

**Eye to Eye**  
**with Women of the Bible**

A Workbook for Teen Girls

by Joanne Beckley

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# EYE TO EYE WITH WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

## A Workbook for Teen Girls

Chapter 1: EVE – God’s Creation for Man.....	6
Chapter 2: SARAH – She Judged God Faithful .....	10
Chapter 3: REBEKAH – A Strong-willed Woman .....	15
Chapter 4: DINAH – She Defied Custom.....	19
Chapter 5: MIRIAM – Jealousy Destroyed Her Faith.....	22
Chapter 6: DEBORAH – A Great Leader!.....	24
Chapter 7: RUTH – An Obedient Daughter.....	26
Chapter 8: ABIGAIL – The Queen of Wives.....	30
Chapter 9: JEZEBEL – An Evil Wife .....	33
Chapter 10: ESTHER – A Willing Servant of the Lord.....	36
Chapter 11: MARY – A Faithful Mother .....	40
Chapter 12: MARY & MARTHA – Sisters of Hospitality .....	47
Chapter 13: WOMEN HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SINS	
Sapphira - Money Became Her God.....	51
Euodia and Syntyche - “Be of the Same Mind” .....	53
Chapter 14: WOMEN IN THE 1ST CENTURY CHURCH	
Dorcas - Full of Good Works.....	54
Lydia - The Business Woman .....	55
Priscilla - A Godly Wife.....	55
Eunice and Lois - Parents in the Lord.....	57
Phoebe - God’s Serrvant .....	58
Key Points I Learned from Women of the Bible.....	59
Suggested Icons to be Placed in the Margins.....	61
Inductive Study Method General Instructions .....	62

## Dear Student and Teacher,

The women we will be considering in this workbook lived in a time when women followed different customs and wore different types of clothing. The land they lived in was completely different to our landscapes today. Political powers varied and most women rarely had any contact with them. They certainly didn't have mechanical aids to help them with their household tasks or the convenience of a shopping mall. Each woman's life that we will be studying contains a message for us. How wonderful that their lives can enrich our own!

Some of the women we will be studying were mothers, most were wives, and a few were asked to help a king or two—one was a girl with concerns just like you. All lived within God's sight; He was their God as He is ours. He gave them guidance in their everyday life, just as He has given us His word to guide us. What does God want from you and me? Does He require from us the same as he required of Eve, or Sarah, or Mary? Today you and I intensely desire to serve our Maker exactly as He wants. We have God's word, the Bible, to determine this—our only source for eternal life.

*Please note the page “Key Points I Learned from Women of the Bible” located at the back of the workbook. Fill in this summary which is taken from each completed lesson. It can serve you as a useful review and a reference tool in the years to come as you serve God as a woman. This set of lessons has been designed to be followed by the study developed by the same author, *Forgotten Womanhood* for older teen girls.*

### Inductive Bible Study

Along with a desire to learn how to be the women God wants us to be, we will also be learning a method of studying our Bible that will make our Bible study more effective. This “inductive” method of Bible study is simply using the Bible itself as a means of learning the Scriptures to see the truth for ourselves, of understanding what it means, and then applying it to our lives. Jeremiah spoke of this in Jeremiah 15:16, “Thy words were found and I ate them, and Thy words became for me a joy and the delight of my heart.”

Although the inductive method of study is not new, I have adapted various suggestions from several authors and hope you too will discover its appeal. *I would like to encourage the teacher of this material to practice this method before teaching the first lesson.* Please become as familiar with the method as is possible so that each lesson is not just a challenge to the students but that everyone enjoys studying and becomes accomplished in digging for truth. So much understanding can be gathered from studying our Bibles, and we can actually become excited about our Bible study. God, in His infinite wisdom, has given us His mind through the vehicle of words. How valuable these words can be—and must become—to us!

### Inductive Study Method General Instructions Card

I have provided a page which is designed to be removed from the back of the workbook and inserted locally as you study each lesson. This sheet will help to remind you *how* to mark the Scriptures. You will notice its requirements are to be completed *before* fulfilling any further instructions in each lesson. **(Teacher: You may wish to assign progressive markings if you feel the age/ability of the students will be overwhelmed. For example: First lesson, assign only “Who” and “What.” Second lesson: “Who,” “What,” and “Where.” Third lesson . . .)** On the reverse side are suggested drawings (icons) that become helpful eye-catchers when they are drawn in the margin. When laminated, the student can insert it in his/her personal Bible.

Eventually, as each of you becomes more skillful with the method, you will want to begin marking your own Bibles. My desire is that you will continue using this method of study in some form for the rest of your lives. I would like to take a moment and declare my sincere thanks to a young lady who has made this effort an absolute joy. Natalie Price knows just how to touch a teacher's heart, to motivate her onward in the task of enlightening the hearts of the young and old. May each of you as students and teachers enjoy studying this workbook—and may you encourage one another's efforts to delight our Savior and God.

## **DEDICATION**

In memory of my mother  
Evelyn Wilson Barnhart  
She had a dream - I have now fulfilled it.

A special thanks for my husband's wise leadership  
in keeping me on course  
and my friend and sister in Christ, Linda Maydell,  
for editing and proofreading

## EVE – God’s Creation for Man

### Chapter 1

The story of the first woman begins with Eve in the Garden of Eden. Made from Adam’s rib she began her life with a special relationship to God Almighty, her Creator. She had a wonderful life—the best of all husbands and a Father who loved her. Yet Eve was like you and me—never satisfied, wanting more, more, more, more! Eve didn’t realize what “more” would bring her, and often neither do we. Not fair? This life is not fair. Not happy? Happiness cannot be found with a foot in two camps—what we want and what God wants.



**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Draw a *blue* man in the margin beside the verse that mentions creation of man.
2. Draw a *pink* woman in the margin beside the verse that mentions creation of woman.
3. Shade in *pink* to highlight the two words God used to describe woman.
4. Shade in *pink* to highlight what the man called her.
5. Draw a *pink* line to connect the two words describing woman.
6. Shade in *blue* to highlight the verse which describes marriage. In the margin beside this verse, draw a *blue* triangle and label each side “leave,” “cleave,” “one flesh.”

(You can take three toothpicks and hold them in a triangle shape with two fingers and a thumb. What happens when you remove one side? So it is with marriage—God’s design for marriage contains each of these elements. We must not think we can ignore one side or another. One man and one woman are to *leave* father and mother so that they can learn to *cleave* to each other, so that the husband and wife can be *one flesh* in both body and spirit—one unit, living for God. Marriage is a commitment to one another for life and recognized by all.)

7. Draw a *blue* hoe and knife in the margin beside the verse which indicates man’s responsibility to the world in which he lives.
8. Label key changes in the subject in the margin:
  - a. In the image of God (*red*) / b. Man formed (*green*) / c. Man’s work (*green*) / d. Man’s limits (*green*)
  - e. Man seeks helper (*green*) / f. Man claims woman (*green*) / g. Marriage (*blue*)

#### **Genesis 1:27-28**

27 God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.  
 28 God blessed them; and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it; and rule over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the sky and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

#### **Genesis 2:1-9, 15-25**

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed, and all their hosts.  
 2 By the seventh day God completed His work which He had done, and He rested on the seventh day from all His work which He had done.  
 3 Then God blessed the seventh day and sanctified it, because in it He rested from all His work which God had created and made.  
 4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made earth and heaven.  
 5 Now no shrub of the field was yet in the earth, and no plant of the field had yet sprouted, for the LORD God had not sent rain upon the earth, and there was no man to cultivate the ground.  
 6 But a mist used to rise from the earth and water the whole surface of the ground.  
 7 Then the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

8 The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed.

9 Out of the ground the LORD God caused to grow every tree that is pleasing to the sight and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

-----  
15 Then the LORD God took the man and put him into the garden of Eden to cultivate it and keep it.

16 The LORD God commanded the man, saying, "From any tree of the garden you may eat freely;

17 but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."

18 Then the LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone; I will make him a helper suitable for him."

19 Out of the ground the LORD God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the sky, and brought them to the man to see what he would call them; and whatever the man called a living creature, that was its name.

20 The man gave names to all the cattle, and to the birds of the sky, and to every beast of the field, but for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.

21 So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs and closed up the flesh at that place.

22 The LORD God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

"This is now bone of my bones,

And flesh of my flesh;

She shall be called Woman,

Because she was taken out of Man."

24 For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother, and be joined to his wife; and they shall become one flesh.

25 And the man and his wife were both naked and were not ashamed.

### Questions:

1. Both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ were created in God's image.
2. What is it about us that defines the image of God? Deuteronomy 30:19; Psalm 8:5-6; Romans 6:16; 1 Thessalonians 4:17.
3. What was Adam looking for while naming the animals?
4. What indicates that man and woman were made from a close relationship? 1:27; 2:21, 22.
5. List some physical things about a woman that are different from a man (e.g. she has softer skin.)
6. List some dissimilarities in how a woman thinks differently from a man.
7. Is a woman different from a man spiritually? Can you find a scripture or two to support your answer?



If woman is bone of his bone and flesh of his flesh, when are they all that God intended them to be? 2:24.

Why doesn't fornication or "living with a significant other" fit this intention?

8. Define "covenant."

9. Define "joined together."

10. What is the covenant mentioned in Malachi 2:14? Who is the witness?

11. Who has the right to break this covenant according to Malachi 2:14?

When does God recognize the covenant is broken, Matthew 19:4-6, 9?

Your marriage vow will be one of the most serious commitments you as a woman will ever make in your life. It will affect your eternal life...it will affect your husband's eternal life...your children...your grandchildren....

12. Read 1 Corinthians 11:3 and draw arrows to indicate men and women's relationship to each other and to God.

God

Man

Woman

13. Who emphasized that women and men are not independent of each other, but woman was created for the man's sake? 1 Corinthians 11:8-9, 11-12.

14. What two reasons did the apostle Paul give for the woman to be in submission to man in 1 Timothy 2:13-14?

Truly, woman is a helper suitable for man. When a man and woman marry, she completes him, just as one piece of paper when glued to another simply cannot be separated. It becomes one sheet. If you try to separate the two pieces, both will tear. When one man and one woman make a covenant of marriage, it should never be broken. They now complete each other.

Mr. G. Johnson in **Recovering Biblical Manhood and Womanhood** said it well: "Our culture continually changes and demands on roles vary. Yet our basic, God-given physiological differences have not. We excel at different abilities of gender differences, and all these gifts are needed. We need to understand this and maximize each other's potentials. Likewise, by accepting our God-given gifts, we can resist cultural pressures to become what we are not and to seek to master gifts we don't possess," page 293.

## Eve Acts Independently

### Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Draw a snake in the margin beside the verse that first mentions the devil. (How can you prove this is Satan and not just a snake?)
2. Shade in *yellow* to highlight the lie the serpent told Eve.
3. Shade in *orange* to highlight the three phrases that influenced Eve in verse 6.
4. Shade in *yellow* to highlight the phrase that indicates Eve’s sin.
5. Shade in *blue* to highlight the question God asked Adam. Draw a *red* circle around it.
6. Shade in *pink* to highlight the question God asked Eve. Draw a *red* circle around it.
7. Shade in *yellow* to highlight the punishment God gave to the serpent.
8. Shade in *blue* to highlight the punishment God gave to Adam.
9. Shade in *pink* to highlight the punishment God gave to Eve.
10. Circle in *red* the prophecy that Satan’s power will one day be destroyed.
11. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. The serpent and woman (*green*) / b. Adam and Eve sin (*black*) / c. Consequences of sin (*black*)
  - d. Man and woman covered by God (*red*) / e. Separated from God (*black*)

### Genesis 3

- 1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said to the woman, “Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”
- 2 The woman said to the serpent, “From the fruit of the trees of the garden we may eat;
- 3 but from the fruit of the tree which is in the middle of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat from it or touch it, or you will die.’”
- 4 The serpent said to the woman, “You surely will not die!
- 5 “For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”
- 6 When the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was desirable to make one wise, she took from its fruit and ate; and she gave also to her husband with her, and he ate.
- 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings.
- 8 They heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.
- 9 Then the LORD God called to the man, and said to him, “Where are you?”
- 10 He said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid myself.”
- 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?”
- 12 The man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me from the tree, and I ate.”
- 13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” And the woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”
- 14 The LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, Cursed are you more than all cattle, And more than every beast of the field; On your belly you will go, And dust you will eat All the days of your life;
- 15 And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her seed; He shall bruise you on the head, And you shall bruise him on the heel.”
- 16 To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply Your pain in childbirth, In pain you will bring forth children; Yet your desire will be for your husband, And he will rule over you.”
- 17 Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’;
- Cursed is the ground because of you; In toil you will eat of it All the days of your life.
- 18 “Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you; And you will eat the plants of the field;
- 19 By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return.”
- 20 Now the man called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all the living.
- 21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife, and clothed them.

22 Then the LORD God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil; and now, he might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever”--

23 therefore the LORD God sent him out from the garden of Eden, to cultivate the ground from which he was taken.

24 So He drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.

### Questions:

1. At what point did Eve tarnish her image in the likeness of God? (Review James 1:14-15.)

When was Eve no longer in submission?

2. Childbirth was not Eve’s punishment, but rather \_\_\_\_\_
3. Because Adam listened to his wife—and God condemned him for it—does this mean husbands should never consider their wives’ words?
4. With this study we can appreciate that God’s will for the roles of a man and woman were in place from the beginning of creation.

Man’s role is: \_\_\_\_\_ Woman’s role is: \_\_\_\_\_

## SARAH – She Judged God Faithful Chapter 2

The story of beautiful Sarah is given a fuller account in the Bible than any other woman. The New Testament praises her faith and asks that each Christian woman be her “daughter” in her attitude toward her husband. Sarah’s life of faith in God was full of trials. She had times of weakness, yet she never completely lost her trust in God. As you read about her, notice the rightful place she exhibited as a wife, her influence on her husband, her obedience to him (calling him “lord”), and how both Abraham and Sarah were always looking for a heavenly country.



### Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Draw a *pink* woman in the margin where Sarai (Sarah) is first mentioned.
2. Shade in *yellow* to highlight wherever Sarah or Abraham failed to trust God and did it their own way. (Sinful actions and attitudes are highlighted in *yellow*.)
3. Shade in *blue* to highlight the source of honesty and a genuine character - integrity.
4. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Sarah’s substitution (*black*) / b. Led husband (*black*) / c. Despised (*black*) / d. Blamed husband (*black*) / e. Treated slave harshly (*black*)

### Genesis 16:1-6

1 Now Sarai, Abram’s wife had borne him no children, and she had an Egyptian maid whose name was Hagar.

2 So Sarai said to Abram, “Now behold, the LORD has prevented me from bearing children. Please go in to my maid;

perhaps I will obtain children through her.” And Abram listened to the voice of Sarai.

3 After Abram had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Abram’s wife Sarai took Hagar the Egyptian, her maid, and gave her to her husband Abram as his wife.

4 He went in to Hagar, and she conceived; and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her sight.

5 And Sarai said to Abram, “May the wrong done me be upon you I gave my maid into your arms, but when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her sight May the LORD judge between you and me.”

6 But Abram said to Sarai, “Behold, your maid is in your power; do to her what is good in your sight.” So Sarai treated her harshly, and she fled from her presence.

### Questions:

1. What deep tragedy was in Sarah’s life up to this point?

Whom did Sarah blame?

Sarah did not understand that God fulfills His \_\_\_\_\_ in His time!

2. What did Sarah offer Abraham in order to “help” God? Genesis 16.

Who was leading whom?

3. Who were the household servants (slaves) to submit to?
4. After Hagar conceived and then mocked Sarah, whom did Sarah blame?
5. What do you think was Sarah’s problem?

### Sarah’s Faith at Low Ebb

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Shade in *blue* to highlight the words describing Abraham’s actions when the three strangers arrived.
2. Shade in *red* to highlight what the stranger tells Abraham. (Why red?)
3. Shade in *yellow* to highlight Sarah’s reaction.
4. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Hospitality to 3 strangers (*blue*) / b. Sarah laughs (*black*) / c. Fear → Lying (*black*) / d. The Lord speaks (*red*)

### **Genesis 18:1-15**

1 Now the LORD appeared to him by the oaks of Mamre, while he was sitting at the tent door in the heat of the day.

2 When he lifted up his eyes and looked, behold, three men were standing opposite him; and when he saw them, he ran from the tent door to meet them and bowed himself to the earth,

3 and said, “My Lord, if now I have found favor in Your sight, please do not pass Your servant by.

4 “Please let a little water be brought and wash your feet, and rest yourselves under the tree;

5 and I will bring a piece of bread, that you may refresh yourselves; after that you may go on, since you have visited your servant.” And they said, “So do, as you have said.”

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah, and said, “Quickly, prepare three measures of fine flour, knead it and make bread cakes.”

7 Abraham also ran to the herd, and took a tender and choice calf and gave it to the servant, and he hurried to prepare it.

8 He took curds and milk and the calf which he had prepared, and placed it before them; and he was standing by them under the tree as they ate.

9 Then they said to him, “Where is Sarah your wife?” And he said, “There, in the tent.”

10 He said, “I will surely return to you at this time next year; and behold, Sarah your wife will have a son.” And Sarah was

listening at the tent door, which was behind him.

11 Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in age; Sarah was past childbearing.

12 Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I have become old, shall I have pleasure, my lord being old also?"

13 And the LORD said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?'"

14 "Is anything too difficult for the LORD? At the appointed time I will return to you, at this time next year, and Sarah will have a son."

15 Sarah denied it however, saying, "I did not laugh"; for she was afraid. And He said, "No, but you did laugh."

### Questions:

1. What activity did Abraham rise up and do? (Read Romans 12:13; 1 Timothy 3:2; 1 Peter 4:9; Hebrews 13:1-2.)
2. Describe Abraham's attitude.
3. Who gave whom orders in the meal preparation?
4. Sarah remained hidden but was able to \_\_\_\_\_ at the tent door. How did she react? Why?
5. Why did Sarah lie? Hebrews 12:28.
6. The Lord caught her in her doubting and in her lie. We also as women will be held accountable for our sins. Does this mean Sarah had lost her faith? (Read also Hebrews 11:11, 13.)

