

Choosing God's Way

Lessons for Women

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Introduction

This series of 13 lessons bring together concepts and Bible principles for us as women to live by. They have been compiled from my personal study, and after teaching these subjects from Canada to Mexico; in Holland and Germany and parts of South America. Small and large groups of women have been challenged as they searched the Word of God together. Now individuals around the world can download these lessons and study them for themselves, and use them to lead others to a deeper understanding of what God can do for them.

You will notice many underlined words. These are the answers. In a group you could ask the question or read the statement giving the references, then ask for someone to fill in the “blanks” of words you leave out. Be sure to ask questions and be prepared to lead them to the Scriptural concept and correct understanding. You could prepare a student sheet, leaving the underlined words out and have them fill them in during your teaching time.

Each of us is faced with daily choices, some serious and perplexing, some unnoticed or seemingly unimportant. God has promised “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him (or her).” James 1:5
May these studies guide you to finding answers for your questions.

- Joyce Watke

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Other series of lessons will follow as the Lord enables.

CHOOSING GOD'S WAY

Lesson 1

"PERSONAL EVALUATION"

MEMORY VERSES: "Search me, O God, and know my heart; try me, and know my thoughts. And see if there be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." Ps. 139:23,24

GOALS OF THIS LESSON: (Make these your personal goals for this week.)

- I will ask myself the following questions, and seek to give them honest answers.
- Where I have failed, I will make them a definite matter of prayer.
- I will seek God's grace to be the woman that He wants me to be.
- I will regularly read the references and seek to commit to memory the verses that apply.

QUESTIONS: Please Mark **Y** for "yes," **N** for "no," **S** for "sometimes."

- _____ 1. **Do I create an atmosphere about me where those close to me can freely share their experiences?** "Every wise woman buildeth her house, but the foolish plucketh it down with her hands." Proverbs 14:1
- _____ 2. **Do I feel that I am taken for granted and too much is expected of me at home, at church, or at work?** "...He that feareth the commandment shall be rewarded." Proverbs 13:13. "For I the Lord thy God shall hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee." Isaiah 41:13
- _____ 3. **Do I lose my temper quickly over what others might call minor things?** "Better is a dry morsel and quietness therewith than an house full of strife." Prov.17:1 "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts..." Col.3:15
- _____ 4. **Do I verbally acknowledge to my family or those close to me when I am wrong?** "Confess your faults one to another and pray one for another, that ye may be healed, the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16
- _____ 5. **Do I have specific goals of character development for myself (and my children)?** "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. . ." Matt.6:33 "And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith..." 2 Peter 1:5-7
- _____ 6. **Do those close to me know what my goals are? Does my family know what these goals are?** "Be ye doers of the Word and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves." James 1:22.
- _____ 7. **Do I encourage and help my family (or someone close) in their goals to build their lives, not criticizing them if they fail?** "Let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon. For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. " I Cor.3:10
- _____ 8. **Am I able to trace conflicts to the basic causes?** "If any man lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally and upbraideth not." James 1:5
- _____ 9. **Am I pleased with the attitudes my family (or those close to me) have toward me? Do I sense respect and love?** "Her children arise up and call her blessed, her husband also, he praiseth her." Prov. 31:28

_____ 10. Is my personal life pleasing to Christ so that I would be willing to share it with my church? “Ye are our epistle... known and read of all men.” II Cor. 3:2

_____ 11. Do I know how to apply Scriptural principles to meet basic needs as they arise in my relationships and my roles as a woman?

12. I will ask God to show me what I need to improve in the following list:

_____ a. Do I understand the headship of my husband? (Eph. 5:23)

_____ b. Do I permit my children to do things in my husband’s absence that he objects to when he is home? (Proverbs 31:11) Can he safely trust in me? Do I know his mind so well, I can carry out his wishes _____

_____ c. Do I seek to carry out his commands even if they don’t seem important to me?” “In the old time, holy women also who trusted in God, adorned themselves, being in subjection unto their own husbands.” I Peter 3:5

_____ d. Do I consult him before spending money? (Proverbs 31:11)

_____ e. Do I contradict him in front of others? “She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.” Proverbs 31:12

_____ f. Do I correct his statements or bring up his shortcomings in front of others? Instead, is he known for his achievements? “Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders.” Proverbs 31:23

_____ g. Am I content with the financial structure God has placed us in? “But godliness with contentment is great gain.” I Timothy 6:6 “...be content with such things as ye have...” Hebrews 13:5

_____ h. Do I pray for him daily and encourage him in his work? “Heaviness in the heart of man maketh it stoop, but a good word maketh it glad.” Proverbs 12:25

_____ i. Do I go out of my way to make myself attractive to him? “She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple.” Proverbs 31:22

_____ j. Do I plan appetizing meals to meet his needs? She “looketh well to the ways of her household.” Proverbs 31:27

_____ k. Do I take the responsibility of keeping the home as seriously as I would an outside job? Am I a “keeper at home”? Titus 2:5

“It is in loving, not in being loved
The heart finds its quest;
It is in giving not in getting
Our lives are blest.” -*Unknown*

“Today _____, I will seek God’s forgiveness (I John 1:9) and begin to work on my failures. I will ask God for special grace to overcome them.”

Signed: _____

This week meditate on: II Tim. 2:15-16, Prov. 31:10-31; I Peter 3; Ephesians 5. Memorize Phil. 4:13: “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”

Sample Prayer Note Book:

Date _____ Request: _____

Date _____ Answer: _____

Date _____ Request: _____

Date _____ Answer: _____

I will pray this daily: “...cleanse thou me from secret faults. Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me...” Psalms 19:12-13

CHOOSING GOD'S WAY

Lesson 2

“CHOSEN AND CALLED”

Mike shouted, “You will send me back like you did the others.” “Send them back where?” asked Sue. “To the foster children people.” Slowly she sat down next to him. “Mike the boys aren’t foster children. You knew that didn’t you?” she said. “Ah, yes, I guess so.” “Why did you ask?” Mike explained, “When I visited in August, Henry, Frank and Brandan were here, but then they packed their bags and left.” “They went to college, Mike...they’ll come from for Christmas.” Then she shook him gently. “Mike, we’d never send you back. **We chose you, and you chose us.**”
from *The Twelfth Door* in the Reader’s Digest.

MEMORY VERSE: “According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love.” Ephesians 1:4

I. CONSIDER : Ephesians 1:1-3

A. To whom was the epistle written: “to the saints which are at Ephesians and to the faithful in Christ Jesus.” **Written by whom?** Paul

B. What two things did Paul want them to know? (1:2) grace and peace.

These came from whom? The Lord Jesus Christ.

C. God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ has: “blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” (1:3)

D. List some of the spiritual blessings you have because you are saved: (Ps. 1:2,3; Eph. 1:7; Matt.6:31-33; Phil. 4:19) _____

II. CHOSEN BY THE FATHER: Ephesians 1:1-6

A. Chosen for a Special Position: Eph. 1:1-3

1. We are called “saints”. (1:1) meaning to be **set apart from sin’s condemnation and this evil world system**. (See II Cor. 5:21)

2. He has “raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ.” (Eph. 2:6)

3. This is true because “There is therefore now no condemnation in Christ Jesus.” (Romans 8:1a)

4. “All spiritual blessings” belong to the child of God. (Eph. 1:3)

B. Chosen for a Special Purpose: Ephesians 1:4-6

1. We were “chosen in Him before the foundation of the world.” (“Chosen” means election, predestined by His grace. This took place in the eternal plan of God, directed by His will according to the good pleasure which He purposed in Himself.)

