

Discussion Guide

November 16, 2025

Prepare Like It's Already on the Way For Such a Time As This: Week 3

Pastor Daniel Groves

Main Idea

This week's message reminds us that real transformation starts in the heart. Proverbs 4:23 tells us to guard our hearts because everything in our lives flows from what we allow to take root—our thoughts, values, emotions, and intentions all shape the direction we're headed. Proverbs 27:19 adds that our heart reflects who we truly are, revealing not just our direction but our reflection, showing others how clearly they can see Jesus in us. As you begin today's discussion, take a moment to look inward and consider how God may be preparing something *in* you as you prepare like it's already on the way.

Anchor Passage

"Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life." (Proverbs 4:23, NLT)

Read: 1 John 5:14-15; Psalm 116:1-2; Jeremiah 29:11; 2 Kings 4:1-7; Philippians 4:6

1. WE HAVE TO - ASK - WITH EXPECTATION

Asking with expectation means coming to God boldly, knowing everything we have belongs to Him and trusting that obedience makes room for His blessing. When we create space—through generosity, tithing, and surrendered hearts—God responds with more than we could imagine.

Discussion: What bold prayer have you been hesitant to ask God for, and what would it look like to bring that request to Him with real expectation and trust? In what areas of your life do you sense God asking you to create space—through obedience, generosity, or alignment—so He can bless and use you more fully?

2. OUR PARTICIPATION IS THE BRIDGE BETWEEN ASKING & OVERFLOW

Overflow doesn't happen by asking alone—God responds when our faith partners with action. Like the widow who gathered jars, our participation creates the space for God to fill, and when we move in obedience and prepare for His provision, He pours out more than we imagined.

Discussion: What practical step of participation—your “gathering jars”—do you sense God inviting you to take so He can pour into your life? How does intentionally “making room” (in your habits, schedule, finances, or mindset) demonstrate faith and position you for overflow?

3. DON'T JUST PRAY FOR OVERFLOW = PREPARE FOR IT

When God promises to pour out blessing, our preparation should match our expectation. If we truly believe He is the God of more than enough, we expand our capacity in faith—trusting Him above the economy, culture, or circumstances—and live with a confidence that He will fill every jar we're willing to bring.

Discussion: What does “expanding your capacity” look like in this season of your life, and how does it reflect what you truly believe about God's character? Where do you need to shift from fear or reaction to confident trust—choosing to believe that God is more than enough no matter what's happening in the world around you?

One of the greatest tragedies in life is the prayers that go unanswered because they go unasked.” - Pastor Darius Daniels

SUMMARY

God is calling His church to rise up with our time, talents, treasure, and whole hearts, finishing this year with bold, faith-filled obedience that reflects Jesus in everything we do. As we enter our annual Hope for the House offering, this is our unified moment to step beyond comfort, link arms as a family, and strengthen the mission God has entrusted to Hope City—from outreach and ministry to preparing for our new building, future campuses, and the opportunities ahead in 2026. With nearly a third of our yearly budget coming in these final months, every act of generosity—big or small—matters deeply, not for the amount but for the heart it represents. So we are simply asking you to pray, listen, participate, and prepare for God's overflow as we sow our Hope for the House offering between now and December 31.

CALL TO ACTION

Ask Boldly:

Bring one specific, bold prayer to God this week—something you’ve hesitated to ask for—and pray with real expectation that He is able and willing to move.

Participate Practically:

Identify one concrete step you can take to “prepare a space” for what you’re believing God for (a habit, a budget shift, a conversation, a discipline) and commit to taking it within the next seven days.

Prepare Generously:

Pray and ask God what obedience looks like in your giving this season—whether through tithing, offering, or sacrificial generosity—and follow through with a willing, faith-filled heart.

GROUP LEADER RESOURCE

The Overflow Jar Challenge

Provide one large jar along with small slips of paper and pens. Invite everyone to write at least one bold thing they are believing God for—something they would ask if they prayed with real expectation—then fold their paper and place it in the jar as an act of participation. After everyone has added their slips, shake the jar and pull a few to read anonymously, then allow the group to pray over those requests together.

This activity reinforces the heart of the message by helping people practice **asking** boldly, just like the widow who approached God with expectation; it invites **participation** through the simple act of writing and placing their request in the jar; and it visually symbolizes **preparing** space for God to move, reminding the group that overflow comes when faith, obedience, and expectation work together.

Optional Fun Twist: Have a second jar labeled “Overflow” and let the group add slips throughout the holiday season as God answers prayers. It becomes a visible reminder of God’s faithfulness.