Fear is a very strong motivator to cause us to sin. Our faith must be built stronger and stronger throughout our lives so that our faith will erase fear, 1 John 4:18.

### Sarah Lies Yet Again

**Refer to the "General Instructions" BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Shade in *yellow* to highlight Abraham's fear.
2. Shade in *blue* to highlight the sentence made by Abimelech of his own honesty.
3. Shade in *red* to highlight where God acknowledges and honors Abimelech for his integrity.
4. Shade in *red* to highlight what God calls Abraham.
5. Shade in *yellow* to highlight where Abimelech condemns Abraham's lies.
6. Shade in *yellow* to highlight Abraham's reply.
7. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Abraham does not trust his safety to God (*black*) / b. Abraham is called a prophet (*red*)
  - c. Abimelech rebukes Abraham (*green*) / d. Abraham "thought..." (*black*)

### **Genesis 20:1-13**

1 Now Abraham journeyed from there toward the land of the Negev, and settled between Kadesh and Shur; then he sojourned in Gerar.

2 Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister" So (Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

3 But God came to Abimelech in a dream of the night, and said to him, "Behold, you are a dead man because of the woman whom you have taken, for she is married." 4 Now Abimelech had not come near her; and he said, "Lord, will You slay a nation, even though blameless?"

5 “Did he not himself say to me, ‘She is my sister’? And she herself said, ‘He is my brother’ In the integrity of my heart and the innocence of my hands I have done this.”

6 Then God said to him in the dream, “Yes, I know that in the integrity of your heart you have done this, and I also kept you from sinning against Me; therefore I did not let you touch her.

7 “Now therefore, restore the man’s wife, for he is a prophet, and he will pray for you and you will live. But if you do not restore her, know that you shall surely die, you and all who are yours.”

8 So Abimelech arose early in the morning and called all his servants and told all these things in their hearing; and the men were greatly frightened.

9 Then Abimelech called Abraham and said to him, “What have you done to us? And how have I sinned against you, that you have brought on me and on my kingdom a great sin? You have done to me things that ought not to be done.”

10 And Abimelech said to Abraham, “What have you encountered, that you have done this thing?”

11 Abraham said, “Because I thought, surely there is no fear of God in this place, and they will kill me because of my wife.

12 “Besides, she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife;

13 and it came about, when God caused me to wander from my father’s house, that I said to her, ‘This is the kindness which you will show to me: everywhere we go, say of me, ‘He is my brother.’””

**Questions:**

- Let’s talk about submission. The Apostle Peter says that Sarah \_\_\_\_\_ her husband and called him \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Peter 3:6. Peter called Sarah a “holy woman” and said we could be her \_\_\_\_\_ if we \_\_\_\_\_ without being \_\_\_\_\_ by any fear. In verse 5 we learn what God considers a holy woman: She \_\_\_\_\_ in God and \_\_\_\_\_ to her husband.
- Submission is a word that simply means “to yield one’s self.” It is a voluntary act, by anyone. List some occasions when one person submits to another:
- Is there dishonor connected to submission?

Does submission indicate lower value in the one submitting? 1 Corinthians 15:28.

- There are so many words in the Bible that are linked to submission. Use the following words to create a sentence about submission: honor, honorable, humility, love, meekness, mercy, minister, sacrifice, and serve. It is an h\_\_\_\_\_ to s\_\_\_\_\_ (to m\_\_\_\_\_) one another with h\_\_\_\_\_, l\_\_\_\_\_, m\_\_\_\_\_ and m\_\_\_\_\_ for it is an h\_\_\_\_\_ s\_\_\_\_\_ to God.
- Sarah obeyed her husband when she agreed to \_\_\_\_\_ for him, Genesis 20. (Was Abraham’s request to protect Sarah?) Are Abraham and Sarah’s actions evidence of trusting God?

A half-truth is a half-lie which is a \_\_\_\_\_. Does God approve when we tell the truth with the intent to deceive?

- When does God expect a wife NOT to obey her husband? Acts 4:19; 5:29; 5:1-6; Ephesians 5:22.



- What if a wife just doesn’t WANT to obey her husband? Ephesians 6:5-8.



## REBEKAH – A Strong-willed Woman Chapter 3

Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Highlight in *blue* the prayer of Abraham’s servant. Draw a *blue* kneeling man in the margin.
2. Draw a *pink* woman in the margin beside the verse where Rebekah is first mentioned.
3. Highlight in *pink* any description of Rebekah, her words or her actions.
4. Circle in *orange* Rebekah’s actions which indicate her character.
5. Circle in *green* the verse where Isaac and Rebekah get married.
6. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Instructions to find a wife (*green*) / b. The servant’s prayer answered (*red*)
  - c. Rebekah chooses (*green*) / d. Isaac marries Rebekah (*green*)



### Genesis 24:1-4, 9-34, 49-67

- 1 Now Abraham was old, advanced in age; and the LORD had blessed Abraham in every way.
- 2 Abraham said to his servant, the oldest of his household, who had charge of all that he owned, “Please place your hand under my thigh,
- 3 and I will make you swear by the LORD, the God of heaven and the God of earth, that you shall not take a wife for my son from the daughters of the Canaanites, among whom I live,
- 4 but you will go to my country and to my relatives, and take a wife for my son Isaac.”
- 
- 9 So the servant placed his hand under the thigh of Abraham his master, and swore to him concerning this matter.
- 10 Then the servant took ten camels from the camels of his master, and set out with a variety of good things of his master’s in his hand; and he arose and went to Mesopotamia, to the city of Nahor.
- 11 He made the camels kneel down outside the city by the well of water at evening time, the time when women go out to draw water.
- 12 He said, “O LORD, the God of my master Abraham, please grant me success today, and show lovingkindness to my master Abraham.
- 13 “Behold, I am standing by the spring, and the daughters of the men of the city are coming out to draw water;
- 14 now may it be that the girl to whom I say, ‘Please let down your jar so that I may drink,’ and who answers, ‘Drink, and I will water your camels also’--may she be the one whom You have appointed for Your servant Isaac; and by this I will know that You have shown lovingkindness to my master.”
- 15 Before he had finished speaking, behold, Rebekah who was born to Bethuel the son of Milcah, the wife of Abraham’s brother Nahor, came out with her jar on her shoulder.
- 16 The girl was very beautiful, a virgin, and no man had had relations with her; and she went down to the spring and filled her jar and came up.
- 17 Then the servant ran to meet her, and said, “Please let me drink a little water from your jar.”
- 18 She said, “Drink, my lord”; and she quickly lowered her jar to her hand, and gave him a drink.
- 19 Now when she had finished giving him a drink, she said, “I will draw also for your camels until they have finished drinking.”
- 20 So she quickly emptied her jar into the trough, and ran back to the well to draw, and she drew for all his camels.
- 21 Meanwhile, the man was gazing at her in silence, to know whether the LORD had made his journey successful or not.
- 22 When the camels had finished drinking, the man took a gold ring weighing a half-shekel and two bracelets for her wrists weighing ten shekels in gold,
- 23 and said, “Whose daughter are you? Please tell me, is there room for us to lodge in your father’s house?”
- 24 She said to him, “I am the daughter of Bethuel, the son of Milcah, whom she bore to Nahor.”
- 25 Again she said to him, “We have plenty of both straw and feed, and room to lodge in.”
- 26 Then the man bowed low and worshiped the LORD.
- 27 He said, “Blessed be the LORD, the God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His lovingkindness and His truth toward my master; as for me, the LORD has guided me in the way to the house of my master’s brothers.”
- 28 Then the girl ran and told her mother’s household about these things.

29 Now Rebekah had a brother whose name was Laban; and Laban ran outside to the man at the spring.

30 When he saw the ring and the bracelets on his sister's wrists, and when he heard the words of Rebekah his sister, saying, "This is what the man said to me," he went to the man; and behold, he was standing by the camels at the spring.

31 And he said, "Come in, blessed of the LORD! Why do you stand outside since I have prepared the house, and a place for the camels?"

32 So the man entered the house. Then Laban unloaded the camels, and he gave straw and feed to the camels, and water to wash his feet and the feet of the men who were with him.

33 But when food was set before him to eat, he said, "I will not eat until I have told my business." And he said, "Speak on."

34 So he said, "I am Abraham's servant.

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49 "So now if you are going to deal kindly and truly with my master, tell me; and if not, let me know, that I may turn to the right hand or the left."

50 Then Laban and Bethuel replied, "The matter comes from the LORD; so we cannot speak to you bad or good.

51 "Here is Rebekah before you, take her and go, and let her be the wife of your master's son, as the LORD has spoken."

52 When Abraham's servant heard their words, he bowed himself to the ground before the LORD.

53 The servant brought out articles of silver and articles of gold, and garments, and gave them to Rebekah; he also gave precious things to her brother and to her mother.

54 Then he and the men who were with him ate and drank and spent the night. When they arose in the morning, he said, "Send me away to my master."

55 But her brother and her mother said, "Let the girl stay with us a few days, say ten; afterward she may go."

56 He said to them, "Do not delay me, since the LORD has prospered my way. Send me away that I may go to my master."

57 And they said, "We will call the girl and consult her wishes."

58 Then they called Rebekah and said to her, "Will you go with this man?" And she said, "I will go."

59 Thus they sent away their sister Rebekah and her nurse with Abraham's servant and his men.

60 They blessed Rebekah and said to her, "May you, our sister, Become thousands of ten thousands, And may your descendants possess The gate of those who hate them."

61 Then Rebekah arose with her maids, and they mounted the camels and followed the man. So the servant took Rebekah and departed.

62 Now Isaac had come from going to Beer-lahai-roi; for he was living in the Negev.

63 Isaac went out to meditate in the field toward evening; and he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, camels were coming.

64 Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac she dismounted from the camel.

65 She said to the servant, "Who is that man walking in the field to meet us?" And the servant said, "He is my master." Then she took her veil and covered herself.

66 The servant told Isaac all the things that he had done.

67 Then Isaac brought her into his mother Sarah's tent, and he took Rebekah, and she became his wife, and he loved her; thus Isaac was comforted after his mother's death.

### **Questions:**

1. Whom did the servant depend on?
2. Describe how Rebekah behaved.

What kind of character do her actions indicate?

3. The attitudes we have in life will aid or hinder the development of our own character, our enjoyment of each new day, each new situation, each trouble or joy. What kind of attitudes would you like to develop?
4. In Old Testament times the father—or older brother—chose a husband for the girls. What indicated their love for Rebekah?

5. Today the decision of whom to marry is left largely to each man and woman. What should a woman include in her list to help her choose a good mate?
6. Rebekah and Isaac didn't have a marriage ceremony or a honeymoon. What happened? (a) request by parents to parents (b) decision accepted by girl and boy (c) choice recognized by community (d) all three actions.
7. Can a couple be married and no one knows they are?
8. When does God not recognize a couple is married? Matthew 19:9.
9. Can a couple's marriage please God if He does not recognize their marriage?
10. Isaac loved Rebekah. What is love? Is it just a feeling?



### **Rebekah's Faith**

Rebekah was a woman of courage and spirit and became Isaac's beautiful bride. Her story is one of complete willingness to believe Abraham's servant and therefore trust God and His plan. She had the strength to leave her family and make her home with a new husband—in a foreign land. Then for many years they waited for a child, and God blessed them with twin boys.

#### **Refer to the "General Instructions" BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Draw a *pink* woman in the margin where Rebekah is first mentioned.
2. Highlight in *orange* Rebekah's concern.
3. Highlight in *blue* what Rebekah did about her concern.
4. Highlight in *red* the prophesy Rebekah received.
5. Draw two little boys in *blue* in the margin beside the Scripture of their birth.
6. Draw a dotted *black* line between the two drawn clocks.
7. Label in *red* in the margin: Nations foretold in womb.

#### **Genesis 25:19-26**

19 Now these are the records of the generations of Isaac, Abraham's son: Abraham became the father of Isaac;  
20 and Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah, the daughter of Bethuel the Aramean of Paddan-aram, the sister of Laban the Aramean, to be his wife.

21 Isaac prayed to the LORD on behalf of his wife, because she was barren; and the LORD answered him and Rebekah his wife conceived.

22 But the children struggled together within her; and she said, "If it is so, why then am I this way?" So she went to inquire of the LORD.

23 The LORD said to her, "Two nations are in your womb; And two peoples will be separated from your body; And one people shall be stronger than the other; And the older shall serve the younger."

24 When her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins in her womb.

25 Now the first came forth red, all over like a hairy garment; and they named him Esau.

26 Afterward his brother came forth with his hand holding on to Esau's heel, so his name was called Jacob; and Isaac was sixty years old when she gave birth to them.

**Questions:**

1. Rebekah and Isaac waited \_\_\_\_\_ years to have a child.
2. What prompted Rebekah to pray to God?
3. Whom did God give His prophesy to?

**Rebekah “Helps” God**

Rebekah’s strong will now causes her to overstep the boundaries of being a helpmeet for Isaac.

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Highlight in *yellow* the verse that indicates why the family was divided.
2. Shade in *yellow* all mention of Rebekah and her words.
3. Highlight in *yellow* Jacob’s willingness to deceive his father but fearful of getting caught.
4. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Love that isn’t love (*black*) / b. Rebekah leads (*black*) / c. Rebekah loses both sons (*black*)

**Genesis 25:27-28**

27 When the boys grew up, Esau became a skillful hunter, a man of the field, but Jacob was a peaceful man, living in tents.

28 Now Isaac loved Esau, because he had a taste for game, but Rebekah loved Jacob.

**Genesis 27:1-19, 41-45**

1 Now it came about, when Isaac was old and his eyes were too dim to see, that he called his older son Esau and said to him, “My son.” And he said to him, “Here I am.”

2 Isaac said, “Behold now, I am old and I do not know the day of my death.

3 “Now then, please take your gear, your quiver and your bow, and go out to the field and hunt game for me;

4 and prepare a savory dish for me such as I love, and bring it to me that I may eat, so that my soul may bless you before I die.”

5 Rebekah was listening while Isaac spoke to his son Esau. So when Esau went to the field to hunt for game to bring home,

6 Rebekah said to her son Jacob, “Behold, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, saying,

7 ‘Bring me some game and prepare a savory dish for me, that I may eat, and bless you in the presence of the LORD before my death.’

8 “Now therefore, my son, listen to me as I command you.

9 “Go now to the flock and bring me two choice young goats from there, that I may prepare them as a savory dish for your father, such as he loves.

10 “Then you shall bring it to your father, that he may eat, so that he may bless you before his death.”

11 Jacob answered his mother Rebekah, “Behold, Esau my brother is a hairy man and I am a smooth man.

12 “Perhaps my father will feel me, then I will be as a deceiver in his sight, and I will bring upon myself a curse and not a blessing.”

13 But his mother said to him, “Your curse be on me, my son; only obey my voice, and go, get them for me.”

14 So he went and got them, and brought them to his mother; and his mother made savory food such as his father loved.

15 Then Rebekah took the best garments of Esau her elder son, which were with her in the house, and put them on Jacob her younger son.

16 And she put the skins of the young goats on his hands and on the smooth part of his neck.

17 She also gave the savory food and the bread, which she had made, to her son Jacob.

18 Then he came to his father and said, “My father.” And he said, “Here I am. Who are you, my son?”

19 Jacob said to his father, “I am Esau your firstborn; I have done as you told me. Get up, please, sit and eat of my game, that you may bless me.”

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41 So Esau bore a grudge against Jacob because of the blessing with which his father had blessed him; and Esau said to

himself, “The days of mourning for my father are near; then I will kill my brother Jacob.”

42 Now when the words of her elder son Esau were reported to Rebekah, she sent and called her younger son Jacob, and said to him, “Behold your brother Esau is consoling himself concerning you by planning to kill you.

43 “Now therefore, my son, obey my voice, and arise, flee to Haran, to my brother Laban!

44 “Stay with him a few days, until your brother’s fury subsides,

45 until your brother’s anger against you subsides and he forgets what you did to him. Then I will send and get you from there. Why should I be bereaved of you both in one day?”

### Questions:

1. When parents play favorites with their children, what does this do to the children and the family as a whole?
2. When Rebekah helped Jacob to steal the blessing from his brother, what does this tell us about Rebekah as a wife?
3. What did Rebekah lose when she chose to deceive her husband?

A strong will is a wonderful character trait which gives us the backbone of our convictions. But when our will is set to please ourselves, pride develops and we destroy the very strength that can help us serve God with all our might. A strong will must be bridled or it will destroy a marriage and develop weak sons. Let us learn this hard lesson from Rebekah.

## DINAH – She Defied Custom Chapter 4

Dinah was the only daughter of Jacob. Leah was her mother. What a family—one father, four mothers, twelve brothers, and one sister!

### Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Draw a *pink* girl in the margin where Dinah is first mentioned.
2. Highlight in *yellow* every sinful action.
3. Highlight in *orange* each time words or actions are prompted by emotion.
4. Draw a *black* sword in the margin where murder is committed.
5. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Dinah goes walking – raped (*black*) / b. Sons of Jacob require circumcision (*green*)
  - c. Village men killed (*black*) / d. Jacob scared (*black*)



### Genesis 34

1 Now Dinah the daughter of Leah, whom she had borne to Jacob, went out to visit the daughters of the land.

2 When Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, the prince of the land, saw her, he took her and lay with her by force.

3 He was deeply attracted to Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the girl and spoke tenderly to her.

4 So Shechem spoke to his father Hamor, saying, “Get me this young girl for a wife.”

5 Now Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter; but his sons were with his livestock in the field, so Jacob kept silent until they came in.