2. Explain what this means to you, personally. (See 1:5; 9.) _____

3. We were chosen that we might be “holy and without blame before Him in love” (1:4)

4. To be “holy” means in Christ our sins are washed away. (See I Cor. 6:11) and we are made blameless in our position before God, because: “we (are) made the righteousness of God in Him.” (II Cor. 5:21)

5. Because of His love, He has predestinated us “unto the adoption of children, by Christ, to himself.” He did this according to the good pleasure of his will. 1:5

C. Chosen for Special Blessings: “Blessed is the man whom thou chooseth.”

Psalms 65:4

1. Chosen for Salvation: For He is “not willing that any should perish by that all should come to repentance.” II Peter 3:9b “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” John 3:16 “For many be called, but few are chosen..” Matt. 20:16

• **Have you ever wondered “why me?” that is, “why did God save me, but not my sister?” Perhaps Psalms 68:6 has the reason YOU are the first one in your family to get saved.**

(Also see Acts 16:31)

2. Chosen to show others what God has done for you. Read I Peter 2:9. “For ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, that ye should show forth the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.”

a. Paul was “a chosen vessel unto me to bear my name before Gentiles, and kings and the children of Israel.” Acts 9:15

b. You and I are to be ready to witness. I Peter 3:15, “But (1) sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and (2) be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh of you a reason of the hope within you, (3) in meekness and fear.”

c. We are to witness wherever we are. “Ye shall be witnesses unto me...” Acts 1:8

d. Jesus said: “Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain, **and whatsoever ye do shall prosper.**” John 15:16

III. CALLED BY THE LORD JESUS: “To them who are the **called** according to his purpose, for whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son...” Romans 8:28, 29 “According to his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath **called** us to glory and virtue.” II Peter 1:3

A. CALLED AND CONFIDENT: “That ye may know the hope of his calling...” Eph. 1:18

1. What is this hope? “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” I John 5:11 “Beloved now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is. **and every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.**” I John 3:2,3

2. What is our response to new life in Christ? “Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner.. Who hath saved us, and called us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace ...” II Timothy 1:8-9

3. Who does God say we are? “a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people...” I Peter 2:9a

4. What did God save us for? “That ye should shew forth the praises of him” v 9b

5. What did He call us out of? “Who hath called you out of darkness...” v 9c

6. What does He call us into? “His marvelous light” (spiritual understanding) v 9d

B. CALLED AND COMMISSIONED: “Now then we are ambassadors for Christ...”

II Cor. 5:20 **Never Forget : with His calling, comes His enabling.**

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Lesson 3

“A CHOICE FOR LIFE”

MEMORY VERSE: Joshua 24:24, “And the people said unto Joshua, The Lord our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.”

In many different lands and cultures, people have a fatalistic view of life. They say: “what will be will be.” They have phrases in different languages all meaning the same idea. Perhaps you have said, “I can’t help it, I am destined to be...; it is in my genes; I’m doomed to be this way; it runs in the family.” But **God gives us responsibility to choose right from wrong.**

Life is full of choices to be made: daily decisions, life changing decisions, immediate and long lasting decisions. Effects will follow one after another, like a row of dominoes. (Illustrate.)

SCRIPTURE PASSAGE: Joshua 24:14-31

BACKGROUND: Joshua, an aged man, gathered representatives from all the tribes of Israel to Shechem to give them his last charge. He spoke to them out of a heavy heart, desiring God’s best for their future. It must not be overlooked that the words of Joshua were not his own, but the words given to him by the Lord... We always do well to heed the warnings, admonition, and direction of God’s leaders. This is why God says to His people concerning their pastor: (in Hebrews 13:7,17)

- obey those who have the rule over you
- whose faith follow
- submit yourselves unto them.

In Joshua 24:1-13 Joshua retraced the steps of God’s hand upon them... In retrospect, Joshua related the marvelous history of God’s leadership and power in their lives. Even before his time, the people were instructed to **remember:**

1. “Remember all the way the Lord led thee...” Deut. 8:2
2. “Remember the days of old...” Deut. 32:7
3. “Only take heed to thyself and keep thy soul diligently, and lest thou forget the things thine eyes have seen, and lest they depart from thy heart, all the days of thy life...” Deut. 4:9 -From *God’s Man for God’s Work* by Dr. Edward Watke

A. JOSHUA PUTS A CHOICE BEFORE THEM: vs 14-15

1. The challenge; “Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth.”
2. A job to do: “put away the gods your fathers served...and serve ye the Lord.”
3. A decision must be made: “...Choose ye this day whom ye will serve...”
4. Joshua’s decision: “But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

B. THE LEADERS REMEMBERED: vs 16- 18 (Read)

1. “The Lord..brought us up...and out of the land of Egypt,” (where we were slaves).
2. God did “those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way wherein we went and among all the people through whom we passed.”
3. “And the Lord drove out before us all the people...which dwelt in the land.”
4. Their conclusion was: “Therefore will we also serve the Lord; for he is our God.”

C. JOSHUA'S WARNING: vs 19-20 "if ye forsake the Lord, and serve strange gods, then he will turn and do you hurt."

1. **Compromises may seem small:** giving in to the ways of the world; a little crack, a little leak (in the dam); a little white lie; a shady deal; an indulgence "just once". We might think "no one will know." But God knows, He says, "Be sure your sin will find you out!" Numbers 32:23

2. **Losses are great:** We lose: His blessing; joy and peace; love for the Word, for the Lord and his people, and for the church.

3. **Chastening will come for our good:**

"For whom the Lord loveth, he chasteneth." Hebrews 12:5-11

D. WORDS ARE A WITNESS: Read vs 21-22. Words are a witness, sometimes against us. "A vow is a promise made to God of doing some good thing thereafter." **We ought to vow nothing except what is in our power to carry out.**

E. FACING THE CHALLENGE vs 23 Joshua challenged them again.

1. "Put away the strange gods which are among you."

2. "Incline your heart unto the Lord God..."

•**Today: God says:** "But now ye also put off all these..." Col. 3:8-9 "And (ye) have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him."

Col.3:10 "But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof." Romans 13:14 **We are still faced with Joshua's challenge:** "Choose ye this day whom ye will serve, whether it be..." Joshua 24:15

F. A READY RESPONSE: vs 24 (Read) "His voice will we obey..."

G. SOLEMN REMINDERS: vs 25-27 Joshua did five things to make this a very serious decision : List them: 1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

4. _____ 5. _____

How was the stone to be a witness to them, lest they deny the Lord? _____

•••

ANOTHER TRUE STORY: James Taylor, on the morning of his wedding day, decided for Christ, on Feb. 1, 1776. He had lived a wild, worldly life of sin...he was so convicted of his sin that he yielded his heart and life to the Lord, and was born again into God's family.

His bride was deeply dismayed, but she was soon to be won. He took God at His word, when he read, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Acts 16:31. Soon they could say, "As for me and my house, **we** will serve the Lord..." Joshua 24:15b

Holy influences from this choice flowed down through generations, for he was the

great grandfather of James Hudson Taylor, the first missionary to China who founded the China Inland Mission.

Extra Material For The Teacher's Use:

CONSIDER: Bible stories are powerful sources of unparalleled learning.

1. What is the **theme** of the book of Joshua? (Possess your possessions; see Ephesians)
2. **Who** is speaking to the people in Joshua 24 (Joshua)
3. **When** did this take place? (shortly before he died) vs 29
4. Have you ever received a farewell message from a loved one? _____ How important was it to you?
5. **The primary function of a story is to illustrate a truth.** What was the truth God was trying to reveal in this story? (We must choose to serve the Lord)
6. **A Bible story allows us to experience truth.** How would you have responded if you had been there?
7. **A Bible story shows us God is active in the affairs of men.** God spoke through (Joshua) to the leaders of the people. God put in the leaders' hearts the desire to (obey)
8. **A well written story contains a plot with a measure of conflict.** What conflict would the leaders face when they went home? (getting the family to cooperate to get rid of idols) What were they to insist their families do?
9. Joshua fulfilled his job, **who was responsible to carry out his instructions?**
10. How long did the people serve the Lord? v.31 (As long as the leaders lived)

How long will you serve the Lord? _____

...

