

**Silent Word Ministries**  
**A TEN YEAR SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM**  
**FOR DEAF MINISTRIES**

**WOMEN**  
**OF THE BIBLE**  
**Series X**

{All Scriptures KJV}

**WRITTEN BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN**



**One Series Contains One Year Of Lessons**  
**Each Series Contains 4 Quarterly Studies**  
**Each Study Contains 12 or More Lessons**

**Study 1 Women of Bible**  
**Study 2 Women of Bible**  
**Study 3 Women of Bible**  
**Study 4 Women of Bible**

**SS10 Women of Bible Series X**

**Introduction**  
**Silent Word Ministries, Inc.**  
~ Since 1966 ~

**Dr. Ted Camp, Founder**  
**Jon Barr, President - Jim Bracelin, Vice President**

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**SWM Publications** also specializes in literature, videos, and Sign Language materials for **Deaf people** and **Deaf ministries**.

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**Silent Word Ministries**  
PO Box 889 - Trenton, Georgia 30752

**We are here to serve!**

# Silent Word Ministries Sunday School Program

## A Ten-Year Sunday School Program For Deaf Ministries

A Systematic, Proven Method to Teach Deaf Classes – Study Groups – Personal Bible Study

**One Series: One Year of Lessons - Includes Four (Quarterly) Bible Studies**

(Recommended: One Series of Lessons for Each Student and Teacher)

### SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM FOR DEAF MINISTRIES

~ Teaching and Training With Bible Principles ~

**One Series = One Year of Lessons  
Includes Four (Quarterly) Bible Studies**

#### Cost Per Series – One Year of Lessons

- [ ] \$3 each
- [ ] \$2.50 each for 10 – 19
- [ ] \$2 each for 20+
- [ ] \$15 for one set of all 10 Series

Insert # Needed in [ ] – Total Order Below

- [ ] SS01 - Beginner Series - 48 Lessons  
*In Beginning - Following Jesus - Bible Say? - Parables*
- [ ] SS02 - Old Testament Series – 48 Lessons  
*People in OT - Kings - Prophets I - Prophets II*
- [ ] SS03 - New Testament Series – 48 Lessons  
*Intro NT - Jesus Christ - 12 Disciples - People NT*
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*Character - Lord Jehovah - Servant - Beginning & End*
- [ ] SS09 – Men of the Bible – 48 Lessons  
*Adam -Joseph -Moses -Gideon -Samson -Elisha -Elisha -Jonah*
- [ ] SS10 – Women of Bible Series – 48 Lessons  
*One year of Bible Lessons written about women by women*

[Check for cost of each series above]

\_\_\_\_\_ Total Order \_\_\_\_\_

(S&H add \$3) - (Add \$5 – 10 or more sets)

# \_\_\_\_\_ X Each \$ \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

+S&H ( )\$3 ( )\$5 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\*Total Order \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Place Orders at [SilentWordMinistries.org](http://SilentWordMinistries.org)

### INTRODUCTION FOR TEACHING PROGRAM

This is a systematic teaching program to help a teacher lead Christians into spiritual maturity. The Bible is the authority and the guidebook. These lessons are not to take the place of the Bible, but are to be used as an aid in teaching the Bible and its principles. It is recommended that each student be given a set of lessons or given only one lesson to study for the coming week. Some topics may require more class time. If they **do not understand**, do not advance until they do **understand**.

Note: Teachers should seek related teaching materials from SWM or other sources.

#### SWM Helps For Teachers

1. How To Teach Deaf People – HT04
2. Christian Growth Series
3. How To Teach Deaf Children – HT05
4. How To Teach Creation – HT03
5. How To Lead A Deaf Ministry – HT02
6. Visuals Lessons For The Deaf – VN1
7. Visual Lessons & Charts – VN2
8. Teaching & Ministering To Deaf – 101 Series

Place Orders at [SilentWordMinistries.org](http://SilentWordMinistries.org)

#### Helpful Suggestions and Guidelines For Teachers

- Be creative. Use your personality and ability.
- Be prepared. Use the blackboard for spelling.
- Teach as if they are learning for the first time.
- Review past lesson before teaching next lesson.
- Maintain eye contact. Deaf listen with their eyes.
- Ask questions, but avoid "yes" or "no" questions.
- Use illustrations, pictures, charts and stories.
- Teach Bible truths with practical applications.
- Use repetition and review past key principles.

**If they don't understand the way you teach,  
then teach the way they understand.**

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## Introduction

### THE TEACHER OF A DEAF MINISTRY

“... They that have not heard shall understand” (Romans 15:21).

“... How can, (know) except some man should guide me?” (Acts 8:31).

“... We know that thou art a teacher come from God” (John 3:2).

The most important position in the deaf ministry is the **teacher**. In the Sunday School class a teacher can sign directly to the deaf in their language and culture. In interpreting you must interpret the English language into the deaf language. A teacher can also use a blackboard, gestures, overheads, and teach until the deaf understand. The Sunday Class is a time to teach and train deaf people into maturity. Always remember that the deaf class is as a mission field, not just another class. Because public schools are not permitted to teach the Bible and many parents never learn Sign Language, you have a great responsibility. Also you are commanded to “**teach them**” the Word of God (Matthew 28:20). No one can grow without the Word of God – No one! (I Peter 2:2).

### How To Teach A Deaf Class

1. Start on time - Stop on time - Be prompt!
2. Keep it exciting - Don't be boring with same routines.
3. Teach the Bible - your opinions mean nothing - It is the Word of God that will change lives not you.
4. Use a planned systematic practical method in teaching. A 4th grade teacher's goal is to promote her class to the 5th grade. System Bible lessons are available from Silent Word Ministries.
5. Plan exciting activities at least once a quarter and on special days. Have one big annual event.
6. Teach the deaf to reach the deaf. Disciple the deaf into maturity. Let your deaf **grow** in the Word of God.
7. Remember, it is a deaf class. Deaf **listen with their eyes** so use **visual** signs, charts, and blackboard,
8. Keep it clear, simple and exciting. Make sure they understand.
9. Build a total ministry for all deaf people in all areas and levels of their life.
10. Build a ministry for families, adults, teens, and juniors.
11. Look for ways to improve, grow and reach all your area. Never stop learning.
12. Be a finisher. Don't stop, quit, or give up! "I have finished my course.." (II Timothy 4:7).

**This teaching program is designed** lead a deaf person into **Christian maturity** through a **systematic Bible program**. The Bible is the authority and the guidebook. These studies are not to take the place of the Bible but are to be used as an aid in teaching the Bible and its principles. **These lessons are written primarily for teaching**, but the lessons can also be used for personal studies. It is recommended **students be given a set of the lessons** for personal study. This is a ten-year teaching program with at least twelve lessons or one quarter of teachings. Your suggestions are welcomed and requested. - **SilentWordMinistries.org**.

### Some Helpful Suggestions and Guidelines

1. Be creative. Use your own personality and ability.
2. Be prepared. Write lesson topics, names, places and Scriptures on blackboard.
3. Teach as if those in the class are learning these principles for the first time.
4. Review the past lesson before teaching the new lesson. Repetition is essential.
5. Maintain eye contact. Remember that deaf people listen with their eyes.
6. Ask questions, but avoid "yes" and "no" questions.
7. Use illustrations, pictures, charts and stories to present the lesson more clearly.
8. Teach Bible truths with personal and practical application for today.
9. Remember that the Bible is the authority. Your opinion has no authority. It is Bible truths that change lives.
10. Prepare a question sheet to take home.

**If they don't understand the way you teach - Then teach the way they understand.**

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**Silent Word Ministries - PO Box 889 - Trenton, Georgia 30752**  
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# THE TEACHER OF A DEAF CLASS

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“How can I (know), except some man should guide me?” (Acts 8:31).  
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The most important position in the deaf ministry is the **teacher of the deaf class**. In the class you can sign directly to the Deaf in their language and their world. In interpreting you must interpret the English language into the deaf language. A teacher can use a blackboard, gestures, overheads, and teach until the deaf understand. The Sunday School class is a time to teach and train deaf people into maturity. Always remember that the Deaf class is as a mission field not just another class. The public schools do not teach the Bible and many parents never learn Sign Language. Because of this responsibly, there should be certain requirements for a teacher.

## The Teacher and Salvation

Are you a Christian? This needs to be answered. To be a good Bible teacher you need to be saved and **know** you are saved. A person who doubts his salvation will be unstable. A person who is not saved will only be teaching from the head and not the heart. The Holy Spirit enlightens you with spiritual truths.

## The Teacher and Self

God can bestow no greater compliment upon you than to place His Book in your hands and call you a **“teacher.”** Remember what you are is God’s gift to you; what you become is your gift to God. As a good teacher you should know **four things**: (1) Yourself, (2) your class, (3) your lesson and (4) how to teach the lesson. Never be content but be willing to continually improve yourself and your signs. Dedicate your hands and heart to the purpose of teaching them the Word of God and Bible principles..

## The Teacher and Spiritual Life

It is very important that the teacher practices a daily time to be alone with God. There is no substitute for prayer and daily devotions with the Lord. Reach God and you will reach your class.

## The Teacher and Success

It is faithfulness that makes you successful. Teaching a deaf class **can** become discouraging and demanding. There will be exciting times when many will be present then the next week only a few.

## The Teacher and Simplicity

It is very important that the Deaf understand what you teach. Keep it clear and simple. Remember, the average Deaf who graduates from school is on about a \*5th grade reading level ( *\*SWM D14 Comparing Education Levels of a Deaf and Hearing Child*). The Deaf are not dumb. Their IQ is the same as the hearing, but there is a communication handicap. Do not teach childishly but teach clearly. Teach so everyone in the class **understands**, not just a certain few. Do not try to be impressive with words or signs. Teach the Word of God.

## The Teacher and Separation

Your students will not become stronger than you. A chain is only as strong as its weakest link. **You** are the greatest lesson you will ever teach. Be a good example. Lay aside every weight, and the sin which can easily beset you (Hebrews 12:1). Just knowing signs is **not** sufficient to be a teacher.

## The Teacher and Stability

It is required of a steward (teacher) that they be found faithful. Be faithful and loyal to the Lord, your pastor and church. The Deaf will follow your example. Keep going no matter what happens. A failure is not someone who fails but someone who quits. Quitters never win and winners never quit! A good soldier may lose a battle but he knows the war is not over. Deaf ministries need stability. Never, never, quit!

## The Teacher and Sincerity

You need to be honest and sincere with the Deaf. You cannot fool them about your love for them. Deaf people read your face and know if you are sincere. A little love can cover a multitude of bad signs. Never teach down to the Deaf or treat adults as though they are kids. Respect them and they will respect you.

## The Teacher and Soul Winning

Remember, the deaf are not obligated to come to your church, but you are commanded to go to them. Many churches provide an interpreting service but do not have a ministry. Seek to evangelize all the deaf in your area. Maintain a good visitation program. Teach and train the Deaf to reach the deaf. Every Deaf person in your area needs to be reached for Christ. If you don’t tell them, who will? “Go ye into **all** the world.” (Includes the Deaf).

# How to Be a Better Teacher

By Ted Camp, SWM

T = Teach the Word  
E = Educate to Next Level  
A = Apply to Daily Life  
C = Communicate until it is understood  
H = Heart reaches heart - Head reaches head  
E = Edify the full person with principles  
R = Reproduce Christians who will also teach others

## Knowledge is Good

“I don’t know what you don’t know. As I teach I learn what you don’t know. Then I can teach you what I know. When I am finished you will know what I know.”

“You cannot teach what you do not know, so you need to know more!  
As you know more - you will grow - and so will others.”

Success of a Teacher - “When a teacher finds a teachable student.”

Teaching is more than telling - Education is more than explaining.  
Learning is more than lessons - Good teaching also involves good training.

## Teaching & Training

Teaching involves information from head to head.  
Training involves instructions from hand to hand.

“I hear...I forget - I see...I remember  
I do...I understand - As I understand...I change.”  
-- Chinese Proverb

You retain only 10% of what you HEAR - 50% of what you SEE - 90% of what you DO.

## Common Sense Teaching Rules

Don’t teach someone else’s lesson from just your head to other heads.  
Teach something you know, feel in your heart and have done.  
The pupils will know what you know, feel and relate to what you do.  
If it works for you it will work for them.  
Your life is your greatest teacher and example.

## Suggestions For Teaching

1. What you teach will help mold a child for a lifetime.
  2. A child will never depart from his teachings.
  3. You must begin at the level of the students.
  4. You must advance from the known to the unknown.
  5. You must assume that each student can learn and will improve.
  6. You should teach to the level of the student.
  7. You should help each student to go to the next level.
- Remember, the student also learns from your actions.

## Suggestions For Lessons

1. Prepare well - Organize your lesson carefully.
2. Teach to the level of the class before you.
3. Don’t try to present too much.
4. You are successful if one major principle is understood.
5. Develop a plan and direction to teach your subject.
6. Vary your methods from lecture to leisure - From subject to storytelling.
7. Emphasize and reteach important points.

Conclusion: Review before you begin the next lesson.

“If they don’t understand the way you sign – Then sign the way they understand.”  
“If they don’t understand the way you teach – Then teach the way they understand.”

# Introduction

## Woman in the Bible

By  
Dr. Lewis Sperry Chafer

### Teacher Helps

The **origin** of woman is given in Genesis 1:27 and 2:21-22,  
the **reason** for her creation in Genesis 2:18.

1. **WOMAN'S RELATIONSHIP TO MAN** - Woman is included in the doctrine of man in the generic sense, and furthermore both sinned in Adam's fall. She is not to be considered as less important than man, but only as a different form of human creation from him.
2. **WOMEN IN THE OLD TESTAMENT** - Israel's women were honored above those of other nations, as may be learned from the commandment "**Honour thy . . . mother.**" Considerable significance attaches to the great characters and names of many Old Testament women like Sarah, Rebekah, Rachel, Miriam, Deborah, Hannah, Esther, Ruth, etc.

### Some Outstanding Old Testament Women

Eve, Sarah, Rebekah, Naomi, Ruth, Hannah, Esther, Deborah, Rachel, etc.

3. **WOMEN IN THE NEW TESTAMENT** - According to the New Testament the woman's place in relation to man calls for precise adjustment and recognition. Woman, as her position has been defined by the Scriptures, is in great peril when out of her sphere, which never becomes that of leadership.

### Some Outstanding New Testament Women

Elizabeth, Mary the mother of Christ, the other Marys, Lydia, Priscilla, etc.

# ***WOMEN OF THE BIBLE Series X***

***WRITTEN BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN***



**One Series = One Year  
{All Scriptures KJV}**

**One Study Contains 12 Lessons or more**

## **Study One**

# ***WOMEN OF THE BIBLE I***

**SS10 Women of Bible Series X**



# ABIGAIL

## Lesson One

### "Beauty and Brains"

Scripture Reference: I Samuel 25:1-42

Abigail means "the father is joyful."

**Introduction** - Abigail is described as a woman of good understanding and of a beautiful countenance (I Samuel 25:3). Abigail was intelligent, attractive and wise. She knew and loved God. She tried to do right and be a good woman. She used her "**beauty and brains**" for good. She was a wise beautiful woman who tried to do right at all times.



**THE WRONG DECISION** (I Samuel 25:2) - The custom was for parents to choose the marriage partner for their children. Nabal came from the family of Caleb, which was of the tribe of Judah (Numbers 13:6). Because Nabal came from a Godly family and was rich, the parents thought he would be a good husband for Abigail. The name **Nabal** means **fool**. He was churlish (rude and mean) and evil in his doings. He became a drunken man who wasted his life. He forgot God and did not see the good things he possessed. He was selfish and only lived to fulfill his desires and lusts. He made the wrong decision. Nabal and his servants were in the fields shearing their sheep. At this time, David was hiding from King Saul because the king wanted to kill him. Six-hundred men (I Samuel 25:13) followed David. While in the wilderness, David's men had helped Nabal's servants in protecting them. Now, David's men were hungry, so David sent 10 young men to Nabal to ask for food. As the young men greeted Nabal, they were answered with angry words. Nabal refused to share any food. He was selfish and said, "My bread, my water, my flesh (meat)." He made the wrong decision. A bad decision will lead you in the wrong way and a right decision will lead you in the right way.

**THE WOEFUL DANGER** (1 Samuel 25:13) - When David heard the report, he ordered every man to prepare for battle. They were ready to kill all the household of Nabal. One of the servants told Abigail all that had happened. Abigail quickly prepared enough food for David and his men, hoping to reach David before the slaughter (killing) began. The donkeys were loaded with bread, bottles of wine, roast sheep, roast corn, raisins and figs. Abigail did not tell her husband, Nabal, what she was planning to do. Abigail met David, bowed down and honored him, asking forgiveness for the actions of her wicked husband. She used her beauty and brains and was able to persuade David **not** to kill her husband. She was a good, faithful wife to her husband.

**THE WONDERFUL DELIVERANCE** (I Samuel 25:36-37) - When Abigail arrived at home, Nabal was having a drunken party. Abigail waited until morning to tell Nabal how she had saved their lives. Nabal was shocked! His heart died within him, and he became as a stone. Ten days later he died. His bitterness and wealth could not help him now! David heard the news of Nabal's death, and he sent servants to bring Abigail to him. David and Abigail were married. The Lord rewarded Abigail for her faithfulness. She became the wife of King David. The Lord will repay! (Romans 12:19-21).

**A Thought to Remember:** Stay faithful to God no matter what happens. God will take care of the problems in **His Way** and at **His Time**. You **can trust God** to do what is best! God is too kind to do bad and too wise to do wrong. He will do what is right for you.

**Lesson to Learn:** Why was Abigail a **wise woman**? Talk and discuss this with the class. She did not think first of herself but others. She did right even though her husband was wrong. She did what she could no matter what happened. She tried to do right!

**Do right no matter what happens!**

# ANNA

## Lesson Two

### "Aged Prophetess"

Scripture Reference: Luke 2:36-38

Anna means "favored one" or "grace"

Introduction – Anna was the daughter of Phanuel, which means "**the face or appearance of God.**" She was a prophetess, not a preacher. She would tell others about God and His Will. Many women in the Bible were used to teach, witness or speak the things of God. There is much wisdom to be learned from old age and experience.

**THE PATIENT WIDOW** - Anna was married for only 7 years. **She was a widow for 84 years.** The law required that **widows** (without husbands) be treated kindly and taken care of. Anna fulfilled the requirements of being a **widow indeed** (I Timothy 5:9-10).



1. More than 60 years old.
2. Married only once.
3. Known for good works.
4. Reared children.
5. Lodged strangers.
6. Washed the feet of travelers.
7. Helped the afflicted and troubled.
8. Faithfully followed God.

Anna's age was a crown of glory (Proverbs 16:31). No doubt, Anna was lonely at times, but she just trusted in the Lord all the more (I Timothy 5:5). The Lord has a special care for widows (Exodus 22:22; Psalm 146:9; James 1:27).

**THE PRAYING WOMAN** (Luke 2:37) - Anna lived a life of Godly self-control. She departed **not** from the temple but faithfully served the Lord with fasting and prayers night and day. Anna not only prayed in private, but also joined with others in the temple to pray. Anna was at peace with God and it showed on her face. People were attracted to her, and she was always ready to share the love of God with them. Anna had given her life completely to the Lord. She was able to comfort and encourage people when they came to the temple.

**THE PROMISED WORD** - Anna was a prophetess who taught the Word of God. She was looking and waiting for the coming Messiah. When Anna saw the baby Jesus as Mary and Joseph brought him to the temple, it was revealed to Anna that this Jesus was the promised Messiah. Anna praised the Lord! She was so thankful that God had answered her prayers to see the Messiah before she died. Anna told the **Good News** to all that Jesus was the **Redeemer of Israel**. Anna became the first female to proclaim Jesus as Christ. Anna continued praying and praising God to the end of her life. She was a widow but she was greatly used of God.

**A THOUGHT TO REMEMBER:** When God blesses you or you learn a good lesson of life, share the **Good News** with others. No matter your age, you need to be faithful to God. You do not retire in the work of God. You can always depend upon and trust the Word of God.

**Lesson to Learn:** Discuss the wisdom of Anna. Where does wisdom come from? Wisdom comes from God and understanding comes from life. Some of the greatest lessons are learned from life and experience. Never stop learning!

**If you are not learning, then you are not living.**

# DEBORAH

## Lesson Three

### "Brave Leader"

**Scripture Reference: Judges 4:1-24; 5:1-31**

**Deborah** means "a bee" - A honey bee to friends but a stinging bee to enemies.



**THE HOLY PROPHETESS** (Judges 5:7) - Deborah, wife of Lapidoth, was a prophetess and judge of Israel. She had great leadership qualities and a great faith. Deborah was a divinely appointed deliverer and leader of Israel. She dwelt under a palm tree where the people of Israel came to ask for advice. Deborah was honored to be known as a "**mother of Israel.**" For twenty years, the Israelites were greatly oppressed by the Canaanites. The captain of the army of the enemy had 900 chariots of iron, and the Israelites felt they could not win against such strength. The Lord assured Deborah that He (the Lord) would win the victory for Israel. Deborah helped bring the nation from its despair and encouraged them to help themselves, because the Lord was on their side. She called Barak, the captain of the army to make plans for the battle. God had instructed them to go to battle with ten thousand men (Judges 4:6,7). Barak knew the value of Deborah's counsel and asked her to go to war with the army of Israel. Deborah predicted that Sisera, captain of the Canaanite army, would be killed by a woman (Judges 4:8,9). Deborah was a wise and brave woman whose courage came from God.

**THE HELP PROVIDED** (Judges 4:14-16) - "And Deborah said unto Barak, Up; for this is the day in which the Lord hath delivered Sisera into thine hand." Because of Deborah's prophesy, the army of Israel went to battle against the wicked Sisera. The Lord fought the battle for the Israelites as Deborah prophesied. The Lord sent a bad storm (Judges 5:20,21). The flood waters turned the plain into a place of mud (Judges 5:4-5). Barak and the army of Israel pursued (chased) after the chariots of the Canaanites. Because of the mud, the chariots were stuck so Barak and his men caught the Canaanite soldiers and killed them all except for Sisera (Judges 4:17-22). Sisera ran from Barak and sought safety from a friend, Heber. Heber's wife, Jael, gave Sisera milk to drink and a place to rest. Sisera thought he was safe but while he slept, Jael took a large nail of the tent, and with a hammer drove the nail (tent pin) into Sisera's temples (his head). The nail was so long that it went through the head and fastened into the ground. Sisera died. Barak, who was chasing Sisera, came to Jael's tent. She showed him what she had done to Sisera, and Barak spared their lives. God defeated the army of Canaan as Deborah prophesied (Judges 23-24). We learn that God can fight our battles.

**THE HAPPY PRAISE** (Judges 5:2) - "Praise ye the Lord for the avenging (victory) of Israel, when the people willingly offered themselves." Not only was Deborah a prophetess, she was also a poetess. After the battle, Deborah and Barak sang praises to God. They rehearsed how God had won the victory for Israel for His glory and honor. They blessed Jael who had killed Sisera. It was a shame for a brave strong soldier to be killed by a woman, but this was God's plan to defeat the enemy. Israel now had rest from the enemy for 40 years.

**A Thought to Remember:** Use your talents for the Lord! When we obey the Lord, He will give the victory for His glory and honor! "**But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ**" (I Corinthians 15:57).