6 Then Hamor the father of Shechem went out to Jacob to speak with him.

7 Now the sons of Jacob came in from the field when they heard it; and the men were grieved, and they were very angry because he had done a disgraceful thing in Israel by lying with Jacob’s daughter, for such a thing ought not to be done.

8 But Hamor spoke with them, saying, “The soul of my son Shechem longs for your daughter; please give her to him in

marriage.

9 “Intermarry with us; give your daughters to us and take our daughters for yourselves.

10 “Thus you shall live with us, and the land shall be open before you; live and trade in it and acquire property in it.”

11 Shechem also said to her father and to her brothers, “If I find favor in your sight, then I will give whatever you say to me.

12 “Ask me ever so much bridal payment and gift, and I will give according as you say to me; but give me the girl in marriage.”

13 But Jacob’s sons answered Shechem and his father Hamor with deceit, because he had defiled Dinah their sister.

14 They said to them, “We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one who is uncircumcised, for that would be a disgrace to us.

15 “Only on this condition will we consent to you: if you will become like us, in that every male of you be circumcised,

16 then we will give our daughters to you, and we will take your daughters for ourselves, and we will live with you and become one people.

17 “But if you will not listen to us to be circumcised, then we will take our daughter and go.”

18 Now their words seemed reasonable to Hamor and Shechem, Hamor’s son.

19 The young man did not delay to do the thing, because he was delighted with Jacob’s daughter. Now he was more respected than all the household of his father.

20 So Hamor and his son Shechem came to the gate of their city and spoke to the men of their city, saying,

21 “These men are friendly with us; therefore let them live in the land and trade in it, for behold, the land is large enough for them. Let us take their daughters in marriage, and give our daughters to them.

22 “Only on this condition will the men consent to us to live with us, to become one people: that every male among us be circumcised as they are circumcised.

23 “Will not their livestock and their property and all their animals be ours? Only let us consent to them, and they will live with us.”

24 All who went out of the gate of his city listened to Hamor and to his son Shechem, and every male was circumcised, all who went out of the gate of his city.

25 Now it came about on the third day, when they were in pain, that two of Jacob’s sons, Simeon and Levi, Dinah’s brothers, each took his sword and came upon the city unawares, and killed every male.

26 They killed Hamor and his son Shechem with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah from Shechem’s house, and went forth.

27 Jacob’s sons came upon the slain and looted the city, because they had defiled their sister.

28 They took their flocks and their herds and their donkeys, and that which was in the city and that which was in the field;

29 and they captured and looted all their wealth and all their little ones and their wives, even all that was in the houses.

30 Then Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, “You have brought trouble on me by making me odious among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites; and my men being few in number, they will gather together against me and attack me and I will be destroyed, I and my household.”

31 But they said, “Should he treat our sister as a harlot?”

### Questions:

1. One short verse . . . just one short verse describes Dinah’s sin. Genesis 34: \_\_\_\_\_

2. What did Dinah do that ultimately jeopardized the existence of her entire family?

Who was she desiring to please?

3. Rape is something every girl and woman fears, whether it ever happens to her or not. What can you and I do to try and keep this from happening to us?

4. Shechem tried to “do the right thing” by \_\_\_\_\_

5. What was Hamor’s real reason for seeking this marriage?

6. What was the real reason Dinah’s brothers wanted every male in the city circumcised?

7. Why did the brothers' personal vengeance make Jacob fearful?

Why is vengeance so bad?

Who claims he only has the right to avenge? Romans 12:19.

Many years later, on his deathbed, Jacob again condemned the actions of Simeon and Levi, Genesis 49:5-7.

8. Though Dinah's experience was appalling and filled with immorality and cruelty, it does point out the high value these early Hebrews placed on chastity (modesty, purity, virginity, virtue) among women. Titus 2:5 gives a list of desired attributes a godly woman must have. Define the word "purity."

9. What is the difference between infatuation and love? Which of the two was Shechem experiencing?

When Dinah "went out to visit the daughters of the land" she did not consider the consequences of being "seen." The way we dress, the way we move, the way we act is constantly being interpreted by others, especially by men. Even if we fool ourselves into thinking our actions are innocent, God still holds us responsible for what we do and say. Not too long ago a Dallas Cowboys cheerleader was being interviewed as she modeled for that year's pinup calendar: "I had to leave modesty back in my hotel room." May you and I never make that choice—and may we never feel OK about immodesty!

10. If a husband is commanded by God to honor his wife as a choice piece of china (1 Peter 3:7), is a young man to value a young lady any less? What might she do that would block him from seeing her in this way?

11. List some places a young lady might go that will send out the wrong "messages" about her morals and attitudes.

12. Who was another woman who was in the wrong place, at the wrong time, and got pregnant the very first time? 2 Samuel 11:1-5.

13. 1 Timothy 5:13 describes a similar danger caused by going around \_\_\_\_\_.  
When a girl is bored, to what other problems might she open her heart?



14. What should our actions and words be causing others to appreciate? 1 Samuel 16:7.

15. Draw a vertical line in the space below and write SIN, EVIL on one side and GOOD, RIGHTEOUS on the other. Then draw an arrow to indicate the direction Dinah was traveling when she went out to see the daughters of the land. We, like Dinah, too often are more concerned about how close we can get to that line.

16. What did Dinah learn from the choice she made?

17. List some verses that will help you make the right choices.

## MIRIAM – Jealousy Destroyed Her Faith

### Chapter 5

Miriam was the older sister of Moses, God’s chosen leader for the Israelites. She was a great helper for Moses. Even while she was a young girl she demonstrated courage and trustworthiness. We will now look at what jealousy and rebellion in a woman’s heart did to Miriam. Notice also how she influenced others with her strong character.



**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Draw a *red* “M” in the margin wherever a miracle occurs.
2. Draw a *pink* girl in the margin where Miriam is first mentioned.
3. Shade in *red* to highlight what the Scriptures called her. (Why red?)
4. Draw a musical symbol in the margin where Miriam’s song begins.
5. Shade in *yellow* to highlight where sin occurs.
6. Shade in *blue* to highlight what God admired about Moses.
7. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Song of Miriam (*blue*) / b. Miriam rebels (*black*) / c. Miriam punished by God (*red*)

#### **Exodus 15:19-21**

19 For the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, and the LORD brought back the waters of the sea on them, but the sons of Israel walked on dry land through the midst of the sea.

20 Miriam the prophetess, Aaron’s sister, took the timbrel in her hand, and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dancing.

- 21 Miriam answered them,  
 “Sing to the LORD, for He is highly exalted;  
 The horse and his rider He has hurled into the sea.”

#### **Numbers 12**

1 Then Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married (for he had married a Cushite woman);

2 and they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us as well?” And the LORD heard it.

3 (Now the man Moses was very humble, more than any man who was on the face of the earth.)

4 Suddenly the LORD said to Moses and Aaron and to Miriam, “You three come out to the tent of meeting.” So the three of them came out.

5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the doorway of the tent, and He called Aaron and Miriam. When they had both come forward,

- 6 He said,  
 “Hear now My words:  
 If there is a prophet among you,  
 I, the LORD, shall make Myself known to him in a vision  
 I shall speak with him in a dream.

- 7 “Not so, with My servant Moses,  
 He is faithful in all My household;

- 8 With him I speak mouth to mouth,  
 Even openly, and not in dark sayings,  
 And he beholds the form of the LORD.  
 Why then were you not afraid  
 To speak against My servant, against Moses?”

9 So the anger of the LORD burned against them and He departed.

10 But when the cloud had withdrawn from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous, as white as snow. As Aaron turned toward Miriam, behold, she was leprous.

11 Then Aaron said to Moses, "Oh, my lord, I beg you, do not account this sin to us, in which we have acted foolishly and in which we have sinned.

12 "Oh, do not let her be like one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes from his mother's womb!"

13 Moses cried out to the LORD, saying, "O God, heal her, I pray!"

14 But the LORD said to Moses, "If her father had but spit in her face, would she not bear her shame for seven days? Let her be shut up for seven days outside the camp, and afterward she may be received again."

15 So Miriam was shut up outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on until Miriam was received again.

16 Afterward, however, the people moved out from Hazeroth and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

### Questions:

1. Miriam was a \_\_\_\_\_ (Micah 6:4) which could seem to place her above everyone else. Miriam seemed to think so. Is there any evidence that this is true or not?
2. Was Miriam leading the men or the women in song?
3. Jealousy often names one reason when a deeper reason is the cause. What reason was first mentioned?

What did they actually say?

4. Proverbs 13:10 speaks of \_\_\_\_\_ as the cause of strife (fighting). There are many scriptures that caution us against pride. Men are not the only ones who have trouble with pride. Women are just as guilty! What should replace pride in the following verses?
  - a. Romans 12:3
  - b. Ecclesiastes 7:8
  - c. Philippians 2:14
  - d. 1 Peter 5:5
5. Whom were Miriam and Aaron really rebelling against?
6. Moses must have been deeply hurt by the jealousy of his brother and sister, but he did not defend himself. He let God fight God's battles! What compliment did God give concerning Moses?

What does it mean to be meek?

7. Can you recall a verse in the New Testament that tells us God admires a "meek and quiet spirit" in a woman? What value does God place on meekness?
8. When someone attacks our spiritual beliefs and practices (as did Satan to Jesus, Matthew 4), what should we refer to in answering our attackers?
9. What was Moses' response to a young man who was concerned that others were prophesying in the camp? Numbers 11:29. Position meant nothing to Moses; he only wished to carry out the job God gave him. Obviously, with this goal in mind, he desired that his service as leader be directed by God!

10. With the two brothers and their sister as examples, is leadership an easy job?

Is submission an easy job?

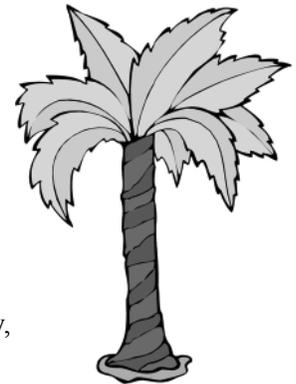
What attitude do both require?

11. How do we know that God held Miriam accountable for her sin of rebelling against God's choice of leadership?

12. What must we naturally conclude regarding our own sin of rebelling against God's choices of leadership in relation to you and I as women?

## DEBORAH – A Great Leader! Chapter 6

Deborah is the only woman mentioned in the Bible that was asked to go with God's people into battle by a fellow countryman. She was a very wise and courageous woman and men often came to her for advice and council. When the great battle was over, Deborah gave God praise and thanked Him for their deliverance. A woman who is loved and admired for her wisdom can help everyone and still be the woman God wants.



### Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Shade in *red* to highlight God's words spoken through Deborah's mouth.
2. Draw in the margin by the appropriate verses: a *green* palm tree, *red* “P” for prophesy, a *black* sword, a *black* grave headstone, a *blue* music note.
3. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Canaanite oppression (*green*) / b. Deborah, the prophetess (*red*) / c. Battle at Mt. Tabor (*black*) /
  - d. Song of Deborah (*blue*)

### Judges 4

- 1 Then the sons of Israel again did evil in the sight of the LORD, after Ehud died.
- 2 And the LORD sold them into the hand of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor; and the commander of his army was Sisera, who lived in Harosheth-hagoyim.
- 3 The sons of Israel cried to the LORD; for he had nine hundred iron chariots, and he oppressed the sons of Israel severely for twenty years.
- 4 Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time.
- 5 She used to sit under the palm tree of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the sons of Israel came up to her for judgment.
- 6 Now she sent and summoned Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh-naphtali, and said to him, “Behold, the LORD, the God of Israel, has commanded, ‘Go and march to Mount Tabor, and take with you ten thousand men from the sons of Naphtali and from the sons of Zebulun.
- 7 ‘I will draw out to you Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his many troops to the river Kishon, and I will give him into your hand.’”
- 8 Then Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go.”
- 9 She said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless, the honor shall not be yours on the journey that you are about to take, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hands of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh.
- 10 Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali together to Kedesh, and ten thousand men went up with him; Deborah also went up with him.

11 Now Heber the Kenite had separated himself from the Kenites, from the sons of Hobab the father-in-law of Moses, and had pitched his tent as far away as the oak in Zaananim, which is near Kedesh.

12 Then they told Sisera that Barak the son of Abinoam had gone up to Mount Tabor.

13 Sisera called together all his chariots, nine hundred iron chariots, and all the people who were with him, from Harosheth-hagoyim to the river Kishon.

14 Deborah said to Barak, "Arise! For this is the day in which the LORD has given Sisera into your hands; behold, the LORD has gone out before you." So Barak went down from Mount Tabor with ten thousand men following him.

15 The LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak; and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot.

16 But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth-hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not even one was left.

17 Now Sisera fled away on foot to the tent of Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite, for there was peace between Jabin the king of Hazor and the house of Heber the Kenite.

18 Jael went out to meet Sisera, and said to him, "Turn aside, my master, turn aside to me! Do not be afraid." And he turned aside to her into the tent, and she covered him with a rug.

19 He said to her, "Please give me a little water to drink, for I am thirsty." So she opened a bottle of milk and gave him a drink; then she covered him.

20 He said to her, "Stand in the doorway of the tent, and it shall be if anyone comes and inquires of you, and says, 'Is there anyone here?' that you shall say, 'No.'"

21 But Jael, Heber's wife, took a tent peg and seized a hammer in her hand, and went secretly to him and drove the peg into his temple, and it went through into the ground; for he was sound asleep and exhausted. So he died.

22 And behold, as Barak pursued Sisera, Jael came out to meet him and said to him, "Come, and I will show you the man whom you are seeking." And he entered with her, and behold Sisera was lying dead with the tent peg in his temple.

23 So God subdued on that day Jabin the king of Canaan before the sons of Israel.

24 The hand of the sons of Israel pressed heavier and heavier upon Jabin the king of Canaan, until they had destroyed Jabin the king of Canaan.

### **Judges 5:1-5**

1 Then Deborah and Barak the son of Abinoam sang on that day, saying,

2 "That the leaders led in Israel, That the people volunteered, Bless the LORD!

3 "Hear, O kings; give ear, O rulers! I--to the LORD, I will sing, I will sing praise to the LORD, the God of Israel.

4 "LORD, when You went out from Seir, When You marched from the field of Edom, The earth quaked, the heavens also dripped, Even the clouds dripped water.

5 "The mountains quaked at the presence of the LORD, This Sinai, at the presence of the LORD, the God of Israel."

### **Questions:**

1. Why did the Lord choose to punish the Israelites?

God's justice demands His love AND vengeance. The Old Testament teaches us this and He is still involved in the lives of mankind today!

2. What was Deborah doing under the palm tree?

Did Deborah rule over the men who came to her?

3. What does the Bible call Deborah?

How could she fulfill this work given by God without leaving her role of woman?

Did men yield their role of leadership to Deborah when they asked and received advice from a woman?

4. Who was the source of authority in appointing Barak to lead the armies?
5. What indicates to us the kind of attitudes she had toward her abilities?
6. There are several other female prophets recorded who lived under the Old Testament law. In 2 Kings 22 the young king Josiah became deeply grieved when he learned that the newly discovered book of God's law brought evidence that God's wrath was burning against them. He asked for a prophet of God to tell him where they stood.

The priest went to \_\_\_\_\_ the \_\_\_\_\_, verse 14. She spoke God's words of justice, and the king immediately began forcing the people to destroy their idolatrous worship. Was she in submission to man?

7. What prophetess lived in the temple? Luke 2:36. She became a \_\_\_\_\_ early in her life. When the baby Jesus was brought to the Lord to be redeemed as the firstborn male, she recognized her Redeemer.
8. Acts 2:18 quotes from the Old Testament, saying that in the new kingdom (the church) men **and** women would \_\_\_\_\_. What restriction did the apostle Paul give prophetesses in 1 Corinthians 11:5? 1 Corinthians 14:34 gives them another restriction. What is it?

Are there prophets, male or female, in the church today?

## RUTH – An Obedient Daughter Chapter 7

During the days of the Judges, there was a famine in the land. A man chose to take his wife and two sons to another country to live until the famine was over. A young Moabite girl married one of the sons and learned of the God of heaven. Her sincere love for Him reaped many rewards.



**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. God's people were commanded by God not to marry another from “outside” the family of Israel, Exodus 19:5; 34:15; Deuteronomy 7:2-3; Malachi 2:11, 14. Shade in *yellow* to highlight the phrase that indicates Elimelech's sons' sin.
2. Draw a *black* headstone in margin where death occurs.
3. Highlight in *blue* to emphasize Ruth's solemn promise to Naomi.
4. Shade in *blue* to highlight the blessing Boaz gave Ruth twice.
5. Shade in *blue* to highlight what the people thought of Ruth.
6. Shade in *yellow* to highlight the kinsman's unwillingness to obey God's law.
7. Label the following in the margin:
  - a. Israelite family in trouble (*green*) / b. Ruth's solemn promise (*blue*) / c. Boaz blesses Ruth (2 x's) (*blue*) /
  - d. Naomi provides for Ruth (*green*) / e. Boaz honors the Law (*green*) / f. Boaz marries Ruth (*green*)

**Ruth 1:1-5, 14-18**

1 Now it came about in the days when the judges governed, that there was a famine in the land And a certain man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the land of Moab with his wife and his two sons.

2 The name of the man was Elimelech, and the name of his wife, Naomi; and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion, Ephrathites of Bethlehem in Judah. Now they entered the land of Moab and remained there.

3 Then Elimelech, Naomi's husband, died; and she was left with her two sons.

4 They took for themselves Moabite women as wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. And they lived there about ten years.

5 Then both Mahlon and Chilion also died, and the woman was bereft of her two children and her husband.

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14 And they lifted up their voices and wept again; and Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

15 Then she said, "Behold, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and her gods; return after your sister-in-law."

16 But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or turn back from following you; for where you go, I will go, and where you lodge, I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God, my God.

17 "Where you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. Thus may the LORD do to me, and worse, if anything but death parts you and me."