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Lesson 4

"A DAILY CHOICE TO MAKE"

MEMORY VERSE: Joshua 1:8, "This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success."

SCRIPTURE: Luke 10:38-42. Read first.

CONSIDER: Bible stories are powerful sources of unparalleled learning. Major parts of the Bible are written in story form. We cannot grasp the full teaching of Scripture on any topic without learning how to **read, interpret, and apply** truths contained in Bible Stories.

- Why do you think God chose to reveal so much truth in story form? _____
- Stories embody truth. They illustrate a truth in a way that we can understand.
- Sometimes there is a summary or statement of the truth in the beginning or at the end.
- But the message is clear, simply by reading the story.

When God wanted to tell us that the most important thing we ever do is spend time with Him, worshiping and listening to His truth, He did not issue a statement, or preach a sermon. Instead, He shared a story, this time of Mary and Martha.

-From *Bible Study for Busy Women* by Ethel Herr

I. MY TITLE FOR THE PASSAGE: _____

II. MY OUTLINE OF THE PASSAGE:

A. What happened first? vs 38 _____

B. Then what did Mary do? vs 39 _____

C. Why did she sit at his feet? vs 41,42 _____

D. In conclusion:

What was Martha preoccupied with? _____

What did Jesus say about her sisters response to him? _____

(She chose the better of two good ways to serve him.)

III. MY BEST VERSE FOR THE DAY: _____

A. What is implied by vs. 42 _____

B. Why was this so vitally important? _____

IV. PERSONAL PROFIT FROM THE PASSAGE:

A. Which woman do I identify with? _____ **Why?** _____

B. What thought impressed me the most? _____

C. Whose example should I follow? _____ **What was her example?** _____

D. Mary showed three spiritual characteristics:

1. Spiritual Receptivity - Luke 10:39 - "She **heard** His words."

2. Spiritual Insight - Luke 10:42: "She chose the good part that shall not be taken away."

3. Quiet Resignation - John 11:20 - At Lazarus' death, Martha hurried after Jesus, but Mary sat still in the house. **How can we follow her example?** _____

V. ERRORS TO AVOID: _____

VI. PROMISES TO CLAIM: Is there a clearly stated promise in this passage? _____
Is there a principle with implied results? If so what? _____

VII. COMMANDS TO OBEY: Is a command directly given? _____ Is there an
important statement made that we should follow? _____ If so, what was it?

VIII. HOW DO I SEE CHRIST IN THIS PORTION?

- A. Where was He? _____
B. What do I learn about Him? _____
C. Three times Mary was at the feet of Jesus:
1. For Instruction - Luke 10:39-42 "She heard his word."
2. For Comfort - John 11:32-33 "Jesus saw her weeping..."
3. For Service - John 12:3-7 "Mary...anointed the feet of Jesus..."

IX. HOW DO I SEE THE HOLY SPIRIT IN THIS PORTION?

- A. Was He working in someone's heart? _____ whose? _____
B. What had he done in Mary's heart? _____

"The Holy Ghost...he shall teach you all things..." John 14:26 "He...the Spirit of truth...will guide you into all truth..." John 16:13 "For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure." Phil. 2:13

X. IS THERE A REFERENCE TO THE FATHER HERE? _____ If so, where? _____

XI. PROBLEMS I DON'T UNDERSTAND: _____

XII. MY THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: I will _____

XIII. OTHER RELATED SCRIPTURES: (Include any parallel portions)

Reference	Key Thoughts
1. John 11:1, 20; 32; 44	- In Bethany again, Lazarus' raised from the dead
2. John 12:3	- Mary anointed His feet for His burial
3. Mark 14:8, 9	- Christ immortalized her, " she hath done what she could , it shall be spoken of her (throughout the whole world) for a <u>memorial</u> of her."

As you read this story, you can visualize the whole thing. You see the neat little house, smell the food cooking in the kitchen, feel the tensions, hear Jesus' soothing words and Martha's irritated voice. You identify with one or more of the characters, feel the startled shock of the impact of Jesus' answer. In your imagination, you may even become one of the characters. **Suddenly you are able to apply the truth to you own busy life where the daily grind of duties seems so important. You recognize the need to put it all in perspective by taking time for God, who longs for your companionship more than anything else.**--*Bible Study for Busy Women* by Ethel L. Herr

"... I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest love the LORD thy God, and that thou mayest obey his voice, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: **for he is thy life, and the length of thy days...**" Deut. 30:19, 20

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Lesson 5

“PRECIOUS IN HIS SIGHT”

MEMORY VERSE: “ Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, **precious:** and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious...” I Peter 2:6-7a (“Precious” means of high cost or worth, valuable, highly esteemed, cherished, dear, beloved.)

SCRIPTURE SEARCH : Deut. 32:48-52; 33:1-3; 12-16; 26-29.

I. My Title for the Story: _____

II. My Outline of the Story: (What do I see?)

A. Who did God speak to? Moses Where did God tell him to go? “ Go to the mountains, to mount Nebo. Deut. 32:48,49

B. What two things happened on the mountain? vs.52; 33:1.

(1)._____ (2)._____

1. Moses reminded them of whom? and of what? 33:2, 3 _____

2. How did the people respond? (1)._____ (2)._____

C. Which two tribes received special blessings? vs.12,13 _____ and _____

1. Jacob was their father. How did God describe His protection of him and his family? Deut. 32:11-12 (Read vs. 7-10 also.) _____

2. Special protection for Benjaminites was promised. How was it described? (33:12) _____

3. God’s blessing on Joseph’s land included many precious things: (33:13) _____

D. What precious things are also ours to rejoice in? vs. 13-16

1. Precious things of heaven, vs. 13 included: dew and deep waters.

2. Precious fruits brought forth by the sun, precious things put forth by the moon, vs14

3. Chief things of the ancient mountains, and precious things of the lasting hills. vs 15.

What do you think this means? _____

4. The precious things of the earth and fullness thereof. vs 16 _____

“Trust... in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy.” I Timothy 6:17

III. The Rest of theStory: Deut. 34:1, 5-8

Moses died at 120 years old strong of body, and eye sight. (See vs. 7.)

Joshua, full of the spirit of wisdom became their leader. vs. 9

“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.” Ps.116:15

FOR PERSONAL STUDY:

I. He is Precious. “Unto you which believe, He is precious...” I Peter 2:7

A. God’s only begotten Son: John 3:16-quote.

B. Not one of the angels: “...And took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men.” Phil. 2:7

II. He Paid the Price of Redemption: “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many;” Hebrews 9:28 “For the redemption of their soul is **precious**...” Psalms 49:8

A. We are redeemed by the precious blood of the Lamb.

“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed

1. with corruptible things, as silver and gold,
2. from your vain conversation, (sinful manner of living)
3. received by tradition from your fathers;

but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.” I Peter 1:18,19

B. “To them that have obtained like precious faith with us, through the righteousness of God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.” II Peter 1:1

III. His People are Precious to Him. Read Isaiah 43:1;4-7

A. We are a peculiar (special) treasure unto Him, if we will obey his voice, and keep his covenant, like He said to Israel. Ex.19:5

- “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.” Titus 2:14

B. The Trying of Our Faith is Precious: I Peter 1:7- “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto:

1. **praise** and
 2. **honour** and
 3. **glory** at the appearing of Jesus Christ.”
- “Knowing this that the trying of your faith worketh **patience**.” James 1:3
 - “When he hath tried me, I shall come forth as pure gold.” Job 23:10
 - “...But we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” I John 3:2b

IV. We Have a Precious Privilege: Access to God through Christ.

- “Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.” Hebrews 10:19

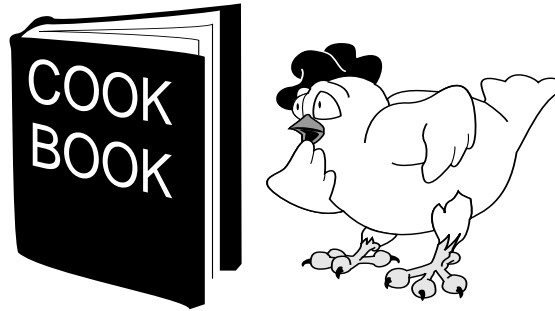
- “Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.” Hebrews 4:16

>>**Application:** Is He precious to you? _____ How will your life be different from studying this subject? _____

CHOOSING GOD'S WAY

Lesson 6

“CONSULT THE MANUAL”



Today's woman is confronted with choices that must be made. If we do not take our opportunities some choices will be made for us, though we may not like the results. **In order to make wise choices for our lives and for our families we need to know the facts.** God has given His precious Word to guide us, and His Holy Spirit to enable us to carry out those decisions.