**Lesson to Learn** - Discuss how Deborah used Godly wisdom. Deborah was not a prophetess who preached, but prophesied the future for God. God used her to bring victory to His people. Discuss how women can be used in the ministry. **One Godly woman** can make a difference in the home and ministry. Who you are is more important that what you are! No one can replace you!

# DORCAS

## Lesson Four

### "Famous Dressmaker"

#### Scripture Reference: Acts 9:36-43

**Dorcas** means **gazelle** (a gentle deer) - an emblem of beauty.

Dorcas was her Greek name. Her Hebrew name was Tabitha.

Dorcas was **wise** to simply do **what she could** for God.

**THE SKILLED SEAMSTRESS** (Acts 9:36) - Dorcas was a believer who lived at Joppa, which was about 35 miles from Jerusalem. Joppa was the seaport for that region. Dorcas was known for her good works and kind deeds. The word "almsdeeds" means works of mercy. Dorcas was very skillful in using the needle and thread. She was content to stay at home and use her talent of sewing for the Lord. She rejoiced in her ability to serve God. She used her needle for the Lord. She did what she could. God never asks you to do something that you cannot do. Do you do what you can?



**THE SHARING SERVANT** (Titus 3:8) - From the room where Dorcas did her sewing, she could see the poor and needy people pass by her door. She had great compassion on the fatherless and widows. Dorcas knew what she could do and she did it. She made coats and garments for the ones in need. Dorcas had a loving heart and giving hands. The Lord supplied for Dorcas as she willingly gave to the poor. As Dorcas shared the garments she made, she also shared Christ. People knew she was a true believer. "I will shew thee my faith by my works" (James 2:18b). In the midst of a busy and useful life, Dorcas became sick and died. The ones that she had helped now washed her body in preparation for burial and laid her body in an upper room. Perhaps this was the room in which Dorcas sewed and made the garments. Some of the believers that were there knew that Peter was preaching in Lydda, a town near Joppa. Two men were sent to Peter to ask him to please come quickly. When Peter arrived, they led him to the upper room. There the widows showed Peter the coats and garments Dorcas had made for them. They missed Dorcas and mourned (wept) for her. Peter asked everyone to leave the room.

**THE SERVING SAINT** (Acts 9:40) - Peter knelt and prayed to the Heavenly Father. Then arising, he spoke to the dead body and said, "**Tabitha, arise.**" (Peter used her Hebrew name.) She opened her eyes, saw Peter and sat up. Peter helped Dorcas stand up. Peter then called the mourners to come and see what God had done. The people were so glad to see Dorcas alive again. They were comforted. Dorcas could now return to her life of showing compassion and mercy on the poor and needy. Many others believed in the Lord when they saw the miraculous power on the life of Dorcas. A changed life attracts others to the Saviour. "**And it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord**" (Acts 9:42).

**A Thought to Remember** - What opportunities do you have? Use your talents and opportunities to do **all the good** you can in **all the ways** you can. Your life will be a blessing to others, and God will be glorified. "Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto **one of the least** of these My brethren, ye have done it unto Me" (Matthew 25:40b).

**Lesson to Learn** - God only wants you to do **what you can**. God did not ask Dorcas to build an ark because she did not have the ability to build an ark. Not every person is called to be a missionary, but God can use every person. God can use deaf ladies. Name some things you **cannot** do. Name some things you **can** do. When life is over, the Lord will say, "Well done my good and faithful servant."

**Everyone can be a good servant.**

# ELISABETH

## Lesson Five

### "A Son in Old Age"

**Scripture Reference: Luke 1:5-80**

**Elisabeth means God is my oath.**



Elisabeth was from the family of Aaron. Elisabeth was the wife of Zacharias, the priest. Elisabeth was a **wise woman** who learned to **depend upon God**.

**THE GODLY COUPLE** - Both Zacharias and Elisabeth were righteous before God. They followed the law. They obeyed God in all ways. Every Jewish woman wanted the blessing of being the mother of the **promised Messiah**. Zacharias and Elisabeth had prayed many years for a child and now it looked hopeless because they were old in years. Though disappointed, still they continued serving the Lord faithfully. Learn to keep going no matter what happens! Do not give up!

**THE GREAT COMMAND** - Zacharias was burning incense before the Lord in the temple. The angel, Gabriel, appeared to him. The angel told Zacharias their prayers had been heard and Elisabeth would have a baby boy. The name of the baby would be John. Then the angel assured Zacharias they would have joy and gladness and many would rejoice at the birth of John. God commanded that the child would be special and prepare the way for the coming Lord (Luke 1:13-17). The child would be filled with the Holy Ghost from his mother's womb. The commands of God are always true and faithful. He promised a son to be born. Zacharias was amazed and unable to fully believe the words of the angel. Therefore, Zacharias became dumb (mute - could not speak) until after the birth of John.

**THE GODLY CHILD** - The angel, Gabriel, appeared to the Virgin Mary and told her she would be the mother of the Son of God (Jesus). The angel also told Mary that her cousin Elisabeth was going to have a baby. With God all things are possible (Luke 1:37). Mary went to visit Elisabeth. As soon as Elisabeth heard the voice of Mary, the baby in her womb leaped as if to welcome the baby that Mary would have. Elisabeth and the baby were both affected by the Holy Ghost (Spirit). Elisabeth honored Mary by calling her "The mother of my Lord." Elisabeth was not jealous of Mary, but showed deep respect and love to Mary (Titus 2:3-5). They rejoiced together at what God was doing in their lives. After about three months, Mary returned to her own home. Elisabeth gave birth to a baby boy. When the baby was taken to the temple, the people wanted to name him Zacharias, the same as his father. Elisabeth said "No," his name is **John**. Then Zacharias, who was still mute (could not speak), wrote on a writing tablet and said, "His name is John." Immediately Zacharias could speak again. He praised God for His goodness (Luke 1:57-66). **Zacharias and Elisabeth** were privileged to be the parents of **John the Baptist**.

**A Thought to Remember** - If your prayers are not answered quickly, just keep on praying. God hears, and He will answer in His time and in His way. Do not give up! With God all things are possible (Luke 1:37)!

**Lesson to Learn** - This lesson teaches that **all things** are possible with God. There is no prayer, person, or problem that is too hard for God. All things mean all things. Do you have a problem or personal need in your life? Have you asked God to help?

"I can do **all things** through Christ."  
- Philippians 4:13

**Take your burden to the Lord and leave it there.**

# HANNAH

## Lesson Six

### "Prayerful Mother"

Scripture Reference: I Samuel 1:1-28; I Samuel 2:1-11, 18-21

**"Hannah"** means **"grace or favor."**

She used wisdom in seeking God for her needs.

**THE PRAYING WIFE** (I Samuel 1:4-7) - Elkanah had two wives, Hannah and Peninnah, but Hannah was his favorite. Each year when the family went to the temple, Elkanah gave to Peninnah and her children portions of food, but to Hannah, he gave a double portion. Elkanah truly loved Hannah, but she had no children. Peninnah was very unkind and said cruel words to Hannah, because she was barren. These words filled Hannah with sorrow and she wept and did not eat. Elkanah, the husband, tried to comfort Hannah, but this was a situation that only God could help with. Hannah was a godly woman and she prayed for a son. With a broken heart, Hannah knelt before the Lord in the temple (I Samuel 1:10,11). Three times Hannah used the word **handmaid** showing humility, submission, and dependence on God. Hannah made a vow (promise) that if God would give her a son, she would give him to the Lord all the days of his life. The old priest, Eli, saw Hannah and thought she was drunk because her lips moved but no voice was heard (I Sam. 1:13-16). Hannah explained she was a woman of a sorrowful spirit, and had poured out her troubles before the Lord (Psalm 19:14). The priest encouraged her by saying the Lord would bless her (I Samuel 1:17).



**THE PROUD MOTHER** - God answered Hannah's prayer (I Samuel 1:19,20) and gave her a son. She named the baby "Samuel" saying, "Because I have asked him of the Lord." Hannah did not go to the temple for several years because she wanted to wean the child first. When she took the child to the temple, she gave Samuel to the priest, Eli. This child, Hannah told the priest is the answer to my prayer, and he shall serve the Lord all the days of his life. Each year Hannah made a little coat for Samuel and brought it to him when they went to the temple for the yearly sacrifice. God blessed Elkanah and Hannah with three more sons and two daughters (I Samuel 2:19-21).

**THE PLEASING WOMAN** (I Samuel 2:1-11) - Hannah gave a prayer of rejoicing. This shows a very spiritual woman. She praised God for power, holiness, knowledge and grace. Hannah had learned to pray in good times and bad times, in joy or affliction. Her first prayer was in bitterness and sorrow of soul. Now in this prayer Hannah rejoiced and praised God for victory. Samuel became a man of prayer and a great prophet. He had a great teacher, Hannah, his mother. Hannah pleased God as a wife, mother and woman.

**A Thought to Remember** - Pray to God about everything in your life! He cares and understands about all of our needs and heart's desires. "The Lord is far from the wicked; but he heareth the prayer of the righteous" (Proverbs 15:29). It is important to please God as a woman, wife and mother. Be balanced in all three ways of your life as a woman, wife and mother.

**Lesson to Learn** - Discuss prayer. Will God hear the prayers of a woman? Has God answered your prayers? Are there some things that you are praying for now? Do you have a prayer list? Have you asked others to help you in prayer? Remember, "ye have not because ye ask no." (James 4:2). "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Matthew 7:7). Don't stop asking, seeking and knocking. Keep praying until God tells you **yes** or **no**.

**Because Hannah prayed, a nation was changed and blessed.**

# LYDIA

## Lesson Seven

### "Wise in Business"

Scripture Reference: Acts 16:12-15, 40; Philippians 1:1-11

Lydia means **Bending**.

Some scholars think she was called the "Lydian," after the city of **Lydia**. She was a woman wise in business and doing things outside the home. She used her time and energy very wisely.



**A BUSINESS WOMAN** - Although **Lydia** was from the city of Thyatira, she was a successful business woman in the prosperous city of Philippi. This area was famous for purple dye which was used to make beautiful garments. Purple was an expensive dye extracted from the mollusk (a shell-fish). The shell was crushed to give forth the fluid that would turn purple when exposed to air. Only the very rich could wear clothing of purple because it was so expensive. The wearing of purple was associated with royalty. She sold the expensive dye to color clothing. She was a wealthy person, but that did not fully satisfy her heart.

**A BUSY WOMAN** - Lydia was religious and worshipped God, but she was not a Christian. A group of women met on the Sabbath for prayer. They met by the river, away from the noise and busyness of the city. Paul and Silas were in the city for a few days and they went to the prayer meeting. As Paul taught about Jesus Christ, the Lord touched the heart of Lydia and she understood about salvation. Her faith came through hearing the Word of God (Psalm 119:130; Romans 10:17). Lydia and her household were baptized (Acts 16:15). Lydia shared the "Good News" of the Gospel with those living in her house (probably her helpers and servants), and they likewise believed and were baptized. This speaks well for Lydia's character that her servants would respect Lydia's decision and follow her. Lydia was always busy for the Lord.

**A BLESSED WOMAN** - Lydia was Paul's first convert in Europe. Since Lydia had opened her heart to the Lord, she was ready to open her home to the missionaries (1 Peter 4:9). Lydia showed her love in gracious hospitality (Acts 16:15). After Paul and Silas were released from prison, they were welcomed in the house of Lydia (Acts 16:40; Hebrews 13:2). Lydia's home became the center of Christian fellowship in Philippi, the most important city of the area. Perhaps the first Christian church of Philippi started in the home of Lydia. In Romans 12:11 we read, "Not slothful (lazy) in business, fervent (enthusiastic) in spirit, serving the Lord." Lydia's life was a good example of this verse. Paul was thankful for Lydia and the **hospitality** she showed (Philippians 1:1-7). She was blessed because she knew how to use her time wisely. She was a successful business woman, but she also had time for God and others. She had the right priorities and goals in life.

**A Thought to Remember** - God loves a "caring and sharing" attitude. Lydia shared the Gospel with those around her and shared her **goods** or **possessions** with God's servants. Anything we do for the Lord will be rewarded, and what we do for others will be remembered.

**Lesson to Learn** - Don't waste your time, but use it wisely. What is your daily routine? Is your home neat and clean? Do you perform your duties as a wife and mother before you get involved in outside activities? What are your priorities? It is important to be balanced in all areas of your life. It is good to schedule and plan your life and not forget your priorities. Lydia was a Christian woman who organized her life to serve the Lord.

**What are your priorities in life?**

# MARY

## Lesson Eight

### "Honored Among All Women"

**Scripture References:** Matthew 1:18-25; 2:1-23; Luke 1:26-56; 2:1-52; John 19:25-27; Acts 1:13,14

#### Mary means "bitterness."



Mary's name was perhaps a prediction of the sorrow that she would endure in her life. Mary used wisdom to be silent and listen to God. She fully trusted in the Lord with all her heart, mind and soul. She was not a woman to be put **above** other women, but she was a great woman **among** women.

**MARY THE VIRGIN** - In Isaiah 7:14, we read, "**Therefore the Lord himself shall give a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.**" Mary was the virgin that God had chosen. Mary was

from the tribe (family) of Judah, being a descendant of King David. Mary was poor in material things but rich toward God. She had knowledge of the Old Testament and the promises and prophecies concerning the coming Messiah. Mary lived a holy life. God knew Mary would NOT become proud because she gave birth to the Saviour of the world. Mary was just right for the Master's use. Mary was espoused (engaged) to a carpenter named Joseph. Before they were married, a very special thing happened. Something that would test Joseph's love and trust for Mary.

**MARY THE VESSEL** - The angel, **Gabriel**, was sent by God to tell Mary she was blessed among women. God had chosen Mary to be the mother of Jesus, the Son of God (Luke 1:30-33). Mary did not understand how this could be, since she was a virgin and had not slept with a man. The angel told her the child would be conceived by the Holy Ghost (Spirit) (Luke 1:34,35). Mary could not comprehend all this, but she was humble and accepted God's will for her life (Luke 1:37, 38). Mary had to share the news with Joseph. While Joseph was considering what to do, the angel of the Lord came to Joseph and revealed the special event that was about to happen (Matthew 2:18-25). Mary gave birth to Jesus in humble surroundings (Luke 2:1-20). After the angels announced the birth of Jesus to the shepherds, they came to worship the Christ-child. Mary remembered all the words said and pondered (thought about - meditated) them in her heart. Mary rejoiced in the greatness and goodness of God. Mary not only gave birth to Jesus but gave him a home. Joseph and Mary taught him in the things of God. As a child, Jesus obeyed Mary and Joseph (Luke 2:51, 52). Mary was a vessel used of God.

**MARY THE VOLUNTEER** - Mary and Joseph did not fully understand all that would happen (Luke 2:48-50). Jesus knew he came into the world to die on the cross for our sins. When Jesus was brought as a baby to the temple for circumcision, Simeon predicted to Mary, "**A sword shall pierce through thy own soul also**" (Luke 2:35). Mary's deepest sorrow was when she stood beneath the old rugged cross and watched Jesus die. Although Mary was the mother of Jesus, her beloved son, she did **not** interfere with the plan of God. The last glimpse we have of Mary is her praying with other believers in the upper room (Acts 1:12-14). She volunteered her life as a vessel to be used for God.

**A Thought to Remember** - Maybe you had your life all planned and circumstances came to change your goals. Don't become bitter but be **submissive** to God's will for your life. God knows what is best for you. With God all things are possible (Luke 1:37).

**Lesson to Learn** - God used common places and people to bring His Son into the world. He used a humble woman instead of a princess; a simple manger instead of a mansion; a small city, Jerusalem, instead of Rome. God can do extraordinary things with ordinary people. **God can use you!**



# **PRISCILLA**

## Lesson Nine

### **"An Effective Teacher"**

**Scripture Reference:** Acts 18:1-3; 18-21; 24-28; Romans 16:3- 4; I Corinthians 16:19

**Priscilla means worthy or honorable.**

Priscilla was a woman wise in many ways of life as a wife, homemaker, hostess, teacher and friend.



**ONENESS IN MARRIAGE** - Priscilla was the wife of a Jewish Christian named Aquila. They are always mentioned together in the Bible. Priscilla and Aquila were partners in faithful service. They were united with the same spiritual values in life. They knew the experience of God's saving power, and shared and taught it to others. Aquila and Priscilla worked together in harmony. They had great knowledge of the Scriptures and taught well.

**ONENESS IN MINISTRY** - Paul first met Aquila and Priscilla in Corinth. They learned to love Paul. They were all tentmakers. Paul stayed and worked with Aquila and Priscilla for awhile (Acts 18:3). While there, Paul preached to the Jews in the Synagogue. He preached that Jesus was the Christ. The Jews did not accept this preaching of Christ. Paul shook his garment and said, "From now on, I will preach to the Gentiles" (Matthew 10:11-15; Acts 13:44-52). Later, Paul left Corinth and sailed to Ephesus, taking Aquila and Priscilla with him. While Paul continued on his journey towards Jerusalem, Aquila and Priscilla stayed in Ephesus.

**ONENESS IN MENTORING** - An educated Jew named Apollos came to Ephesus (Acts 18:24, 25). Although he was much learned in the Scripture and spoke with enthusiasm, he did not fully understand that Jesus was the Christ. Apollos knew only the baptism of John. After hearing Apollos speak, Priscilla and Aquila took Apollos aside and explained the Word of God to him more clearly (Acts 18:26). In a quiet humble way, they taught Apollos about salvation through the cross. They taught him about living the Christian life and they explained truth of the crucified, risen and glorified Saviour. Apollos was quick to learn the truth that Jesus was the Christ. Apollos went on his travels rejoicing because of his new friends who had shared God's Word with him. When Apollos preached now, he could prove by the Scriptures that Jesus was Christ, the Son of God.

**ONENESS IN MISSION** - As husband and wife, and humble tentmakers, Aquila and Priscilla greatly enriched the ministries of Paul and Apollos. They were all workers for the Lord each doing his and her part to preach and teach the gospel to others. I Corinthians 16:19, speaks of Aquila and Priscilla having a church in their house. They united saints together in fellowship and worship. Paul congratulated Priscilla and Aquila for their service and courage, "who for my life laid down their own necks" (Romans 16:3,4). In some way, Aquila and Priscilla had risked their lives for the sake of Paul. Paul was very grateful for them. The churches were also thankful for Aquila and Priscilla's faithfulness to Paul. Aquila and Priscilla served God "acceptably with reverence and godly fear" (Hebrews 12:28).

**A Thought to Remember** - It is important to serve God together as husband and wife. Working together in spiritual harmony will glorify the Lord and encourage others.

**Lesson to Learn** - Be careful of giving too much time in trivial areas and neglecting priorities. **Priscilla was a wise and busy woman, but she did not neglect her responsibilities** to home and her husband. Discuss the good and bad of a busy life. It is important to have your husband's and children's blessings upon things you do for God. You and your husband should be **a team** as Aquila and Priscilla. **TEAM** – Together **E**veryone **A**ccomplishes **M**ore!

# RUTH

## Lesson Ten

### "Poverty to Riches"

**Scripture References: The entire book of Ruth; Matthew 1:5**

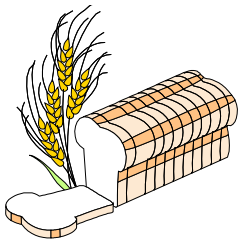
#### Ruth means Friendship

Ruth was a wise woman to accept her place as a servant and daughter - In-law. She was kind and gentle in her ways. People enjoyed being around Ruth.



**THE SAD WIDOW** - There was a famine in Bethlehem. Elimelech, a Jew, moved his wife, Naomi, and two sons to Moab to find enough food for the family. The people in Moab did NOT know the true living God. The sons married women of Moab. One's name was Orpah and the other Ruth. Soon Elimelech and the two sons died. Naomi decided to go back home to Bethlehem. She said "Good-bye" to her daughters-in-law. Orpah returned to her people and gods in Moab. But Ruth, a Moabitess, truly loved Naomi and respected her worship of God. Ruth made the decision to go with Naomi. She gave the unusual request of verses 16 and 17 in chapter 1. Ruth would go with Naomi, live with her and serve her true and living

God. Naomi and Ruth arrived in Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.



**THE SENT WHEAT** - Ruth and Naomi needed some provisions, so Ruth went to gather left over grain in the wheat and barley fields of Boaz (Deuteronomy 24:19-22). The harvesters in the field would leave some grain around the edges of the field for the poor people to come and gather or glean food for themselves. Boaz noticed the beautiful woman and asked the workers who she was. They told Boaz it was the Moabitess that came to Bethlehem with Naomi. Boaz was attracted to Ruth and he commanded the men to give special care to the beautiful woman and not to bother her. Ruth was grateful for the kindness and asked Boaz why he was kind to

her, a stranger (Ruth 2:10-14). Boaz had heard about her kindness to Naomi and how Ruth had made the sacrifice of leaving her own country to stay with her. Ruth's testimony was known. Boaz then told the men to drop on purpose handfuls of grain for Ruth and Naomi. Boaz liked Ruth very, very much.

**THE SWEET WEDDING:** Boaz, who was wealthy was a near kinsmen (relative) of Elimelech. Since Boaz was a relative of Elimelech's, he could marry Ruth and have children to carry on the family's name. That was the custom of that day. There was one man who was nearer of kin and had first choice if he wanted to marry Ruth. Boaz asked Ruth to wait until he could settle the matter of which one was to marry Ruth (Ruth 3:10-18). Naomi assured Ruth that Boaz would do the right thing. Ruth submitted to Naomi and Boaz because she trusted the Lord. The nearer kinsmen said, "No." He could not marry Ruth (Ruth 4:1-12). Therefore, Boaz and Ruth were married. The Lord blessed them with a son named Obed, which means **"a servant who worships."** Obed was the father of Jesse, who was the father of David. Thus, we see God used this woman Ruth, a stranger and a Gentile, to be included in the bloodline - family generation of Jesus Christ.

**A Thought to Remember** - Make the right decision and serve God! The Lord will guide you all the days of your life and do great and mighty things for you, that thou knowest not (Jeremiah 33:3).

**Lesson to Learn** - When things go wrong do not give up. Ruth lost her husband and was away from her family but she did not give up. Bad things can happen to Christians. Be as Ruth and keep going. God can make all things work together for good as He did for Ruth (Romans 8:28). As long as there is a God, there is hope. **If God can provide for the widow Ruth, He can also take care of you.**

# SARAH

## Lesson Eleven

### "Mother of Nations"

**Scripture Reference: Genesis 11:29-31; 12:5-17; 16:1-8; 17:15-21; 18:1-15; 20:2-18; 21:1-12; 23:1-4,19; Isaiah 51:2; Romans 4:19; 9:9; Hebrews 11:11; I Peter 3:6**

**"Sarah" means Princess - to rule.**

Sarah was a wise woman who followed her husband as he followed God. She was submissive to God, her husband and the will of God. She accepted her role as a woman, wife and mother.

**A FAITHFUL WOMAN** - Abraham was **75 years old** when God told him to leave Ur of the Chaldees (Genesis 12:1-4). Hebrews 11:8-10 tells us that Abraham did not know where he was going, but was willing to obey God. In the same manner, Sarah his wife obeyed Abraham, calling him lord (I Peter 3:6), meaning master. Sarah was a very beautiful, strong-willed woman, but submissive to her husband. Because of no food in the land, Abraham journeyed to Egypt. He was afraid the Egyptians would kill him and take Sarah for a wife. Abraham lied and asked Sarah to lie and say she was his sister. In truth, Sarah was his half sister (Genesis 20:11-13). Abraham lied to Pharaoh, but God protected Sarah. God promised Abraham he would be the father of nations (Genesis 15:4-6; 17:3-8,15,16) and Sarah would bear a son. Many years later they had no children.