18 When she saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more to her.

**Ruth 2:1-3, 8-13, 22-23**

1 Now Naomi had a kinsman of her husband, a man of great wealth, of the family of Elimelech, whose name was Boaz.

2 And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Please let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after one in whose sight I may find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter."

3 So she departed and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers; and she happened to come to the portion of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the family of Elimelech.

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8 Then Boaz said to Ruth, "Listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field; furthermore, do not go on from this one, but stay here with my maids.

9 "Let your eyes be on the field which they reap, and go after them. Indeed, I have commanded the servants not to touch you. When you are thirsty, go to the water jars and drink from what the servants draw."

10 Then she fell on her face, bowing to the ground and said to him, "Why have I found favor in your sight that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?"

11 Boaz replied to her, "All that you have done for your mother-in-law after the death of your husband has been fully reported to me, and how you left your father and your mother and the land of your birth, and came to a people that you did not previously know.

12 "May the LORD reward your work, and your wages be full from the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to seek refuge."

13 Then she said, "I have found favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and indeed have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not like one of your maidservants."

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22 Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his maids, so that others do not fall upon you in another field."

23 So she stayed close by the maids of Boaz in order to glean until the end of the barley harvest and the wheat harvest. And she lived with her mother-in-law.

**Ruth 3:1-5, 8-14**

1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

2 "Now is not Boaz our kinsman, with whose maids you were? Behold, he winnows barley at the threshing floor tonight.

3 "Wash yourself therefore, and anoint yourself and put on your best clothes, and go down to the threshing floor; but do not make yourself known to the man until he has finished eating and drinking.

4 "It shall be when he lies down, that you shall notice the place where he lies, and you shall go and uncover his feet and lie down; then he will tell you what you shall do."

5 She said to her, "All that you say I will do."

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8 It happened in the middle of the night that the man was startled and bent forward; and behold, a woman was lying at his feet.  
 9 He said, "Who are you?" And she answered, "I am Ruth your maid. So spread your covering over your maid, for you are a close relative."

10 Then he said, "May you be blessed of the LORD, my daughter. You have shown your last kindness to be better than the first by not going after young men, whether poor or rich.

11 "Now, my daughter, do not fear. I will do for you whatever you ask, for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence.

12 "Now it is true I am a close relative; however, there is a relative closer than I.

13 "Remain this night, and when morning comes, if he will redeem you, good; let him redeem you. But if he does not wish to redeem you, then I will redeem you, as the LORD lives. Lie down until morning."

14 So she lay at his feet until morning and rose before one could recognize another; and he said, "Let it not be known that the woman came to the threshing floor."

#### **Ruth 4:1-11, 13-17**

1 Now Boaz went up to the gate and sat down there, and behold, the close relative of whom Boaz spoke was passing by, so he said, "Turn aside, friend, sit down here." And he turned aside and sat down.

2 He took ten men of the elders of the city and said, "Sit down here." So they sat down.

3 Then he said to the closest relative, "Naomi, who has come back from the land of Moab, has to sell the piece of land which belonged to our brother Elimelech.

4 "So I thought to inform you, saying, 'Buy it before those who are sitting here, and before the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, redeem it; but if not, tell me that I may know; for there is no one but you to redeem it, and I am after you.'" And he said, "I will redeem it."

5 Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the field from the hand of Naomi, you must also acquire Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of the deceased, in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance."

6 The closest relative said, "I cannot redeem it for myself, because I would jeopardize my own inheritance. Redeem it for yourself; you may have my right of redemption, for I cannot redeem it."

7 Now this was the custom in former times in Israel concerning the redemption and the exchange of land to confirm any matter: a man removed his sandal and gave it to another; and this was the manner of attestation in Israel.

8 So the closest relative said to Boaz, "Buy it for yourself." And he removed his sandal.

9 Then Boaz said to the elders and all the people, "You are witnesses today that I have bought from the hand of Naomi all that belonged to Elimelech and all that belonged to Chilion and Mahlon.

10 "Moreover, I have acquired Ruth the Moabitess, the widow of Mahlon, to be my wife in order to raise up the name of the deceased on his inheritance, so that the name of the deceased will not be cut off from his brothers or from the court of his birth place; you are witnesses today."

11 All the people who were in the court, and the elders, said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, both of whom built the house of Israel; and may you achieve wealth in Ephrathah and become famous in Bethlehem."

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13 So Boaz took Ruth, and she became his wife, and he went in to her. And the LORD enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son.

14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed is the LORD who has not left you without a redeemer today, and may his name become famous in Israel.

15 "May he also be to you a restorer of life and a sustainer of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you and is better to you than seven sons, has given birth to him."

16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him in her lap, and became his nurse.

17 The neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "A son has been born to Naomi!" So they named him Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.

#### **Questions:**

1. What relation was Ruth to Naomi?
2. How do we know Ruth had a strong character?

3. What does it mean to glean? To winnow?

In the following questions, some answers may require the same verse:

4. What verse(s) tells us of Ruth's strong loyalty to Naomi?
5. What verse(s) tells us of Ruth's industry and willingness to work not only for herself but for her mother-in-law, doing the lowliest of work?
6. What verse(s) indicates Ruth's humility?
7. What verse(s) indicates Ruth's gratefulness for the kindness of Boaz toward a Moabitess?
8. What verse(s) tells us of Ruth's acts of kindness?
9. What verse(s) tells us of Ruth's obedience to Naomi?
10. What verse(s) indicates Ruth's trust in God?
11. What verse(s) indicates Ruth's trust in Boaz?
12. What verse(s) indicates Ruth valued her mother-in-law's advice and counsel?



“...for all my people in the city know that you are a woman of excellence.” Ruth is a wonderful example to us. Her conduct and character represent all the qualities God has asked of us as women. Like Ruth, our conduct, whether good or bad, is usually known much more widely than we realize. And as it did with Ruth, our light of good shines further than the life we live on this earth.

13. God has provided a safeguard for widows both then and today. Naomi directed Ruth to appeal to the law when she first approved of Ruth \_\_\_\_\_ in the harvested fields. She then directed Ruth to demonstrate a request for protection from Naomi's kinsman, \_\_\_\_\_ as we read in verse \_\_\_\_\_, cf. Psalm 17:8.
14. Boaz was careful to protect Ruth as the law directed, first by indicating his protection by covering her with his \_\_\_\_\_ and by making sure her reputation remained pure by \_\_\_\_\_; He then approached the ruling elders (Deuteronomy 2:5-10) to make Ruth his \_\_\_\_\_. What is the similarity between 2:12 and 3:9?
15. Each of the following verses emphasizes the importance of a good reputation in the sight of God and man.
  - a. Ecclesiastes 7:1 - A good \_\_\_\_\_ is better than precious ointment.
  - b. Romans 12:17 - Provide things \_\_\_\_\_ in the sight of all men.
  - c. 2 Corinthians 8:21 - Providing for honest things, not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the sight of \_\_\_\_\_.
  - d. Psalm 37:3 - \_\_\_\_\_ God and do good.

Strong determination is a wonderful characteristic for a girl provided she uses this ability for good. Ruth had a wonderful blend of strong convictions and humility which were necessary to help her respect the responsibility Naomi had and the guidance Naomi gave in providing for Ruth.

16. Exodus 20:12 is a commandment that is repeated in the New Testament. Ephesians 6:1-3 and Colossians 3:20 remind us to \_\_\_\_\_ our parents. Honoring our parents includes obedience – to whom? Respect – for what? Submission – to what?

When does one stop?

17. Proverbs 23:22 tells us not to despise your mother (parents) when she is \_\_\_\_\_. Honoring our parents includes \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Timothy 5:4, 8.

18. Ruth's rewards –

- Serving a living God brought Ruth \_\_\_\_\_ under God's wing, Psalm 63:7.
- Her needs were met: gleaning in the \_\_\_\_\_ for food.
- She gained a good husband: He was wealthy (able to support a wife), honest, concerned for the poor, concerned for Ruth's reputation, obedient to civil/religious requirements of marriage, and he praised Ruth's qualities. In Ruth 2:11 Boaz recognized Ruth's loyalty to her \_\_\_\_\_, just as another man praised his \_\_\_\_\_ in Proverbs 31:28-30.
- Became a mother: Her son Obed became the grandfather of \_\_\_\_\_.
- The community respected her: In Ruth 3:11 Boaz said the people called her a \_\_\_\_\_ woman.
- Ruth made her \_\_\_\_\_ happy.

One decision may determine how we live our life here on earth and it can affect our eternal destiny—just as it did in Ruth's life, Ruth 1:16. Life consists of many decisions and those which will have consequences for all eternity should be weighed carefully. We too, like Ruth, may have to leave family, friends, or country in order to faithfully serve God.

## ABIGAIL – The Queen of Wives Chapter 8

For several years David had been hiding from King Saul to avoid being killed. At the same time he honored God's chosen king by not killing him. It was during this period that David and his men's secretive movements brought him near Hebron to the vicinity of a very rich man named Nabal. Abigail was Nabal's wife.



**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

- Draw a small map in the margin locating Maon and Carmel.
- Shade in *pink* to highlight the character of Abigail, and then underlined in *blue*.
- Shade in *yellow* to highlight the character of Nabal (found in three places).
- Draw a fire in the margin where David “loses it.” Label the fire “anger and revenge.”
- Write in *red* in the margin “God is our avenger” where Abigail reminds David of his potential sin. Write in *red* “God's Vengeance” where Nabal dies.
- Shade in *blue* to highlight David's recognition of Abigail's wisdom.
- Shade in *pink* Abigail's humility (and gratefulness!) to become David's wife.
- Draw in *pink* “2 girls – 1 girl + 1 girl = 2 wives” in margin at the end of the chapter.
- Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - David needs aid (*green*) / b. Nabal says, “No!” (*black*) / c. Abigail pleads with David (*blue*) / d. Abigail saves her husband (*blue*) / e. David's thanksgiving (*blue*) / f. Nabal dies (*black*) / g. David marries Abigail (*green*)

## 1 Samuel 25

1 Then Samuel died; and all Israel gathered together and mourned for him, and buried him at his house in Ramah And David arose and went down to the wilderness of Paran.

2 Now there was a man in Maon whose business was in Carmel; and the man was very rich, and he had three thousand sheep and a thousand goats And it came about while he was shearing his sheep in Carmel

3 (now the man's name was Nabal, and his wife's name was Abigail And the woman was intelligent and beautiful in appearance, but the man was harsh and evil in his dealings, and he was a Calebite),

4 that David heard in the wilderness that Nabal was shearing his sheep.

5 So David sent ten young men; and David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, visit Nabal and greet him in my name;

6 and thus you shall say, 'Have a long life, peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have.

7 'Now I have heard that you have shearers; now your shepherds have been with us and we have not insulted them, nor have they missed anything all the days they were in Carmel.

8 'Ask your young men and they will tell you. Therefore let my young men find favor in your eyes, for we have come on a festive day. Please give whatever you find at hand to your servants and to your son David.'"

9 When David's young men came, they spoke to Nabal according to all these words in David's name; then they waited.

10 But Nabal answered David's servants and said, "Who is David? And who is the son of Jesse? There are many servants today who are each breaking away from his master.

11 "Shall I then take my bread and my water and my meat that I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men whose origin I do not know?"

12 So David's young men retraced their way and went back; and they came and told him according to all these words.

13 David said to his men, "Each of you gird on his sword." So each man girded on his sword. And David also girded on his sword, and about four hundred men went up behind David while two hundred stayed with the baggage.

14 But one of the young men told Abigail, Nabal's wife, saying, "Behold, David sent messengers from the wilderness to greet our master, and he scorned them.

15 "Yet the men were very good to us, and we were not insulted, nor did we miss anything as long as we went about with them, while we were in the fields.

16 "They were a wall to us both by night and by day, all the time we were with them tending the sheep.

17 "Now therefore, know and consider what you should do, for evil is plotted against our master and against all his household; and he is such a worthless man that no one can speak to him."

18 Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves of bread and two jugs of wine and five sheep already prepared and five measures of roasted grain and a hundred clusters of raisins and two hundred cakes of figs, and loaded them on donkeys.

19 She said to her young men, "Go on before me; behold, I am coming after you." But she did not tell her husband Nabal.

20 It came about as she was riding on her donkey and coming down by the hidden part of the mountain, that behold, David and his men were coming down toward her; so she met them.

21 Now David had said, "Surely in vain I have guarded all that this man has in the wilderness, so that nothing was missed of all that belonged to him; and he has returned me evil for good.

22 "May God do so to the enemies of David, and more also, if by morning I leave as much as one male of any who belong to him."

23 When Abigail saw David, she hurried and dismounted from her donkey, and fell on her face before David and bowed herself to the ground.

24 She fell at his feet and said, "On me alone, my lord, be the blame. And please let your maidservant speak to you, and listen to the words of your maidservant.

25 "Please do not let my lord pay attention to this worthless man, Nabal, for as his name is, so is he. Nabal is his name and folly is with him; but I your maidservant did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent.

26 "Now therefore, my lord, as the LORD lives, and as your soul lives, since the LORD has restrained you from shedding blood, and from avenging yourself by your own hand, now then let your enemies and those who seek evil against my lord, be as Nabal.

27 "Now let this gift which your maidservant has brought to my lord be given to the young men who accompany my lord.

28 "Please forgive the transgression of your maidservant; for the LORD will certainly make for my lord an enduring house, because my lord is fighting the battles of the LORD, and evil will not be found in you all your days.

29 "Should anyone rise up to pursue you and to seek your life, then the life of my lord shall be bound in the bundle of the living with the LORD your God; but the lives of your enemies He will sling out as from the hollow of a sling.

30 "And when the LORD does for my lord according to all the good that He has spoken concerning you, and appoints you ruler over Israel,

31 this will not cause grief or a troubled heart to my lord, both by having shed blood without cause and by my lord having

avenged himself. When the LORD deals well with my lord, then remember your maidservant.”

32 Then David said to Abigail, “Blessed be the LORD God of Israel, who sent you this day to meet me,  
33 and blessed be your discernment, and blessed be you, who have kept me this day from bloodshed and from avenging myself by my own hand.

34 “Nevertheless, as the LORD God of Israel lives, who has restrained me from harming you, unless you had come quickly to meet me, surely there would not have been left to Nabal until the morning light as much as one male.”

35 So David received from her hand what she had brought him and said to her, “Go up to your house in peace. See, I have listened to you and granted your request.”

36 Then Abigail came to Nabal, and behold, he was holding a feast in his house, like the feast of a king. And Nabal’s heart was merry within him, for he was very drunk; so she did not tell him anything at all until the morning light.

37 But in the morning, when the wine had gone out of Nabal, his wife told him these things, and his heart died within him so that he became as a stone.

38 About ten days later, the LORD struck Nabal and he died.

39 When David heard that Nabal was dead, he said, “Blessed be the LORD, who has pleaded the cause of my reproach from the hand of Nabal and has kept back His servant from evil. The LORD has also returned the evildoing of Nabal on his own head.” Then David sent a proposal to Abigail, to take her as his wife.

40 When the servants of David came to Abigail at Carmel, they spoke to her, saying, “David has sent us to you to take you as his wife.”

41 She arose and bowed with her face to the ground and said, “Behold, your maidservant is a maid to wash the feet of my lord’s servants.”

42 Then Abigail quickly arose, and rode on a donkey, with her five maidens who attended her; and she followed the messengers of David and became his wife.

43 David had also taken Ahinoam of Jezreel, and they both became his wives.

44 Now Saul had given Michal his daughter, David’s wife, to Palti the son of Laish, who was from Gallim.

### **Questions:**

1. What kind of characteristics would a harsh man display?
2. What would a marriage with a “harsh” man be like?
3. How would intelligence be helpful in such a marriage?

Anger is a major motivator for an abusive husband, and he will blame his wife for his actions. Once he hits his wife he is likely to hit her again. A standard of respect has broken down and his anger will increase as he seeks more control over her. He continues to blame his wife and she begins to believe him. Until the husband accepts that he is at fault for this cycle of abuse, the abuse will increase until her life is threatened. The progression of his abuse often involves abusing their children and committing adultery.

There are indicators a wise young woman can watch for BEFORE she considers marriage:

- a. His parents exhibit wrong attitudes toward women, marriage, power, anger.
- b. He can’t express his feelings except with fire and fury.
- c. He downplays his hurtful words/actions toward you.
- d. He doesn’t take responsibility for his own actions.
- e. He changes jobs frequently.
- f. He doesn’t seem to have personal motivation and direction.
- g. His behavior is unpredictable.
- h. He doesn’t keep his word when he promises to change.
- i. He always wants to know where you’ve been, who you’ve been with, and why.
- j. He has few friends—just you two and no one else.
- k. He often strikes out and hits a wall, kicks a car – and the list goes on.

Be honest and courageous and take a hard look. Marriage is for life.

4. When David sent his young men to request (beg) for food from Nabal, what attitude did Nabal manifest?
5. When David was told, what emotion and action did the message prompt in David? Why?
6. When Abigail was told of David's reaction, what emotion and actions did she display?
7. Why didn't she tell her husband the result of his actions right then? (Read Proverbs 12:16; 26:5.)
8. What does a wise woman do? Proverbs 14:1. Did Abigail do this?

What does a virtuous wife do? Proverbs 31:12?

9. By saving the life of her husband and her people, she also saved whom?

What did David call Abigail's actions? Verse 33.

10. Was she still in submission to her husband as a help-meet?
11. Wisdom is highly regarded by God and the book of Proverbs is full of praise for one who is wise. A few might be considered:
  - a. Proverbs 3:13 - Wisdom brings \_\_\_\_\_
  - b. Proverbs 8:14 - Wisdom has \_\_\_\_\_
  - c. Proverbs 11:2 - Wisdom goes hand in hand with \_\_\_\_\_

Truly Abigail can be called the "Queen of Wives" for she opened her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue was the law of kindness, Proverbs 31:26.