MEMORY VERSE: “Thy words were found and I did eat them, and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of my heart...” Jeremiah 15:16

I. What does the Word of God do for us?

••**It quickens us-** “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.” I Peter 1:23 “...For thy word hath quickened me.” Psalm 119:50

••**It is a lamp to our feet and a light to our path.** Psalm 119:105

••**It cleans us** - “Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.”

John 15:3; “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”
Ephesians 5:26

••**It discerns the thought and the intents of our hearts.** “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword... and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Hebrews 4:12

••**It is able to save our souls:** “...Receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.” James 1:21.

••**It is spiritual food:** “..That He might make thee know that man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live.”

Deut. 8:3 (quoted in Matthew 4:4) “And have tasted the good word of God...” Heb. 6:5;
“As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby; If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.” I Peter 2:2-3

II. Why can we as Christian Women Follow the Word of God with Confidence?

••**God's Word is “tried”.** “As for God, His way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is buckler to all those that trust in him.” Psalm 18:30

••**God's Word is right.** “For the word of the Lord is right, and all his works are done in

truth.” Psalm 33:4

••**God’s Word is settled in Heaven.** “Forever O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven.”

Psalm 119:89

••**God’s Word has been truth from the beginning .** “The word is true from the beginning: and every one of thy righteous judgments endureth for ever.” Psalm 119:160

••**It is true and pure** “Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar.”

Proverbs 30:5, 6

••**It shall stand forever.** “The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand for ever.” Isaiah 40:8, “The word of the Lord endureth for ever...” I Peter 1:25

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words **shall not pass away.**” Matt. 24:35

Many people assume they know what the Bible says, but never seek to find out if what they think it says is truly there. **If God has spoken it, you can stake your life on it. But how can you know He said it, if you do not read it?**

III. How can I know what it says about my need?

A. Get acquainted with it, **READ** a chapter a day.

1. Remember “first, it was just a **verse** here and there that stood out to me.”
2. Continue reading, soon a **chapter** will become special to you.
3. Later individual **books** will become your favorites. Write in the theme, or key words.

B. Get a grasp of the structure of the whole Bible, **STUDY** it. Acts 17:11

1. O.T. and N. T. divisions;
2. Books of history, poetry, prophecy, gospels, epistles (letters to the churches) etc.
3. Make personal discoveries in God’s truth, mark them, date them, claim them.

C. Get a grip on it: **MEMORIZE** the books of the Bible, then important verses to live by.

IV. How do I Meditate on the Word of God?

Definition: Thinking on the meaning and application of God’s truth. “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth, but thou shalt meditate therein, day and night...”

Joshua 1:8.

V. God has magnified His Word above all His names: Read Psalm 138:2.

His Holy Spirit wants to **engraft** the Word of God into our lives, James 1:21; Ps. 119:11

Those who are keepers of His Word have the love of God perfected in them, I John 2:5.

What will you and I do with the Word of God THIS YEAR? “Taste and see that the Lord is good.”. Ps.34:8.

Let’s get the facts of what God says to us.

How Would You Feel?

If God gave us the same amount of time and attention that we devote to Him?

If God put as many things ahead of us as we put ahead of Him?

If God offered as many excuses as we do?

If God’s promises were no more certain than ours?

If God withheld His blessings from us as we withhold our offerings from Him?

CHOOSING GOD’S WAY

Lesson 7
“FOLLOWING DIRECTIONS”



MEMORY VERSE: “Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needed not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” **II Tim. 2:15** “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words, in this adulterous and sinful generation, of him also shall the son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” Mark 8:38

SCRIPTURE: Psalms 119:1-6 and selected verses.

I. WHY WE MAY BE ASHAMED:

A. OUR PAST LIFE? Real shame? Sin must be dwelt with. “Whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy...” Proverbs 28:13; see I John 1:19.

- “The pleasures of sin, for a season.” Heb. 11:25
- “What fruit had ye then, in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?” Romans 6:21
- “And such were some of you; but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.” I Cor. 6:11

B. OUR PRESENT LIFE ? Our testimonies at work? at home? on the phone? at church?

- “For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.” Ephesians 5:12
- “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God, unto salvation to everyone that believeth.” Romans 1:16
- “Ye are our epistle, (letter)... known and read of all men.” 2 Cor. 3:2
- Do we fear what others think or say? “Woe unto you, when all men speak well of you.” Luke 6:26

II. HOW NOT TO BE ASHAMED: Have respect to God’s Directions for our lives.

A. RESPECT MEANS: to esteem, to regard, to consider, to look up to, time honored. (The opposite is to disregard, ignore, neglect.) “Then shall I not be ashamed when I have respect unto all thy commandments.” Psalms 119:6 “I have esteemed the words of his mouth more than my necessary food.” Job 23:12

B. ATTITUDES TO PRACTICE: from Psalms 119:2-43

- “Blessed are they that keep his testimonies and seek him with the whole heart.” v. 2
- “I will have respect unto thy ways.” v. 15
- “Make me to go in the path of thy commandments: for therein do I delight.” v. 35
- “Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear.” v. 38
- “Behold, I have longed after thy precepts.” v. 40
- “For I have hoped in thy judgments.” v. 43

C. ACTIONS TO PRACTICE: from Psalms 119:8-44

- **Obedience to God’s word** : “I will keep thy statutes” v. 8
- **Seek cleansing from sin**: “Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts.” James 4:8 “Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his ways? by taking heed thereto according to thy word.” Ps.119:9
- **Protect yourself from sins’ temptation** : “Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee.” v. 11 “Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin.”
- **Share what you learn with others**: Declare all his judgments. v. 13
- **Have a goal**: “So shall I talk of thy wondrous works.” v. 27
- **Put the Word to work in your life**: “I will meditate in thy precepts.” v. 15 “ I have chosen the way of truth.” v. 30 “I shall keep it to the end.” v. 33 “I shall observe it with my whole heart.” v. 34 “So shall I keep thy law continually.” v. 44

III. RESULTS THAT WILL FOLLOW: Abundant Living

A. ABUNDANT LIFE: Something above the ordinary

- God wants to give us each “abundance of grace.” Romans 5:17; and “abundance of joy.” II Cor. 8:2 “Ask and ye shall receive that your joy may be full.” John 16:24
- Jesus said, “ I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly.” John 10:10
- We must remember: “We have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God and not of us.” II Cor. 4:7

B. LIBERTY TO SPEAK UP FOR CHRIST - Psalms 119:42-46

- “I will walk at liberty, for I seek thy precepts.” v. 45. Read Rom. 6:14.
 - “Shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.” Romans 8:21,
 - “Take heed, lest by any means, this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those that are weak.” I Cor. 8:9
- “So shall I have to answer him that reproacheth me, for I trust in thy word.” v. 42
 - ... “Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh of you a reason of the hope that is in thee.” I Peter 3:15
 - “Having a good conscience that whereas they speak evil of you as of evil doers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse your good conversation in Christ.” I Peter 3:16
 - “Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed but let him glorify God on this behalf.” I Peter 4:15,16
 - “I will speak of thy testimonies before kings, and will not be ashamed.” v. 46

C. COMFORT AND COURAGE TO LIVE FOR HIM: “This is my comfort in my affliction, for thy word hath quickened me.” v. 50 “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes.” v. 71 “I know O Lord, that thy judgments are right.” v.75 “Great peace have they that love thy law...Lord I have hoped for thy salvation.” v 165-166 “**I thought on my ways and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.**” v. 59 “For I have chosen thy precepts.” v.173 “**Let my heart be sound in thy statutes, that I be not ashamed.**” v. 80

CHOOSING GOD’S WAY

Lesson 8
“Are You FRENZIED or FOCUSED ?”