**A FRETFUL WOMAN** - Sarah decided to take matters into her own hands (a scheme - a plan) and help God (to manipulate, to make things happen her way) to make Abraham a father. It was a custom that a child born to a servant in the household could be claimed as Sarah's own, but this was NOT God's way. The constant grief of barrenness caused Sarah to make a great mistake. She gave her maid, Hagar, to Abraham to conceive a child. **Ishmael** was born and Abraham loved him but he was **not** the promised son. The **Nation Islam** continues **from Ishmael and Abraham**. Sarah was to birth the promised son (Genesis 17:15-17).

**A FULFILLED WOMAN** - Three men came to Abraham's tent one day. As Sarah was preparing the meal, she heard one of the visitors tell Abraham that when he returned, Sarah would have a son. Sarah laughed in disbelief (Genesis 18:9-15). But God is faithful, and when Abraham was 100 years old and Sarah 90 years old, their son Isaac was born (Genesis 17:17). The name Isaac means "laughter" (Genesis 21:1-7). Sarah laughed with doubt when the Lord said she would have a son in her old age. But now, Sarah praises the Lord for keeping His promises. The **Jewish Nation** continues from **Isaac and Abraham**. "Through faith also Sara herself received strength to conceive seed, and was delivered of a child when she was past age, because she judged him faithful who had promised" (Hebrews 11:11). The future generations of this family would be more than could be counted (Genesis 15: 5,6; Hebrews 11:12). The first Jew was a Gentile, **"Abram the Hebrew"** (Genesis 14:13). Sarah was his wife and she became the mother of the Jewish Nation. She is the only woman in the Bible whose age is given when she died (Genesis 23:1-4). She was buried in a cave; not out in the sand of the desert. Abraham mourned for Sarah for many years, and when he died he was buried beside her.

**A Thought to Remember** - Sarah's life was an example of patience. She became a wise woman worthy of being praised (I Peter 3:6). The Lord forgives and helps us to learn from mistakes. **"Wait on the Lord, be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart, wait, I say, on the Lord"** (Psalm 27:14). Sometimes waiting is still in the will of God.

**Lesson to Learn** - How will you be remembered? Sarah was loved by her husband and children. She is remembered as **mother** of the Jewish people. **Live your life so you will not have regrets!**

# **SHUNAMMITE WOMAN**

## Lesson Twelve

### **"Great and Gracious"**

Scripture Reference: II Kings 4:8-37; 8:1-6

**Introduction - Shunammite woman** is all that is recorded (II Kings 4:12). **Her name is not given.** She was known as a **great woman**; a female of high rank and riches (II Kings 4:8). There are many great women who are not named in the Bible. It is the same today. There are many great women who serve God and are not known by others. God knows and that is all that is important. She used wisdom to be a great and gracious woman.

**A WOMAN OF HOSPITALITY** - This Shunammite woman could see people walking past her large house every day. One of the travelers was Elisha. This woman would ask Elisha to stop and eat with them. The woman understood that Elisha was a holy man of God (II Kings 4:9), a prophet. She wanted to do something extra special for Elisha. Husband and wife decided to share their home by making a private room just for Elisha where he could rest from his weary travels (II Kings 4:10). They furnished a nice room with a bed, a table, a stool and a candlestick or lamp stand.



**A WOMAN OF HUMILITY** - The prophet's chamber was a great blessing to Elisha. He asked what he could do for this humble woman to show his appreciation. She was content and did not ask for any favors. Elisha had noticed there were no children in the home. Elisha promised she would have a son (II Kings 4:14-17). Just as was promised a son was born. When he was just a child, he went to the fields with his father. The son became ill and was brought to his mother. The son died and the mother went to Elisha's room and laid the boy on the bed. Elisha was not there at the time but at Mt. Carmel. The woman rode the donkey to find Elisha. When asked if all was well with her family, the woman replied, "It is well." She had great faith in God that everything would be all right. Then the woman told Elisha that the child was dead. Elisha asked his servant, Gehazi, to go with the woman, but she insisted that Elisha come with her. The servant arrived first and he laid the staff across the body of the child, but nothing happened. When Elisha arrived, he went into the room, closed the door and prayed. Then Elisha held the dead body close to his warm body and life returned to the woman's son. The child sneezed seven times and opened his eyes (II Kings 4:32-36). When the mother saw her son alive again, she bowed before Elisha, took her son and went out (II Kings 4:36-37).

**A WOMAN OF HONOR** - Years passed and Elisha advised the woman to go to the land of the Philistines for seven years, because a famine was coming. (Her husband was not mentioned, so he may have already died). After the famine, the woman and her son came back home. She appeared before the king and asked for her house and land to be given back to her. The king asked Gehazi, the servant of Elisha, to tell about Elisha's work. The servant told about raising the child from the dead, and that **this** was the woman. The king was impressed and ordered that not only the house and land be restored to the woman, but also all the money gained from the land while she was gone. The woman and son were very grateful! She was honored by the king.

**A Thought to Remember** - This woman's life is an example of victorious living. Even in the times of troubles and sorrow, she could say, "It is well." We need to learn to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, mind and strength (Mark 12:30). Trust Him in times of trouble as this wise woman.

**Lesson to Learn** - This wise woman served God without attention or praise from others. Do the best you can, at all times. You also should have a nice home with hospitality. Many churches name a guest room "**prophet's chamber.**" This woman built the first **motel** for traveling missionaries.

**Do your best at all times because God sees what you do. God keeps a record!**

# ***WOMEN OF THE BIBLE Series X***

***WRITTEN BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN***



**One Series = One Year**  
**{All Scriptures KJV}**

**One Study Contains 12 Lessons or more**

## **Study Two**

# ***WOMEN OF THE BIBLE I***

**SS10 Women of Bible Series X**

# HAGAR

## Lesson One

### Attitude and Actions are Important

“Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar. And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the Lord hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that **I may obtain children by her**. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

And Sarai ...took Hagar ...and gave her to her husband Abram to be **his wife**. And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, **her mistress was despised in her eyes**.

And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom;

and when she saw that she had conceived, **I was despised in her eyes**:

the Lord judge between me and thee. But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold,

thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee.

And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, **she fled** from her face.”

– Genesis 16:1-6



**Hagar** was introduced as the “**Egyptian handmaid**” of Sarai, Abram’s wife. As a handmaid, **Hagar** was the personal property of Sarai or Sarah (similar to your hairbrush being your personal property). Coming from the palaces of Egypt to live in the tents of the desert must have been a major adjustment, even for a slave. We do not know if Sarai knew of God’s **promise of a son “seed” to Abram** (Genesis 15:5). It seems she tried to “**help**” God because she was without a son. Sarai told Abram to have a son with Hagar. She would become his **slave-wife** (a Jewish custom). Abram listened and agreed. Hagar, a slave, had no choice in the plan. She was a victim because she was a slave. **The children of this marriage would not belong to Hagar, but to Sarai**. Sarai **owned** Hagar and **everything she possessed**. For the **first and only time** Hagar was called a **wife** (16:3). After Hagar conceived the baby son, her attitude changed toward her mistress Sarai. She had easily born a child. She did what Sarai had not been able to, and “**her mistress was despised in her eyes**.” Her pride became her downfall. Sarai noticed the attitude change in Hagar and she complained to Abram. Hagar found none of the support that you would expect a wife to receive from her husband. Sarai was given permission to do as she pleased with “**her maid**.” Sarai was cruel to Hagar. Hagar finally decided to run away. Although Hagar did not look or expect God’s help, God took care of her. God told her to go back to her mistress. God honored her again by naming the child and promised that **her son** would become a great nation. Hagar obeyed God and returned. She submitted outwardly to Sarai, but there was no change of attitude in her heart. After **Issac** was born, Sarai decided it was time for Hagar and her son to leave. It seems that Hagar’s bad attitude spread to her son, Ishmael (Genesis 21:9) After they were cast out, Hagar was visited again by God because God heard “**the lad**” (Genesis 21:17). God again provided for her and her son. Hagar traveled alone with her son to a new life and country. It has been stated that it is not what happens around you, to you or about you, before you, but what happens **in you** that is important. Don’t let problems control your life. Our God is the God who sees and does what is right. He is too wise to do wrong. He protects and cares not just for the righteous, but also the rebellious.

Abraham & Hagar = First son Ishmael - Arab Nation - Palestine

Abraham & Sarah = First son Isaac - Jewish Nation - Jerusalem

The conflicts that started in Genesis continue today!

**Application:** Your reactions and responses are important. **Hagar** had **no control** over her situation, she **did** have control over how she reacted to it. She physically returned but in her heart she still rebelled. She taught that same rebellious spirit to her son **Ishmael** who continued in the rebellious ways of his mother. “Like father - like son and like mother like son.” God visited Hagar **twice** to encourage and help her. Her bitterness continues through her son until this day. The struggle between Isaac (Jews) and Ishmael (Arabs) continues today. A godly mother could have changed the course of this present world. “The hand that rocks the cradle will also rock the world.” Invest in your children and the returns will be great. Learn to trust God in all problems and situations where you have no control. Stop trying and start trusting the Lord. Be careful about your **attitude** and **actions**.

# THE WIFE OF LOT

## Lesson Two

### A Poor Example of a Woman

And there came two angels to Sodom ...and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom...seeing them rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground; And he said, Behold now, my lords, turn in, I pray you, into your servant's house, and tarry all night, and wash your feet, and ye shall rise up early, and go on your ways. And they said, Nay; but we will abide in the street all night. And he pressed upon them greatly; and they turned in unto him and entered into his house; and he made them a feast, and did bake unleavened bread, and they did eat.... And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place: For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the Lord...And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the Lord will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law. And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, **Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.** And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of **his wife**, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the Lord being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city... that he said, Escape for thy life; **look not behind thee**...escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed. Then the Lord rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the Lord out of heaven ... **But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.**"

--Genesis 19:1-26



**The Un-Named Wife** - Just because many times the Bible doesn't mention a woman's name, it doesn't mean that we cannot learn a valuable lesson from her. What goes unsaid is sometimes just as important as what has been said. This is true in the case of Lot's wife. She **wasn't mentioned** when Terah took Abram, Sarai, and his grandson Lot and moved out of Ur, to live in Haran. She **wasn't mentioned** when Abram took Sarai and his nephew Lot and moved from Haran. There is **no mention** of any women being with Lot until chapter 14, when the account is given of Abraham taking back all of what Chedorlaomer took when he won in war over the kings of Sodom and Gomorrah. She was probably a native of one of the cities of the plains. Verse 16 mentions the "**women.**" Although she wasn't mentioned specifically until chapter 19, we do know that she and Lot had been married for some time because they had two married daughters. She seemed to have led a life of compromise and dissatisfaction. They must have been "two peas in a pod" as the saying goes. They were blessed in material wealth (13:6), but had very few convictions. From what wasn't said we get the impression that she was lazy. It was Lot who prepared the food for the men; there is no mention of her even helping her husband (Genesis 19:3). She had neglected to teach her children the things of the Lord. Two of her daughters had married with the ungodly men of Sodom (19:14). The two who were still at home, although still virgins (vs.8) had no knowledge of the ways of God (19:30-36). Instead of being a Godly example for her children, and encouraging her husband to walk in God's ways, she was self-centered, neglecting her responsibility as a wife and mother. When time came for them to leave Sodom, she and the others left unwillingly. The entire family had to be led out by the hand. The family seems to be one of those religious families that only '**uses**' their religion when it suits them (19:18-20). But **more than** the others, Lot's wife was too concerned with worldly things. Being told to leave and **not look back**, she was unable to do it. Physically she left with the others, but **her heart** remained in Sodom. It may be that she was thinking of her other children, and looked back hoping to see them follow. It is most likely she just did not want to leave. She had grown accustomed to '**the good life**' in Sodom.

**Lessons to be learned:** Many times we put our comfort or desires above our most important thing. The most important thing is to let the light of God shine in our lives and to teach our children to follow our example. We can learn from what is **not said** about Lot's wife. She loved material things. Lot's wife lost everything. Material things are just that – things that have no meaning and can be replaced. A godly husband and children who serve God and honor their parents are what truly matter. Let us learn from the wife of Lot and never look back to the world. Don't follow her example.

As Jesus said in Luke 17:32, "**Remember Lot's wife.**"  
**How will you be remembered?**

# LEAH

## Lesson Three

### God is in Control

“And it came to pass in the evening, that he took Leah his daughter, and brought her to him; and he went in unto her. And Laban gave unto his daughter Leah Zilpah his maid for an handmaid.

And it came to pass, that in the morning, behold, it was Leah: and he said to Laban,  
What is this thou hast done unto me? did not I serve with thee for Rachel?

**wherefore then hast thou beguiled (tricked) me?”**

--Genesis 29:23-25



**Jacob Marries the Wrong Woman** - As Rachel helped her to put on the heavy veiling customary for eastern brides, Leah could hear the activity in the feasting tents. Everyone was laughing and singing making toast to Jacob and Rachel's health. Leah's mind raced. She had stood and watched as her father had made deals through the years and listened as he came away crowing about getting the best of his business partners. This time was different. She and Rachel were not sheep, and Jacob was not just another shepherd buying indiscriminately. Everyone could see that **Jacob truly loved Rachel**. What would her life be like once he learned he had been given **the wrong woman**? But at the same time, there was a spark of hope that this would work. She knew she could make Jacob a good wife. She just needed a chance to prove herself, and then perhaps he would learn to love her too. Maybe the marriage would change him to eventually love her instead of Rachel.

**Jacob Tricked** - All Leah's hopes came crashing down around her as the next morning **Jacob woke to find, not Rachel his beloved, but Leah beside him**. He thought he had married Rachel, but woke to see that his new wife was Leah. He was not happy about it. He stormed out of the tent in a rage, searching for Laban. He wanted to know why he was tricked. So continued a lifetime of struggle. Leah watched helpless as her dishonest father made a **new deal** for another wife for Jacob. One week later, **her sister, Rachel, became Jacob's second wife**. The struggle between two sisters is not what we are looking at here, but the **results of the struggle** in the older sister's life. We watch as the scriptures show us how **God took the side of Leah** and **“opened her womb”** when He saw that she **“was hated”** (Genesis 29:31). Leah was in love with a man who did not return her affection. Leah learned that God was her true source of comfort. After **her third son** was born, Leah had a change of attitude. She praised God for his goodness to her. Through the years Jacob's attitude also slowly changed toward Leah. She never became **his first choice**, but he **chose to be buried next to Leah**. **God also chose Leah**. Years later God sent his Son, Jesus Christ, through the line of the tribe of **Judah, Leah's third son**. **Leah was blessed and used of God**. Leah **never knew** she was used in the plan of God to save the world. God took an awkward situation for Leah to use it for His glory.

**Application** - God does not promise a life of happiness without pain here. He does not promise that the skies will always be blue, or that there will be no storms, but he does promise comfort in our loneliness, support in our stand for him, and reward for our faithfulness to him. It may not come the way you think, or when you think it should, but you can be sure that you will not go unnoticed in the eyes of God. Whatever may happen, God can change it and make it work together for good. **“And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are called according to his purpose”** (Romans 8:28). Continue to trust God, and He will work things together for good. It is your job to remain faithful, knowing that He who sends you into the battle, surrounds you with help on every side. Leah never understood in her lifetime why things happened to her. You may not understand why things happen to you, but God can make it work for your good. One day in the future He will make all things become new. All Christians will know that God is in control.

*“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.  
And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.”*

--Revelation 21:4-5



# RAHAB

## Lesson Four

### A Woman of Faith

Scriptures: Joshua 6:15-17, 22-26; James 2:25; 4:8; John 8:1-11; Matthew 1:5.

*“And Joshua...sent out ...two men to spy secretly, saying, Go view the land, even Jericho. And they went, and came into an harlot’s house, named Rahab, and lodged there. And it was told the king of Jericho, saying, Behold, there came men in hither to night of the children of Israel to search out the country. And the king of Jericho sent unto Rahab, saying, Bring forth the men that are come to thee, which are entered into thine house: for they be come to search out all the country. And the woman took the two men, and hid them, and said thus, There came men unto me, but I wist not whence they were: And it came to pass about the time of shutting of the gate, when it was dark, that the men went out: whither the men went I wot not: pursue after them quickly; for ye shall overtake them. But she had brought them up to the roof of the house, and hid them... And the men pursued after them the way to Jordan ... she came up unto them upon the roof; And she said unto the men, I know that the Lord hath given you the land... For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red sea for you... And as soon as we had heard these things, our hearts did melt...Now therefore, I pray you, swear unto me by the Lord, since I have shewed you kindness, that ye will also shew kindness unto my father’s house, and give me a true token: And that ye will save alive my father, and my mother, and my brethren, and my sisters, and all that they have, and deliver our lives from death. And the men answered her, Our life for yours, if ye utter not this our business. And it shall be, when the Lord hath given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with thee. Then she let them down by a cord through the window...”*

-- Joshua 2:1-15



The more Rahab heard about this God who actually fought for his people, the more she wanted to know. The entire town was afraid. Hearing the rumors-- no not rumors, she knew some of these men who came in telling these tales. They were regular customers with her. When they sat and talked of cities burning and armies becoming confused and fighting and killing themselves, the look of bewilderment on their faces told her they were telling the truth. She thought on these things after they would leave while she tidied up her place. She had begged and sacrificed to her gods for years, without any result. She could never do enough or give enough money for them to be satisfied and help her. This Hebrew God seemed to be different. He didn't need a human body they said. He was a spirit and who can fight a spirit? When the two men came to her house, she readily hid them. She decided to try their God. Perhaps if she helped his people, He would help her.

**Lesson to Learn:** Rahab the harlot can teach much about the loving merciful God. Probably all she knew about the God of Israel was that he fought for his people. She had witnessed that firsthand as town after town fell before them. When she bargained for her life as she hid the two spies, God gave her more than she bargained for. Later, **she and her family** became part of the tribe of Israel when she married Salmon, one of the respected leaders of Israel. Through the genealogies of Matthew we see that Rahab was the mother of Boaz the husband of Ruth, which puts her in the line of King David. Rahab was also one of only two women listed in the eleventh chapter of Hebrews that has been named the **hall of faith** (Hebrews 11:31). At the time, she never thought that her actions of faith would become an example for other women.

**Application:** Rahab proves that faith in God can make a difference. It is not **what** you do but who you believe that is important. Rahab trusted in God to save her and her family. By faith Rahab was saved. Rahab is proof that God is not a respecter of persons. Rahab had faith in God to save her and all her family. If God will save and use a person like Rahab, God can also use you for His glory. Rahab was faithful which means she was full of faith. She is a godly example of what simple faith can do with an ordinary person.

**Seek to Have the Faith of Rahab**

# ORPAH

## Lesson Five

### The Woman Who Turned Back

"Now it came to pass... there was a famine in the land. And a certain man...went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he, and his wife, and his two sons. And the name of the man was **Elimelech**, and the name of his wife **Naomi**, and the name of his two sons Mahlon and Chilion... And they came into the country of Moab...And Elimelech Naomi's husband died; and she was left, and her two sons. And they took them wives of the women of Moab; the name of the one was **Orpah**, and the name of the other **Ruth**: and they dwelled there about ten years. And Mahlon and Chilion died... Then she arose with her daughters in law, that she might return from the country of Moab... And **Naomi said unto her two daughters in law**, Go, **return** each to her mother's house ... And they said unto her, Surely we will return with thee unto thy people. And Naomi said, **Turn again**, my daughters: why will ye go with me? are there yet any more sons in my womb, that they may be your husbands? **Turn again**, my daughters, go your way; for I am too old to have an husband... And they lifted up their voice, and wept again: and **Orpah kissed her mother in law**; but Ruth clave unto her. And she said, **Behold, thy sister in law is gone back unto her people, and unto her gods...** And Ruth said, Intreat me not to leave thee, or to return from following after thee: for whither thou goest, I will go; and where thou lodgest, I will lodge: thy people shall be my people, and thy God my God: Where thou diest, will I die, and there will I be buried... So they two went until they came to Bethlehem.... all the city was moved about them, and they said, Is this **Naomi**? And she said unto them, Call me not **Naomi**, call me **Mara**: for the almighty hath dealt very bitterly with me. I went out full and the Lord hath brought me home again empty... So Naomi returned, and Ruth...her daughter in law..."  
--Ruth 1:1-22



**Orpah** was a Moabite woman married to the son of a Jewish couple. They had moved to Moab during the famine years and had decided to stay. When his father died, the two brothers helped to take care of their widowed mother. Orpah had been married for about ten years (1:3) when her husband and brother-in-law both died. All that remained of this little family was **Orpah**, her sister in-law **Ruth** and her mother-in-law **Naomi**. Three widows without the help of a man. In Bible days it was very hard for widows to live without a husband. Naomi decided to return home to Judah and her family. She would live the rest of her life in Judah. The three women packed up everything they owned and started their journey to Judah (1:6-7). Naomi tried to encourage her daughters-in-law to remain in Moab with their families. Perhaps Naomi remembered how hard it was for her when she and her family moved to Moab. Perhaps she tried to spare her daughters-in-law this homesickness. She encouraged them both to return to their families to find new husbands. She wanted them to find happiness and a new life (vs.8- 9). Orpah absolutely **refused** to leave her. She told Naomi that her family would become her family. She wanted to stay with Naomi. Orpah at the time meant what she said to Naomi. She traveled with them on the journey to Judah. She loved Naomi as her own mother. But when Naomi told her that she would probably die a widow in Judah, she reconsidered her decision. Orpah's love was tested. Naomi continued the discussion by asking the question, "**Do I have any more sons?**" She stated, "Even if I married tonight and had sons would you be willing to wait for them until they are grown?" Naomi was thinking what was best for them. Naomi talked about their **earthly** needs of homes, husbands and children. She made them understand that they would be **walking away** from all opportunities to become wives and have children. Finally **Orpah** decided not to go with Naomi, but to return to Moab. All three of the women cried together and then kissed Orpah good-bye. The next verse shows the foolishness of Orpah, "Behold, thy sister in law is **gone back** unto her people, **and** unto **her gods**." She walked away from the true God to her false gods. She lived for ten years with this family who worshipped the one true God, but it seems that she never actually made a decision to follow Him herself. When it came time for her to choose between physical comfort and spiritual growth, she foolishly chose those things of her past. She made a bad decision. She left the God of Israel for the gods of Moab.

**Lesson to Learn** - Orpah made the decision to return home to her worldly ways. It is sad when Christians turn from God and return to the world. Sometimes wrong choices may be made by your husband or your children. What do you do? Do you remain faithful to God? Or do you, like Orpah just give in to the easy worldly way of life? Take time each day with the Lord. It is sad when some decide to return to the ways of the world as Orpah. Don't make bad decisions as Orpah! **Choose the best!**

# ESTHER

## Lesson Six

### The Queen of Selflessness

Scripture References: Book of Esther - Application: "Do Right" (Psalm 62:7)

The palace in Shushan was busy with activity. For months, King **Ahasuerus** and Queen **Vashti** had been entertaining dignitaries and leaders from all over the kingdom. Everything had been busy, but pleasant. But then there was a different atmosphere in the palace. **Queen Vashti had disobeyed a direct command from the King!** The people were shocked! Most would have been killed immediately. The Queen was not executed, but she was removed of her title as Queen. She was also sent from the presence of the King. The King decided to seek for a new Queen to replace Vashti.