12. We need to discuss Abigail's reminder to David that God is our avenger. God acts within justice and has given governments the right to avenge evil—but not man toward man! Anger can often confuse our minds and we feel we have the right to avenge an injustice toward ourselves.
13. David married Abigail. Abigail was his third wife, although his first wife's father took his first wife away from him. We have learned marriage is one man for one woman. So why did God allow multiple wives in the Old Testament, especially kings? Did He approve?

Did God have one standard for men under the old law and another under the new? Acts 17:30.

## JEZEBEL – An Evil Wife

### Chapter 9

"Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all who were before him. It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him," 1 Kings 16:30-31.



Can you imagine the Lord saying to you, if you were the king, “You treat me as meaningless and my laws as unimportant. Then you go and marry the absolutely most evil woman on the earth!” Truly Jezebel must have been an evil woman. I can’t even imagine so much wickedness in one person.

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Circle in *black* the *pink* girl in the margin that represents Jezebel.
2. Underline in *black* the phrase that indicates Jezebel picked up the reins of leadership over her husband—and to do evil, at that!
3. Draw a *red* “P” in the margin beside God’s prophecy concerning the House of Ahab.
4. Shade verse 25 in *yellow* to highlight who led whom to do evil.
5. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Ahab marries Jezebel (*black*) / b. Baal worship (*black*) / c. Ahab desires Naboth’s vineyard (*black*)
  - d. Jezebel’s solution (*black*) / e. House of Ahab to be destroyed (*red*) / f. Jezebel stirred (incited) wickedness (*black*)

**1 Kings 16:30-33**

30 Ahab the son of Omri did evil in the sight of the LORD more than all who were before him.

31 It came about, as though it had been a trivial thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he married Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Sidonians, and went to serve Baal and worshiped him.

32 So he erected an altar for Baal in the house of Baal which he built in Samaria.

33 Ahab also made the Asherah Thus Ahab did more to provoke the LORD God of Israel than all the kings of Israel who were before him.

**1 Kings 21:1-25**

1 Now it came about after these things that Naboth the Jezreelite had a vineyard which was in Jezreel beside the palace of Ahab king of Samaria.

2 Ahab spoke to Naboth, saying, “Give me your vineyard, that I may have it for a vegetable garden because it is close beside my house, and I will give you a better vineyard than it in its place; if you like, I will give you the price of it in money.”

3 But Naboth said to Ahab, “The LORD forbid me that I should give you the inheritance of my fathers.”

4 So Ahab came into his house sullen and vexed because of the word which Naboth the Jezreelite had spoken to him; for he said, “I will not give you the inheritance of my fathers.” And he lay down on his bed and turned away his face and ate no food.

5 But Jezebel his wife came to him and said to him, “How is it that your spirit is so sullen that you are not eating food?”

6 So he said to her, “Because I spoke to Naboth the Jezreelite and said to him, ‘Give me your vineyard for money; or else, if it pleases you, I will give you a vineyard in its place.’ But he said, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’”

7 Jezebel his wife said to him, “Do you now reign over Israel? Arise, eat bread, and let your heart be joyful; I will give you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

8 So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name and sealed them with his seal, and sent letters to the elders and to the nobles who were living with Naboth in his city.

9 Now she wrote in the letters, saying, “Proclaim a fast and seat Naboth at the head of the people;

10 and seat two worthless men before him, and let them testify against him, saying, ‘You cursed God and the king’ Then take him out and stone him to death.”

11 So the men of his city, the elders and the nobles who lived in his city, did as Jezebel had sent word to them, just as it was written in the letters which she had sent them.

12 They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth at the head of the people.

13 Then the two worthless men came in and sat before him; and the worthless men testified against him, even against Naboth, before the people, saying, “Naboth cursed God and the king.” So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death with stones.

14 Then they sent word to Jezebel, saying, “Naboth has been stoned and is dead.”

15 When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, Jezebel said to Ahab, “Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth, the Jezreelite, which he refused to give you for money; for Naboth is not alive, but dead.”

16 When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, Ahab arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

17 Then the word of the LORD came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying,

18 “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria; behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth where he has gone down to take possession of it.

19 “You shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, ‘Have you murdered and also taken possession?’” And you shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the LORD, ‘In the place where the dogs licked up the blood of Naboth the dogs will lick up your blood, even yours.’”

20 Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” And he answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the LORD.

21 “Behold, I will bring evil upon you, and will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab every male, both bond and free in Israel;

22 and I will make your house like the house of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, because of the provocation with which you have provoked Me to anger, and because you have made Israel sin.

23 “Of Jezebel also has the LORD spoken, saying, ‘The dogs will eat Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.’

24 “The one belonging to Ahab, who dies in the city, the dogs will eat, and the one who dies in the field the birds of heaven will eat.”

25 Surely there was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the LORD, because Jezebel his wife incited him.

The worship of Baal and his consort Asherah had many names but it was essentially a religion that worshiped nature. Not only did they refuse to obey their Maker, they used idols to represent their gods. Because they saw nature as the controlling force in their lives, they tried all kinds of ways to influence the gods to give them good crops and more babies. We read in the Old Testament how they practiced sorceries and witchcraft, of how their men visited their temple prostitutes, female and male (homosexuals). They even burned their first-born male babies to their main god (Baal-Moloch), 2 Kings 17:16-17. Ahab married a woman who worshiped Baal!

### Questions:

1. What did King Ahab do for his new wife in his capital city?
2. In the process of making the worship of Baal the official state religion, Jezebel supported \_\_\_\_\_, 1 Kings 18:19.
3. Jezebel \_\_\_\_\_ as many of God’s prophets as she could find, 1 Kings 18:4, 13. She even threatened \_\_\_\_\_ who ran for his life! 1 Kings 19:1-3.
4. What problem did Jezebel solve for her husband while he was putting?
5. What did Jezebel have the “witnesses” lie about, appealing to the law of Jehovah God to do it?
6. What phrase does the writer use to describe Jezebel in verse 25?



How easy it is to stir, goad, pressure and push when we are angry or want control. Describe an occasion when you pushed someone to react wrong, or to do something bad.

7. In 1 Kings 19:1-2, we read that Jezebel made an oath to kill Elijah. God Almighty saw that her oath was kept, but not as she meant! How was she killed several years later? 2 Kings 9:30-37. Jezebel was probably buried in the same field she took from Naboth and his family!

8. What words would you use to describe Jezebel's husband for allowing Jezebel to act in such a manner?
9. Does God approve of a wife taking the lead over her husband?
10. What did God say that Ahab did in verse 20?

What did he sell himself to get? Isaiah 50:1.

Whom did he sell himself to?

“Most people who follow unlawful pleasures think they can give them up whenever they please; but sin repeated becomes customary; custom soon engenders habit; and habit in the end assumes the form of necessity; the man becomes bound with his own cords, and so is led captive by the devil at his will” (Adam Clark).

11. Proverbs 5:22 uses what picture to describe sin?

Psalm 9:15 uses a \_\_\_\_\_ to describe sin. Draw a picture of these two verses.

12. Can you sell yourself?

You are the \_\_\_\_\_ to whom you yield yourself, Romans 6:16.

13. How can we identify whom we are serving?

14. How can we make sure we continue serving despite living in this self-serving world?

## ESTHER – A Willing Servant of the Lord

### Chapter 10

The Medes and Persians were ruling from India to Ethiopia. God's people had been exiled from Judah for over 70 years. King Cyrus did allow one large group to return to Jerusalem and rebuild the temple, but many Jews were still living in foreign lands. Now it is some 50 years later and all the Jews in the empire have just been informed they are to be slaughtered in one year. Queen Esther—a Jew “undercover”—was in the right place at the right time. Was it only a coincidence?

After King Ahasuerus made Esther his new queen, a wicked man tricked the king into issuing a law to kill all the Jews. The man's name was Haman. He even built a gallows to hang a Jew who refused to bow to him. Who was this man? It was Esther's first cousin, Mordecai—the man who reared Esther as his daughter—and no one knew the new queen was a Jew!



**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Underline in *black* the four things Mordecai had Esther's messenger tell Esther in verses 7 and 8.

2. Shade in *blue* to highlight Mordecai's indirect reference to God's providence ("Who knows...").
3. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Esther learns of the king's law (*green*) / b. Esther's fear (*black*) / c. Esther's conviction (*blue*) /
  - d. Esther accepts her challenge (*blue*)

#### **Esther 4**

1 When Mordecai learned all that had been done, he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and ashes, and went out into the midst of the city and wailed loudly and bitterly.

2 He went as far as the king's gate, for no one was to enter the king's gate clothed in sackcloth.

3 In each and every province where the command and decree of the king came, there was great mourning among the Jews, with fasting, weeping and wailing; and many lay on sackcloth and ashes.

4 Then Esther's maidens and her eunuchs came and told her, and the queen writhed in great anguish. And she sent garments to clothe Mordecai that he might remove his sackcloth from him, but he did not accept them.

5 Then Esther summoned Hathach from the king's eunuchs, whom the king had appointed to attend her, and ordered him to go to Mordecai to learn what this was and why it was.

6 So Hathach went out to Mordecai to the city square in front of the king's gate.

7 Mordecai told him all that had happened to him, and the exact amount of money that Haman had promised to pay to the king's treasuries for the destruction of the Jews.

8 He also gave him a copy of the text of the edict which had been issued in Susa for their destruction, that he might show Esther and inform her, and to order her to go in to the king to implore his favor and to plead with him for her people.

9 Hathach came back and related Mordecai's words to Esther.

10 Then Esther spoke to Hathach and ordered him to reply to Mordecai:

11 "All the king's servants and the people of the king's provinces know that for any man or woman who comes to the king to the inner court who is not summoned, he has but one law, that he be put to death, unless the king holds out to him the golden scepter so that he may live. And I have not been summoned to come to the king for these thirty days."

12 They related Esther's words to Mordecai.

13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's palace can escape any more than all the Jews.

14 "For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance will arise for the Jews from another place and you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not attained royalty for such a time as this?"

15 Then Esther told them to reply to Mordecai,

16 "Go, assemble all the Jews who are found in Susa, and fast for me; do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my maidens also will fast in the same way. And thus I will go in to the king, which is not according to the law; and if I perish, I perish."

17 So Mordecai went away and did just as Esther had commanded him.

#### **Refer to the "General Instructions" BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Highlight in *blue* Esther's appeal to convict the person who sold her people.
2. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Esther's wine banquet (*green*) / b. King learns his queen is a Jew (*green*) /
  - c. Haman begs for his life (*green*) / d. Haman hanged on his own gallows (*green*)

Esther took the chance to appear before the king without a summons—and he extended his golden scepter. (If the king had not, it would have meant death.) Esther then invited her husband to a banquet in his honor, along with Haman. At that banquet she yet again invited the two to another banquet and it was at this one she revealed Haman's wicked plot.

#### **Esther 7**

1 Now the king and Haman came to drink wine with Esther the queen.

2 And the king said to Esther on the second day also as they drank their wine at the banquet, "What is your petition, Queen Esther? It shall be granted you And what is your request? Even to half of the kingdom it shall be done."

3 Then Queen Esther replied, "If I have found favor in your sight, O king, and if it pleases the king, let my life be given me as my petition, and my people as my request;

4 for we have been sold, I and my people, to be destroyed, to be killed and to be annihilated. Now if we had only been sold as slaves, men and women, I would have remained silent, for the trouble would not be commensurate with the annoyance to the king.”

5 Then King Ahasuerus asked Queen Esther, “Who is he, and where is he, who would presume to do thus?”

6 Esther said, “A foe and an enemy is this wicked Haman!” Then Haman became terrified before the king and queen.

7 The king arose in his anger from drinking wine and went into the palace garden; but Haman stayed to beg for his life from Queen Esther, for he saw that harm had been determined against him by the king.

8 Now when the king returned from the palace garden into the place where they were drinking wine, Haman was falling on the couch where Esther was. Then the king said, “Will he even assault the queen with me in the house?” As the word went out of the king’s mouth, they covered Haman’s face.

9 Then Harbonah, one of the eunuchs who were before the king said, “Behold indeed, the gallows standing at Haman’s house fifty cubits high, which Haman made for Mordecai who spoke good on behalf of the king!” And the king said, “Hang him on it.”

10 So they hanged Haman on the gallows which he had prepared for Mordecai, and the king’s anger subsided.

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Underline in *black* the two rights the king gave to the Jews when **the** day arrived.
2. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. New position for Mordecai (*green*) / b. Esther implores law be canceled (*green*) /
  - c. New law written (*green*) / d. Mordecai recognized (*green*)

**Esther 8:1-8, 11-17**

1 On that day King Ahasuerus gave the house of Haman, the enemy of the Jews, to Queen Esther; and Mordecai came before the king, for Esther had disclosed what he was to her.

2 The king took off his signet ring which he had taken away from Haman, and gave it to Mordecai. And Esther set Mordecai over the house of Haman.

3 Then Esther spoke again to the king, fell at his feet, wept and implored him to avert the evil scheme of Haman the Agagite and his plot which he had devised against the Jews.

4 The king extended the golden scepter to Esther. So Esther arose and stood before the king.

5 Then she said, “If it pleases the king and if I have found favor before him and the matter seems proper to the king and I am pleasing in his sight, let it be written to revoke the letters devised by Haman, the son of Hammedatha the Agagite, which he wrote to destroy the Jews who are in all the king’s provinces.

6 “For how can I endure to see the calamity which will befall my people, and how can I endure to see the destruction of my kindred?”

7 So King Ahasuerus said to Queen Esther and to Mordecai the Jew, “Behold, I have given the house of Haman to Esther, and him they have hanged on the gallows because he had stretched out his hands against the Jews.

8 “Now you write to the Jews as you see fit, in the king’s name, and seal it with the king’s signet ring; for a decree which is written in the name of the king and sealed with the king’s signet ring may not be revoked.”

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11 In them the king granted the Jews who were in each and every city the right to assemble and to defend their lives, to destroy, to kill and to annihilate the entire army of any people or province which might attack them, including children and women, and to plunder their spoil,

12 on one day in all the provinces of King Ahasuerus, the thirteenth day of the twelfth month (that is, the month Adar).

13 A copy of the edict to be issued as law in each and every province was published to all the peoples, so that the Jews would be ready for this day to avenge themselves on their enemies.

14 The couriers, hastened and impelled by the king’s command, went out, riding on the royal steeds; and the decree was given out at the citadel in Susa.

15 Then Mordecai went out from the presence of the king in royal robes of blue and white, with a large crown of gold and a garment of fine linen and purple; and the city of Susa shouted and rejoiced.

16 For the Jews there was light and gladness and joy and honor.

17 In each and every province and in each and every city, wherever the king’s commandment and his decree arrived, there was gladness and joy for the Jews, a feast and a holiday And many among the peoples of the land became Jews, for the dread of the Jews had fallen on them.

Esther was a beautiful young girl. The edict to gather all beautiful girls to be groomed and “tested” by the Persian king for a new queen forced Esther to be brought to the attention of the king. Events were out of her hands, but she could control her attitude and maintain her faith. Mordecai did what he could by trying to stay in contact with Esther in an attempt to protect her or give her advice and support. Thus God was also able to use Mordecai to maintain His promise of a Messiah for His people. This unfolding of events is an example of God acting without miraculous intervention. God’s providence is wonderful.

**Questions:**

1. Give the chapter and verse that supports each statement below:
  - a. Esther was loved by all her attendants and even by the king’s eunuchs.
  - b. Esther admits that she is not in favor with the king.
  - c. Esther swallows her personal fear and resolves to help her people.
  - d. Esther tells the king she is in fact a Jew and that she and her people have been sold to be destroyed.
  - e. Esther tells the king what relationship Mordecai was to herself.
2. Solomon wrote a very profound statement many years before Esther lived. “Do not withhold \_\_\_\_\_ from those to whom it is due, When it is in your \_\_\_\_\_ to do it,” Proverbs 3:27. What verse in Esther 4 indicates Mordecai had this conviction?
3. Esther had to face her trial which came upon her when she least expected it. We too should live as prepared as possible to meet trials in this life. When such events come we will look to God for help and stand fast with confidence in Him. So...**how** can we prepare ourselves for when hard and difficult trials come our way in this imperfect world?

Because of the new law Mordecai wrote, Jews gathered together in each city to attack any that threatened their lives. The people were very fearful of the Jews’ strength. Even the officials and political leaders were so fearful of Mordecai’s power that they helped the Jews to protect themselves! Interestingly, although many lives were taken, no plunder was seized. Afterwards the Jews instituted a new feast day—Purim.

4. What attitude did Esther exhibit toward her “father”?  
  
...her attendants?  
  
...her new husband?
5. Does being a queen, as Esther was, mean Esther was a leader over men?
6. What guidelines would you suggest to help a woman know whether she is or is not in submission to man?



## MARY – A Faithful Mother

### Chapter 11

At this time in Jewish history there were strong expectations for the Messiah to arise and rule the world. To “help” there was a group of Jews (Zealots) who were determined to get rid of Roman rule. In reaction, the Romans were bearing down on the Jews to bend them to their will. The presence of soldiers was everywhere. In the year Jesus was born, a census of the people throughout the Roman Empire was required. Mary and Joseph traveled to Bethlehem to fulfill this demand. Little did anyone realize that God’s chosen Messiah would enter the world in a small town—in a stable—and be seen as a danger to both the Jews and the Romans!



Marriage customs were much different then than they are today. The engagement of Mary to Joseph was arranged by their parents or by a matchmaker. Like Mary, the engagement was often made while the girl was young and revolved around three decisions: the dowry (the gift from the father of the bride), the bridegroom’s gift to the bride (usually clothing, jewelry, or gifts to her family), and a marriage present (a settlement gift to the bride’s parents for the loss of their daughter). Usually these agreements were written out and signed.