I. How do we know God gave us time, as we know it? See Genesis 1.

- What is the point of time stated in Genesis 1:1? _____
- What did God do at that time? _____
- God gave a division of light from darkness. He called it _____ and _____ v. 5
- What did he call the rest of this period of time? v.5 e _____ and m _____
- How did God describe the second day? v. 8 _____
_____ How many times did God say this during Creation week? _____
(Continue reading chapter one.)
- What was God’s purpose in creating the heavenly bodies? Genesis 1:14-15 _____

Into God’s sinless, perfect world, He brought time. In the beginning it was not a problem for God or the people He created. It was a mark of His orderliness. It was the way He wanted His world to exist in perfect harmony. The sun, moon and stars were created not just for beauty and light, but for order. After “the fall” time and work became a problem. READ Genesis 3:17-18, what was the curse God gave? _____
Man’s use and abuse of time and the constant search to try to “save” it is very real to us today.

II. Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 lists many different times made especially for us.

- “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven.” v.1
- “He hath made every thing beautiful in his time...” v.11 “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” James 1:17
- “I know that, whatsoever God doeth, it shall be for ever...And God doeth it, **that men should fear before him.**” Eccl. 3:14

III. Most of us are filling up our “time” with many worthy activities: List all the action words or activities YOU MIGHT FIND YOURSELF DOING, in Proverbs 31:12-27

How long would it take you to do all these things? _____

How does this list make you feel? _____

How long did it probably take this woman? _____ The important thing, however, is WHAT SHE IS while performing those tasks. She was called the virtuous woman in v.10, 29. God says she shall be praised, because she feared the Lord, in v.30

“It is somewhat ironic that women of such a liberated society (as ours) still find themselves imprisoned in so many ways. We are being made captive of time, with no apparent way to escape.” -*A Mother’s Time* by Elise Arndt

John P. Robinson claims our problem of feeling “stressed, rushed, and crunched for time,” is actually **over-choice**. It’s caused by the sheer number of options available to fill our time and the wearying realization that no matter what we choose to do, we are leaving something undone.

If our identity is defined by activity, we live by the principle “The more we do, the more we are.” **We are exhausted and we are the reason**...Instead of “frenzied” activity, Christ personified the “focused” life in everything He did. -*Daily Bread*

Jesus said, “He who sent me is with me. The Father has not left me alone, for I always do those things that

please Him.” Jn.8:29

Questions:

- Why do you think God, who is infinite and timeless, chose to create a world which is governed by time? _____
- What must it have been like for Jesus to limit Himself to time? _____
- How did Jesus demonstrate the value of knowing the Father’s will? John 6:38. _____
- How does our knowing the will of God solve some of the mysteries of time? _____
- Search out Col. 3:2, and 5. Write down two problems we have, that affect our use of time? _____

IV. Finding time is God’s will: “Remember how short my time is.” Ps. 89:47, “It is a vapor that appeareth for a little time and then vanishes away.” James 4:14 We all have an equal amount of time, are we “frenzied” (because of too many choices) or “focused” ?

How much time do we waste a day? _____ When someone needs you, do you see it as an interruption or an opportunity? _____ Are we learning from others how to save time? _____ List something you learned recently that saves you time?

Remember time wasted is of no profit.

A. Make a PRIORITY LIST for the day. FIRST THINGS FIRST -motto

- **Who, and what should have the first place?** _____
- **Pray “what should I do today or this week?”** Ps.119:05 _____
Ps. 32:8 _____ Ps. 37:23 _____
- **List jobs to be done-number jobs in order of importance. Decide where to start**
- **Pray for efficiency. I Cor. 14:40, 14:33 Find a better way when things go wrong.**
- **Set a goal for yourself that is possible to reach.** Ps. 18:19, “The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul.”

B. Make PLANS for today. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might.”

Col. 3:23 **DO IT NOW-motto** But be flexible to accept interruptions when they come. “A man’s heart deviseth his way, but the Lord directeth His steps.” Pr. 16:9

C. Getting anywhere ON TIME requires knowing how: Plan your schedule backwards from the time you need to be there. What must be done? What time must we leave? (in order to be there on time). It helps to set your own deadline to be there 15 minutes early, you are less apt to be late. **If you are not early, you are late.**

D. Time used wisely is invested: in daily living for the Lord, in the family, in others as well as in yourself. (Learn to do something better.) **Above all, invest time in the Word of God, store it up for a trying hour.**

What if someone told you they were going to deposit \$86,400 into your bank account every morning, and all you had to do was to use all \$86,400 in 24 hours? You could not carry any over to the next day. If we are given 86,400 seconds to use as we please, and not one second could be carried over to the next, the time we do not use will be wasted and gone forever. **Let’s grab it, hold it, use it and enjoy it.**

CHOOSING GOD’S WAY

Lesson 9
“SETTING PRIORITIES”



MEMORY VERSE: “Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness...” Matt. 6:33

I. A PERSONAL WALK WITH GOD-Hebrews 10:19-22 “**Draw near to God** with a true heart in full assurance of faith.” v.22 “Draw nigh to God and he will draw nigh to you...”

Cleanse your hands, ye sinners, and purify your hearts...” James 4:8

- **For comfort-**“Thy testimonies have I taken as an heritage forever: for they are the rejoicing of my heart.” Ps. 119:111 “That we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope.” Rom.15:4
- **For Courage-**“In the day when I cried thou answeredst me, and strengthenedst me with strength in my soul.” Psalm 138:3
- **For Correction-**“The Word of God... is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.” Heb. 4:12 **Quote II Tim. 3:16,17**
- **For Cleansing-**“Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you.” John 15:3 See Proverbs 28:13 and I John 1:9 also.
- **For Claiming-**“And being fully persuaded that what he had promised, he was able also to perform.” Romans 4:21

II. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD MARRIAGE- “Having your hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience...” Heb.10:22b. “But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.” 1 Cor. 11:3

- **Give Forgiveness** and get rid of bitterness. “Be ye kind, tenderhearted, forgiving one another even as God for Christ’s sake has forgiven you.” Eph. 4:32
- **Seek Healing** for damaged emotions- “And with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5 “Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.” Jer. 33:6
- **Renew your mind and thinking.** “And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and accept able and perfect will of God.” Romans 12:2 See Col. 3:10 and Eph. 4:23 also.
- **Create right attitudes towards God’s plan and design for marriage** Memorize and teach I Cor. 11:3; and Eph. 5:21-33 to the children.
- **Make friends with godly couples**, spend time with them to see how marriage works. Influence the children for good attitudes. Jesus was saying, “Offend not these little ones which believe in me,” in Matthew 18:5-10 **What did He say that shows how serious this is in God’s sight?** _____

III. A POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARD PARENTING “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and good works” Heb. 10:24 “Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord.”

Ps.127:3 **They are gifts from God to train for Him.** “Fathers, provoke not your children to wrath; but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” Eph. 6:4

(Remember children of divorced parents are apt to divorce, children of alcoholics are prone to drink, children

abused in the home are likely to become abusers themselves.)

- **Provide Godly Influences in their lives**-Sunday School, Awana leaders, Pastor, teachers
- **Never tear down those Christian leaders they look up to.** Meditate on: Titus 3:2; James 4:11; Acts 23:5 and 1 Timothy 5:17.
- In I Timothy 5:10 the widow was “**well reported of for good works**: if she have brought up children, if she have lodged s_____ if she have washed the saints’ f_____ if she have relieved the a_____ if she have diligently followed every good work.”