**Esther, a young Jewish girl,** ran to meet her **Uncle Mordecai** as he would come home from his work **at the palace**. He told Esther that the King was looking for a **new queen**. Esther was like every young girl. She was curious how the King would replace the beautiful Vashti. Uncle Mordecai explained the King's plan was to seek kingdom-wide to choose a queen from the **loveliest maidens** found in the kingdom. It was the same as a **nationwide beauty contest**. As Esther set the evening meal on the table she thought of all the girls that would come to the palace, new friends perhaps. A knock came at the door...**Esther was invited to the palace to meet the**

**King.** As Esther went about the palace she accepted her new role as **Queen** of the Persians and Medes. She also remembered and obeyed her Uncle Mordecai's Jewish teachings. Because she was the queen she could not meet often with Mordecai. She kept in touch with him through different ones in the palace. She enjoyed her new life as queen. It was a pleasant way of life. One day something happened to change it. A message came from Mordecai that a new law was passed that would kill the Jews. He told her to go to the King and plead for the Jews to be saved. She must prevent the Jews from being killed according to a new law. What would she do? It was not a good time. The King had not asked to see her for a month. She sent a note to Mordecai and explained that **she could not see the King without** an invitation. She reminded Mordecai that the law forbid anyone to go to the King **without an invitation**. **She** would be killed unless the king showed her mercy. She also remembered that Vashti was removed as queen because she **disobeyed** the King.

**Mordecai** explained to her that the law kill all the Jews in the kingdom would also **include her**. She would die if she did not go before the King. She could not escape as she could be killed either way. Mordecai also encouraged her not to think of herself but to think of her people. He advised her to look to God to help her. He told her that maybe she was born for just this time. God could **use her** to save the Jewish nation. Maybe God had **placed her as queen just for this time**. Esther followed his wise advice and repented of her selfish attitude and desires. She decided to go before the King. She slowly walked before the King with fear, but she put her trust in God. Mordecai and the others were praying for God to use her to save their nation. She walked before the King and **he put his hand out toward her** to welcome her. She then told the King the true story of events. The King decided to spare the **Jewish nation** and he **changed the law**. Because of Esther, the Jewish nation was saved. Esther stepped out on faith and became the instrument God used to save the Jews living in all the areas from India to Ethiopia. Esther made right decisions. What if she had made the wrong decision? It is important to make right decisions in your life. Right **decisions** will lead you in the right **direction**. You are never alone when you stand for what is right (II Kings 5:15-17).

**Lesson to Learn:** As Esther you should seek to do your best to serve others. God gave her strength and courage to do what was right. She used wisdom and courage in witnessing to her unbelieving husband. God will give you courage to help others.

**Decide to do right as Esther - No matter the cost or the consequences!**

# THE WIFE OF JOB

## Lesson Seven

### The Purpose of a Wife

**Satan vs God** - The story in the book of Job isn't really about Job, or about his wife. It is a story about the raging war between God and Satan. One day something happened between God and Satan without Job's knowledge. "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them. And the Lord said unto Satan...Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?" (Job 1:6) This explains, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" This story is about a husband and father who was tempted of the Devil and tested by God. He continued to trust God no matter what happened. He proved that **a man and God** can beat the Devil.

**A Man Who Loved God** - Job was a man who truly loved the Lord. Job had concern for his children. He tried to live a godly life. "There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil. And there were born unto him seven sons and three daughters. His substance also was seven thousand sheep, and three thousand camels, and five hundred yoke of oxen, and five hundred she asses, and a very great household; so that this man was the greatest of all the men of the east. And his sons went and feasted in their houses, every one his day; and sent and called for their three sisters to eat and to drink with them. And it was so, when the days of their feasting were gone about, that Job sent and sanctified them, and rose up early in the morning, and offered burnt offerings according to the number of them all: for Job said, It may be that my sons have sinned, and cursed God in their hearts. Thus did Job continually" (Job 1:1-5). Job was greatly blessed. He and his wife owned about 16,000 head of livestock and had a home with many servants. Probably, Job and his wife **were the wealthiest people** in the east at this time. They had a total of **ten** children, **seven** sons and three daughters. In the eastern culture, a man and wife with **many sons** were highly respected. The mother would have sons to care for her in her old age. Their home was content and happy. Everything was going great. Life was good to all his family. Satan told God to remove Job's blessings and it would be different. **God permitted Satan to trouble Job's home and family.** Within a short time Job and his wife lost **all** their children and **all** their possessions. Life changed from gladness to sadness. Their household changed from a **"great household"** to only Job, his wife and four servants.



**A Woman Who Also Lost Much** - Although the Bible speaks **only of Job**, it is understood that Job's wife also suffered. She also **lost her** livelihood, she **lost her** children. She **lost her** easy way of life. Instead of her neighbors and friends complimenting her they now question Job's faithfulness to God. She heard people discussing and gossiping what she and Job did to **"deserve"** these problems. Scripture shows that Job stood **continued** to worship the Lord (1:21-22). But what about his **wife**? We are shown only her reaction, "Then said **his wife unto him**, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? **curse God, and die**" (Job 2:9). Maybe she did not want to see her husband suffer anymore. She saw him mourning his loss, crying with pain in his body, and losing everything. Her statement speaks volumes about her. She did not encourage her husband during his sorrow. She knew that he continued to trust God, but she advised him to **"curse God and die."** She lost many things and finally lost her most precious possession, her husband. **"Every wise woman buildeth her house"** (Proverbs 14:1). She was not building her house, but she was destroying it. The time when Job needed his wife, she neglected him. She was the only one left to comfort him in his time of need. Wives can easily discourage husbands. She said the wrong words. The tongue is a little member and hard to tame (James 3:8). Job's wife did not trust God as her husband did. **"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him"** (Job 13:15). She did not have her husband's faith or trust in God.

**Application** - As women and especially wives, you should learn that you are important in the home as a woman, wife and mother. Be an encourager and helpmeet. Don't listen to friends who may give bad advice. Job made it through his time of trials and was restored with more than he had lost, but it would have been easier if his wife had trusted God with him. God made the wife to be a help mate, not a hurt mate. Wives should be an encouragement and strength to their husbands. Homes need Godly wives and mothers! Your best friend should be your husband. Learn from Job's wife and have **no regrets** as she did.

# MARY OF MAGDALA

## Lesson Eight

### Guilt Gone

**Scriptures:** Matthew 27:55-56; 27:60-61; Mark 15:40-41; 16:9; John 20:17

**“And certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities, Mary called Magdalene, out of whom went seven devils.”**

-- Luke 8:2



Forgiven

Most people tried not to notice her. She knew that. Others just stared and whispered. She wasn't sure which she disliked the most. Certainly no one ever walked up and actually spoke directly to her! That's why she was afraid when she realized this man was going to say something to **her**. He slowly drew near with a face of compassion. When he spoke to her, the fear and shame melted away and she was never the same since. Jesus Christ had changed her life. They called Him Jesus, Master. Some even called Him Messiah. Whoever He was, she knew the God of Israel was with Him. She wanted to do everything she could to help this man reach others—some who were just like her, or how she had been. Because of Him, she now had peace in her heart, and the shame and guilt of her past was gone. **Her guilt was gone!** She could not change the past, but she could change the future and make the days ahead the best she had ever known. The Lord gave her **a new beginning. Her guilt was gone!**

**Lesson:** From the **first mention** when Jesus had cast seven devils from her (Luke 8:1-3), to the **last reference** at the Upper Room after the resurrection, Mary was always **somewhere close** to the Lord. She worked closely with a small group of other women disciples. **Together** they used their resources to **help provide** for Jesus and His disciples as they traveled and taught throughout the area. She was not the only woman who did this, but she was probably **a leader** in the group. Mary and the other women were always close while Jesus was teaching the twelve. When all but one of the disciples ran away at the crucifixion, Mary stood with the other women, watching from a distance (Matthew 27:55-56). Mary was there when the body of Jesus was laid in the tomb. She stayed after everyone left, sitting and watching (Matthew 27:60-61). She probably remembered the teachings of Jesus. What He said about **rising again the third day**? She and the other Mary had to leave to keep the Sabbath, but she was the first back to the tomb the next morning. The angels first spoke the good news of Christ's resurrection to Mary. Jesus first appeared to Mary. She believed the angels in spite of all the doubts among His followers. (Mark 16:9). Mary always stayed close because she never forgot what **Jesus did for her**. He removed her sins and guilt. **“For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required”** (Luke 12:48). She knew that **much had been forgiven**, and she could never forget what He did for her.

**Lesson to Learn – The Lord lived and even died for others.** He loved the little children, poor, sick, wealthy. He showed kindness to rejected women, even Mary Magdalene. Mary was powerless to do anything about the events going on around her or to her. As a woman in Bible days, she was not permitted in the same areas as the men. These circumstances did not stop her from serving the Lord. Her **faith** as a **female** got the attention of Jesus. As Mary, every Christian should desire to be close to the Lord. Be daily conscious of Him in your life. How? Spend time reading his Word which is God talking to you (II Timothy 2:15); in prayer which is you talking to God (I Thessalonians 5:17); in fellowship with others (Hebrews 10:25). **As Mary**, always remember what He has done for you. He saved you. He has removed your guilt. He gave you peace. Study those women disciples throughout the scriptures. They may be few, but there were several **women** who followed Jesus and learned to be like Him. It isn't greatness that will get Jesus' attention, it is the humble heart of a faithful Christian. Because of Him, you have peace in your heart and your past life of guilt is gone! Never stop telling people what Jesus did for you! **Seek to stay close to the Lord as Mary!**

# MARY THE MOTHER OF MARK

## Lesson Nine

### The Gift of Hospitality

“Now about that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also... intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people... but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him. And when Herod would have brought him forth, the same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, bound with two chains: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. And the angel said unto him, Gird thyself, and bind on thy sandals. And so he did. . . And he went out, and followed him... they came unto the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street; and forthwith the angel departed from him. And when Peter was come to himself, he said, Now I know of a surety, that the Lord hath sent his angel, and hath delivered me out of the hand of Herod, and from all the expectation of the people of the Jews. And when he had considered the thing, **he came to the house of Mary the mother of John, whose surname was Mark**; where many were gathered together praying.”

-- Acts 12:1-12



Mary pondered the actions that had brought her this far. She and her brother had been in the group who listened to Peter as he preached that day. He had explained the prophecies of the old scrolls and had shown them how **Jesus was the Messiah** Who had been promised for thousands of years. Their eyes had been opened to this truth, and since that time, many changes had happened in their lives. Barnabas took all that he had and sold it to help send men to preach the **good news** that the **Messiah (Jesus Christ)** had truly come, but what could she do? As she thought of her home, she knew she had been blessed by God. The gated house was large enough to welcome friends and family. It was located in an area of Jerusalem that was easily found. At the same time it was far enough out from the center of the city that it wasn't always watched by the local priests and politicians. The decision to open her home to the young church as a space to meet, pray and grow had not been an easy one, but it had been the right one. God had blessed her again by saving her son John Mark and calling him into the ministry.

**Lesson to Learn:** Mary, the mother of Mark is mentioned several times in the New Testament. She was also the sister to Barnabas. We know that for her to be the owner of a gated house in Jerusalem, she had to be of some wealth. Her husband is not mentioned. It may be that she was a widow, or that he was an unbeliever. We do know that she can be counted among the faithful women who supported the early church. **She used her gifts of hospitality and the wealth that God given her to serve the Lord.** Not all the people Jesus chose were called to leave their homes and families. Jesus used different people in different ways. When some asked to go with him he told them **no, but go home** – and tell others the things you have seen and heard. Those who stayed and those who went home were both serving the Lord in different ways. Mary never left her home. She **provided a place** of nurturing for young Christians and a place of refuge and refreshing for the ones who were “**sent**” to the “uttermost parts of the earth.” Some are **sent** and some are to **serve** those who are **sent**.

**Practical Application** - “And above all things have **fervent charity** (hospitality) among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. Use **hospitality** one to another without grudging” (1 Peter 4:8-9). “Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another... Distributing to the necessity of saints; given to hospitality” (Romans 12:10-13). Christian woman should follow the examples of early Christian women. You can open your homes in hospitality and invite lost neighbors or friends to see what changes God has made in your life. It is not easy to do but you need to do it. Discuss using your home as hospitality with your husband and children. Seek their blessings on this type ministry. You can be that a faithful witness in the home, in your neighborhood, to young Christians and new church members. Hospitality is a much needed ministry!

**Women learn to be hospitable and kind to others. The rewards are great!**

# SAPPHIRA

## Lesson Ten

### A Woman who Tried to Fool God

Reference: Acts 2:41-47; Acts 4:32-37; Proverbs 14:5

“But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession, And **kept back part** of the price, **his wife also** being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to **keep back part** of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? and after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God. And Ananias hearing these words fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things. And the young men arose, wound him up, and carried him out, and buried him. And it was about the space of three hours after, **when his wife, not knowing what was done**, came in. And Peter **answered unto her**, Tell me whether ye sold the land for so much? **And she said, Yea, for so much**. Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have **agreed together** to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, **and found her dead**, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things.”

--Acts 5:1-11



It is during the wonderful time of Pentecost that we meet with **Sapphira** and **Ananias**, her husband. The apostles were preaching, the Holy Spirit was moving in a mighty way, and the church was growing (Acts: 2:41-47) People were being saved, how exciting! The love and gratitude for the sacrifice Jesus made was shown by some of those people who had lands and houses selling them and bringing the money to the apostles. “Neither was there any among them that lacked: for as many as were possessors of lands or houses sold them, and brought the prices of the things that were sold, And laid them down at the apostles' feet: and distribution was made unto every man according as he had need” (Acts 4:34) The apostles used the money to help Christians with their needs. Sapphira and her husband knew all that was happening: miracles, wonders, and blessings from the Holy Spirit. They decided to also sell their land and bring the money to Peter. It seems that together they planned to fool the church. They brought only **part** of the gift to Peter. When Ananias took the money to Peter he gave the impression that he was giving it all, just as the others had done. Peter, by the Holy Spirit, knew Ananias lied, and showed him that it was Satan who had made him think that he could hide something from God. This lie was not to Peter, but to God. The result was Ananias' death. Later when Sapphira came in, Peter asked her the price of the land. He was giving her a chance to tell the truth, (she didn't know what had happened.) Just as she and her husband had planned, she lied. Foolish Sapphira. She would follow her husband in death as well as life (Proverbs 14:16). What was wrong with what Sapphira did? Is God greedy that he would want **ALL** the money she and her husband had? Of course not! Sapphira and her husband had tried to **fool** the Holy Spirit, and they wanted others to think they had given **all** that they had. They could not fool God!

**A Thought to Remember** - “The **eyes of the Lord** are in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (Proverbs 15:3 5:3). God sees all you do. Perhaps you can fool others, but you cannot fool God. “For the **eyes of the Lord** run to and fro throughout the whole earth” (II Chronicles 16:9).

**Lesson to Learn** – Remember, You can fool others, but you cannot fool God. You can fool parents, mate, friends, and even pastors, but you cannot fool God. **God knows your thoughts and heart**. God wants you to live honestly before him and all men, and to walk with him in humility. “He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?” (Micah 6:8). God wants you to serve him because you love him. “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him” (Colossians 3:17). Sapphira fooled others, but she could not fool God. “**Be sure your sin will find you out**” (Numbers 32:23). You will never regret doing right!

# ***EUODIAS & SYNTYCHE***

## **Lesson Eleven**

### **Learn To Get-a-long With Others**

Scriptures: I Corinthians 1:10; Proverbs 21:19; I Corinthians 13:11; Matthew 18:15; Romans 12:16

**"I beseech Euodias, and beseech Syntyche, that they be of the same mind in the Lord.  
And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow,  
help those women which laboured with me in the gospel."  
-- Philipians 4:2-3**

**Can women cause problems in the church?** The answer is **"Yes!"** The first and only time these two women are mentioned in the Bible they are **arguing one with another**. Wow! What a bad first impression. One preacher nicknamed them **"Odious"** and **"Stinky"**! John R. Rice called them, **"Ouchy and So Touchy."** The details of the arguments are not mentioned in the Bible, but the fuss was in non-scriptural matters. For Paul to call them **by name** in a letter to the church and to plead with them to **resolve** their **differences**, means it was a **serious problem**. He even asked **"Yokefellow"** (a man) to help them solve their differences (vs.3). The problem was effecting the church. These ladies were not **"new converts."** These were women who had worked with Paul (vs.3). It is possible that they had even helped start the church. Paul stressed that it was **important** for them to be **"of the same mind."** **God cannot bless strife in ministries!**



**Division Problems are Serious Problems** – Problems that cause strife and division cannot be ignored. Whether they are between the men of the pulpit, or between the ladies of the nursery, problems can destroy the effectiveness of Christians among themselves and the lost world. God wants Christians to live **together in peace** within the church body. When problems arise, as they will, they should be solved quickly or they can cause much bitterness. The conflict must be **resolved** and to two **restored to fellowship** and then forget it. Sound hard? No one wants to get between two fussing people. The devil knows that when people are upset they cannot work or worship God properly. They have a negative instead of a positive attitude. It is easy to seek to get-even or have revenge but it takes a lot character to seeks forgiveness. Satan knows that **grudges**, and **jealousies** can affects the entire church. **Unity** can be seen (Psalms 133:1) and so can strife (Philippians 2:3). Both strife and love are noticed by all people. Sin **separates** us from a Holy God. Sin has a bad habit of multiplying and quickly growing. Strife starts small but grows quickly. Strife grow naturally **as weeds** in a garden. **"Lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled"** (Hebrews 12:15). The **root of bitterness** springs up as weeds and defiles many within the church. **Euodias and Syntyche** were the root of bitterness. **Strife** can destroy a deaf ministry. **Unity** can build a deaf ministry.

**Bible Principles** - You can discuss, debate, disagree with others, but it is not right to divide over non-scriptural issues that could easily be resolved. These two women had **personal non-scriptural** problems. It seems most problems are not **doctrinal**, but personal **disagreements**. It has been stated that 80% of those who leave ministries do so because of personality conflicts. To solve a problem, **one** of those involved must be willing to give in to the other. If **Euodias** would go to **Syntyche** (or visa versa) and discuss their differences, agree to be agreeable, hug necks and shake hands, the problem would be solved. Usually the one who **does give in** displays the **most character**. "Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there **rememberest** that thy brother hath ought against thee; Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; **first be reconciled** to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift" (Matthew 5:23-24). The need is to be **reconciled** and **restored**..

**Lesson to Learn** - "Fulfil ye my joy, that ye be **likeminded**, having the same love, being of one accord, of one mind. Let **nothing** be done through strife or vainglory..." (Philippians 2:2-3). Nothing means zero, nil, nada, or no thing. The Bible teaches to avoid strife and seek unity. Don't let your relationship with others affect your relationship with God. **Don't become bitter, but become better!**



# MOTHER EUNICE

## Lesson Twelve

### Three Generations of Faithfulness

Ref. Acts 14:1-22; 15:36-16:5; 1 Timothy 1:18-20; 6:1-12; 2 Timothy 1:1-7; 3:14-17

“When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee,  
which dwelt first in thy grandmother (1) Lois, and thy mother (2) Eunice;  
and I am persuaded that in (3) thee also.”

-- II Timothy 1:5

Paul was thankful for the **faith** that was passed to **Timothy** from his **grandmother, Lois**, to his **mother Eunice**, and then to **Timothy**. The faith of God was passed to **three generations**. One generation is usually twenty-five years and requires one person in each generation be alive at that time. How many generations are in your family?

**1st Generation: Grandmother Lois - 2nd Generation: Mother Eunice - 3rd Generation Timothy**

**This is a study of three generations of a family serving God.** (1) **Eunice** was a **Jew** who married a **Greek** husband and settled in the town of **Lystra**. She was raised by **her mother (2) Lois** to love the Lord God. Both the grandmother and mother continued to teach (3) Timothy to also follow God. It was a Bible custom for past generations to teach the oncoming generation.



**Eunice** lived in Lystra long enough to know how superstitious (religious) people thought. She heard some of the people yelling in the street that Jupiter and Mercury, the gods of Olympus, had come down to visit. At first she paid no attention, but when she saw the man who lived down the street walk by her house, she had to go look. This truly was unusual. Everyone in town knew he had been born crippled and had never walked! How could he have been healed? She didn't have to wait long for her answer. The news traveled quickly through the small group of Jews in the town that the two men who had arrived here were refusing the notion that

they were gods. They begged the people to realize that only the true God of heaven could do these things. **Eunice** was thrilled! God had answered her prayers. Quickly she gathered up **Timothy** to go and meet these two men of God. Paul more than once in the scripture mentioned the role that women have in the home. God has entrusted to parents, the important job of training children and preparing their hearts for him. Since **Eunice's** husband was a Greek and an unbeliever, that task fell to her alone. It seems that it was one that she was up to. **Eunice** determined to bring her son Timothy up as she had been brought up—knowing the true God, not following after the vain gods of the world. From birth she had taught him the scriptures and made sure that he was with other people in town of like faith. She did not stop there. She knew that would not be enough. She continued praying that God would help him to go in the way he should go. Have you ever heard the expression, “God may not arrive when you want him to, but he's always right on time!”? **Eunice** had probably been praying for God to intervene on their behalf for many years. At the critical time when young Timothy was old enough to begin to venture out on his own in this pagan town, but still young enough to be swayed by the influences he would meet there, God chose to send her help in the form of Paul and Barnabas! When God answers prayer, he does it completely.

Both Lois and Eunice saw the need to teach and train. You should be faithful as a grandmother and mother in teaching and training your children the ways of God. Some women excuse rebellious children because they did not have a strong Christian husband as a role model. Unloved children will become dysfunctional. Children need to see faithful women, mothers and wives be godly Christians as **Eunice** and **Lois**. If you remain faithful in teaching and training by example the children will respond. The greatest thing you can give your children is yourself. Are you “**there**” for your children when needed? ***The Best Thing You Can Leave Your Children Is Your Faith In God***

# ***WOMEN OF THE BIBLE Series X***

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# ***WOMEN OF THE BIBLE I***

**SS10 Women of Bible Series X**

# **GOD'S DIVINE PLAN**

## **Lesson One**

### **Women - Wives – Mothers - Grandmothers**

You are one person with many important roles. You could be a woman, wife, mother and grandmother. Each role is very important to someone, especially your husband and children. The Bible is written so that you can understand God's plan for your life. The Bible is **a guidebook for Christians, the road map to Heaven, and a compass** for direction. The Bible is filled with stories of people who once lived and are now dead. It tells of events that happened thousands of years ago. You may think that sounds like boring history – **Not true!** Within the pages of the Bible you will meet many different people. Some were good Godly examples and some were wicked examples. The Bible is about the past, present and future. It is called the **"Living Book."** Why? Because it was inspired (breathed into the writer's mind and heart) by God, Who is the **beginning of all things** and will be **the end of all things. "I am Alpha and Omega the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty"** (Revelation 1:8). The Bible was written to show God's **divine** plan for mankind. If you want to know about math, you study a math book. If you want to know about science, you study a science book. If you want to know about History, you study a history book. If you want to know about God, you must study the Bible which teaches about God.

