more than others, flow in sync with the Holy Spirit. He will not steer you wrong!

As you ask the question in the group setting, encourage more than one person to provide an answer. Usually, you will have some people who are way off in their responses, but you will also have those who provide *part* of the correct answer.

Participants may feel like the conversation was lively, the dialogue insightful, and that the meeting was an overall success; but when all is said and done, the question, *"What do I do next?"* is not sufficiently answered. This is why every discussion time will be followed with an activation segment.

ACTIVATION *(5–10 Minutes)*

- Each activation segment should be five to ten minutes at the minimum, as this is the place where believers begin putting action to what they just learned.
- The activation segment will be custom-tailored for the session covered.
- Even though every group member might not be able to participate in the activation exercise, it gives them a visual for what it looks like to demonstrate the concept that they just studied.

PLANS FOR THE NEXT WEEK *(2 Minutes)*

Be sure to let group members know if the meeting location will change or differ from week to week, or if there are any other relevant announcements to your group/class. Weekly e-mails, Facebook updates, and text messages are great tools to communicate with your group. If your church has a database tool that allows for communication between small group/class leaders and members, that is an effective avenue for interaction as well.

CLOSE IN PRAYER

This is a good opportunity to ask for a volunteer to conclude the meeting with prayer.

Week 1

THE SUDDENLY OF GOD

JOURNAL



VIDEO LISTENING GUIDE

1. _____, _____, and _____ are examples of God working suddenly in the Bible.

2. A "suddenly" is a turn of _____ that changes your _____.

3. Jesus came in power suddenly after He spent 40 days in the _____.

4. We can't pay off our debt with _____. Instead, Jesus paid our debt with His _____.

5. Romans 8:28 says all things work unto _____ for those who _____ God.

Prayer Focus: Ask the Lord to help every participant 1) understand the importance of the power of faithfulness in their lives, and 2) learn how to steward breakthrough.

SUMMARY

Did you know the word "suddenly" is mentioned 72 times in scripture? That's because God often works in "suddenlies"—showing up and moving when we least expect it. Jesus Himself came as a suddenly. After the nation of Israel prayed for a Messiah, He *suddenly* came into the world in the most unexpected way: as a baby. This example and so many more reveal the heart of God to come into our lives and bring transformation.

This week's lesson focuses on how we can prepare our hearts for the suddenly of God. When we are aware of His heart to suddenly bring revival and power, we can be ready and equipped to steward His presence. One day soon, Jesus will come again in power for His bride. Are you ready for this—the greatest suddenly of all?

God's Heart to Bring Breakthrough

Of course, the Lord sometimes works gradually, teaching us about Himself over time. But many times, He comes when we least expect it, bringing about change and transformation. He loves us so much that He ordains times and experiences for us to encounter Him in this way!

Prepare

Reflect

Review the following key concepts from John's teaching this week to prepare your heart and mind to lead. Take some time to journal through the ideas that stick out to you.

- "Suddenlies" are events in our lives where God changes our direction in an unexpected way.
- Many times God gives us prophetic clues as to when a "suddenly" will occur, but we have to be paying attention.
- Faithfulness means being prepared for the suddenly of God.
- Jesus will suddenly come for His bride, returning to establish a Kingdom of love, peace, joy on earth.
- God orchestrates "suddenlies" to bring breakthrough to His children.

Pause

Listen to God's heart for this week. Spend time in prayer asking the Lord what He wants to share with those in your group. Journal what you hear here. Make sure to include any ideas you have for your group time.

Fellowship, Welcome, and Introductions
(20-30 Minutes—For the First Meeting)

Welcome everyone as they walk in. If it is a small group environment, as the host or leader be intentional about connecting with each person as they come to the meeting space. If it is a church class environment, it is still recommended that the leader connects with each participant. However, there will be less pressure for the participants to feel connected immediately in a traditional class setting versus a more intimate small group environment.

In the small group, serve refreshments and facilitate fellowship between group members. In a class setting, talk with the attendees and ensure that they receive all of their necessary materials (the study guide and a copy of *Preparing for the Glory*).

Introduce yourself and allow participants to briefly introduce themselves as well. In a classroom setting, establish some type of flow and then have each person give a quick introduction (name, interesting fact, etc.).

Discuss the schedule for the meetings. Provide participants an overview of what the next eight weeks will look like and any potential social activities.

Distribute materials to each participant. Briefly orient the participants to the book and study guide, explaining the 15–20 minute time commitment for each day. Encourage each person to engage fully in this journey—they will get out of it only as much as they invest. This is a way to cultivate a habit of Bible study and daily time pursuing God's presence, starting with just 15–20 minutes. Morning, evening, afternoon—*when* does not matter.

Opening Prayer

Worship *(15 Minutes—Optional for First Meeting)*

If a group chooses to do a worship segment, often they decide to begin on the second week. It usually takes an introductory meeting for everyone to become acquainted with one another and comfortable with their surroundings before they open up in worship.

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME *(5–15 Minutes)*

VIDEO/TEACHING *(20 Minutes)*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS *(25–30 Minutes)*

Spend some time dialoguing about the video content, covering the key concepts and talking points you prepared. Here are some possible questions you could use:

- What are some scriptural examples of God coming suddenly in an unexpected way?
- What does God's acting suddenly reveal about His heart or character?
- How can we be better prepared for the suddenly of God?
- How does knowing Jesus might return in our generation affect how we live?

Write down any questions that God puts on your heart.

What is the ultimate suddenly we are looking toward?

Activation: Learn to Recognize the Suddenly of God in Your Life

Spend time in groups of two or three, and have your group members share about a time when God broke in suddenly.

How did this breakthrough compare to times when God worked more gradually or slowly?

What did God teach through His sudden work?

Have a couple of members share what God did for them and have them pray for the same grace to be released on the group.

Close in Prayer

Thank you for leading a group in *Preparing the Glory*. We can't wait to see what the Lord does next week.