This engagement (or betrothal, as the Scriptures call it) was usually held when the girl reached 12 years old, or puberty. It became legally binding and was to be honored unconditionally. Although the couple were considered married, they did not live together or share the marriage bed. Usually a year later they went through the marriage ceremony.

Mary was still only betrothed when the angel appeared to her—a young girl legally promised to a man, but *not* married.

#### Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Shade in *blue* to highlight Mary’s respectful silence as she thought about what she was hearing.
2. Draw a *red* set of wings in the margin where the angel first speaks to Mary.
3. Underline in *red* the five points Gabriel told Mary concerning the son she was to bear. Then number each point in *red* with a *red* circle around each number. Draw a *red* “P” in the margin.
4. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Gabriel hails Mary (*red*) / b. The Holy Spirit gives Mary a son (*red*) /
  - c. Mary’s submission to God’s will (*blue*)

#### Luke 1:26-38

26 Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth,  
 27 to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and the virgin’s name was Mary.  
 28 And coming in, he said to her, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.”  
 29 But she was very perplexed at this statement, and kept pondering what kind of salutation this was.  
 30 The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; for you have found favor with God.  
 31 “And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name Him Jesus.  
 32 “He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David;  
 33 and He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will have no end.”  
 34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”  
 35 The angel answered and said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.  
 36 “And behold, even your relative Elizabeth has also conceived a son in her old age; and she who was called barren is now in her sixth month.

37 “For nothing will be impossible with God.”

38 And Mary said, “Behold, the bonds slave of the Lord; may it be done to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Draw a *red* “P” where Elizabeth prophesies of the Lord, the Mighty One, the anticipated Messiah.
2. Bracket in *blue* Mary’s song of praise. Draw a *blue* musical note in the margin.
3. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Mary visits Elizabeth (*green*) / b. Elizabeth’s song of prophecy (*blue*) / c. Mary returns to Nazareth (*brown*)

**Luke 1:39-56**

39 Now at this time Mary arose and went in a hurry to the hill country, to a city of Judah,

40 and entered the house of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

41 When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

42 And she cried out with a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb!

43 “And how has it happened to me, that the mother of my Lord would come to me?”

44 “For behold, when the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby leaped in my womb for joy.

45 “And blessed is she who believed that there would be a fulfillment of what had been spoken to her by the Lord.”

46 And Mary said: “My soul exalts the Lord,

47 And my spirit has rejoiced in God my Savior.

48 “For He has had regard for the humble state of His bonds slave; For behold, from this time on all generations will count me blessed.

49 “For the Mighty One has done great things for me; And holy is His name.

50 “AND HIS MERCY IS UPON GENERATION AFTER GENERATION TOWARD THOSE WHO FEAR HIM.

51 “He has done mighty deeds with His arm; He has scattered those who were proud in the thoughts of their heart.

52 “He has brought down rulers from their thrones, And has exalted those who were humble.

53 “HE HAS FILLED THE HUNGRY WITH GOOD THINGS; And sent away the rich empty-handed.

54 “He has given help to Israel His servant, In remembrance of His mercy,

55 As He spoke to our fathers, To Abraham and his descendants forever.”

56 And Mary stayed with her about three months, and then returned to her home.

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Shade in *blue* to highlight Mary’s reaction to the words of the shepherds.
2. Draw a *blue* musical note in the margin where praising God occurs (4 x’s).
3. Shade in *red* (with a *red* “P” in the margin) where Mary learns that one day a sword will pierce her soul.
4. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Mary gives birth (*green*) / b. Shepherds see the glory of God (*red*) /
  - c. Shepherds spread the news (*blue*) / d. Jesus presented to God at the Temple (*green*) /
  - e. Simeon prophesies (*red*) / f. Anna prophesies (*red*) / g. Return to Nazareth (*brown*)

**Luke 2:1-40**

1 Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth.

2 This was the first census taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.

3 And everyone was on his way to register for the census, each to his own city.

4 Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the city of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David,

5 in order to register along with Mary, who was engaged to him, and was with child.

6 While they were there, the days were completed for her to give birth.

7 And she gave birth to her firstborn son; and she wrapped Him in cloths, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

8 In the same region there were some shepherds staying out in the fields and keeping watch over their flock by night.

9 And an angel of the Lord suddenly stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them; and they were terribly

frightened.

10 But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be for all the people;  
 11 for today in the city of David there has been born for you a Savior, who is Christ the Lord.  
 12 “This will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger.”  
 13 And suddenly there appeared with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,  
 14 “Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace among men with whom He is pleased.”  
 15 When the angels had gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds began saying to one another, “Let us go straight to Bethlehem then, and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us.”  
 16 So they came in a hurry and found their way to Mary and Joseph, and the baby as He lay in the manger.  
 17 When they had seen this, they made known the statement which had been told them about this Child.  
 18 And all who heard it wondered at the things which were told them by the shepherds.  
 19 But Mary treasured all these things, pondering them in her heart.  
 20 The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen, just as had been told them.  
 21 And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision, His name was then called Jesus, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb.  
 22 And when the days for their purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him up to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord  
 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “EVERY firstborn MALE THAT OPENS THE WOMB SHALL BE CALLED HOLY TO THE LORD”),  
 24 and to offer a sacrifice according to what was said in the Law of the Lord, “A PAIR OF TURTLEDOVES OR TWO YOUNG PIGEONS.”  
 25 And there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Spirit was upon him.  
 26 And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.  
 27 And he came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to carry out for Him the custom of the Law,  
 28 then he took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said,  
 29 “Now Lord, You are releasing Your bond-servant to depart in peace, According to Your word;  
 30 For my eyes have seen Your salvation,  
 31 Which You have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
 32 A LIGHT OF REVELATION TO THE GENTILES, And the glory of Your people Israel.”  
 33 And His father and mother were amazed at the things which were being said about Him.  
 34 And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother, “Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and for a sign to be opposed--  
 35 and a sword will pierce even your own soul--to the end that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”  
 36 And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,  
 37 and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers.  
 38 At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.  
 39 When they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth.  
 40 The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Draw a *red* “P” in the margin where each prophecy is quoted.
2. Draw a *red* star in the margin where the special star is first mentioned.
3. Draw a *blue* gift package in the margin where three gifts are offered.
4. Draw a *red* cloud in the margin where the wise men and Joseph were warned by God (four clouds). Write “dream” inside the clouds.
5. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Wise men visit Mary’s son (*red*) / b. Escape to Egypt (*brown*) / c. Return to Nazareth (*brown*)

**Matthew 2:1-15, 19-23**

1 Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying,  
 2 “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east and have come to worship Him.”

3 When Herod the king heard this, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him.

4 Gathering together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born.

5 They said to him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for this is what has been written by the prophet:

6 ‘AND YOU, BETHLEHEM, LAND OF JUDAH, ARE BY NO MEANS LEAST AMONG THE LEADERS OF JUDAH; FOR OUT OF YOU SHALL COME FORTH A RULER WHO WILL SHEPHERD MY PEOPLE ISRAEL.’”

7 Then Herod secretly called the magi and determined from them the exact time the star appeared.

8 And he sent them to Bethlehem and said, “Go and search carefully for the Child; and when you have found Him, report to me, so that I too may come and worship Him.”

9 After hearing the king, they went their way; and the star, which they had seen in the east, went on before them until it came and stood over the place where the Child was.

10 When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.

11 After coming into the house they saw the Child with Mary His mother; and they fell to the ground and worshiped Him. Then, opening their treasures, they presented to Him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

12 And having been warned by God in a dream not to return to Herod, the magi left for their own country by another way.

13 Now when they had gone, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up! Take the Child and His mother and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is going to search for the Child to destroy Him.”

14 So Joseph got up and took the Child and His mother while it was still night, and left for Egypt.

15 He remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet: “OUT OF EGYPT I CALLED MY SON.”



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 19 But when Herod died, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, and said,

20 “Get up, take the Child and His mother, and go into the land of Israel; for those who sought the Child’s life are dead.”

21 So Joseph got up, took the Child and His mother, and came into the land of Israel.

22 But when he heard that Archelaus was reigning over Judea in place of his father Herod, he was afraid to go there. Then after being warned by God in a dream, he left for the regions of Galilee,

23 and came and lived in a city called Nazareth This was to fulfill what was spoken through the prophets: “He shall be called a Nazarene.”

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Shade in *red* to highlight where Jesus spoke of His responsibility to His Father.
2. Shade in *blue* and circle in *pink* to highlight Mary’s response to Jesus’ words.
3. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Jesus’ family at the Temple (*green*) / b. Return to Nazareth (*brown*)

**Luke 2:41-52**

41 Now His parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover.

42 And when He became twelve, they went up there according to the custom of the Feast;

43 and as they were returning, after spending the full number of days, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents were unaware of it,

44 but supposed Him to be in the caravan, and went a day’s journey; and they began looking for Him among their relatives and acquaintances.

45 When they did not find Him, they returned to Jerusalem looking for Him.

46 Then, after three days they found Him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, both listening to them and asking them questions.

47 And all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers.

48 When they saw Him, they were astonished; and His mother said to Him, “Son, why have You treated us this way? Behold,

Your father and I have been anxiously looking for You.”

49 And He said to them, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”

50 But they did not understand the statement which He had made to them.

51 And He went down with them and came to Nazareth, and He continued in subjection to them; and His mother treasured all these things in her heart.

52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and stature, and in favor with God and men.

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Shade in *blue* to highlight Mary’s confidence in Jesus.
2. Draw a *red* “M” in the margin for the miracle on this occasion.
3. Label the following at the appropriate places in the margin:
  - a. Wedding in Cana (*green*) / b. Jesus first miracle (*red*)

**John 2:1-12**

1 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there;

2 and both Jesus and His disciples were invited to the wedding.

3 When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to Him, “They have no wine.”

4 And Jesus said to her, “Woman, what does that have to do with us? My hour has not yet come.”

5 His mother said to the servants, “Whatever He says to you, do it.”

6 Now there were six stone waterpots set there for the Jewish custom of purification, containing twenty or thirty gallons each.

7 Jesus said to them, “Fill the waterpots with water.” So they filled them up to the brim.

8 And He said to them, “Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter.” So they took it to him.

9 When the headwaiter tasted the water which had become wine, and did not know where it came from (but the servants who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom,

10 and said to him, “Every man serves the good wine first, and when the people have drunk freely, then he serves the poorer wine; but you have kept the good wine until now.”

11 This beginning of His signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

12 After this He went down to Capernaum, He and His mother and His brothers and His disciples; and they stayed there a few days.

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Jesus’ mother and brothers seek Jesus (*green*) / b. Jesus’ (and our) spiritual family (*blue*)

**Matthew 12:46-50**

46 While He was still speaking to the crowds, behold, His mother and brothers were standing outside, seeking to speak to Him.

47 Someone said to Him, “Behold, Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside seeking to speak to You.”

48 But Jesus answered the one who was telling Him and said, “Who is My mother and who are My brothers?”

49 And stretching out His hand toward His disciples, He said, “Behold My mother and My brothers!

50 “For whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven, he is My brother and sister and mother.”

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Mary honors her son (*blue*) / b. Jesus cares for his mother (*red*)

**John 19:25-27**

25 Therefore the soldiers did these things. But standing by the cross of Jesus were His mother, and His mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene.

26 When Jesus then saw His mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing nearby, He said to His mother, “Woman, behold, your son!”

27 Then He said to the disciple, “Behold, your mother!” From that hour the disciple took her into his own household.

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Draw a *red* cloud in the margin. Write inside the cloud, “Ascension.”
2. Draw two *red* wings in the margin where two angels speak.
3. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Jesus Christ ascends into Heaven (*red*) / b. List of apostles (*red*) / c. Mary and Jesus’ brothers present (*green*)

**Acts 1:9-14**

9 And after He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.

10 And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was going, behold, two men in white clothing stood beside them.

11 They also said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven.”

12 Then they returned to Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is near Jerusalem, a Sabbath day’s journey away.

13 When they had entered the city, they went up to the upper room where they were staying; that is, Peter and John and James and Andrew, Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon the Zealot, and Judas the son of James.

14 These all with one mind were continually devoting themselves to prayer, along with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

This lesson is a challenge because there are more Scriptures to mark and the number of questions may seem overwhelming. The secret is to make sure you don’t skip reading and marking the Scriptures!

**Questions:**

1. What is a virgin?
2. Can love develop in an arranged marriage? What needs to be present?
3. Ecclesiastes 3:7 encourages us to recognize there is a \_\_\_\_\_ for silence. In this lesson who was respectful (silent) in the presence of God’s messenger?
4. What is the attitude of those Jehovah lives with? Isaiah 57:15.

Like Mary, we as women must develop this attitude. But how? Keeping Isaiah 64:8 in our hearts will remind us that we are \_\_\_\_\_ and Jehovah is our \_\_\_\_\_ and all of us are the work of His hand.

5. Note what Mary was exposed to: Mary heard the angel Gabriel, learned of the dream of her new husband, listened to the song of Elizabeth, was present when the shepherds told of a host of angels they saw and heard, rejoiced with Simeon and Anna’s recognition of the babe, was amazed at the magi’s recital of their travels—all this concerning her son! What is the phrase in the Scriptures that tells of Mary’s deep reflections, weighing each event and word concerning her special son?



From all that you’ve read concerning Mary, what does she in fact understand concerning her son?

Did her understanding change at any time?

6. Mary had several other sons with her husband Joseph. She was a normal woman who lived a normal life, but she was very blessed. She was only a wife and mother with no direct line to sainthood as the Roman Catholics teach. They even address their prayers to Mary. What is she to you?
7. What was Jesus implying when He said, “Why is it that you were looking for Me? Did you not know that I had to be in My Father’s house?”

8. How do we know Mary and Joseph were good parents? Luke 2:52.

9. What did Jesus call his mother at the wedding?

Was he being disrespectful? (Compare this with what Jesus called His mother when He was on the cross.)

10. What did Jesus remind His mother of when she said, “They have no wine”?



Jesus was helping His mother separate His work from family or human control. Jesus’ words emphasized that He should be in charge of His divine power—and certainly not any human! Mary had to learn to “let go.” Today, when should a mother release her authority over her male children?

Should she “let go” differently with her female children?

11. How can we apply personally Mary’s words, “Whatever He says to you, do it”?

This mother knew her son. She was confident of her son’s love for others and of His divine ability. Since a mother today also needs to know her children’s hearts and abilities, what does she have to do to succeed?

12. Is Jesus disapproving of His mother and brother standing outside wanting to speak to Him? Rather what is He taking the occasion to emphasize? (See also Matthew 10:37.)
13. What painful event did Mary face that no mother should ever have to face? (This was prophesied, a “sword” would pierce her soul.)
14. What law did Jesus fulfill when He said, “Woman, behold, your son!” and “Behold your mother!” Exodus 20:12.

Is there a New Testament scripture that commands us to do the same today?

What does it mean to “honor” our parents?

15. It was a sad day for Mary when her son was crucified as a criminal. She was humiliated to be known as His mother. Or was she?

16. She alone knew with absolute proof that her son Jesus was the only begotten of the Father. She was a \_\_\_\_\_ when the Holy Spirit gave her a son! It is upon this fact that the entire redemption of mankind hangs. Hallelujah!

It is unclear whether Mary witnessed her son's return to His Father in heaven, but she was with the gathering of His disciples in Jerusalem. This is the last time Mary is mentioned in the Scriptures. It is very possible the writers of Jesus' life consulted her memories of a very special son who was only with her for thirty-three years. Throughout her life she is seen to trust her heavenly Father and ultimately to believe His Son would be her Savior. She had a mother's love **and** her faith in God. With a song in her heart she knew the angel's promise was fulfilled.

**At this time I would like to encourage you (student and teacher) to take your *personal Bible* and begin applying your new marking skills directly in your Bible. You may wish to begin by copying some directly from your lessons. Another way to begin is to turn to the scriptures called for by the preacher and mark these. Mark your Bible during your own personal studies. From now on your studies will be more exciting and beneficial. You will become more focused and be able to absorb more important points than ever before. May the Lord bless you in your search for truth and The Truth.**

## MARY & MARTHA – Sisters of Hospitality Chapter 12

Two sisters and a brother lived in Bethany and opened their home to Jesus. It was a quiet little village, just southeast of the Mount of Olives, and only a short walk from Jerusalem. They loved Jesus and he loved them.



**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Shade in *yellow* to highlight Martha's problem.
2. Underline in *blue* to highlight how Mary chose to spend her time.
3. Draw a *blue* arrow to connect “the good part” with Mary's choice.
4. Label the change of subject in the margin: “Martha learns the good part.” (*blue*)

### **Luke 10:38-42**

38 Now as they were traveling along, He entered a village; and a woman named Martha welcomed Him into her home.

39 She had a sister called Mary, who was seated at the Lord's feet, listening to His word.

40 But Martha was distracted with all her preparations; and she came up to Him and said, “Lord, do You not care that my sister has left me to do all the serving alone? Then tell her to help me.”

41 But the Lord answered and said to her, “Martha, Martha, you are worried and bothered about so many things;

42 but only one thing is necessary, for Mary has chosen the good part, which shall not be taken away from her.”

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Shade in *blue* each indication of Mary and Martha's faith in their teacher.
2. Shade in *red* verse 40. Draw a *red* arrow from this verse to where Lazarus is raised from the dead.
3. Draw a *red* arrow from the miracle back to the verse that contains Jesus' claim to be the resurrection and the life.
4. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Lazarus died (*green*) / b. Jesus/Martha (*red*) / c. Jesus/Mary (*red*) / d. Lazarus raised from the dead (*red*)

**John 11:1-7, 17-44**

1 Now a certain man was sick, Lazarus of Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.  
 2 It was the Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment, and wiped His feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was sick.  
 3 So the sisters sent word to Him, saying, "Lord, behold, he whom You love is sick."  
 4 But when Jesus heard this, He said, "This sickness is not to end in death, but for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified by it."  
 5 Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.  
 6 So when He heard that he was sick, He then stayed two days longer in the place where He was.  
 7 Then after this He said to the disciples, "Let us go to Judea again."