#### **The Bible Explains The Past**

**"In the beginning God"** (Genesis 1:1). God is always present. God has no beginning. God existed before the beginning. The Bible explains the beginning of mankind. **"And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: and he (God) took one of his (Adam) ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; and the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman, and brought her unto the man"** (Genesis 2:21). Have you ever wondered why you are here? What is the purpose for life? The Bible explains the purpose of life. **"Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man"** (Ecclesiastes 12:13). **"And now, Israel, what doth the LORD thy God require of thee, but to fear the LORD thy God, to walk in all his ways, and to love him, and to serve the LORD thy God with all thy heart and with all thy soul, to keep the commandments of the LORD, and his statutes, which I command thee this day for thy good?"** (Deuteronomy 10:12, 13). The divine plan of God is for all people to love and obey God. They should worship and fear Him as God. God also has a divine plan for all women. **"And the Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet (fit) for him"** (Genesis 2:18). The Bible gives good and bad examples to follow. These lessons will teach about different women who lived as you now live. They had their hopes, plans and desires, but they are now dead. Their lives are finished.

#### **The Bible Explains The Present**

God gives step-by-step instructions for you to live as a woman, wife and mother. You can learn from good examples and you can also learn from bad examples. You can learn what to do and what not to do. It should be your desire to become a good woman, a better wife and a godly mother. **"Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee"** (Hebrews 13:5, 6). **"Come unto me, all ye that ...are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me...and ye shall find rest unto your souls"** (Matthew 11:28-29).

#### **The Bible Explains The Future**

Do you wonder about what will happen in the future after death? The Bible explains about the death of two different people, one saved and one not saved. One went to Heaven and the other to Hell. **Heaven: "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom"** (Luke 16:22). **Hell: "The rich man also died, and was buried: And in hell he lift up his eyes being in torments (pain), and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom"** (Luke 16:22-23). One day all people will face death. Will you go to Heaven or Hell? There was a time in the past when you did not exist, but once you are born you are eternal. There will not be a time in the future that you will not exist. Make sure you are saved for all eternity.

**Lesson to Learn** - The Bible gives many stories about women so other women can learn. There are stories about success and failure. The women in the Bible faced the same problems you face today. Many of the women learned from their failures and became successful. Many who were weak learned to trust God in all things. As you study these lessons, pray and ask God for wisdom to better understand **God's divine plan** for your life. You cannot change the past, but you can change the future. **Make the days ahead your best!**

# A VERY SICK WOMAN

## Lesson Two

Scripture References: Mark 5:25-34; Matthew 9:19-22; Luke 8:43-48

### The Power of Salvation

**Introduction** - How this woman met Jesus is told in **three** of the four gospels. It was written by **three** different men, looking at it from **three** different views, yet all agree on the facts. **This woman had a problem.** For twelve long years she had been sick. She had an “**issue of blood.**” She was considered as an unclean woman according to law. “**And if a woman have an issue of her blood many days out of the time of her separation, (longer than a normal period) or if it run beyond the time of her separation; all the days of the issue of her uncleanness shall be as the days of her separation: she shall be unclean**” (Leviticus 15:25). She could not go to the synagogues and worship with others. Anything or anyone she **touched** was considered unclean until evening. She had to cry out “**unclean**” and most people avoided her. **She was sick, weak, and lonely.**



**She Did Not Give Up** - She had been sick for twelve years, but she never stopped trying to find someone who could help her. “And a certain woman, which had **an issue of blood** twelve years, and had suffered many things of many physicians, and had **spent all that she had**, and was nothing bettered (still sick) but rather grew worse” (Mark 5:26, 27). She spent all that she had and nothing helped. She was still unclean. She heard of the miracles of Jesus and heard that Jesus was coming to town. She decided that if she could only touch his clothing she would be healed. Then she would quietly slip away from the crowd. **She did not give up!**

**She Got More Than She Expected** - The Bible says that when she came close behind Jesus and **touched** his clothes, she felt her body become well. As she turned to leave, she noticed the crowd stop. Jesus asked who it was that had **touched** him. The disciples answered that **many** had touched him. Relieved she waited in the background. Then she heard Jesus speak again and his eyes were on her. He knew what she had done. She was afraid. She fell at his feet and confessed how unclean she had been. She told him that she had come to him as her last hope of being free of this terrible sickness. When she looked up, she saw kind eyes. They looked at her with love and compassion as he spoke again. “**And he said unto her, Daughter, thy faith hath made thee whole: go in peace, and be whole of thy plague**” (Mark 5:34). He had called her daughter. Her life was changed because she touched Jesus. She had believed that Jesus could help her. Her faith in the Lord made her well. At last, she found the right person and she was made clean. She got more than she expected. She came sick and left well.

**The Lord Can Help** - Do **you** have a problem and need help? Perhaps you feel unclean. Many times people will do as the woman in the story. They will spend many years and much money trying to clean themselves or going to the **wrong places** or **people**. But it doesn't help. Maybe it will help for a little while, but soon they feel unclean again. Only Jesus can make you truly clean **within**. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have **peace with God** through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). Only God can forgive sins and give peace. “All have sinned and come short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). The woman confessed her sins. She knew she was a sinner. **All have sin.** You do not **become** a sinner, but you are **born** a sinner (Romans 5:12). **Sinners** come to the Lord for salvation (John 1:12). **Christians** come to the Lord for cleansing (1 John 1:9).

**Lesson to Learn** - Go to the **right person** when you need help. This lady went to **many physicians** who could not help her. When you have trouble with your **car**, go to a mechanic. When you have **plumbing** problems call a plumber. When you have **spiritual** problems, call upon the Lord. Only God can give you peace and forgiveness of sin. **God has only one way Christians can be free of sin** (1 John 1:9). She went to the right person. The Lord freed her from **physical** sickness and forgave her of **spiritual** sins. Jesus called her **daughter**. As a woman, when you come to the Lord with your problems, He sees you as His daughter. The Lord knows you **and** your needs. The Lord also gave her **more** than she expected. As a father wants the best for His children, He wants the best for you. This woman took her cares to the Lord, and He helped her. “**Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you**” (1 Peter 5:7). What if she had not gone to Jesus? She would have never been free from sickness and sin. The lesson to learn is that when you need help, learn to quickly go to the Lord. He has the power over sickness and sin. Take your burdens to the Lord and leave them there. **Learn to go to the right person! Go to the Lord!**



# MARTHA AND MARY

## Lesson Three

Scripture References: Luke 10:38-42; John 11:21-27.



### Learn of Him - What is Your Priority?

**Introduction** - This lesson shows the different roles of a woman. As **Martha** washed the last dish and put it away until the evening meal she thought about how God had blessed her. She enjoyed taking care of the home for Mary, Lazarus and herself. She enjoyed having guests. The little group of Jesus' followers in Bethany needed a place to meet from time to time. She was glad she, Mary, and Lazarus were able to open their home to them. She even enjoyed cleaning up afterwards. Her thoughts were interrupted when Mary began to talk excitedly. Jesus was coming down the street! Mary hurriedly made sure everything would be in order for Jesus and the many guests who would come. Martha went down a mental list of things they had and the things they would need. Was the house clean? Pick up things! Jesus was coming. Was the house prepared and ready?

**The Story of Two Sisters** - **Martha and Mary were sisters, but each was different. Both** were very busy. **Martha** loved serving and **working with her hands**. She cared for others with a servant's heart. **Mary** who was also a very busy person, but she did not let busy things interfere with her main priorities in life. **Martha and Mary are two types** of women. One **very busy** and one **very blessed**. **Are you a Martha or a Mary?**

**Martha the Busy Sister** - "**But Martha was cumbered about much serving**" (Luke 10:40). The Bible shows Martha's busy serving nature. "**But Martha was cumbered.**" The word **cumbered** means that **the work took all her time**. She had no time to do other things. She became so busy serving that she forgot to do other needful things. Her good work hindered her from better work. She was very busy serving, and it soon became a burden. You can be too busy and forget God. When you **neglect** the important things, you will lose the blessings of God. Martha became weary and sought help from Mary. Mary left the busy work and went to be with Jesus. Martha was left alone to do all the work. While Martha worked Mary worshipped at the feet of Jesus. She listen to His words. Martha looked at Mary and complained to Jesus. She blamed Mary for not helping her. Martha started having a **bad attitude** because of her **wrong** priorities. She made three statements:

1. "**Lord, dost thou not care?**" She shows **self-pity**. "**Don't you care about me?**"
2. "**My sister hath left me to serve alone.**" She **blamed others** for her problem.
3. "**Bid (ask) her therefore that she help me.**" She became **critical of others, even her own sister**.

Notice Jesus did not respond to her **three** statements. Jesus knew her real needs. He knows that sometimes **our strengths** can become our greatest weakness. He knew that Martha was looking at things incorrectly. Lovingly, He explained to Martha that there was much work to be done, but **only one thing** at **that time** was necessary (the priority). Gently He let her know that **Mary had chosen that one thing**. What was the **important lesson** that **Mary had learned** and **Martha had missed?**

**Mary the Blessed Sister** - "**But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her**" (Luke 10: 42). **Mary** knew the priority was to **know** more of her Saviour, to learn more of Him. Everything else could wait. Her brother Lazarus had died. When she knew Jesus was coming she went to meet Him. She met Him and told him that if He had been there, her brother would not have died (verse 21). She knew Jesus had power to heal the sick, but her full knowledge of Him was very limited. She did not think He could also bring the dead to life. This is what Jesus meant when He told her earlier that there was **only one thing** that was **important** at that time. It was more important to **learn of Jesus**. He is Lord of Life, Lord of death and everything that happens from birth until death. It took the **death** of her brother, Lazarus, for her to focus on what was truly the priority. Jesus wanted Martha to learn of Him. "**Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?**" (John 11:25).

**Lesson to Learn** - **Martha** believed in Jesus as the Son of God, but did not have **right priorities** (v. 27). **Martha** was very busy but forgot the **one thing** that was needful. "**Learn of me, for I am meek and lowly of heart**" (Matthew 11:29). **Mary** learned what was necessary and most important. She focused on priorities of life. Your greatest need is to **first** learn of Jesus and then to **serve** Him as a woman, wife and mother.

Choose the **one thing** that is **needful**.

**Don't be too busy to be blessed of the Lord!**

# SHIPHRAH & PUAH

## Lesson Four

### Times of Decision

**Scripture References: Exodus 1:1-20; Genesis 1:26; 9:6; Jeremiah 1:5; Romans 13:1-7**

**Introduction** - From the days of **Joseph**, the Hebrews (Jews) lived in peace with the Egyptian peoples. After Joseph died the peaceful way of life changed. The Egyptian people soon forgot Joseph. The new Pharaoh looked at the Hebrews as a threat to his people and to his rule. He made new laws that prevented the Hebrews from ruling in Egypt. He passed laws that made the Hebrews **slaves** of the Egyptians. The Pharaoh hoped the hard work as slaves would control their population growth and authority. Slavery did not stop God from blessing His Hebrew people. Pharaoh then ordered all midwives to come before him. **Midwives** were a well-respected part of the community in Bible times, just as they are now. The people called them to help in times of medical needs. Pharaoh knew these women would be present during each new Hebrew birth. He commanded midwives to help control the population growth with a type birth control. The practice is known today as partial-birth abortion. **“And he said, When ye do the office of a midwife to the Hebrew women, and see them upon the stools (method used to help in birth); if it be a son, then ye shall kill him: but if it be a daughter, then she shall live”** (Exodus 1:16). Partial-birth abortion is when a mother carries the baby to the day of birth, and then as the child is born, it is aborted or killed as it leaves the womb.



**Two Special Women** - When the **midwives** came before Pharaoh, God chose to honor **two special women** because of their faith and obedience. Their names were **Shiphrah** and **Puah**. These are **strange names** of two special women. These two women respectfully listened to Pharaoh's new law. They had to make a decision. They decided to obey God and **not the king**. They feared God more than the king. **“They feared God and did not as the king of Egypt commanded them”** (vs. 17). There are times when all women must also make life-changing decisions. It may not be the same decision as these two women faced, but it will be a choice between **God's way** and **man's way**. These **two women** wisely chose God. They knew that governments and laws change, but God's laws never change. The greatest power you possess is the power to make choices and decisions. You have power to make choices, but you cannot control the consequences.

**Decisions Determine Directions** - Today, medicine has progressed and improved since the days of Shiphrah and Puah, but some still use medical powers to kill children. Pharaoh made evil laws to kill children. Today, women again are faced with the laws of abortion which kill unborn babies. It is up to Christian woman, as Shiphrah and Puah, to stay close to God and to know when something is right or wrong. Christian women need to be godly example for others to follow. As a Christian woman you need to be aware of the dangers and warn others. These two midwives stood for God **against** Pharaoh. Stand for God and God will stand for you.

**Directions Determine Destinations** - Because they believed and honored God and His ways. God protected them from Pharaoh. God blessed and controlled the situation. **“Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty. And it came to pass, because the midwives feared God, that he made them houses** (Exodus 1:20- 21). God's directs your life (Proverbs 3:5-6).

**Life Begins at Conception** - Actually the baby is already nine months old at birth. (OT) “Behold, a virgin shall **conceive**, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel” (Isaiah 7:14). (NT) “Behold, a virgin shall be **with child**, and shall **bring forth a son...**” (Matthew 1:23). When a baby is **conceived**, that baby has life, but not breath. The baby grows, feels pain, kicks, and has life. Mary was **with child**, and **later** Jesus was born. His life was **before** He was born. When John the Baptist was six months **in the womb** he responded to the baby Jesus who was **conceived less than three months**. “And it came to pass, that, when Elisabeth heard the salutation of Mary, **the babe leaped in her womb**; and Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost...For, lo, as soon as the voice of thy salutation sounded in mine ears, **the babe leaped** in my womb for joy” (Luke 1:41). Life begins when the child is **conceived** within the womb. Life **begins** before **birth** according to Scriptures...(Ted Camp).

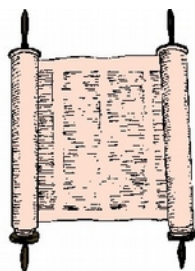
**Lesson to Learn** - God blesses right decisions. Life is precious. You should treat life with respect. You need to **do right** no matter what the **circumstances** or **consequences**. Follow the examples of **Shiphrah and Puah**. Don't have **fear** and **doubts**, but simply **trust** God. When you are faced with great decisions, go to the Lord and let Him help you make the right choices. As Shiphrah and Puah, **be strong** in your Christian faith.

# JOCHEBED

## Lesson Five

### Protection For Your Family

**Scripture Reference:** Exodus 2:1-10; Hebrews 11:23



**Amram** and **Jochebed** took their responsibility as parents very seriously. They had been **taught** by their parents about the God of Israel. They remembered those teachings and spoke often of them with **Miriam and Aaron**. They wanted to be sure their children understood the ways of God. When their third child was born, the parents knew this baby boy was a gift from God, the same as their other two children (Psalm 127:3) This family lived during troubled times. Jochebed showed her children by her example that it was important to obey God. The government passed laws that conflicted with God. Pharaoh (king) then passed a new law for all boy babies to be thrown into the river. Jochebed and Amram made a decision. Based on their knowledge, faith and belief in God, to hide the child. Jochebed planned daily how to keep her baby safe. She hid him for three months until he was strong. Then Jochebed decided to place him in the river and ask God to protect him. She obeyed the law as Pharaoh commanded (Exodus 1:22). Jochebed planned and provided until it was time to trust God. As a **mother**, protect and plan for the safety of your family. **Don't lose your children!**

1. She **prepared** safety and protection for her baby. **“And when she could not longer hide him, she took for him an ark of bulrushes, and daubed it with slime and with pitch, and put the child therein”** (Exodus 2:3).
2. She put her baby in the provided ark and placed it in a safe place. **“And she laid it (the ark) in the flags by the river's brink (beginning)”** (Exodus 2:3b)
3. She left her daughter (his sister) with him to **witness** what happened to the baby. She placed her baby in the hands of God. **“And his sister (Miriam) stood afar off, to wit (see) what would be done to him”** (Exodus 2:4).

**Teach and Train Your Children** - Jochebed **taught her children** by her example. She responded as a godly mother to a bad situation that she could not change or control. She taught them to react in a manner that brings honor to God. Today, it is hard to raise children in this wicked world. As a mother, you must also teach your children **by your godly example**. Let your children see that you trust God. Jochebed's actions were surrendered to God's will for her son. As she surrendered to God, she opened the door for God to use His complete power and control of all situations for her children. It was a lesson the children would never forget. **What did the children learn?**

1. They **learned** God has **control** of the hearts of men. Miriam and Aaron **saw God** change the heart of Pharaoh's daughter. **“And when she had opened it (ark), she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children”** (Exodus 2:6).
2. They **learned** God can protect those who trust him in all situations. **“And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water”** (Exodus 2:10). The children **watched as God** placed their little brother in the safest place on earth. He was placed in the home of Pharaoh. Their brother would grow up safely in Pharaoh's house.
3. They **learned** God can use an unknown slave girl (his sister). **“Then said his sister to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee? And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother”** (Exodus 2:7-8). Miriam fully obeyed and learned that Mother was right. Also Jochebed's two other children saw the **results** of their godly mother. She was a mother greatly used of God. She could not change or control her situation, so she accepted it. She stopped **trying** and started **trusting** the Lord. She learned that God can even work **bad things** for your good (Romans 8:28).

**Lesson to Learn** - **As a mother, seek to raise a child in the way he should go** (Proverbs 22:6). This is a generation of broken homes and single parents. Grandparents are raising many grandchildren. Children face bad influences through schools, gangs, peer pressure, wrong friends, television, and Internet. As Jochebed, seek to protect your children. **Surrender** yourself to God. **Teach Bible principles**. Be a godly example. Teach practical **examples** of Bible **children**. Monitor their free time and friends. **Teach and train** in **all levels** of their lives. Pray for a mother's wisdom, as Jochebed, and then be willing to do what is right. Invest in your children. Seek to be as **Jochebed**, and do your best to be a **good and godly mother!**

# **PETER'S MOTHER IN LAW**

## **Lesson Six**

### **Serve Others**

**Scripture References:** Matthew 8:14; Mark 1:29; Luke 4:38-39; James 1:22-25



**Introduction** - As soon as Jesus came out of the synagogue, he and the others headed to Peter's house. He had been preaching in the town of Capernaum that day. It was good to have friends in town where he knew he was welcome. He could rest and eat a good meal at Peter's house. When Jesus came in they took him straight in to see Peter's mother-in-law. She was sick with a fever. For a woman who was usually up with the sun, she now wasn't able to even leave her bed. As Jesus came into the room, the Bible says that he took her hand to raise her up. When he did this, the fever left immediately. Just the touch of his hand was all that she needed. All people in the room that day realized Jesus was able to do miracles. They had just watched him cast out demons from a man in the synagogue. As soon as Peter's mother-in-law was healed, she got up and began to serve not only Jesus, but also those who were with him. Peter's mother-in-law plainly lived with Peter. The Bible describes her sickness only as a "fever." However, the sickness is not the important fact. It is Peter's mother-in-law's **reaction** after Jesus healed her that is important. Mark says Jesus **healed her and she served Him. "And he came and took her by the hand, and lifted her up: and immediately the fever left her, and she ministered (served) unto them"** (verse 31). **Think about it!** The **first thing** she did was to **serve others**. She didn't offer excuses as to why she couldn't help. She could have said, "Thank you for taking away the fever, but it has left me weak." or "I would help you but I have been sick and need to rest more." No! She **could** have used many excuses. She didn't. Without excuses, **she got up and served Him**. This story of Peter's mother-in-law tucked into this letter of Mark, is given as a call for all women who feel the touch of Jesus, to respond with their immediate service to him. God does not save a person to only come to church and sit. **There is much work! Get up and do it!**

**"Who can find a virtuous woman?** for her price is far above rubies.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her...

She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She worketh willingly with her hands...

She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household ...

She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy...

She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness...

She looketh well to the ways of her household, Her children arise up, and call her blessed;

her husband also, and he praiseth her."

– Proverbs 31:10-31

**Serve The Home** - The Lord calls you wives and mothers to train your children in the Lord. You are to encourage and help **your husband**. Help make your home a place of happiness and peace. You are to be a godly example. You may have an unsaved husband. God wants you can to win him with your actions and attitude (I Peter 2:1) You cannot change another person's heart. Only God can do that. Trust the Lord and pray. **Let your actions** witness to him. He can be won by your works more than your words.

**Serve The Community** - You can serve God with hospitality. Invite neighbors into your home so that they may see the Godly example of your family. Most people are won to the Lord because of a friend. You neighbors need to see the Lord in your life. Be willing to step out and leave the familiar areas and go to others in the community. Your ministry as a Christian homemaker is to also prepare your home. Open you home with hospitality to others. "Use **hospitality** one to another without grudging" (I Peter 4:9). You should be given to hospitality. It should be a way of life for you (I Timothy 3:2; Titus 1:8). Serve your community.

**Serve Others** - There are some women whom God has called to serve Him by supporting their husbands in the ministry of missions to other peoples and to other lands. There are also some single missionaries serving in foreign fields. A woman can make a difference in their world.

**Lesson to Learn** - Serving outside the home is important, but serving within the home is **more** important. Your children need **you** more than anything else. Children need a mother to pray for them, love them, and support them. Be there when they are disappointed in life. Be there when they are sick or hurt. Your husband needs you more than anything else you can give him. He appreciates meals, but most of all he needs you. Train and prepare your family to face the storms of life. God wants you to serve Him every day. Don't give in to your emotions and moods, but rise up as Peter's mother-in-law. **Be dependable and willing to serve Him.**



# RHODA

## Lesson Seven

Scripture Reference: Acts 12:12-17

### Obedience in Prayer

**Introduction** - In New Testament times it was very common for Christians to meet at a home for fellowship and prayer. Most of the local churches were in homes. "Likewise greet the church that is in their house" (Romans 16:5). It was during one of these meetings that God showed the power of **Christians praying** for one another. During this time, it was **dangerous** to be a Christian. Many Christians were killed. Herod the King had just killed James. Peter continued to preach to the Jews throughout the land. Herod decided to arrest Peter and kill him. Peter was arrested, put in chains and cast into prison. Herod ordered twenty soldiers to guard Peter day and night. When the Christians heard that Peter was cast into prison, they called a **special prayer meeting** in the house of Mary. They prayed for God to deliver Peter from prison. As they were praying, someone **knocked** on the door. Rhoda went to the door with fear. It could be soldiers. She nervously asked who was at the door outside. When Peter answered, she knew his voice. She forgot about Peter, and in her excitement, she ran to tell the others that Peter was outside the door. They laughed and did not believe her. They said, "**You are confused. Peter is in prison and tomorrow he will die.**" Rhoda knew she was right. Then the knock came again, and the others went to the door. They opened the door, and to their surprise, there stood Peter. God answered their prayers. It is always God's will for Christians to pray about things, whether they are great or small. Prayer is God's way to obtain things from God. When the Christians saw Peter, their **faith in prayer** grew. What if they had not prayed? Peter could have been beheaded as James.