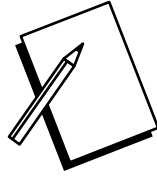
IV. A PROPER ATTITUDE TOWARD EMPLOYMENT. “**Six days shall work be done** but on the seventh day there shall be to you an holy day...” Ex. 35:2 “And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to **work with your own hands**...” I Thess. 4:11a

“**Work**” is used at least 393 times in the Scriptures, showing us how important it is to God.

- “Put them in mind to **be subject to principalities and powers**, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work.” Titus 3:1 As “servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ; not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart.” Eph. 6:5,6
- **Doing your best - eight hours work for eight hours pay.** “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might.” Eccl. 9:10; “Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men, knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance; **for ye serve the Lord Christ.**” Col 3:23, 24
- **Being a wise steward of your time.** “And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward... “Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing.” Luke 12:42-43
- **Being Christ-like on the job-** “Walk circumspectly...” Eph. 5:15. “But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumbling block to those that are weak.” I Cor. 8:9 “Abstain from all appearance of evil.” I Thess. 5:22
- **Recognize whose you are:** “Beloved now are we the sons of God...” I John 3:2
- “**Let us hold fast the profession of our faith** without wavering.” Heb. 10:23
- **Remember to keep yourself pure.** “And every man that hath this hope in him purified himself.” I John 3:3 “Your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost...” I Cor. 6:19
- **Keep Christ between you and the opposite sex.** Keep your distance, out of their personal zone (18 inches). *This is discretion: “having a judicious reserve in ones speech and action.*” Avoid prolonged eye contact. Keep your smiling eyes for your family.
- **Be reserved about your personal problems**, take them to the Great Burden Bearer, not to your boss, or to fellow workers. “Cast thy burden upon the Lord...” Psalms 55:22
- **Don’t give a listening ear to a man’s problems**, say, “I’m sorry and I’ll pray for you.” But that is all. Don’t encourage him to confide in you, he is not your husband.
- **Learn to leave your work there**-give the work problems to the Lord, change mental gears before you get home. **Learn what helps you most to “tune in” to life at home.**
What do you do? _____
- John the Baptist had a clear testimony before others. “For Herod **feared** John, **knowing** that he was a **just** man and an **holy**, and **observed** him; and when he **heard** him, he did many things, and heard him **gladly**.” Mark 6:20 *What a testimony, but how is yours?*

CHOOSING GOD’S WAY

Lesson 10
“NO ONE CAN DO IT ALL”



SCRIPTURE SEARCH: Exodus 18:13-26

1. Describe the problem faced in this passage: _____
2. Who were they waiting on to make a decision? _____ Why did it take so long for decisions to be made about the peoples' problems? _____
What was happening? _____
3. Who was able to analyze Moses' dilemma? _____ was his father in law.
 - List someone who knows you well who may be able to help you see your problem clearly.

4. In verse 14, what two questions could God be asking us?
 - a. What is this thing you are doing ?
 - b. Why are you alone trying to do it by yourself?
5. Jethro warned Moses:
 - “The thing that thou doest is not good.” (v.17) (Compare “good” with “best”)
 - “This thing is too heavy for thee.” (v. 18).
 - “Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee.” (v18)
6. Father in law Jethro saw the problem clearly and made definite suggestions:
 - **What you are doing is not good.**
What are you doing that is not good? _____
 - **You and your family will only wear yourselves out.**
What wears you out? _____
 - **The work is too heavy for one person:**
List what seems too much for you _____
 - **You cannot handle it alone.**
Be honest, what can't you handle alone? _____
 - **I want to give you some advice**
Who has tried to tell you this? _____
 - **Teach your household well**
List something you need to teach the children to do: _____
 - **Demonstrate the joy of completing a task.**
How do you do this? _____
 - **Show them how to do the work, be alongside.**
What task might you teach, step by step? _____
 - **Give them responsibilities according to their age and their capabilities.** _____

In Mark 3:14-19, Jesus chooses His disciples; in Mark 6:7-13 He sends out the twelve with

His authority; in Luke 10:1 He selects and sends out seventy-two disciples.

The Lord Jesus knew His own physical limitations. He chose ordinary people and put them through a period of training. He probably could have done the job better himself, but instead He kept on training common men to carry on His work.

••How would you define “delegating”? Discuss. (Assigning a task or a detail to another.)

THOUGHTS

1. Delegating uses more total time in the beginning. **Resist the temptation to do it yourself.**
Take time to explain, make a list of what is to be done, give a time limit for doing it.
2. If in the beginning children will not be able to do the job as well as you, **what is the long range value of delegating it to them?** _____
3. Remember-you are not there to make your child happy. **You are in the process of training children to become healthy, well-adjusted adults.**
4. Through work, **children gain confidence, “I can do it” courage to attempt new things,** which produces healthier attitudes toward themselves.
5. Work helps children learn that **not everything in life comes easy.**
6. **Working together as a family builds family unity.**
7. **Work opens the door to communication.** Work alongside, take opportunities to talk.

GUIDELINES FOR DELEGATING JOBS TO CHILDREN:

1. **Begin early** to teach your children to work. Little ones can love work.
2. **Delegate only one job at a time.** Several jobs to remember are confusing.
3. **Do not give in** to your children’s complaints and grumbling. “Do all things without murmurings and disputings.” Philippians 2:13 (Help them memorize and quote this.)
4. **Avoid yelling, screaming, and nagging** to get your kids to work. **Speak quietly, firmly.**
Question: Why do you think this must be avoided? _____

“The words of the wise are heard in quiet.” Eccl. 9:17

5. What comments could you make about work in general or about a specific job done that would **be positive and encouraging** to a child? _____
6. **Take older children’s schedules into consideration.** Be willing to adjust, be flexible.
7. **Plan out your work schedule ahead of time, make job lists for each child.**
8. **Set time limits for the work** you require of your children.
9. **Praise your children as they work, for effort, not just accomplishment,** even if the job is not done to your specifications.
10. Allow for mistakes. **Correct** (showing them how it was to be done) **but don’t punish for such errors, other than making them do the job over, or better next time.**
11. **Rotate jobs,** especially with unpleasant tasks. “This week, I’ll do this, while you do that.”

••For you as a parent what are some of the benefits of delegating jobs? _____
_____ **What are benefits for the child?** _____

There is no **responsibility** without **accountability**, but there cannot be accountability without first there being **supervision**. Plan your steps carefully. THINK ON THESE THINGS.

CHOOSING GOD’S WAY

Lesson 11 “Choosing God’s Way at Home”

MEMORY VERSE: “Every wise woman buildeth her house: but the foolish pluck it down with her hands.” Proverbs 14:1

INTRODUCTION: In 1977, every home in Omaha, Nebr. was photographed with a special infrared sensing device, to determine the amount of heat loss in each house. Later, photographs were made available to the public to show how well the homes were insulated. **Suppose you had a thermometer in your home to measure the spiritual and emotional atmosphere, what might it tell you?**

“Throughout the New Testament the mature and godly woman is characterized by a gentle and quiet spirit...a quality of spirit which forms the basic and motivating thrust of her life.”

-Taken from *A Woman’s Worth* by Elaine Stedman

I. The atmosphere of the home is largely up to the woman.

A. Children need the security of a mother with an even disposition.

B. It unnerves a man to wonder what mood his wife is in.

C. Our moods must be controlled by God’s grace. God Warns:

- (It is) “better to live in the corner of a roof, than with a contentious woman.” Prov. 21:9
- “Better to live in a desert land, than with a contentious and angry woman.” Prov. 21:19
- “The contentions of a wife are a continual dropping.” Prov. 19:13

“Let God manage your emotions, Feed your mind and your soul,
On the very Word of God, Or emotions get out of control.”