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 17 So when Jesus came, He found that he had already been in the tomb four days.  
 18 Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, about two miles off,  
 19 and many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary, to console them concerning their brother.  
 20 Martha therefore, when she heard that Jesus was coming, went to meet Him, but Mary stayed at the house.  
 21 Martha then said to Jesus, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died.  
 22 "Even now I know that whatever You ask of God, God will give You."  
 23 Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."  
 24 Martha said to Him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day."  
 25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies,  
 26 and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"  
 27 She said to Him, "Yes, Lord; I have believed that You are the Christ, the Son of God, even He who comes into the world."  
 28 When she had said this, she went away and called Mary her sister, saying secretly, "The Teacher is here and is calling for you."  
 29 And when she heard it, she got up quickly and was coming to Him.  
 30 Now Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still in the place where Martha met Him.  
 31 Then the Jews who were with her in the house, and consoling her, when they saw that Mary got up quickly and went out, they followed her, supposing that she was going to the tomb to weep there.  
 32 Therefore, when Mary came where Jesus was, she saw Him, and fell at His feet, saying to Him, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."  
 33 When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, He was deeply moved in spirit and was troubled,  
 34 and said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."  
 35 Jesus wept.  
 36 So the Jews were saying, "See how He loved him!"  
 37 But some of them said, "Could not this man, who opened the eyes of the blind man, have kept this man also from dying?"  
 38 So Jesus, again being deeply moved within, came to the tomb. Now it was a cave, and a stone was lying against it.  
 39 Jesus said, "Remove the stone." Martha, the sister of the deceased, said to Him, "Lord, by this time there will be a stench, for he has been dead four days."  
 40 Jesus said to her, "Did I not say to you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?"  
 41 So they removed the stone. Then Jesus raised His eyes, and said, "Father, I thank You that You have heard Me.  
 42 "I knew that You always hear Me; but because of the people standing around I said it, so that they may believe that You sent Me."  
 43 When He had said these things, He cried out with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come forth."  
 44 The man who had died came forth, bound hand and foot with wrappings, and his face was wrapped around with a cloth. Jesus said to them, "Unbind him, and let him go."

**Refer to the "General Instructions" BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Shade in *pink* Martha and Mary's actions. Underline in *blue* to highlight "anointed the feet of Jesus."
2. Shade in *yellow* Judas Iscariot's words which hid his true reason.
3. Draw a *red* arrow from Jesus' words of reproof back to Judas' words.
4. Label the change of subject in the margin: "Mary anoints Jesus." (*blue*)

**John 12:1-8**

1 Jesus, therefore, six days before the Passover, came to Bethany where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.

- 2 So they made Him a supper there, and Martha was serving; but Lazarus was one of those reclining at the table with Him.  
3 Mary then took a pound of very costly perfume of pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped His feet with her hair; and the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.  
4 But Judas Iscariot, one of His disciples, who was intending to betray Him, said,  
5 “Why was this perfume not sold for three hundred denarii and given to poor people?”  
6 Now he said this, not because he was concerned about the poor, but because he was a thief, and as he had the money box, he used to pilfer what was put into it.  
7 Therefore Jesus said, “Let her alone, so that she may keep it for the day of My burial.  
8 “For you always have the poor with you, but you do not always have Me.”

**Questions: Luke 10:38-42**

1. Most people believe Martha was a widow (Luke 10:38) and her brother and sister lived with her. What two interests do Mary and Martha represent on this occasion?
2. “Martha was cumbered about...” (KJV). Cumbered means to be anxious, distraught, distracted, harassed, and pulled in several directions. Martha loved her Lord but she also wanted to please her guests. Jesus’ words seem to indicate that Jesus recognized she got “carried away” with the variety or preparation of food. (In the Greek, “But one thing is needful” refers to Jesus’ previous statement.) What could Martha have chosen to do instead?
3. What does it mean that Mary “sat at Jesus’ feet”?
4. What was the good part that Mary chose?

Is Jesus saying Martha shouldn’t be hospitable?

So if both are approved by God, what should take priority when home concerns conflict with God’s business? Give a personal example.

5. Philippians 4:6 talks about being anxious (see above definition for cumbered). Worrying about areas we can’t control destroys our ability to focus on our goal in the kingdom of God, Psalm 21:4. What concerns should we ask God to carry?

If we pray for them, and then continue to worry, whom do we not trust?

6. Does Jesus place value on women, their needs, and their very souls? John 11.
7. What same statement of faith did both Martha and then Mary declare when they first saw Jesus?
8. What did Martha believe would happen to Lazarus after he died?



9. Who is the resurrection and life?

Do you also believe this?

10. Martha's understanding was not complete. What was Martha concerned about when Jesus wanted to go to the grave?

11. Lazarus' body died. What did not?

What returned to Lazarus' body when he was raised from the dead? James 2:26.

12. Why did Jesus perform this miracle? John 12:1-8.

13. What is Martha now doing?

Is she still concerned that Mary is not helping her?

14. What kind of value did Mary place on her Lord?

“Nard was a liquid perfume distilled from some odorous plant or plants and mingled with oil. It was sealed in flasks or alabaster boxes and imported from the Far East. The cruse seems to have been a long necked flask sealed with wax so tightly as to necessitate it being broken to extract the nard. These flasks were tasteful and costly objects such as women delight to possess. Many of them were so delicate that Pliny compares them to closed rosebuds, and the same writer, speaking of nard, reckons it as an instance of excessive luxury to anoint the feet or ankles with it” – Four-Fold Gospel.

Other women who served Jesus: There were many women who helped Jesus during His ministry here on earth. We are not told many details of their lives, but taken as a whole the women were a wonderful support to Jesus' work. They gave money to help feed Jesus and His disciples, they opened their homes to Him, and they believed in Him. What an impressive list of valued support! Serving is honorable and it is still a necessary way to honor our Lord.

15. Among several women mentioned, a woman named Joanna gave money to feed Jesus and His disciples. She was the wife of \_\_\_\_\_, Luke 8:3. Should a husband and wife be in agreement as to how their finances are spent?

16. Another Mary asked a favor of Jesus, Matthew 20:20-23. What emotions prompted her to speak for her sons?

Did she step outside her responsibilities as a mother?

When should a mother voluntarily release direct responsibility for her sons?

## WOMEN HELD RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR SINS Chapter 13

### Sapphira – Money Became Her God

Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Draw a *blue* line from “of one heart and of one soul” to what it prompted the new Christians to do.
2. Shade in *blue* the praise given to Josés by the apostles.
3. Shade in *yellow* to highlight each mention of Sapphira’s knowledge of “the plan.”
4. Draw a *black* tombstone in the margin for both deaths.
5. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Had all things in common (*green*) / b. Hypocrisy (lying) in the church (*black*)



#### **Acts 4:32-37**

32 And the congregation of those who believed were of one heart and soul; and not one of them claimed that anything belonging to him was his own, but all things were common property to them.

33 And with great power the apostles were giving testimony to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus, and abundant grace was upon them all.

34 For there was not a needy person among them, for all who were owners of land or houses would sell them and bring the proceeds of the sales

35 and lay them at the apostles’ feet, and they would be distributed to each as any had need.

36 Now Joseph, a Levite of Cyprian birth, who was also called Barnabas by the apostles (which translated means Son of Encouragement),

37 and who owned a tract of land, sold it and brought the money and laid it at the apostles’ feet.

#### **Acts 5:1-11**

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property,

2 and kept back some of the price for himself, with his wife’s full knowledge, and bringing a portion of it, he laid it at the apostles’ feet.

3 But Peter said, “Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and to keep back some of the price of the land? 4 “While it remained unsold, did it not remain your own? And after it was sold, was it not under your control? Why is it that you have conceived this deed in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God.”

5 And as he heard these words, Ananias fell down and breathed his last; and great fear came over all who heard of it.

6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter responded to her, “Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?” And she said, “Yes, that was the price.”

9 Then Peter said to her, “Why is it that you have agreed together to put the Spirit of the Lord to the test? Behold, the feet of those who have buried your husband are at the door, and they will carry you out as well.”

10 And immediately she fell at his feet and breathed her last, and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 And great fear came over the whole church, and over all who heard of these things.

#### **Questions:**

1. The church in Jerusalem was brand new. Their love for each other was high, and they shared not only their joy but also their \_\_\_\_\_.

2. Ananias and Sapphira admired the praise many were receiving for their generosity. This couple also loved \_\_\_\_\_. They came up with a plan. They stole from \_\_\_\_\_! (What is consecrated to God must not be given to yourself or others.)
3. Ananias and Sapphira then lied to \_\_\_\_\_ **and** to \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Both \_\_\_\_\_ **and** \_\_\_\_\_ were held accountable (responsible) for lying. Did God give them a chance to repent? \_\_\_\_\_ (This is God's privilege! He taught the church an important lesson on dishonesty [hypocrisy], lying, and stealing that day and for all time.)
5. What kind of impression did their deaths make on the church?
6. Matthew 23:28 describes hypocrisy: "So you, too, outwardly appear righteous to men, but inwardly you are full of \_\_\_\_\_ and lawlessness."
7. A husband has the responsibility to lead his wife and family in righteousness. When he leads them into an area of sinful actions, then the wife and children should \_\_\_\_\_.
8. If you and I love money and nice things, it will confuse us when we have to decide what is right or wrong. Sapphira learned this the hard way. Do you think part of her problem was whether to be in submission to her husband?
9. Ephesians 5:9: (for the fruit of the Light consists in all \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.)

Ananias and Sapphira's sin was a sin against God. Because it was such a monstrous sin, let's look at it again:

1. Ananias and Sapphira sold some property.
2. They both decided to give the money to the church to help those in need.
3. They agreed to keep back part of the money for themselves. They broke their promise.
4. They each told the apostle Peter that they sold the property for a lesser amount than they really did.
5. The apostle Peter told them they had lied to the Holy Spirit of God.
6. God took their lives.

Lying in our hearts is a secret sin, but "God knows our hearts," Psalm 139:1-24. Another way we can describe this is to say God judges the motives of men and women. Hypocrisy—trying to appear as someone we are not—is the sin God will bring forth and judge. Thus we learn that not only our outward actions are known to God, but even the purposes and intents of our hearts are open to Him and thoroughly understood by Him! *Christians must recognize and hate their own hypocritical thoughts and actions, for it will destroy the growth of a congregation.* Sin committed knowingly and without excuse must be cut out and God chose to highlight His displeasure by doing just that in the early days of the church. Even a woman was held responsible to help keep the church pure!

### Euodia and Syntyche – “Be of the Same Mind!”

Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Draw a *red* heart over the word that indicates the apostle Paul’s love for those he wrote to.
2. Circle in *orange* the apostle’s strong pleading words to two women.
3. Underline in *green* all the ones that these two women worked with.
4. Label the change of subject in the margin: “Two women in trouble” (*black*).



#### **Philippians 4:1-4**

1 Therefore, my beloved brethren whom I long to see, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, my beloved.

2 I urge Euodia and I urge Syntyche to live in harmony in the Lord.

3 Indeed, true companion, I ask you also to help these women who have shared my struggle in the cause of the gospel, together with Clement also and the rest of my fellow workers, whose names are in the book of life.

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice!

#### **Questions:**

1. What did Paul beg Euodia and Syntyche to do?
2. What does it mean to be “of the same mind”?

“make my joy complete by being of the same mind, maintaining the same love, united in spirit, intent on one purpose. Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus,” Philippians 2:2-5.

Whatever these two women were in disagreement over, Paul **expected** the two to be reconciled—to be friends and act like sisters in Christ again.

3. Whom did Paul ask to help these two women?
4. In order to be reconciled, what attitudes have to change? Consider also what it means to truly repent and forgive.
5. What might happen if these two women did not settle their problems?
6. Why would it be good to have our names in the “book of Life”? Revelation 3:5.
7. God holds both men **and** women accountable for their \_\_\_\_\_.
8. What did Paul tell **all** of them to do in verse 4? Can they do this if two Christians are not happy?

## WOMEN IN THE 1ST CENTURY CHURCHES

### Chapter 13

#### Dorcas - Full of Good Works

**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Draw a small map in the margin to indicate where Joppa is located.
2. Shade in *blue* to highlight Dorcas’ actions. (Aid given from the heart is recognized and honored by those you help.)
3. Underline in *blue* the two words that tell how much and how often she did her good deeds. (The Greek format for “did” indicates continuous action.)
4. Underline in *blue* each item the widows showed Peter. Draw *blue* lines from each item back to verse 36.
5. Shade in *red* to highlight the miracle. Draw a *red* “M” in the margin beside the miracle.
6. Label the change of subject in the margin: “Tabitha/Dorcas raised from the dead” (*red*).



#### **Acts 9:36-42**

36 Now in Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (which translated in Greek is called Dorcas); this woman was abounding with deeds of kindness and charity which she continually did.

37 And it happened at that time that she fell sick and died; and when they had washed her body, they laid it in an upper room.

38 Since Lydda was near Joppa, the disciples, having heard that Peter was there, sent two men to him, imploring him, “Do not delay in coming to us.”

39 So Peter arose and went with them. When he arrived, they brought him into the upper room; and all the widows stood beside him, weeping and showing all the tunics and garments that Dorcas used to make while she was with them.

40 But Peter sent them all out and knelt down and prayed, and turning to the body, he said, “Tabitha, arise.” And she opened her eyes, and when she saw Peter, she sat up.

41 And he gave her his hand and raised her up; and calling the saints and widows, he presented her alive.

42 It became known all over Joppa, and many believed in the Lord.

#### **Questions:**

1. Dorcas lived in \_\_\_\_\_ which was 34 miles north of Jerusalem on the seacoast. She was full of \_\_\_\_\_. What kind of character does this indicate?
2. What is the difference between charity (as Americans use the word) and giving?
3. When Dorcas died what emotion did the people feel? *Their response is a strong indication that she served others with love!*
4. What did she illustrate in her life? James 1:27.
5. 1 Timothy 2:9-10 says that women who are godly are busy with \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Name some dangers for idle women, 1 Timothy 5:13.
7. What was the response of the town people when Dorcas was raised from the dead?
8. What can *you* do for others in need *right now*?

### Lydia - The Business Woman

Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Draw a small map to indicate the location of the city of Philippi in the margin.
2. Draw a *blue* wavy line under the word “river.”
3. Shade in *blue* to highlight Lydia’s attitude toward God.
4. Shade in *red* to highlight God’s part in her obedience by hearing the gospel.
5. Shade in *blue* to highlight Lydia’s insistence that Paul stay in her house.
6. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Paul in Philippi (*brown*) / b. Lydia’s obedience to God (*blue*)



#### **Acts 16:12-15**

12 and from there to Philippi, which is a leading city of the district of Macedonia, a Roman colony; and we were staying in this city for some days.

13 And on the Sabbath day we went outside the gate to a riverside, where we were supposing that there would be a place of prayer; and we sat down and began speaking to the women who had assembled.

14 A woman named Lydia, from the city of Thyatira, a seller of purple fabrics, a worshiper of God, was listening; and the Lord opened her heart to respond to the things spoken by Paul.

15 And when she and her household had been baptized, she urged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” And she prevailed upon us.

#### **Questions:**

1. Lydia was in \_\_\_\_\_ where she was selling a \_\_\_\_\_ dye taken from a certain kind shellfish found in the Mediterranean Sea. (It was perfectly white while still in the veins of the shellfish, but when exposed to the rays of the sun the dye took on many hues, ranging all the way from purple blues to crimson.)
2. Every Sabbath (Saturday) Lydia and her household \_\_\_\_\_ on the bank of the river. There Paul and Silas found her and taught them \_\_\_\_\_.
3. Offering hospitality is a response of love. What phrase indicates that Lydia insisted that Paul and his companions stay in her home?
4. If a woman is a businesswoman, can she still be in submission to men as God wants her to be? *With an eager spirit, courage, and humility she received the new gospel. She made her decision to be a true Christian without hesitation. She did not think of how it might affect her business. She begged the apostle to accept her hospitality. No doubt Paul and those with him spent many hours strengthening these new Christians. Later she would have heard of the miracle that occurred when Paul and Silas were put in prison. I’m sure she and her household had prayed for the release of these two soldiers of the Lord. Some time later Paul wrote to this same band of Christians—which now included the jailer and his family!—the letter of Philippians (1:3-5).*

### Priscilla - A Godly Wife

Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Priscilla & Aquila working in Corinth (*brown*) / b. Priscilla & Aquila move to Ephesus (*brown*) / c. Priscilla & Aquila taught Apollos (*brown*) / d. Priscilla & Aquila now in Rome, Romans 16:3 (*brown*) / e. Priscilla & Aquila back in Ephesus (*brown*)



2. Draw a small map in the margin to indicate each change of location.

### **Acts 18:1-3, 18-19, 24-28**

1 After these things he left Athens and went to Corinth.

2 And he found a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, having recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had commanded all the Jews to leave Rome. He came to them,

3 and because he was of the same trade, he stayed with them and they were working, for by trade they were tentmakers.

-----  
18 Paul, having remained many days longer, took leave of the brethren and put out to sea for Syria, and with him were Priscilla and Aquila. In Cenchrea he had his hair cut, for he was keeping a vow.

19 They came to Ephesus, and he left them there. Now he himself entered the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

-----  
24 Now a Jew named Apollos, an Alexandrian by birth, an eloquent man, came to Ephesus; and he was mighty in the Scriptures.

25 This man had been instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in spirit, he was speaking and teaching accurately the things concerning Jesus, being acquainted only with the baptism of John;

26 and he began to speak out boldly in the synagogue. But when Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately.

27 And when he wanted to go across to Achaia, the brethren encouraged him and wrote to the disciples to welcome him; and when he had arrived, he greatly helped those who had believed through grace,

28 for he powerfully refuted the Jews in public, demonstrating by the Scriptures that Jesus was the Christ.