**While The Church Prayed, God Worked** - Rhoda and the Christians were praying to God on behalf of Peter. They were helping Peter by praying for him. They could not free Peter, but the Lord could. God used their prayers to free Peter. The Lord helped Peter to simply walk out of prison. The gates of the prison opened by themselves. "And, behold, (look) the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying. Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands. When they were past the first and the second ward (warden or guard), they came to the iron gate that leadeth unto the city; which opened to them of his own accord: and they went out, and passed on through one street: and forthwith the angel departed from him" (Acts 12: 7-10). An angel led Peter out of a heavily guarded prison and past the soldiers. The angel directed his steps and paths. The angel led him out of the prison into freedom. Once Peter was safe outside, the angel left. What did Peter do next? He went straight to Mary's house. He wanted to be with his fellow Christians. He knew that seeing him free would strengthen their faith and encourage them. Peter was free because of prayer. "**The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much**" (James 5:16). What exactly does that mean? An "**effectual prayer**" is one that is to the point, precise. They were not praying a general, but a definite, prayer need. They did not pray, "God bless those that are in jail." They prayed, "God free Peter from jail and death." A "**fervent prayer**" is one that is prayed from the heart to the Lord. These "**righteous**" Christians were serious about their desire for Peter to be free. They prayed with faith to God. Rhoda expected an answer. They prayed, and it "**availeth much.**" Because of **their prayers**, God freed Peter from prison. There is an old song that says, "Prayer is the key to Heaven, **but faith** unlocks the door." Prayer **is** the key to open Heaven. A key is no good upon a shelf, or under a doormat. A key **must be used** to **open** doors. "**And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive**" (Matthew 21:22). When the key of faith is used, it **will** unlock the door of heaven. When you pray, you will be in the presence of the Lord.



**Lesson to Learn** - The solution for worry is the prayer of faith. It is hard to worry and pray at the same time. You need to teach an attitude of prayer in your home. Rhoda was praying for Peter, but she also was waiting at the door (verse 13). Do you think Rhoda was expecting God to answer immediately? Do you pray expecting a fast answer? **Prayer Projects:** Many times God answers prayers, and you do not realize it. Keep a record of your prayers and answered prayers. Follow Rhoda's example and tell others all that the Lord has done for you. God wants you to pray to him about the things you need. The Bible says that you have not, because you ask not. "Yet ye have not, because ye ask not. Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss" (James 4:2-3). Ask and you will receive. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you: For every one that **asketh** receiveth; and he that **seeketh** findeth; and to him that **knocketh** it shall be opened" (Matthew 7:7-8). You need to keep **asking, seeking and knocking** until you receive, and find, and the door is opened. What God did for Rhoda, He will also do for you! **The greatest enemy of prayer is silence!**

# THE WIDOW'S MITE

## Lesson Eight

Scripture Reference: Mark 12:38-44

### A Woman Who Gave All She Had



**Introduction** - This is a lesson to better understand giving and tithing. What did Jesus mean when he told the disciples that this woman had **given more than all the others**? That day in the temple, Jesus showed His disciples the difference between true offerings to God and just the giving of money. Jesus stood and watched as the people brought their offerings to God. Some were rich and gave much money. Then Jesus noticed a poor widow as she dropped in her **two mites** (the same as a penny). The Lord told His disciples that she had given more than **all** the rest together (vs. 43). The disciples were puzzled. They looked at the woman and the many rich people. They wondered how she could give more than all the others. The Lord was not comparing what each one gave, but He saw how much each had left. She had given all that she had. All means all. **She had nothing left to give.**

**She Gave All That She Had** - The offering was given from her heart to express her love to God. She was returning what God had given her. The widow was very poor. She had no way to **replace** the money that she gave. Jesus saw past the small amount she had given and knew that it was a great sacrifice. This widow had an attitude of obedience and a grateful heart to God. She gave all she had and enjoyed doing it.

She did **two things** that day.

1. She obediently expressed that all that she had came from God (Luke 21:4; Mk.12:44; Lev.2:2-3).
2. She gave her offering **back** to Him with a thankful heart. She returned the love of God by giving Him all she had. She had the faith that God would provide for her future needs (Philippians 4:19).

**You Cannot Out Give God** - The more you give, the more He gives. God will not let you out give Him. Giving is a part of worshipping God. As a Christian you should give of your talents, time and tithes. You should give to God first and then to others. God lets you keep 90% and only asks for 10%. You should give because God has freely given to you. Many people drop in an offering as though they were tipping God. Some Christians think that they cannot afford to tithe. They think about giving to God after they pay bills, buy groceries, pay the rent, and buy entertainment. They freely give their time to Little League, vacations, visiting, shopping and leisure. They use their skills on their jobs or personal life and ignore the ministry needs. God expects you to return to Him from what He has given you. He expects obedience. God only wants you to do what you can. God does not expect you to give what you do not have or cannot do. The widow could only give the two mites, because that was all she had. She could not give three mites because she did not have it. You should give your child a task that is hard for him to do. If he fails he can learn that it is alright to fail. Teach your children to be willing to help in the home. Teach them to do what they can within their abilities. This widow's heart and attitude was right. She was willing to give all she had. The Lord used her as an example in giving. Because of that, Jesus said she had given more. She had given not only her money, but also her heart for God to use.

**Lesson to Learn** - **"For if there be first a willing mind, it is accepted according to that a man hath, and not according to that he hath not"** (II Corinthians 8:12). Do you **first** have a **willing mind** to do what you can. God only requires you to do what you can. God does not ask you to do things you cannot do. God will accept what you can do with your different abilities. God has made a way for every person to be able to give to Him. God's method is for each Christian to give by **percent** from what he has. This means that every Christian can give something to the Lord. If you only have \$10 then you can give \$1. God does not require you to give \$15. He only wants you to do what you can. All the needs in the church would be met if only God's people would be willing to do what they could, giving of their time, talents and treasure. No one is limited because of age, health, or poverty. God requires that you give of yourself to Him. God wants you more than anything you possess. If God has you, He will have your heart. He already has your soul; it was bought with the sacrifice of His son on Calvary. But you must present your body and heart to Him (Romans 12:1-2). Are you freely giving to God of your time, talents and treasures? What if everyone in the church was as you? The widow woman was willing to give all that she had. She gave more than all the others. Why? It was not much but it was all she had. She had nothing left. Little can be much with God! **What are you willing to give of your time and treasure?**

# Tabitha/Dorcas

## Lesson Nine

Scripture Reference: Acts 9:36-43

### A Woman Full of Good Works



**Introduction** - The Bible introduces a Christian woman by the name of Tabitha who was known because of her good works and **“almsdeeds.”** “Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and **almsdeeds...** And it came to pass in those days, that she was sick, and died... the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent unto him two men, desiring him that he would not delay to come to them. Then Peter arose and went with them. When he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and all the widows stood by him weeping, and shewing the coats and garments **which Dorcas made**, while she was with them. But Peter put them all forth, and kneeled down, and prayed; and turning him to the body said, **Tabitha, arise.** And she opened her eyes: and when she saw Peter, she sat up” (Acts 9:36-40). Tabitha/Dorcas was greatly loved because of her good works for others. She used her ability to sew to make coats and garments for the poor. She had a great testimony. She was the Salvation Army of her day. God also can also use your gifts and talents to serve others. The people rejoiced when Peter brought her back to a life of service. God was not finished with her. Sewing and serving may seem small, but many were greatly blessed because of a woman who was full of good works. As a woman, use your experienced talents of cooking and sewing. Do what you can to help others. Sometimes just a note of appreciation can mean very much to someone who is discouraged. There are many who need encouragement or someone just to listen to them. God uses you to encourage people. This law has never changed.

**What Are Almsdeeds?** - **Almsdeeds** are found in the book of Deuteronomy. “Thou shalt bring forth all the tithe of thine increase the same year, and shalt lay it up within thy gates: And the Levite, and the stranger, and the fatherless, and the widow, which are within thy gates, shall come, and shall eat and be satisfied; that the Lord thy God may bless thee in all the work of thine hand which thou doest” (Deuteronomy 14:28-29; also all of chp.15). These laws **prevented** the rich people from selfishness and from abusing the poor people to make more money. The poor also were blessed from “almsdeeds.” These laws made provision for both physical and emotional needs. If the poor used “almsdeeds” wisely, they could become independent and not rely upon the government. For many years the nation of Israel walked close to God and kept these laws that benefited all people. There were very few beggars and few poor people. Then the people turned from “almsdeeds” and became selfish. They forgot the needs of others. The Levites (priests) saw the need of helping the poor and provided **two** new methods to provide for the poor people. This practice continued in the days of the Lord and Apostles. Jesus did not abolish or change the laws of “**almsdeeds.**” **“Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil (complete)”** (Matthew 5:17).

**The practice of “almsdeeds” to provide for the poor.**

A **daily** morning collection of **food** taken and given **daily** to the poor.

A **weekly** collection of **money** taken and given out **weekly** to the poor.

**Do What You Can** - What is it that every Christian can do? You can pray for others and for one another. You can share your life with others. “But whoso **hath** this world's good, and **seeth** his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?” (I John 3:17). When you **see** someone in need, you should respond to that need. Don't close your eyes and heart to the needs of others. Look for ways to encourage someone each day. At times, you can give financially, and at other times you can give spiritually. Let the Lord lead you as you live for others. Maybe you think you have nothing to give. That is not true. Not everyone is called to preach or to be a missionary, but everyone can be used of the Lord. Everyone has something to give to others. It does not cost money to visit shut-ins, the nursing homes and hospitals. You can take time to write a letter or send a card to encourage those who are discouraged. Let God give you open doors of opportunity for you to daily serve Him. As the song says, “We cast our bread upon the waters, and watch the blessings come ashore. You may not have much to give, but we give it all to the Lord.”

**Lesson to Learn** - William Booth the founder of the Salvation Army was unable to attend a meeting. So he just sent a telegram in his place. The telegram only had one word, “**Others.**” Little is much when God is in it. The small things can mean very much to someone in need. When you give to others, you are giving to the Lord.

**Give of your talents, tithes, and treasures to help others**

# QUEEN OF SHEBA

## Lesson Ten

Scripture References: I Kings 10:1-13; Matthew 12:42

### A Woman Who Needed Wisdom

**Introduction** - The **Queen of Sheba** had heard of the great wisdom of King Solomon. She made a special visit to see King Solomon and know if what she had heard was true. (This same Queen is called the Queen of the South in Matthew 12:42.) As a queen, she would listen to the many stories from travelers coming through her country. Over and over she would hear stories about the wisdom and greatness of King Solomon. The Kingdom of Sheba was very advanced in technology and education. When the queen heard the stories about King Solomon and a kingdom to the north, her first reaction was disbelief. Her disbelief slowly changed to curiosity. Finally, she decided to go visit King Solomon. She gave the command to prepare for a state visit. She wanted to see if these many stories were true.



**The Queen Met The King** - When the Queen arrived at the palace of Solomon, everyone she met seemed happy, even the servants. When she was given a royal audience to personally meet Solomon, she began to question him. Question after question she asked. It seemed the harder the questions were, the quicker he gave the answers. She could not outsmart him. Finally, she knew of nothing more to ask. She was amazed at his wisdom. “And Solomon told her **all her questions**: and there was nothing hid from Solomon which he told her not. And when the Queen of Sheba had seen the wisdom of Solomon, and the house that he had built, and the meat of his table, and the sitting of his servants, and the attendance of his ministers, and their apparel; his cupbearers also, and their apparel; and

his ascent by which he went up into the house of his Lord; there was **no more spirit** (questions) in her” (II Chronicles 9: 2-4). The Queen realized this King was all and even more than what she had heard. She was satisfied. Her disbelief had changed to complete belief.

**The Queen Believed** - When the Queen came out of the audience with Solomon and gave the command to go home, she was given another surprise. Not only was this King wise and kind, but he was also generous. All that she had given to him had been returned, plus much more. “**And King Solomon gave to the queen of Sheba all her desire, whatsoever she asked, beside that which she had brought unto the king**” (I Chronicles 9:12). After seeing King Solomon’s wealth and hearing his wise answers to all her questions, she came home a believer. She gave the testimony to many “**She had not even been told half of King Solomon’s greatness.**” “**Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard**” (I Kings 10:7).

**What is Wisdom? What did Solomon teach about wisdom. What did the Queen hear?**

*The proverbs of Solomon the son of David, king of Israel;*

*To know **wisdom** and **instruction**; to perceive the words of **understanding**;*

*To receive the **instruction** of **wisdom**, justice, and judgment, and equity;*

*To give subtlety to the simple, to the young man **knowledge** and discretion.*

*A **wise man** will hear, and will **increase learning**; and a **man of understanding** shall attain unto **wise counsels**:*

*To **understand** a proverb, and the interpretation; the words of the **wise**, and their dark sayings.*

*The fear of the LORD is the beginning of **knowledge**: but fools despise **wisdom** and **instruction**.”*

– Proverbs 1:1-7

**What is Wisdom?** Wisdom comes **after** receiving knowledge. Without knowledge of the Word of God, you will never have the wisdom of God. It is very important to **seek knowledge** so you can **learn**. Many people stop studying and learning early in life and are never used of God. Never stop learning. **To learn** is to **acquire knowledge**. When you stop learning, you stop living and leading. “A **wise man** will hear, and will **increase learning**.” Learning is **increased** by having an open mind to **receive** more **knowledge** and **instruction**. You must have knowledge before you **can increase** your learning. A small child will only know what he is told and taught. You learn from life by reading, studying, listening and receiving instruction. Always have an open mind and be willing to learn. Try to learn more from the Bible every day.

**Lesson to Learn** - As the Queen of Sheba was amazed with Solomon, you will be amazed at the wisdom of God’s Word. You can ask God for **wisdom** in facing your trials and testing. “If any of you lack (need) wisdom, let him ask of God...” (James 1:5). **No one can spiritually grow without the Word of God – No One!**

# WOMAN AT THE WELL

## Lesson Eleven

Scripture Reference: John 4:1-29

### A Woman Who Became A Witness For The Lord



**The Woman At The Well** - Jesus traveled with His disciples to many different cities. One time He said, "And he **must needs** go through **Samaria**" (John 4:4). The Lord **must go through Samaria** because He needed to **meet a woman** who needed to be saved. Jesus asked the woman to give him a drink. The woman was surprised. "**Then saith the woman of Samaria unto him, How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans**" (John 4:9). The Jews looked upon the Samaritans as half-breeds or dogs. Jews refused to travel through Samaria. She was surprised to see a Jew at the well, and she was very surprised when He offered to **give her something**. He told her, "**It thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water**" (John 4:10). He was trying to change her thoughts from water in the well to spiritual "**living water.**" "**The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; from whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?**" (John 4:11-12). She did not believe the words of

Jesus. The Jews thought they knew more than the Samaritans. Maybe this Jew was boasting. Her mind was still on the water in the well.

**The Need of The Woman** - Jesus knew He was dealing with **prejudice** that had been practiced for many years, but the Lord was not concerned about her country or culture. He was concerned about her soul. He tried again. This time He was a little more blunt. He told her plainly that He wasn't talking about water in the well. "Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water, shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life" (John 4:13-14). The woman then desired to have this special water. "**The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw**" (verse 15). Jesus knew that He must convince her that He was Christ. The Lord mentioned her husband. She quickly told him, "**I have no husband**" (verse 17). Then the Lord made her face reality. He said, "**For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband**" (verse 18). **You cannot fool God.**

**The Woman Believes Christ** - The woman was amazed. "**The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.**" Her attitude changed towards Jesus. She called him a prophet and "**Sir.**" She tried to change the conversation from her to an old argument the Jews and Samaritans had been arguing about for years. "**Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.**" (verse 20). The Lord was not interested in the religion of the Jews and Samaritans. He was only interested in her personal spiritual needs. He pointed out to her what was important. He took time to explain to her that salvation at that time did belong to the Jewish nation, but that this would soon change. He let her know that soon those who worshipped God would worship Him in spirit and truth.

**The Woman Witnessed To Others** - The woman had a desire in her heart for a coming Saviour. "**The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah (Messiah) cometh which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things**" (verse 25). The Lord revealed that He was **the coming Messiah.** "**I that speak to thee am he.**" Then the disciples returned. When she saw them coming she left, but she planned to return to the Lord. How do we know that? **She left her water pot.** The woman went into the city testifying that she had met the Messiah. She testified, "**Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?**" (verse 29). The people in the city returned with her to see the Christ. She brought many people to the Lord. "**And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman which testified, He told me all that ever I did**" (verse 39). **She was excited to bring many others to Christ.**

**Lesson to Learn** - The Lord said, "I **must needs** go through Samaria." He needed to meet the woman at the well. He knew she needed to be saved. She became a Christian and led many others to be saved. As this woman, Christians need to go with the Gospel to those without Christ. This is the plan of God to reach the world. If God could use the woman at the well, He can use you. You need to become excited and say, "Come, see a man (Jesus) who is the Jesus Christ our Lord and Saviour." **If you do not go... Who will?**

# MIRIAM

## Lesson Twelve

Scripture Reference: Numbers 26:59

### A Jealous Prophetess

**The Sister of Moses** - "And the name of Amram's wife was Jochebed, the daughter of Levi, whom her mother bare to Levi in Egypt: and she bare unto Amram Aaron and Moses, and **Miriam their sister**" (Numbers 26:59). Miriam was the sister of Moses and Aaron. She is listed as one of the **three original people** chosen by God to lead His people out of Egypt. "For I brought thee up out of the land of Egypt, and redeemed thee out of the house of servants; and I sent before thee Moses, Aaron, and **Miriam**" (Micah 6:4). Moses, Aaron and Miriam each had his own position and service. **Moses** was chosen to be **the one to lead Israel** out of slavery. Moses protested that He did not have the ability, and God should chose Aaron to help him. (Exodus 10-16). God used these men, but He also used Miriam. The ministry needs more godly women, wives, and mothers.



**The First Prophetess** - "And Miriam **the prophetess**, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and **all the women went out after her** with timbrels and with dances. And Miriam answered them, (led them) Sing ye to the Lord, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea" (Exodus 15:20-21). The Bible states that Miriam was the **first prophetess** of Israel. As a **prophetess**, one of her responsibilities was to **lead the women for the Lord**. What an honor! God also chose **Miriam** when He chose Moses and Aaron. God did not overlook her. Miriam was very faithful to serve God. The Bible says, "For it is required in **stewards (servants)**, that a man (also a woman) be found faithful" (I Corinthians 4:2). God chose Miriam to lead the women, and she was faithful to her calling. She had proven from childhood that she could be trusted.

**Miriam Had Godly Wisdom** - "And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children. Then said his sister (Miriam) to Pharaoh's daughter, Shall I go and call to thee a nurse of the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for thee (Jochebed the mother of Moses)? And Pharaoh's daughter said to **her** (Miriam), Go. And the maid went and called the child's mother (Jochebed, the real mother of Moses). And Pharaoh's daughter said unto her (mother), Take this child away, and nurse it for me, and I will give thee thy wages. And the woman took the child, and nursed it. And the child grew, and she brought him unto Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. And she called his name Moses: and she said, Because I drew him out of the water" (Exodus 2:6-11). Miriam was obedient to her mother. She also displayed wisdom and quick wit as she spoke to the princess about a nursemaid for baby Moses. She was also very talented and humble. She submitted to those in authority over her. She was willing also to follow and obey Moses. She was a prophetess and a leader of women.

**Miriam Created Strife** - For many years there were not any problems with the three leaders. Then Moses married an Ethiopian woman. **It seems that Miriam was jealous of Moses' new wife.** "And **Miriam** and Aaron **spake against Moses** because of the **Ethiopian** woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman" (Numbers 12:1). Since Miriam's name is listed **first**, it would seem that she was the one to **bring** the matter to Aaron. She planted seeds of **discontent** within her brother Aaron. Once strife begins, it grows, as cancer. Miriam criticized the new wife to her brother, and his criticism caused strife. God heard their conversation and called **all three** to the tabernacle to discuss the matter. The accused will appear before his accusers. "And the Lord spake suddenly unto **Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam**, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. And the Lord came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called **Aaron and Miriam**: and they both came forth" (Numbers 12:4-5). Miriam's criticism created strife. God taught Miriam a lesson about strife. (Notice that Moses was willing to ignore her remarks.) Evidently Miriam was **jealous** of the new wife and became bitter against her. She then tried to turn others against her. Her jealousy grew until it brought bitterness.

**Lesson to Learn** - The end of strife is destruction. "And, behold, Miriam became **leprous**, white as snow... And Aaron said unto Moses, Alas, my lord, I beseech thee, lay not the sin upon us...and wherein we have sinned... And Moses cried unto the Lord, saying, Heal her now, O God, I beseech thee. And the Lord said unto Moses...let her be shut out from the camp seven days, and after that let her be received in again.." (Exodus 12:10-16). Strife starts small and then grows until many are destroyed. "Lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby **many** be defiled" (Hebrews 12:15). Miriam is only mentioned once more at the time of her death (Numbers 20:1). **As Christians, seek to avoid strife, bitterness and jealousy** (Philippians 2:3).

# **WOMEN OF THE BIBLE Series X**

**WRITTEN BY WOMEN FOR WOMEN**



**One Series = One Year**  
{All Scriptures KJV}

**One Study Contains 12 Lessons or more**

## **Study Four**

# **WOMEN OF THE BIBLE I**

**SS10 Women of Bible Series X**

# EVE

## Lesson One

By Chris Walters, Rock Hill South Carolina

### “A Dissatisfied Woman”

Genesis 1:27; 2:1-4:1; II Corinthians 11:3; I Timothy 2:13



**Introduction** - The story of Eve's life begins in Genesis 1:27 where God created man, human beings, in His own image. Her uniqueness is not that she was created from Adam's rib, but that God created her and brought her to Adam. God gave Adam the job of naming all the animals. As Adam began his job, God saw that he was lonely and decided to create a help meet for him. All the animals and the beautiful world that God had created could not satisfy man's loneliness, so God took a rib from the side of Adam and created the woman, Eve. Eve was beautiful, just exactly what Adam needed. Because of the uniqueness of their creation, no instruction was needed that the man should be the leader in the home.

They lived in spiritual unity, without sin. Eve should have been very happy in such a lovely place, with the perfect husband and a perfect home created by a loving God. The temptation of Adam and Eve and their fall into sin was a human tragedy for all people, but it all began when Eve wanted **more** than she already had. She was not content with what she had but she **wanted more!**

**Eve had Adam, but she wanted more** (Genesis 2:23-24) - Eve was handmade by God especially for Adam. God made her from Adam's rib to ease his loneliness. She was made to become Adam's helper (Genesis 2:18). What Adam lacked, Eve supplied. What Eve lacked, Adam supplied. The result was "one flesh," the unity of man and woman in marriage. Eve, whose name means "life," was created from Adam's rib. She was not created the same as the animals. Her creation was truly miraculous, but she **wanted more** than what she had.

**Eve had the Garden, but she wanted more** (Genesis 3:1) - The Garden of Eden was a perfect place (Genesis 2:8-17), with every tree pleasant to the eye (Genesis 2:9), and with plenty of water (Genesis 2:10). There was always enough of everything they needed, and yet Eve was not satisfied but she **wanted more.**



**Eve had the peace of the Garden of Eden, but she wanted more** (Genesis 2:24-25) - Eve had perfect peace and harmony with her husband in the garden. She was created to meet his needs, and she had his total love and fellowship. She had everything she wanted and needed, and yet she was dissatisfied. **She wanted more!**

**Eve had God but she wanted more** (Genesis 3:1,5) - Eve listened as the Devil planted doubts in her mind about God. Satan slowly changed God's word (Genesis 2:16, 3:2-3) and denied God's power (Genesis 3:4). Eve was tempted with the idea of being a "god" and knowing good and evil (Genesis 3:5). She wanted more!