-C-A-R-I-N-G poem book by Joyce Watke

D. How do we learn stability? “And wisdom and knowledge shall be the **stability** of thy times, and **strength** of salvation: the fear of the Lord is his treasure.” Isaiah 33:6 **God’s Word must be the basis of our thinking.** Quote: Ps. 119:11 and Romans 12:2.

II. Attitudes determine what kind of a home we have. An attitude, the way we think repeated over a period of time becomes a state of mind. Attitudes are produced by thoughts of the heart, if our thinking is wrong, our attitudes will be wrong. “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you.” Phil. 1:3 We build our own attitudes, and the attitudes of our children. What are you building? _____

A. Consider: “A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: **for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.**” Luke 6:45 Quote: Prov.23:7

B. Heed God’s danger sign: “Today if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts...” Heb. 3:7,8 (A hard heart causes us to reject another’s ways, words and actions.)

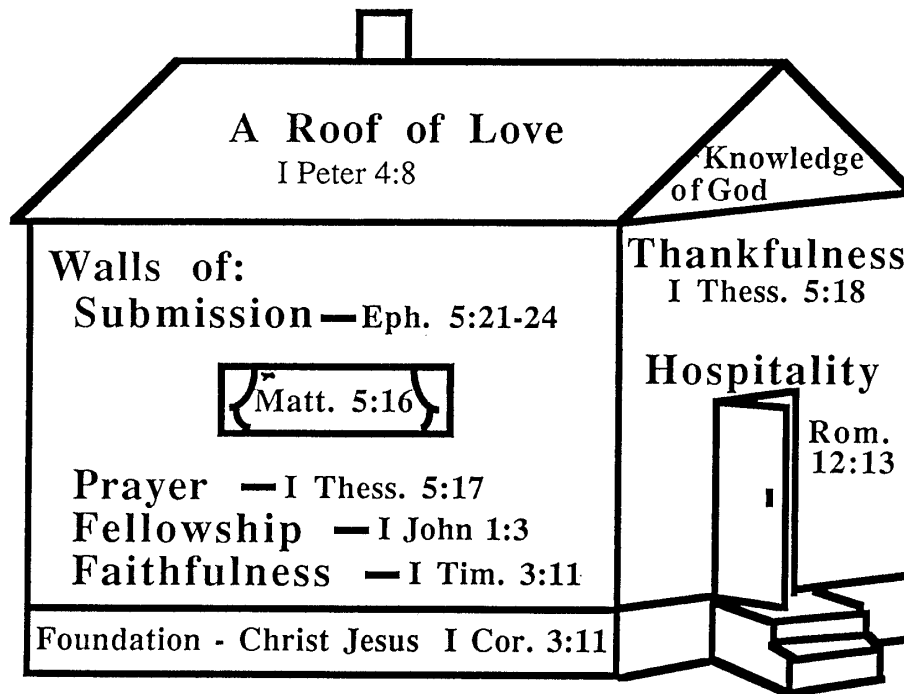
C. Plan for good attitudes and a good atmosphere. Work at creating both.

- Start with yourself. **You can’t expect him or her to change unless you do.**
- **Check up on yourself, listen to yourself.** How do others “see” you? Be honest.
- Learn to rejoice in the Lord and His blessings, talk about them to those at home.
- **Play good music in the home:** quiet music before bedtime, cheerful music before breakfast. Early in the day sow a loving word to each member of your family, you will reap good responses. A child learns to love as he is loved. He is a responder.

III. Blue Print for Building or Remodeling your household and their attitudes:

- **“Other foundation can no man lay than...Jesus Christ.”** I Cor. 3:11
- Erect a strong **framework** of **faith** supported by **sturdy beams** of **deep devotion**. “So then faith cometh by **hearing** and hearing by the **word** of God.” Romans 10:17 “But without faith it is **impossible** to please him.” Heb. 11:6 **Learn it, live it, practice it and share it in the home.**
- **Shingle** with the protection of **kindness**. Eph. 4:32
- Apply **siding** of **high hope** and **great expectation**. Ps. 31:24; 43:5-8
- Lay a strong **flooring** of sympathetic **understanding**. I Kings 3:9
- **Insulate** with **enthusiasm**, **plaster** with **good humor**. Col.3:23; Eccl.9:10; Pr.17:22
- **Chink all cracks and crevices** with **pleasant memories and family jokes**. Pr.16:24
- Carefully **weatherstrip** all openings with **appreciation**. Col. 3:15
- Have plenty of **windows** to **let in the joy of living**. John 10:10
- Build **doorways** wide enough **for the heavyhearted to enter**. Gal. 6:1
- Build permanent **fixtures** of **honesty and integrity**. Col. 3:9
- Equip with **plumbing** adequate **for the daily cleansing of the heart**. I John 1:9
- **Illuminate** with a shining radiance of **smiles and tears**. Prov. 15:30
- **Ventilate it with** an unlimited supply of **patience**. James 4:6; Romans 2:7
- **Decorate with cheerful courtesy and contentment**. Judges 19:6; Heb. 13:5

“Through WISDOM is the house built: and by UNDERSTANDING it is established. and by KNOWLEDGE shall the chambers be filled with all precious and pleasant riches.”
Proverbs 23:3,4



CHOOSING GOD'S WAY

Lesson 12 “WINNING THE WILL”

MEMORY VERSE: “Therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live: That thou mayest LOVE THE LORD THY GOD and that thou mayest OBEY HIS VOICE, and that thou mayest cleave unto him: for he is thy life, and the length of thy days.” Deut. 30:19-20

SCRIPTURE SEARCH: Exodus 35.

1. Whose words was Moses quoting in verse one? _____ . What was Moses’ purpose in telling these things to the people? _____
2. Mary, Jesus’ mother told the servants in John 2:5, “Whatsoever he saith unto you, do it.” Likewise today, God wants us to do His commands.
3. The simple principle, **to hear and do brings blessing** is found throughout the Old and New Testament. See Deut. 6:18, “do that which is right and good in the sight of the Lord, that it may be well with thee...” Compare to James 1:25.
4. The Lord commanded the children of Israel to make an _____ for the Lord. vs.5
5. “Whosoever is of a willing heart, let him bring an offering (to) the Lord.” vs.5
6. Those who would come and make all the needed items for the tabernacle were called “wise-hearted”. vs. 10
7. After hearing God’s words, they went home. When they came back, “they came, every one whose heart stirred him up, and every one whom his spirit made willing.” vs. 21.
8. Describe having your heart stirred up: _____
Can your heart be stirred up without your taking action about it? _____ What happens to your heart then? _____
9. What does it mean “his spirit (was) made willing” ? vs. 21 _____
10. “And they came, both men and women, as many as were willing-hearted,” vs 22
11. “And all the women that were wise-hearted did spin with their hands...” vs 25
12. “And all the women whose heart stirred them up in wisdom spun goats’ hair.” vs. 26
13. “The children of Israel brought a willing offering unto the Lord, every man and woman, whose heart made them willing to bring for all manner of work, which the Lord had commanded to be made by the hand of Moses.” vs. 29
14. Consider Bezaleel, the son of Uri. (vs. 30-35) God “filled him with the spirit of God in wisdom, in understanding and in knowledge and in all manner of workmanship.” vs.31
15. Notice what God put in the hearts of Bezaleel, and Aholiab in vs.34 : “And he hath put in his heart that he may teach.” “Them hath he filled with wisdom of heart to work all manner of work...” Read Ex. 36:1

In order for us to “win the will” of another, **first of all like Israel’s leaders, we must have a willing heart and a willing spirit to do God’s will and to teach others.** Our willing spirit is a powerful example and a motivating force to those around us. But remember: “It is God that worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.” Phillippians 2:13 We must pray much and claim Phil. 1:6 (quote this).

Secondly, we must understand how to reach another’s heart, and his will. We must understand how each of us learns. We must know **the four steps of learning**, and lead another through them. They are: **KNOWING, FEELING, DECIDING, and DOING.**

I. THE FIRST STEP IN TRAINING IS: Giving directions “Line upon line” Isaiah 28:13

The first step in learning is knowing-which is the **intellectual process**

A. Teaching is telling them, giving information

B. Training is not just telling them what to do, it is getting them to do it.

The child needs to find his happiness in obeying and agreeing with the command.