### **1 Corinthians 16:19**

19 The churches of Asia greet you. Aquila and Prisca greet you heartily in the Lord, with the church that is in their house.

### **Romans 16:3**

3 Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus,

### **2 Timothy 4:19**

19 Greet Prisca and Aquila, and the household of Onesiphorus.

### **Questions:**

1. Aquila and \_\_\_\_\_ had to leave \_\_\_\_\_ when the Emperor Claudius had all Jews leave the city. The apostle Paul found them in Corinth where he shared their trade of \_\_\_\_\_. Priscilla and Aquila went with \_\_\_\_\_ to Ephesus and there they remained when Paul resumed his travels. The \_\_\_\_\_ met in their home.
2. Whom did Priscilla and Aquila teach?
3. When the emperor died, they returned to \_\_\_\_\_. When Paul wrote to the Christians there he spoke of how they \_\_\_\_\_.
4. What did Priscilla and Aquila share in their marriage?
5. Did Priscilla know the Scriptures?

Where and how did she help teach Apollos?

6. If a woman is not to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence, (1 Timothy 2:12) why do the Scriptures indicate approval of Priscilla teaching Apollos?

*She worked with her husband, managed her home and found time to be a thorough student of the gospel. She made sacrifices to further the gospel and even protected Paul with her own neck on the block. Hospitality was her middle name. Her love of God cast out all fear.*

### **Eunice and Lois - Parents in the Lord**



**Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:**

1. Draw a *red* cross atop the name of the one who died for us.
2. Draw a *red* heart atop the word that describes what Paul felt for Timothy.
3. Shade in *pink* each reference to Timothy’s mother and grandmother.
4. Draw a *red* gift box in the margin where Paul mentions giving Timothy special gifts from God.
5. Shade in *blue* to highlight verses 14-15, the progression of building faith in Jesus Christ.
6. Underline four phrases that indicate this progression. (Clue: see next instruction.)
7. Now number these points 1 through 4 in *blue* above the words: learned, assured, wise, faith.
8. Label each change of subject in the margin:
  - a. Letter to Timothy from Paul (*green*) / b. Parental training (*green*) / c. Don’t be afraid (*orange*) /
  - d. Building faith (*blue*)

#### **2 Timothy 1:1-8**

- 1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,
- 2 To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.
- 3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,
- 4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.
- 5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.
- 6 For this reason I remind you to kindle afresh the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands.
- 7 For God has not given us a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline.
- 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony of our Lord or of me His prisoner, but join with me in suffering for the gospel according to the power of God,

#### **2 Timothy 3:14-15**

- 14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,
- 15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Questions:

*Early in the apostle Paul’s travels to preach the gospel, he met a young man named Timothy. After Paul taught him about Jesus, and Timothy was baptized, Paul invited him to travel and work with him. After many years together, Paul was arrested and put in prison (house arrest) in Rome. Timothy continued to preach. Paul wrote two letters to him, 1 and 2 Timothy.*

1. What words did Paul use to describe how he felt about Timothy?
2. Timothy’s unfeigned (genuine, honest) \_\_\_\_\_ was handed down to him through \_\_\_\_\_ generations: grandmother → mother → son.

3. Training children is an important charge that God has given parents. When is the best time for fathers **and** mothers to begin spiritual training children?
4. What is the advantage of early training? Proverbs 22:6.
5. God described how children should be trained in Deuteronomy 6:6-9. What can we do today to teach our children about God?
6. What is the duty of aged women? Titus 2:3-5.
7. What should be the spiritual influence of grandmothers?
8. How were Lois and Eunice repaid for all of their spiritual teaching and living an honest and sincere faith before the young boy Timothy?

### Phoebe – God’s Servant

Refer to the “General Instructions” BEFORE doing the following:

1. Shade in *blue* to highlight what the apostle Paul calls Phoebe.
2. Label the following in the margin: “Phoebe commended” (*blue*).

#### **Romans 16:1-2**

1 I commend to you our sister Phoebe, who is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea;  
2 that you receive her in the Lord in a manner worthy of the saints, and that you help her in whatever matter she may have need of you; for she herself has also been a helper of many, and of myself as well.



#### **Questions:**

1. It seems \_\_\_\_\_ asked \_\_\_\_\_ to take his letter to the Christians in Rome. She lived in \_\_\_\_\_, and it must have been a hard journey.
2. What three complimentary things did Paul say about Phoebe?
3. How did Paul expect the Christians in Rome to receive her?
4. What responsibilities did Paul put upon the Romans concerning their treatment of Phoebe?

How should one saint treat another saint?

5. Was Phoebe holding a position in the church as a deacon? (*The Greek word for deacon is servant, so the word can be translated deacon or servant.*)

Do we have to have a position in order to serve others?

6. The apostle Paul obviously trusted Phoebe. One who serves another has to act in such a way as to be trusted. How does one *earn* trust?

## Key Points I Learned from Women of the Bible

Fill in these Key Points on completion of each lesson or fill in these Key Points on final completion of **all** the lessons. Refer back to each woman's story to help you fill in this reference tool that can help you create the woman God wants you to be.

**1. Eve** - God's term for woman: \_\_\_\_\_ which means \_\_\_\_\_

Marriage is: \_\_\_\_\_

Eve's sin *did not* begin her submission to \_\_\_\_\_. Neither did Adam's sin create his role of \_\_\_\_\_. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the need for modesty. God holds a \_\_\_\_\_ responsible for her own sins.

**2. Sarah** - Like Sarah, our problems begin when we begin to substitute a better way to do something that God has already \_\_\_\_\_.

The book of 1 Peter says Sarah called her husband \_\_\_\_\_ and we too can be her children if we \_\_\_\_\_. A wife should not obey her husband if \_\_\_\_\_. Motherhood is a wonderful role a woman should desire, for it \_\_\_\_\_ God's plan.

**3. Rebekah** - If we have a \_\_\_\_\_ character like Rebekah's, it will stand us in good stead, until \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Dinah** - Selfish actions cause \_\_\_\_\_. Dinah's story demonstrates the difference between infatuation and \_\_\_\_\_. Customs and guidelines are \_\_\_\_\_.

**5. Miriam** - When a woman rebels against her role, \_\_\_\_\_ does not admire her actions.

**6. Deborah** - Even when a woman is very wise, she must still remain in \_\_\_\_\_.

**7. Ruth** - Like Ruth, when we are \_\_\_\_\_ towards our parents it prepares us for our roles in life.

The choices we make today can affect our eternal \_\_\_\_\_. Ruth's respect for the law indicates that the legal system is available for \_\_\_\_\_ when they are in trouble.

**8. Abigail** - There may come a time when we as wives will need to make a decision to \_\_\_\_\_ our husband which might go against his will. Proverbs 31:12, "She will do him \_\_\_\_\_ and not evil all the days of her life."

**9. Jezebel** - Wives can \_\_\_\_\_ their husbands for good or evil.

**10. Esther** - Facing trials in this life must still be faced as a \_\_\_\_\_, using her abilities and her God-given limitations. Like Queen Esther, we too need to exhibit \_\_\_\_\_ to accomplish whatever is in our hands to do good.

**11. Mary** - Mary, the mother of Jesus, had absolute \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is the Son of God. Jesus is deity and is our \_\_\_\_\_. Over and over Mary “pondered things in her \_\_\_\_\_.”

**12. Mary & Martha** - Mary and Martha opened their \_\_\_\_\_ and their \_\_\_\_\_ to Jesus. We too must choose the \_\_\_\_\_ part.

**13. Sapphira** - The love of \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ will cost us our souls, Revelation 21:8. All men and \_\_\_\_\_ will be held accountable for \_\_\_\_\_.

**14. Euodias & Syntyche** - Paul’s words to these two women are a reminder that we as women can cause the church to \_\_\_\_\_ if we do not love one another as we should.

**15. Dorcas** - Serving others requires our hands and our \_\_\_\_\_.

**16. Lydia** - A good and honest \_\_\_\_\_ will receive the gospel. Even a businesswoman can serve and please \_\_\_\_\_.

**17. Priscilla** - A wife can \_\_\_\_\_ her husband both \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**18. Eunice & Lois** - Being a good \_\_\_\_\_ includes teaching our children about God.

**19. Phoebe** - Paul trusted this woman and expected others to treat her with \_\_\_\_\_ for she was a \_\_\_\_\_ of God.

**May each one of you rejoice in your womanhood, the role God expressly chose for you.**



## Suggested Icons to be Placed in the Margin

Color each icon as suggested and refer to this page as needed. (The first three icon subjects are impressive on the word itself and/or in the margin.)

God (red)

Jesus (red)

Holy Spirit (red)

Eternity (red)

Grace, gift (red)

Angel(s) (red)

Miracle (red)

Love, heart (red – black, if evil)

Judge, judgment, day of the Lord (red)

Parable (red)

Worship, sacrifice (blue)

Prayer, praying, humility (blue)

Man (blue – black, if evil)

Singing, joy, praise (blue)

Key verse in chapter or book (blue)

Important verse for me (blue)

Obedient believer (blue)

Gospel, preaching, sermon (blue)

Repent (blue)

Time (black)

Satan, devil (black)

Battle, war – physical or spiritual (black)

Death – physical or spiritual (black)

Idolatry (black)

Watch, heed, warning (black)

## Inductive Study Method General Instructions



Before a Bible student consults man-made study helps, he should consider the Scriptures first as he lays down the groundwork in his investigation. One method of analysis is to mark the Scriptures using color and “icons” (small drawings in the margin) to highlight and identify information. By marking the Scriptures you can increase your ability to understand and retain what you read and study. It will also help you discover new thoughts and create a new understanding of the writer’s intentions as he was guided by the Holy Spirit.

Tear out this page, cut along the dotted line, and insert it with each lesson as it is studied. First, read the assigned Scriptures located in each lesson. **Before** completing the instructions for specific markings located in the lesson’s special boxes, complete the instructions on this card. Next, complete each lesson’s specific instructions. *Do not skip this stage in your studies!* Gradually this marking skill will develop into a useful tool in your Bible study for the rest of your life. *Use colored pencils for shading. When using a fine-point permanent ink pen in your Bible, make sure the ink does NOT bleed through the special thin paper.* (Check in the drawing department of your craft stores.)

Whatever marking method you can use to help retain the Scriptures in your heart is GOOD – so use it! Careful marking and writing in your Bible is not evidence of dishonoring God, nor is it carelessly handling the book itself.

ALWAYS read the selected passage of Scripture BEFORE you begin marking a passage as described below:

**Deity** – Draw a red triangle atop Deity (God, He) or a red stick-man for the Son of God, or a red cross for the Savior. Shade in red to highlight His words or actions. Write a red “M” in margin for miracles.

**Who are the people key to the event?** – Draw a blue or pink (for man or woman) circle around each name when first mentioned.

**What is happening?** – Shade in green to highlight a change of events, or a new action. Write the general subject in the margin in green.

**When did it happen?** – Draw a black clock (a circle with hands as a backwards “L” for the hands) in the margin where time is indicated. Underline the time phrase.

**Where is it happening?** – Shade in brown to highlight any geographic location of the event.

**How did it happen?** – Shade in orange to highlight what emotions or significant actions that tell why the events unfolded.

**Why is this important to me?** – Shade in blue to highlight a phrase you feel will help you pattern your life in Christ. Draw a simple blue key in the margin for the key verse of the book/chapter.

Sometimes two colors may be called for concerning the same phrase. Simply shade the phrase with the first color and underline the phrase with the second color. *Helpful small drawings (“icons”): heart (love), crown (king), altar (worship), tombstone (death), gift box (grace), sword (war), etc.*

More Bible Study workbooks that you can order from [Spiritbuilding.com](http://Spiritbuilding.com) or your favorite Christian bookstore.

**Inside Out (Carl McMurray)**

*Studying spiritual growth in bite sized pieces*

**Night and Day (Andrew Roberts)**

*Comparing New Testament Christianity and Islam*

**The Lion is the Lamb (Andrew Roberts)**

*A study of the King of Kings, His glorious kingdom, & His promised return*

**Church Discipline (Royce DeBerry)**

*A quarter's study on an important responsibility for the Lord's church*

**Compass Points (Carl McMurray)**

*22 foundation lessons for home studies or new Christians*

**We're Different Because... (Carl McMurray)**

*A workbook on authority and recent church history*

**Communing with the Lord (Matthew Allen)**

*A study of the Lord's Supper & issues surrounding it*

**Parenting Through the Ages (Royce & Cindy DeBerry)**

*Bible principles tested & explained by successful parents*

**Marriage Through the Ages (Royce & Cindy DeBerry)**

*A quarter's study of God's design for this part of our life*

**From Beneath the Altar (Carl McMurray)**

*A workbook commentary on the Book of Revelation*

**1 & 2 Timothy and Titus (Matthew Allen)**

*A commentary workbook on these letters from Paul*

**The Parables, Taking a Deeper Look (Kipp Campbell)**

*A detailed look at our Lord's teaching stories*

**The Minor Prophets, Vol. 1 & 2 (Matthew Allen)**

*Old lessons that speak directly to us today*

**Esteemed of God, Studying the book of Daniel (Carl McMurray)**

*Covering the man as well as the time between the testaments*

**What Should I Do? (Dennis Tucker)**

*A study that seeks Bible answers to life's important questions*

**Faith in Action: Studies in James (Mike Wilson)**

*Bible class workbook and commentary on James*

**Seeking the Sacred (Chad Sychtysz)**

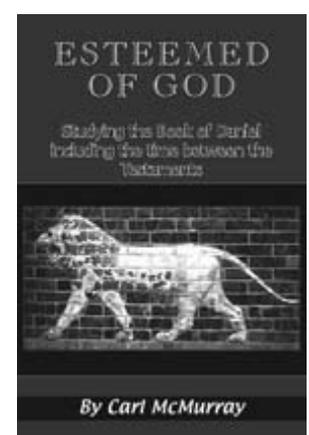
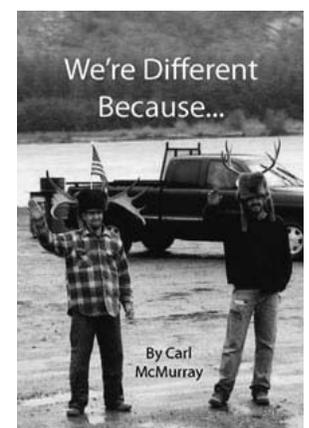
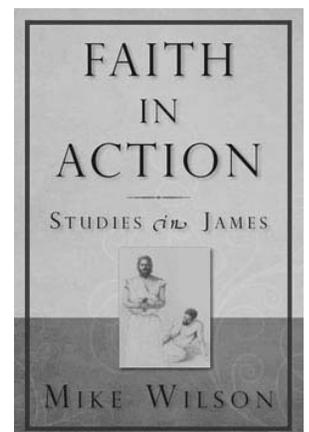
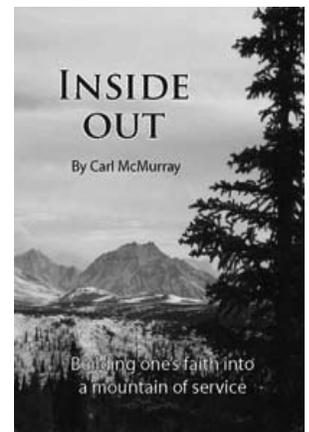
*How to know God the way that HE wants us to know Him*

**1 Corinthians & 2 Corinthians study workbooks (Chad Sychtysz)**

*Detailed studies to take the student through these important letters*

**Living a Spirit Filled Life (Matthew Allen)**

*An overview study of Galatians & Ephesians with practical applications*



**When Opportunity Knocks (Matthew Allen)**

*Lessons on how to meet the J.W./Mormon who knock on your door*

**From Fear to Faith (Matthew Allen)**

*A study to build a greater assurance of personal salvation*

**Behind the Preacher's Door (Warren Berkley, editor)**

*A call to personal purity for preachers & all Christians*

**The AD 70 Doctrine (Morris Bowers)**

*A study of this false and growing doctrine of men*

**I Will NOT Be Lukewarm (Dana Burk)**

*A ladies study on defeating mediocrity*

**Reveal in Me... (Jeanne Sullivan)**

*A study to assist ladies in discovering and developing their talents*

**Will You Wipe My Tears? (Joyce Jamerson)**

*Wisdom & resources to teach us how to help others through sorrow*

**Bridges or Barriers (Cindy DeBerry & Angie Kmitta)**

*Study encouraging harmony with younger/older sisters-in-Christ*

**Learning to Sing at Midnight (Joanne Beckley)**

*A study book about spiritual growth benefiting women of all ages*

**The Path of Peace (Cassandra Givans)**

*Relevant and important topics of study for teens*

**Heading for Harvest (Joyce Jamerson)**

*A study to help ladies digest the fruit of the Spirit*

**Re-charging Your Prayer Life (Lonnie Cruse)**

*Workbook for any woman wanting a richer prayer life*

**The Purity Pursuit (Andrew Roberts)**

*Helping teens achieve purity in all aspects of life*

**Paul's Letter to the Romans (Matthew Allen)**

*Putting righteousness by faith on a young person's level*

**Snapshots, Defining Moments in a Girl's Life (Nicole Sardinas)**

*How to make godly decisions when it really matters*

**Transitions (Ken Weliever)**

*A relevant life study for this changing age group*

**God's Plan for Dating and Marriage (Dennis Tucker)**

*A look at some pitfalls to avoid during dating & a study of marriage*

**Family Bible Study Series (Ken Weliever)**

*A series of 16 quarters of Bible class curriculum ideas*

**AUTISM, In the Eye of the Hurricane (Juli Liske)**

*A family's journey from the shock of an autistic diagnosis to victory*

**For However Brief a Time (Warren Berkley)**

*A son's human interest tales of his father in a time now gone by*