**Lesson to Learn** - Eve's impulsiveness and discontent made her an easy target for Satan. When a woman is not content she becomes restless. She willingly gave into the devil. She replaced God with Satan. She placed her values on what **she would gain** and not on the promises and provisions of God. You should be mature as a Christian so when you are tempted, you can use the "Sword of the Spirit" to defeat your enemy. You are more easily **tempted** because you are not fully **trusting** God. You need to be satisfied with the things you have. Don't be as Eve and always want just a **little more!**

**Remember, Satan cannot make you sin and God cannot make you serve!**





# NAOMI

## Lesson Two

By Carlene Camp, SWM

### A Wandering Widow

#### Read the Book of Ruth

**Setting:** Bethlehem-Judah which means “**House of Bread**”  
Country of Moab which means “Waste” - “Nothingness”

**Characters:** **Naomi**, name means “Joy” - Pleasantness” (Mara - “Bitterness”)  
**Elimelech** (Naomi’s husband), name means “My God is King”  
**Mahlon** (son), name means “Sickly One”  
**Chilion** (son), name means “Sad One”  
**Ruth** (daughter-n-law), name means “Something Worth Seeing” - “Friendship”  
**Orpah** (daughter-in-law), name means “Stiff Necked” - “Stubborn”

**Introduction** - Naomi was a woman much like women of today. She was a wife and mother and experienced the joys and sorrows that come with being married and having children. Her family was Hebrew (Jew). She was faithful to the Jewish customs and laws and a faithful follower of God. Even though her life became filled with sorrow and disappointment, she never lost her faith in God. Naomi was a good testimony for the Lord. She **lost much** but she **never lost her faith** in God.

**Change of Country** - Elimelech and Naomi and their two sons lived in Bethlehem. A famine came to the land. Elimelech decided to move his family to Moab. Instead of trusting God, he turned to the world (Moab) to supply his needs. Bethlehem was the “**House of Bread**” the **right place** for this Jewish family. **House of bread** meant the **place of plenty and provision**. Elimelech stepped out of the will of God. He forsook God’s promises and took matters into his own hands. Naomi was probably like wives of today. She probably argued with her husband and gave her opinions why they should stay in Bethlehem. But, in the end, she submitted to her husband’s decision to move the family.



**Change of Culture** (From Bethlehem to Moab) - In Bethlehem, Naomi and her family lived among family and friends. They shared the same faith, the same traditions and culture. They enjoyed fellowship together. They worshipped together. In **Moab**, she had no friends nor fellowship, and the people worshipped idols. Her sons soon married non-believers, which was against God’s law. In Moab her husband and her two sons died. Her culture changed, but not her faith in God.

**Change of Character** - Because of all the sorrow and loss in the land of Moab, Naomi, whose name means joy and pleasantness, changed her name to **Mara** which means **bitterness** (Ruth 1:20). Even though she kept her faith in God and greatly influenced **Ruth** her daughter-in-law (Ruth 1:16,17), Naomi was a broken widow woman. She became greatly discouraged which usually leads to depression and despair. Naomi lost much but she did not give up! She did not lose her character.

**Change of Circumstances** - Naomi could have lived in self-pity because of all she had lost. Her life could have ended in defeat and despair but she made a decision to **return to Bethlehem**, her country, her family, the place of God. **Ruth went with her**. Because of her decision, her circumstances changed. She responded properly and God worked it for good (Romans 8:28). Boaz and Ruth presented to her a grandson, Obed, who was in the lineage of Jesus Christ (Ruth 4:13-22).

**Lessons to Learn** – Your life influences others. God gives new beginnings. Faithfulness is rewarded. God allows you to make decisions. Failure does not mean defeat. Life away from God brings misery. It is important to be in the right place. You can be victorious even in the worst circumstances.

***God’s Providential Care and Guidance is always at Work for the Child of God.***

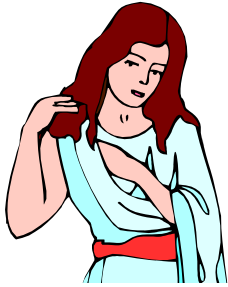
# BATHSHEBA

Lesson Three

By Chris Walters, Rock Hill, South Carolina

## “A Faithful Wife”

II Samuel 11:3; 12:24; I Kings 1:11, 15-16, 28-31; 2:13, 18-19



**Introduction** - The first mention of **Bathsheba** in the Bible is in II Samuel 11:2-3 when David saw her washing herself on the rooftop of her home. As David inquired about her identity, he found her to be the wife of his trusted general, Uriah. Bathing on the roof was a common practice in that time, and the roof was even used as an extra bedroom if the night became too warm. It is believed that Bathsheba was from a good family, for her father's name was Eliam, which meant “God is gracious.” Many artists have pictured Bathsheba as a beautiful woman, but no matter how she looked, King David commanded that she be brought to him (II Samuel 11:4). Bathsheba had no choice about going with the soldiers for she had been commanded by the king. King David took her and had an adulterous relationship with her that resulted in Bathsheba becoming pregnant with King David's child. David, in order to avoid a scandal, commanded that Uriah be put in front of the battle and abandoned so he would die. After Uriah's death, David took Bathsheba as his wife. God judged King David because of his sin with Bathsheba, and the child died. In Psalm 51, David pleaded to God for forgiveness for his sin. Later God gave David and Bathsheba another son named Solomon who became the king after David died. When David was sick and old, another son, Adonijah, by another wife began to exalt himself as king. He prepared a great feast to announce his kingship. During this time, God used Bathsheba to assure her son Solomon would indeed become king.

**A Righteous Woman** (I Kings 1:11-14) - The prophet Nathan felt that although David was old and had had many wives since Bathsheba, that she still had some influence with David. He sought her out, and she intervened on behalf of her son, Solomon. Her plea before the aging king showed respect, finesse, courtesy and a vision for the future (I Kings 1:16-21).

**A Respected Woman** (I Kings 1:28-30) - Bathsheba was respected by the prophet Nathan. He gave her counsel concerning how to approach David about Solomon being king. She was also respected by King David. I Kings 1:15 tell us that she was admitted into his personal chamber while one of his other wives ministered to him. Last, Bathsheba was respected by her son, Solomon, who later became King.

**A Beloved Mother** (I Kings 2:19) - Solomon showed his love for his mother outwardly by rising up to meet her and bowing down to honor her as queen. He also commanded that a seat be brought for her, and she sat by him at his right hand. Solomon honored his mother as the queen for she had a place of prominence and power in the kingdom.

**Lesson to Learn** - The beginning of Bathsheba's story was shameful but slowly God used her as a mother in the lineage and generations of the Lord Jesus Christ. “David the king begat Solomon of her that had been the wife of Urias (Bathsheba)” (Matthew 1:6). She is a perfect example of Roman 8:28 in the Old Testament. “And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). God worked all things together for her good. Bathsheba is honored as mother of the world's wisest king. She is the picture of kindness and dignity that you should also want to display as daughters of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

**Bathsheba had a bad beginning but a good ending!  
God give new beginnings!**

# DELILAH

Lesson Four

By Chris Walters, Rock Hill, South Carolina

## “A Deceitful Woman”

Judges 16:4-18

**Introduction** - Just as Samson's name is typical of the strength of a man, Delilah's name represents the **essence of evil in a woman**. Although Delilah had a Jewish name which meant “devoted,” it is widely believed that she was a Philistine and may have been a temple prostitute in the Valley of Sorek where she lived. Delilah must have been a beautiful woman although the Bible gives us no detail about her appearance. She must have decked herself with the finest of silks and damasks of that



day. Her perfume would have been the best, probably shipped in from India or some other far away country. Her furniture would have been the finest, for her home had obviously become the favorite stopping place for Samson. This lesson will focus on the deceitfulness and treachery of the woman, Delilah, who single handedly did what the Philistines could not do; she brought down the famed Samson, the strongest

man in the world. Samson was defeated by a woman who used his weakness.

**Delilah was Sinful and Selfish** (Judges 16:5) - Because of her loose morals and her lack of love for Samson, she was easily persuaded to give him to his enemies. Each of the five Lords of the Philistine cities promised to give her 1,100 pieces of silver. Delilah used her femininity to try to entice Samson to tell the source of his great strength. After each episode of enticement in Judges 16:6,12,&13, she tested the success or failure of each method before the lords of the Philistine who were hidden in her room (Judges 16:9,12). Delilah used Samson's love for her **as a tool** to persuade him to tell “all his heart.” Delilah knew how to use her beauty to tempt and lure a man to please her.

**Delilah was Deceitful** (Judges 16:6-18) - Delilah was determined to find the source of Samson's great strength. She begged him to tell his secret. After each trial, he was confronted by the Philistines, but Samson was still blinded by his love and passion for her. He failed to see that Delilah did not love him, but she was a sympathizer with the enemy. She was deceitful as Satan.

**Delilah was Foolish** - First, Delilah was foolish to believe that if she had lots of money, she would become happy. She was used to a plush life style and planned to keep it. Second, she was foolish to believe that her evil game would not have consequences. Delilah deceived Samson, and the Philistines captured him. However, later as the enemies were gathered in a large house to celebrate and worship their god, Samson caused the house to collapse on them, killing thousands. Last, Delilah was foolish in the use of her feminine charms. These charms are given by God to each woman, and they should be used cautiously, for good and not for evil.

**Lesson to Learn** - The best things in life cannot be bought with money. They exist in our homes and our families. Love and devotion to our mates is essential for the Christian home to flourish. The characteristics of Delilah's life - sinfulness, selfishness, deceitfulness, and foolishness - should never be part of the life of a Christian woman. As a Christian wife you can be an encouragement to your husbands or you can destroy him with your bad attitudes and whining. Don't use the tools of a woman to get what you want in life. Seek to be good and godly Christian woman without wiles of the world.

# GOMER

Lesson Five

By Terry Bracelin, SWM

## “Unfaithful Wife – Faithful Husband”

### Hosea Chapters 1-2



**Introduction** - In the interesting Old Testament book of Hosea, God asked a godly prophet named Hosea to marry a woman that has been known as a harlot (prostitute). The woman's name was **Gomer**, which means “**completion**” – to perfect, or come to an end. **Gomer** was the **wife of Hosea**, a prophet of God. She should have been a supporter and helper to him. It was hard for Hosea to fully serve God without his wife. It is a sad story because Gomer was an adulteress (Hosea 2:5). She did not love God, and she was unfaithful to God and her husband. Even though she was unfaithful to Hosea and their marriage, Hosea remained **faithful to her**. God used the relationship between Hosea and Gomer to teach Israel and us the importance of God's faithfulness to us. Just like Gomer had been unfaithful, Israel had turned away from God to worship idols. **This story is an illustration to show God's love even to those who are unfaithful to Him.**

**Their Children** - Hosea and Gomer had three children. Their first child was a boy named Jezreel, which means “scattered.” This name showed that God would scatter the people of Israel because of their unfaithfulness to Him. God's mercy was still available for Israel, but they continued in their sin. Hosea and Gomer's second child was a girl named Loruhamah, meaning “God has no more mercy.” This child's name represented that God's mercy would no more be given to Israel. If they continued in their sins and ignored God, He would let them suffer. Their third child was a boy named Loammi, which means “You are not my people.” It was as if God was saying to Israel, “You are not my children any more.” God would allow their enemies to come and destroy their land and take them as prisoners. Each of these three children represented what God was going to do with Israel unless they repented and returned to Him.

**Their Example** - Gomer was **not a good example** of a wife or a woman, but Hosea was a faithful husband and godly example. Even when Gomer was looking to the things of the world, Hosea still sought her. He followed her and tried to win her love again. He demonstrated great love, tenderness, and patience with his wife. He tried to help her to turn back to the Lord and to experience all the blessings of faithfulness to the Lord. **Your Example** - Do you remember when you were first in love with your husband/wife? You both did silly things to impress each other. He thought you were cute, and you thought he was sweet. He would buy you flowers or candy. You would write him little love notes. He loved the perfume you put on your letters. You both could not wait until the next time you were together. You would write or text to each other all the time. What you wrote was never that important, but just being together (even on-line) was special.

**What Happens When Only One Wants To Serve God?** - These were the things that Hosea did for Gomer, even though she was unfaithful to him. Hosea is an example of God and His great love for His people (Israel). Are you willing to love and forgive as Hosea did? Gomer is an example of those who are unfaithful to God, going their own sinful ways. Many times we are the same as Gomer (spiritually) and want to go our own ways. The story of Hosea and Gomer is an amazing reminder of the way God works in a life to pull us back to Him. He will close doors, block paths, or keep you from seeing those friends that pull you away from Him (Hosea 2:6-7). God will follow after you to bring you back to Himself. You cannot escape the love of God.

**Lesson to Learn** - Today it is very easy to go astray from the Lord. There are many things that can pull you from the Lord - your job, friends, money, success, or pride. Don't have a hard, cold heart like Gomer. Run back to God, your first love. Seek His face (Hosea 3:5). “Enter not into the path of the wicked, and go not in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away” (Proverbs 4:14-15).

Gomer **could have been** a supporting wife to help her husband serve God.

**Always Remember That You Influence Others!**

**You never travel away from God alone – You take others with you!**

# JAEL

Lesson Six

By Chris Walters, Rock Hill, South Carolina

## “Volunteers for God”

Judges 4:17-5:31



**Introduction** - Jael lived at a time in Israel's history when God's people were being oppressed by the wicked King Jabin of Canaan. God allowed this to happen because Israel had sinned and done evil in the sight of God. Sisera, captain of King Jabin's army, had oppressed and caused trouble in the lives of God's people for twenty years. Finally Israel called on God for help and God sent Deborah, as judge, and Barak to lead Israel's army. Barak hesitated about going to battle. God told them in Judges 4:9 that instead of giving the victory to Barak as leader of the army, the victory would be given to a woman.

**Jael Knew Her Enemy** - After God sent a violent rainstorm that caused the chariots of Sisera's army to be stuck in the mud and his army defeated, Sisera fled. As he ran, he came to the home of Heber and Jael. Heber was distant kin to Moses. However, he had severed himself from Israel and preferred to be neutral to both Israel and Canaan. When Sisera came to the home of Heber and Jael, he felt a sense of safety. Jael invited him into their home. Jael knew Sisera was running from the army of Israel (Judges 4:17-18). It is important to note that in the culture of that time, only the husband was permitted to enter the wife's tent; however, Sisera felt he could go in because of his position and her invitation.

**Jael Soothed Her Enemy** (Judges 4:18-20) - Sisera asked for water, but Jael gave him milk. Water was basic, but she honored him as leader of the army of King Jabin by giving him milk. The Scriptures also tell how she comforted him by covering him with a blanket and gave him a sense of safety by standing in the doorway to guard him as he slept.

**Jael Slew Her Enemy** - After Jael made her guest comfortable and he had fallen asleep, she planned her strategy. Jael went quietly and chose her weapons - a tent peg and a hammer. **She put the tent peg to Sisera's temple and with a blow of the hammer, nailed his head to the tent floor.** She was defeating the enemy of God. When Barak came looking for Sisera, Jael led him to the place where Sisera lay with the tent peg still in his head (Judges 4:22).

**Jael Allowed God to Use Her** - Judges 5:24-30 tells of the song that was sung to honor Jael and her heroic deed. She was praised for being a volunteer for God who was not afraid. Because of her actions, Israel had rest from war for forty years (Judges 5:31).

*(Understand that the Bible does not teach to kill other people for Him. In the Old Testament God chose certain people to free His people from bondage and captivity. God used Moses to destroy Pharaoh and his army. God used Samson to slay many Philistines. God use Elijah to destroy hundreds of false prophets. God also used Jael to free His people from the wicked Sisera. God uses different people in different ways. Not everyone is called to be a preacher or missionary but everyone can be used of God... Ted Camp.)*

**Lesson to Learn** - God uses a person who is willing to be used. "For if there be **first** a willing **mind**, **it is accepted** according to that a man (or woman) hath, and not according to that he hath not" (I Corinthians 8:12). Are you willing for God to use you. God can use your different talents and abilities for His glory! **As Jael you should surrender to do the will of God.** You will be glad you did!

# JEZEBEL

Lesson Seven

By Donna Condra, SWM

## An Idol Worshiper and Murderer

1 Kings 16:31; 18:4-19; 19:1-2; 21:5-25; 2 Kings 9



**Introduction** - Jezebel means, “chaste, free from carnal connection,” but her character was the exact opposite of the meaning of her name. There was no one like her in the Bible. She was one of the most wicked women who ever lived. Notice, no one names their daughter “Jezebel.” Until this day it is one of the **most disrespectful names** known. Her names ranks with Judas, Demas and Lucifer. Throughout history the name Jezebel still refers to “harlots.”

**Jezebel** was the daughter of Ethbaal, king of the Zidonians. Ethbaal was both king and priest of **Baal (false god)** worshippers. Jezebel grew up practicing this cruel and terrible idol worship (1 Kings 18:26-28). Then she married Ahab, King of Israel (1 Kings 16:31). Ahab's sins increased with his marriage to Jezebel. “But there was none like unto Ahab, which did sell himself to work wickedness in the sight of the LORD, whom Jezebel his wife stirred up” (1 Kings 21:25). Jezebel was probably beautiful on the outside, but she was evil and wicked on the inside.

**Evil Influence** - Ahab was weak and easy to control. Ahab loved Jezebel's beauty and strong leadership qualities. Jezebel was just the opposite, she was ambitious and eager to dominate her husband. Ahab was like a puppet in her hands. Ahab permitted her to do as she pleased. She was not ashamed to openly worship Baal and persecute good and godly people. She influenced her kingdom to also worship Baal. She housed and fed 400 prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:19). She was a queen who led her people to serve a false God. She opposed anyone who worshipped the true God of Israel. One day Elijah had a contest between Baal and the true God. Elijah proved that God was the true God and destroyed the false prophets. Ahab told Jezebel how Elijah had slain **all the prophets of Baal** with the sword. She became very angry. She threatened to kill Elijah the same way the next day. Jezebel's authority was feared throughout the kingdom. Jezebel influenced her husband, the king, her own children, and a nation to many whoredoms and witchcrafts (2 Kings 9:22).

**Death in the Vineyard** - Life meant little to the dangerous woman, Jezebel. One day Ahab asked to buy the vineyard of Naboth or to trade for a better one (Leviticus 25:23-28; Numbers 26:7-8). Naboth explained that it was against God's law to sell the land of his inheritance. Ahab went home sad, grumpy and disappointed. He went to bed pouting. Jezebel asked Ahab why he was so sad and would not eat. Naboth had refused to sell or trade his vineyard. Without thought for right, Jezebel took control. She wrote letters in Ahab's name. She stamped the letters with the king's royal seal. She organized a public feast. She had Naboth sit in an honored place. Two men told lies, saying that Naboth blasphemed God and the king. Naboth was arrested, tried, and found guilty. Innocent Naboth was stoned to death. Jezebel informed Ahab. Happy Ahab hurried down to his new vineyard (1 Kings 21:1-15). Ahab and Jezebel felt no guilt or shame for the wrong done. God spoke to Elijah about Ahab in the vineyard of dead Naboth. Elijah went quickly and told Ahab all the words of God. “In the place where the dogs licked the blood of Naboth, shall dogs lick thy blood, even thine” (1 Kings 21:19). Elijah also told about Jezebel, “The dogs shall eat Jezebel by the wall of Jezreel” (1 Kings 21:23). Both of these prophecies were fulfilled. No one else ever died as Jezebel. God used her as an ungodly example!

**Horrible Death of Jezebel** - Elijah anointed Jehu the next king of Israel after Ahab's line of kings. Jehu defeated Jehoram and found Jezebel sitting in a window of the palace. “She painted her face and tired (adorned with crown) her head” (2 Kings 9:30). Servants obeyed Jehu's command and threw Jezebel down to the ground. Her blood sprinkled the wall. Horses trampled her body. Hungry dogs left only her skull, feet, and the palms of her hands (2 Kings 9). The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23). The end of sin is always destruction (James 1:14-15). Sin has an appetite that is never satisfied. Sin seeks to control you.

**Lesson to Learn** – Recognize false religions that deny God. Idolatry will lead you deeper and deeper into evil. If you sow wickedness, you will reap wickedness. What are some thoughts or actions in your life that may not be pleasing to God? Repent now. Do right for God. Remember, your life is an influence on many others.

**Warning! Do not follow the example of Jezebel!**

# THE LITTLE MAID

Lesson Eight

By Terry Bracelin, SWM

## “Brave Young Woman” II Kings 5:1-19

**Introduction** - Have you ever found yourself in an undesirable situation? Were you ever separated from your family? Many different emotions come at times like that. Perhaps at that time, you felt fear, worry, and doubts. The book of II Kings in the Old Testament tells a story of a young Jewish girl who was taken from her family in Israel and was made a slave in Syria. There she served Naaman, the captain of the Syrian armies. She must have had many fears and doubts, but we can learn much from her example.

**A Great Man with Leprosy** - Naaman had a horrible disease called **leprosy**. Leprosy ate away the body of a person until he died. It was a hated and feared disease. It was also very contagious. A leper could not mingle and fellowship with other people. The law required them to live separately from others and even at times to cry, “**unclean**,” so others would not touch them. It was not a quick death, but long and painful.



**An Unnamed Little Maid** - When a little maid, the servant of the captain's wife, heard about Naaman's leprosy, she knew the cure was for him to see the man of God. The little maid said to her mistress, “**Would God my lord were with the prophet that is in Samaria! for he would recover him of his leprosy**” (II Kings 5:3). This **unnamed little maid**, a prisoner away from her family, had the answer to the captain's problem. Evidently, she had learned much from her family in Israel. They must have taught her to work and care for a home, to respect those in authority, and to believe in the power of her God. She had a strong faith in God. She had been taught to love the Lord her God with all her heart, soul and mind. She proved this while there in Syria caring for Naaman's wife.

**A Thoughtful Wife** - Naaman's wife must have seen something special, something different in her. She trusted this young girl from Israel. At some time Naaman's wife shared the burden she had for her husband who had leprosy. After the little maid heard about the situation, she gave a very innocent response. “You need to go see the man of God in Israel ... He can help you.” She showed child-like faith and complete trust in the Lord to work through Elisha to heal this man.



**A Wise Decision** - Naaman, captain of the Syrians, followed the advice of this young girl. He went to see Elisha, the prophet of God. Elisha told him to dip in the Jordan River seven times. Even though Naaman did not like the advice, he needed to be healed and he obeyed. As he came out of the water after **the seventh time**, his leprosy was gone! He was healed of the dreaded disease. The young Jewish servant girl did have a God that was powerful!

**Young Ladies Can Be Used of God** - Praise the Lord for children and for teenagers who have this kind of complete trust in the Lord! Adults need to learn a great deal from the innocent faith in God that a child has. When a Christian is facing a difficult situation, he needs to pray – talk to the Lord about it and trust Him to do the work. Christians need to have humble, sweet spirits when going to the Lord. After praying we should be excited and ready to give praise and honor for all that God will do.