He has peace and joy in his heart when he chooses and wills for himself what his parent wills for him. Andrew Murry said, "Training his will is our highest and most holy task."

II. THE SECOND STEP IN LEARNING IS: desire, the emotional process of feeling.

Read carefully: I Chron. 28:9: "Know thou the God of thy father, and serve him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind." I Chron. 29:9: " Then the people rejoiced for that they offered willingly, because with perfect heart they offered willingly to the LORD: and David the king also rejoiced with great joy." "The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul," Prov. 13:19.

A. Depend Upon the Holy Spirit to work in the child's heart, pray earnestly.

1. Count on Wisdom from God, James 1:5. God wants to give wisdom liberally.
2. Count on Divine Strength - claim the promises of God: II Cor. 10:9; 13:4; 9:8
3. Trust in Divine Faithfulness. Romans 4:20, 21 Phil. 1:6

B. Realize God created us in His image with the ability to choose. Gen. 1:27

C. Love in the home is one of the greatest motivating factors.

1. Correction must be done in love, not by sheer force. Proverbs 3:1,12

2. Approval, affirming, praise for his efforts and his accomplishments are needed.

Two parts of praise are: Our words, and what he thought we meant. Remember: **An action commended will be repeated, never laugh about wrong behavior.**

3. Thoughts to remember: _____

The child remembers feelings far longer than facts. Consider Prov. 2:10,11; 3:13.

Obedience must come from a willing mind and heart. "Now therefore perform the doing of it; that as there was a readiness to will, so there may be a performance...if there be first a willing mind..." II Cor. 8:11,12,

III. THE FINAL STEPS OF LEARNING: deciding, and using knowledge to take action.

A DECIDING - judgmental process, coming to a conclusion. We want the child to decide, "Yes, I will do it," (whatever the parent has told him to do). A child's mind may come to wrong conclusions when he thinks "if God doesn't answer my prayer, I won't pray again or trust Him." **Parents must learn what a child is thinking and guide him.**

B. DOING - taking action, doing what has been learned. (Repeat mottoes to reinforce)

1. Doing it Right, doing it on time, not later.

2. "Duty before pleasure"

3. Doing it until it is a habit to do so.

4. Choosing to do it, responding with "Yes, I will do it."

"A will that masters itself by obedience is the truly strong will." -Andrew Murry

CHOOSING GOD'S WAY

Lesson 13

“Caring and Sharing”

C-“CARING is showing CONCERN for one whose life has taken a trying turn.”

- “And this is His commandment, that we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as He gave us commandment.” I John 3:23
- “Bear ye one another’s burdens and so fulfill the law of Christ.” Gal.6:2

A- “It is being ALWAYS ALERT to the signs of heartaches and sorrow to make them mine to pray for them.”

- “Pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” James 5:16
- “Arise, cry out in the night : in the beginning of the watches pour out thine heart like water before the face of the Lord: lift up thy hands toward him for the life of thy young children.” Lam. 2:19
- “My voice shalt thou hear in the morning, O Lord, in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.” Psalms 5:3
- “Trust in him at all times, ye people, pour out your heart before him, God is a refuge for us.” Ps. 62:8

R- “It is really and truly REACHING to touch the heart of one who is seeking.”

- “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.” Ps.34:18
- “Sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh of thee a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.” I Peter 3:15

I- “Caring is immediate INTEREST in what you say, gaining insight into what I should pray.”

- “That their hearts might be comforted being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding.” Colossians 2:2a
- “I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making request with joy.” Phil. 1:3,4

N- “It is living for others while NEEDING a smile, a lift, a response, my own heart’s need meeting.”

- “Give and it shall be given unto you ; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together and running over.” Luke 6:38

G- “It is genuinely GIVING of myself, of me, of all that I am and hope to be.”

- “But yield ye yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God.” Romans 6:13
- “Cast thy bread upon the waters for thou shalt find it after many days.” Eccl. 11:1 means
- “And I will gladly spend and be spent for you.” II Cor. 12:15 Quote the Golden Rule:
“Do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” See Matt. 7:12.

(C-A-R-I-N-G acrostic and poem from the book: CARING by Joyce Watke)

“When you open up your heart, and reach out to someone new,
They have the priceless privilege of seeing just what God can do.”

-From OPEN UP YOUR HEART poem by Joyce Watke

S-SITTING DOWN to listen so we **SENSE THEIR NEEDS**. Listen for their hearts. “So being affectionately desirous of you, we were willing to have imparted unto you, not the gospel of God only, but also our own souls, because ye were dear unto us.” I Thess. 2:8 **LIST PLACES Friends Listen Well**

“If I’d only known what most may know and seen you only as outwardly you are seen, I would have missed the choicest part of knowing what’s deep within your heart.” -from *THE CHOICEST PART* by Joyce Watke

H-HEARING what they are ready to say and “hearing” what they did not say. “Let every man be swift to hear slow to speak...” James 1:19 **Friends don’t ask intrusive questions**. Instead ask, “Do you want to be alone? Shall I intercept telephone calls? May I go with you...?” Focus on action you can take, not on giving advice. What “hints” might you pick up on?

A-AVAILABLE to minister to another. **Friends put feet under their promises**. “A woman that feareth the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands and let her own works praise her in the gates.” Prov. 31:30, 31 List practical ways to minister to one in need: _____

R-REACHING OUT to someone in need. **Friends don’t judge**.

“Bear ye one another’s burdens.” Gal.6:2 “Pray one for another.” James 5:16

“Thank you, dear Lord, for the warmth of nearness, of one who cared enough to be at my side. Thank you, dear Lord for gentle tenderness of heartfelt concern, when tears I failed to hide...Thank you dear Lord, for freedom of relief, when tears mingled together were poured out at your feet.”

-From *MY PRAYER* in *CARING* bookbook

I-INITIATIVE, to do something for them. **Friends don’t wait to be asked**. “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with all thy might, for there is no work, nor device...in the grave whither thou goest.” Eccl. 9:10 Notice little things and do them now. List some _____

Friends don’t interfere with the jobs a grieving person needs to do, but are there for support. “Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their labor. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow...” Eccl. 4:9,10

N-Take NECESSARY steps to help. **Friends remember** the rest of the family.

Make definite plans and commitment of what you will do, and when. Write it down. Follow through, or find someone who will. “A faithful man shall abound with blessings...” Prov. 28:20

Be ready to briefly share what God has done for you. “That we may be able to comfort them...by the comfort we ourselves are comforted of God.” II Cor. 1:4

G-GIVING of our energies, time and resources to help another. List some practical ways: _____

Taste and See What God Can Do Through You!

Illustrations

CARING AND SHARING:

Several natives in Zaire were within close proximity of a nearby government medical station. Medical missionaries were, therefore, very surprised when the natives showed up at their compound which was several kilometers out of their way. The natives needed medical treatment. After the treatment was rendered, the missionaries asked why they had traveled so much farther. The natives replied, “The medicine is the same at the other station, but the hands are different here.” The medicine is the same, but the hands are different. Does that describe the care that we give as a body of believers? Is our church distinguished by the care we give?

I'D RATHER SEE A SERMON THAN HEAR ONE ANY DAY;
I'D RATHER ONE WOULD WALK WITH ME THAN MERELY TELL THE WAY.
THE EYE'S A BETTER PUPIL AND MORE WILLING THAN THE EAR;
FINE COUNSEL IS CONFUSING, BUT EXAMPLE'S ALWAYS CLEAR;
THE BEST OF ALL THE PREACHERS ARE THE MEN WHO LIVE THEIR CREEDS,
FOR TO SEE GOOD PUT IN ACTION IS WHAT EVERYBODY NEEDS.

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