**Lesson to Learn:** This young maid demonstrated even in Syria the good things she learned at home. We need to live with this same obedience to God's Word, and we ought to teach our children to do the same. She also demonstrated that a person is never too young to stand for God. She showed complete faith in her God at a young age. Surely she became a faithful woman of God because she practiced this as a young girl. We need child-like faith to also trust our God. Nothing is too hard for Him!

“**Things which are impossible with men are possible with God.**”

--Luke 18:27

# **A WIDOW WITH A POT OF OIL**

Lesson Nine

By Terry Bracelin, SWM

## **“A Surrendered Woman”**

**II Kings 4:1-7**

**Introduction** - Through the Bible, God makes many statements that tell us that He is able to do exciting things when we surrender all to Him. “Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh: is there any thing too hard for Me?” (Jeremiah 32:27). “And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God.” (Luke 18:27). Here is a great story about a woman who was facing death, but remained faithful to God even in her hard times.

**Widows in Bible** - The Bible gives clear instruction that Christians in the local church should care for the needs of the widows that are in their church (Acts 6:1). If this woman were living today, her local church would be responsible to help her with her needs, but there was no local church in the Old Testament. She was dependent on God and God’s prophet for help.



**Elisha Meets the Widow** - The prophet Elisha came into a small town and found a woman who was a widow. This widow was struggling to live because her husband had died and she did not have any way to earn enough money to keep herself and her son alive. This is a lady that needed help. She cried out to Elisha, a godly man, for help, for his wisdom. She also knew that Elisha had known her husband. Her husband had been a teacher of the word of God, the son of a prophet, and a man who feared God. This widow was crying out for help because she owed a debt. The person to whom she owed the money was coming to collect the money. At the time she met Elisha, she did not have any money to pay her debt. She knew that if she did not have the money, the person she owed the money to would take her two sons for payment.

**The Thoughtful Widow** - Elisha knew that it took time, and that it was a great responsibility to care for and help a widow. Knowing that, Elisha called on the one Person Who could help this widow ... his God (II Kings 4:2). The only thing she could find in her house was one pot of oil. That does not seem like much today, but it was all she had. Elisha then gave her simple instructions. Elisha told her to go and borrow vessels (pots, vases, jars, etc.) from her neighbors. He told her specifically, “... **borrow not a few**” (II Kings 4:3). This meant she was to get **as many** as she could find! This widow would prove her faith in God and obedience to Him. She left her home, went out, and borrowed as many pots as she could find. She did not understand but she obeyed. She was completely trusting and obeying the prophet and God.

**She Did All She Could** - Elisha told her that when she had gathered the vessels, to go into her house and shut the door. This miracle would be done in private, not in public. This was a miracle just for the widow and her two sons to witness. She did not question the man of God. She did not argue with him. She did not complain to him. She simply did what he asked her to do. **She obeyed** and began to fill the vessels with oil. Her sons kept bringing her the empty pots to fill. When a vessel was full, they would set it off to the side. The widow was pouring from the one little pot of oil that she had in the beginning. Where was the oil coming from? This was a miracle from God. God produced something from nothing. Finally the last pot was filled, and the oil stopped flowing from that little pot she had. The widow came to Elisha and told him of the miracle. He told her to go and sell the oil to pay her debts and to use what was left to continue to live in her house. God not only provided for her present but also her future needs.

**Lessons to Learn** - Whatever you have, if you bring it to God, He can use it and you. Empty yourself of pride and selfishness and allow God **to fill** and control your life. God will begin when you surrender all to Him. Allow God to fill you and use you to your fullest today and every day. God delights in doing the impossible with whatever we will give Him (Ephesians 3:20). **God gives gifts so you can glorify Him.**



# ZIPPORAH

Lesson Ten

By Terry Bracelin, SWM

## “A Supportive Wife”

Exodus 2:15-22; 4:20-26



**Introduction** - The life of Moses can be divided into **three forty-year sections**. In the **first forty years** of his life he thought he was somebody. He killed an Egyptian and ran to hide in the desert in Midian. The next **forty-year** section of his life, Moses learned that he was nobody. During this time, Moses met **Zipporah**. In the **last forty years** of his life, Moses learned what God could do with a “nobody” when he was surrendered to God. After Moses had been caught killing an Egyptian he ran to the land of Midian. In Midian he arrived at a well where the priest of Midian’s (Jethro’s) seven daughters had come to draw water. There were also shepherds that were getting water for their sheep. These shepherds chased away Jethro’s daughters, but Moses defended them. When the daughters arrived home early, Jethro asked how it happened that they were earlier than normal. The daughters explained to their father that an Egyptian man had helped them get water from the well and had helped them water their sheep. Jethro told his daughters to invite Moses to dinner. Eventually one of Jethro’s daughters, **Zipporah**, became **the wife of Moses** (Exodus 2:21). There is very little written about Zipporah, but from the few verses that speak about her, women today can learn much.

**Zipporah’s Father was a Priest** – This means she was raised in a God-fearing home. She was raised to worship the Lord and to fear Him. She would have known the laws of God and been encouraged to live following them. She had godly parents to follow and learn from. Having a home that teaches the the importance of the truths of God’s Word is a great gift to any child.

**Zipporah loved Moses** - When God spoke to Moses from the burning bush, He told him to go back to Egypt to help His people become free. Zipporah loved her husband and she did not complain, but she followed him. It is important for a godly wife to support her husband as he follows the call of God for his life. God not only calls the husband, but He calls the wife and family, too.

**Zipporah Knew the Laws of God** - When God gave His plan for delivering Israel from the bondage of Egypt, she knew that her family needed to be in order first. Their first-born son had not been circumcised. This was a clear and simple law for Jewish boys. She quickly understood and obeyed the law making sure her son was circumcised. Moses then was able to go back to Egypt with his family right with God. The husband is the head of the home, but the wife many times helps her husband make sure the children are right with God.

**Lesson to Learn** - It is important for every person to have his or her own heart right with God. We cannot do a great work for God without a right heart. To keep her heart right, a godly woman must have her own daily quiet time with God in Bible study. “But though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day” (II Corinthians 4:16). This will improve her walk with God, and she will be able to encourage her husband and children in their relationships with God. Remember this quiet time. Your family depends on you. Moses had been learning humility and he was still learning. His wife, Zipporah was a good help meet for him. She helped him learn to grow and stay right with God. Wives need to encourage their husbands to live for God, and husbands need to encourage their wives to walk with God. Both in Bible times and today, wives often have a big part in the success of their husbands. Bill Rice had a godly wife in Cathy. Ted Camp has a godly wife in Carlene. Our pastor has a godly wife. Moses had a godly wife named Zipporah.

**You should be a good and godly wife to your husband!**

# **THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH**

## Lesson Eleven

By Rachel Strosnider, SWM

### **“A Woman of Faith and Obedience”**

I Kings 17:7-24

**Her Family – This woman is known only as an un-named widow.** The Bible does not tell her name. The Bible tells that her husband died. She became a single mother who must take care of her son. She was very poor and had very little. She lived in the city of Zarephath. Her husband died and she was left without money or provision. She had not hope or help from others. She now had only a little food and water. God stopped the rain and no one could farm and have food (I Kings 17:7-13).

**She was a widow, a single mother, and very poor.** She was unable to buy more food, or pay her debts. She could not have money to pay rent. She had nothing to sell for money. She faced each day wondering how she could live and provide for her son. Things became even worse, not better. Each day she wondered what would happen to her and her son? How could they eat? She could not turn to family or friends for help. She expected to die each day.

**Her Future** - This widow went out to get wood for a fire so she could cook one more meal. While she was picking up wood for the fire, God had sent a prophet, Elijah, to meet her. Elijah asked her for water and bread. She told him she did not have any bread, and she was planning to use the last of **her oil and flour** to make **one last cake** (bread). **Then she and her son would die** because they had no more food (I Kings 17:10-12). She expected to starve to death. She was at the end of all hope.



**Her Faith** - Elijah told her not to be afraid, but to make him food first. Then she could make food for her and her son. God promised that if she obeyed Him, her oil and flour would not run out until it rained again in her country. This widow obeyed God and made food for Elijah first. Because she trusted God and obeyed Him, God kept His promise, and her oil and flour continued until it rained again in her country (I Kings 17:13-16).

**God's Faithfulness** - After God kept the widow and her son alive through the time without rain, God allowed her son to become sick and die! The woman called for Elijah and asked him if her son had died because of her sin. Elijah took her son's body to his room and put him on his bed. Elijah prayed to God. Then he laid on top of the boy's body three times, praying for God to make him live again. God answered His prayer, and the boy lived again. Elijah took the boy to his mother and she said "Now I know that thou art a man of God, and that the word of the LORD in thy mouth is truth" (I Kings 17:17-24). **She believed God because of His miracle.**

**Lessons to Learn - It is important not only to listen but learn from life.**

1. When difficult situations happen to you, trust God and obey what He asks you to do. Proverbs 3:5-6 tells us we are to trust in Him, and He will lead us through our situations just as He helped the widow.
2. God is always in control, no matter what the situation. He is always ready to help (Hebrews 13:5-6).
3. God gave situations to the widow woman to help her faith to grow. Let your faith grow.
4. You can turn to God at all times because He cares for you.

**“Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.”**

– II Peter 5:7

# POTIPHAR'S WIFE

Lesson Twelve

By Diane Barr, SWM

## “A Rich, but Spiritually Poor, Woman”

Genesis 39:6-21



**Introduction** - Joseph was a young man who had been sold by his own brothers into slavery. He was brought to Egypt by the Ishmeelites who sold him to Potiphar. Very quickly Potiphar realized that God was with Joseph and prospered whatever he did. Potiphar put Joseph in charge of everything that he had. This would have included things like the stables, other servants and their quarters, the agricultural activities, and the house with all its servants and slaves. Joseph was a man who was obviously responsible and wise. Potiphar's wife was rich, spoiled, and probably beautiful. She lived a life of luxury; she had servants to bathe her, dress her, prepare her meals, and care for her house. She was probably neglected by her husband (v 6, "He knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat"). Her life was totally empty of meaning, and she had nothing to do with her time and energy. In addition, she did not know God, so she had no inner strength to do right. Potiphar's wife loved and lived for pleasure and fun. She lived a wasted life!

**She had Opportunities to Tempt** - Egyptian women enjoyed more freedom than those in Oriental countries, and they were generally not moral. Potiphar's wife probably was not worse than many others of the same rank. In the home, **she would have had many opportunities** to meet Joseph. Sin will always find the right opportunity to tempt and pull you from God.

**Her Sin Began with her Eyes** - "Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured" (39:6). He was very handsome. Potiphar's wife coveted him. **We must make a covenant with our eyes, that we not be tempted by what we see (Job 31:1, Psalm 101:3).**

**She had No Shame in her Sin** - When she said, "Lie with me" (v 7), she had already committed adultery with him in her heart. There was no modesty, no blushing, no shame, no conscience. Yet, remember, she did not have God; she was a slave to sin (Romans 6:20). We should not be shocked when the world sins, for they are slaves to it. That does not excuse them. But we must be different, because we have been freed from sin (Romans 6:22).

**She Continued Tempting Joseph** - She probably flattered, coaxed, and persuaded. She may have even wept (a woman's tears get to a man every time), and commanded (she was the mistress of the house). Her heart was fully set to do evil. This had to have been a great temptation to Joseph. He was human, young, handsome, single, and male! It was his responsibility to obey his master's wife. Through her favor, his place could be made higher. If he slighted her, he would have to pay. There was no one else there; the sin would possibly never be discovered; and Potiphar's wife kept on - again and again.

**Joseph's resistance was Brave and Honorable** - He respected his master, and he knew he could not offend God and sin against Him. Joseph desired to stay pure. He stayed away from Potiphar's wife as much as possible. When she caught him, he fled. He ran from evil! Joseph did right. There are times you need to run and flee from sin. It is important to make the right decision **at the time** of temptation.

**She turned to vengeance** - Potiphar's wife began to lie and to accuse him to the other servants. Then she accused Joseph to Potiphar. She lied because Joseph had refused to sin with her. She felt scorned. Potiphar believed his wife and had Joseph put in the prison for the king's prisoners - the worst prison. Even there, Joseph did right, and soon he became the prison keeper's favorite. God used this to put Joseph in the place where he would later be lifted up to the second-highest place in the kingdom.

**Lessons to learn:** 1. Make a promise to God to look on right things. Most temptations begin with things which you have seen. 2. When you face temptation, it is important to "resist the devil" (James 4:7) and flee (II Timothy 2:22). 3. God will always give a way to escape temptation (I Corinthians 10:13).

**Seek to Always Do Right!**

# Special Mother's Day Lesson

“1 - 4 - 3”

By  
Karla (Camp) Allen

The little girl was so happy. Her beautiful mommy had a new baby growing in her tummy. The mommy sang sweet songs to the little girl and told exciting stories of all of the fun things they would do with the new baby. Her mommy taught her “1-4-3” which was code for “I Love You.” She would say, 1-4-3, Patty, and Patty would respond, 1-4-3, Mommy.

Then one day the mommy became very ill with German measles. The doctors told the mommy that it would not be safe for her to have the new baby and even if she did decide to keep it, there were no placements available for a baby with special needs to have the care it would require. The mommy said no to the doctors, she wanted to have her baby no matter what its disability. She told her little girl, Patty, that she would need to take special care of her new baby brother, Thomas. Patty promised her mommy that she would always look out for him. The months and years following his birth, Patty told Thomas the exciting stories and sang the sweet songs to him. She taught him 1-4-3. She helped her mommy take good care of him, especially when another new baby, Joel, was born. It was hard for Patty when the other kids in the neighborhood were mean to Thomas. She would defend him and wipe his tears when it was too much for him to bear.

Her mother had told her to take special care of him, and she took this duty very seriously. As Patty grew older, she started to have her own interests and hobbies. She was very smart and excelled in her school work. Sometimes it was frustrating to help look after Thomas, and she often resented the time she had to spend with him. The pressure grew even greater when their dad left them and her mom had to work to support the family. But Thomas always had a special place in her heart. Patty worked so hard that she won a full scholarship to her favorite college. She started making plans to leave home and go and fulfill her dreams of studying music. But one day a tragedy occurred. When Patty was getting ready to leave for school, she received a call that her mother had suffered a traumatic brain injury while out hiking and had been taken away by an ambulance. When she arrived at the hospital, she found that her mother was in a semi-vegetative state and had no memory of her former life. Patty was devastated. However, she remembered the promise that she had made to her mother that she would always look out for Thomas, so she turned down her scholarship and stayed at home to take care of him. She continued to share her mother's stories to Thomas and Joel and she often told them 1-4-3.

As the years went by, Patty's mother remained in a nursing home. Patty managed to get a nursing degree by going to school at night so she could help with her mother's care. She eventually married and had three magnificent girls of her own to whom she told the exciting stories and sang the sweet songs. Thomas went to live in a home near Patty and was able to work a full-time job. Joel went on to college and also married. They visited their mother often. Twenty-two years from the time of the brain injury, Patty's mother passed away. As the three siblings gathered with their friends and family at the memorial service, they shared a bond that few people ever experience.

Patty, now herself a beautiful mommy, stood at the podium to share the exciting stories and sweet songs from her long ago memories. As she finished, the pastor began to make his closing remarks when Thomas raised his hand and asked if he could speak. As he haltingly made his way to the front, there were tears in Patty's eyes. Thomas also wanted to share memories he had of his mother. He pulled a crumpled sheet of paper from his pocket and began to speak. “I wrote this myself,” he said. He proceeded to tell the story of 1-4-3. “My mama always said 1-4-3 to me. She would say 1-4-3-5, I love you, Patty. 1-4-3-4, I love you, Joel. 1-4-3-6, I love you, Thomas. And today when my mama got to heaven my mama says, 1-4-3-5, I love you, Jesus.”

When the service ended, there was not a dry eye in the place. Thomas' words were a strong reminder of **what is really important** in this life. As you go through your daily experiences, try to remember those important little words as you speak with your friends and family, 1-4-3. On her special day, make sure you say 1-4-3-6, **I love you, Mother**. But more importantly, remember to say it to the one who loves you the most, 1-4-3-5, **I love you, Jesus!**

**A Special Article Written by Our Daughter - Happy Mother's Day!**

This is written because I care  
...Carlene Camp, SWM

# Special Mother's Day Lesson

## A Mother' Tears

Dr. Elmer Towns

There is nothing so tender, so convicting, so touching and so powerful. Why? Because mothers are more tender and gentle than any others. Because mothers care deeper than any others. Because all life comes from mothers. Because mothers have great hopes for the family. Because mothers are more remarkable. Because mothers reflect God's love to us. Mothers shed tears of joy when they share happiness with their husbands and children. Many children who would not be changed with spankings are changed with mother's tears. Weeping is also the result of a sinful world, "time to weep" [Ecclesiastes 3:4]. God knows the need of tears so He created tear ducts. Mothers pray and weep over their children more than any others. "She [Hannah] was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the Lord, and wept sore" [I Samuel 1:10]. If mothers didn't pray over their family, who would?

### A. What About Tears?

1. Temporary tears. "many endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" [Psalm 30:5].
2. Discouragement. Jesus said to the woman with a dead son, "not" [Luke 7:13].
3. Different degrees of tears. "very sore" (Ezra 10:1). "bitterly" [Matthew 26:75].
4. Release of emotions, "What mean ye to weep and break mine heart?" [Acts 21:13].
5. Physical pain, "not thy soul spare for his physical) crying" [Proverbs 19:18].
6. Loss. "why weepest thou?" (John 20:13). "to weep there" [John 11:31].
7. Desperation. "also will hear their cry" (Ps. 145:19).
8. Facing danger and fear, "have nothing to fear, but fear itself." – D. Roosevelt
9. Tears of joy. "joy unspeakable" [I Peter 1:8]. "joyfully with wife whom thou lovest" [Ecclesiastes 9:9].

### B. What To Do About Tears

1. Realize God knows, "righteous cry, and the Lord heareth and delivereth them" [Psalm 34:17].
2. Don' quit, "goeth forth and weepeth...shall doubtless come again with rejoicing" [Psalm 126:6].

### C. Why Did Jesus Weep?

1. Remember the example of Jesus, and weep for the right reasons. "Jesus wept" [John 11:35].
2. His natural love for Lazarus (John 11:5).
3. Identify with Mary and Martha (John 11:21, 32).
4. The unbelief of His disciples (John 11:16)
5. The hardness of the Jews (John 11:46).

### D. Tears Are For A Season

1. Look through your difficulty to see God's plan and purpose. "Not" [Luke 7:13].
2. Get encouragement from family and friends. "with them that weep" [Romans 12:15].
3. Realize it is temporary. "many endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning" [Psalm. 30:5].
4. Look for the of joy in the night. "the night his song shall be with me" [Psalm. 42:8].
5. Learn to pray about it and look for God's deliverance. "weep now: for ye shall laugh" [Luke 6:21].
6. It's all right to weep. Jesus wept, so did most others in scriptures.
7. There is coming a day when we will have **no more tears**, no more weeping or crying.

"And God shall **wipe away all tears** from their eyes; and there shall be **no more** death, neither sorrow, **nor crying**, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

-- Revelation 21:4

## Special Couple's Lesson

### Aquila and Priscilla – FaithfortheFamily.com

**“It is not enough to simply stay married; it is also the will of God that Christian couples serve the Lord together.”** – Faith For The Family

In studying **Aquila and Priscilla** through the New Testament you will notice that they are always mentioned together. We first meet them in **Acts 18:1-3** where we read: “After these things Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth; And found a certain Jew named **Aquila**, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife **Priscilla**; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers.” They worked and served **“together”** even in their occupation as tentmakers.

*After this they are always mentioned together. Sometimes as Priscilla and Aquila or Aquila and Priscilla. There was no competition between the two of them. **Together** they were companions to Paul. “And Paul after this tarried there yet a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren, and sailed thence into Syria, and with him **Priscilla and Aquila**” (Acts 18:18) **Together** they mentored Apollos. “And a certain Jew named **Apollos**, born at Alexandria, an eloquent man, and mighty in the scriptures, came to Ephesus. This man was instructed in the way of the Lord; and being fervent in the spirit, he spake and taught diligently the things of the Lord, knowing only the baptism of John. And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when **Aquila and Priscilla** had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly” (Acts 18:24-26). **Together** they were helpers to others even at the cost of their lives. “Greet Priscilla and Aquila my helpers in Christ Jesus: **Who have for my life laid down their own necks**: unto whom not only I give thanks” (Romans 16:3-4). Together they agreed to open their home for church services. “Aquila and Priscilla salute you much in the Lord, with **the church that is in their house**” (I Corinthians 16:19). Paul also mentions them in his last letter “Salute Priscilla and Aquila” (II Timothy 4:19). When you think of them you do not think of them as two, but as one. Surely this was God's intention in Genesis 2:24 when He said, “Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.” – Ted Camp*

The Lord Jesus confirmed this command in Matthew 19:5 and Mark 10:8 and added the warning: “What therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.” When Paul the Ephesian believers, he repeated this truth in the context of Christ and His church (Ephesians 5:31). However, the greatest example is our Lord's own covenant with His people: “I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.” Aquila and Priscilla are displaying to us what has been designed by God.

We understand it is God's plan that couples stay and serve together. Many years passed from the time we met them in Acts 18 until we last heard of them in II Timothy 4:19; yet Aquila and Priscilla were still serving together. At a time when more than half of all marriages end in divorce, this is a reminder all God's people need. But it is not enough to simply stay married; it is also the will of God that Christian couples serve the Lord together. Husbands and wives are to work together to bring glory to Christ through their home. Married couples ought to pray together, read the Word of God together, attend church services together, and labor together to bring the lost to Christ. Nothing brings unity like a common purpose. The desire of every believing husband and wife ought to be to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ together. How beautiful it is to see families joyfully serving the Lord! Will you determine to make your home a place where everyone is involved in the work of Christ? May God give us all the grace to “finish our course with joy” --- **serving God together as a husband and wife.**

# Silent Word Ministries Compiled List



## Many Of The Women Of The Bible



[Listed In Alphabetical Order]

Compiled from several sources including Internet by Ted Camp for SWM Deaf Ministries  
(See References and Credits Listed on Back Page)

(Please Note – If you find any discrepancies please advise and we will correct - SWM)

### Name Scriptures Details

- Abhiahil** - I Chronicles 2:29 - In line of Hezron, wife of Abishur
- Abi** - II Kings 18:2, II Chronicles 14:22; 29:1; 26:5 - Wife of Ahaz, mother of Hezekiah
- Abia** - I Chronicles 2:24 - Wife of Hebron grandson of Judah in line Christ's genealogy Abigail - I Samuel 25:1-42
- Abigail** 2 - II Samuel 17:25; I Chronicles 2:16, 17 - Half sister of David, wife of Jether (Ithra), mother of Amasa
- Abihail** - Numbers 3:35 - Daughter of a son of Merari, mother of Zuriel
- Abihail** - II Chronicles 11:18 - Mother of Rehoboam's wife Nahalath, daughter of Eliab, David's eldest brother
- Abishag** - I Kings 1:3-4; 2:13-25 - Young woman married to King David in his oldest age just before he died
- Abital** - II Samuel 3:4; I Chronicles 3:3 - One of David's eight wives
- Achsah** - Joshua 15:16-17; Judges 1:12-13; I Chronicles 2:4, 9 - Othniel's wife (Othniel, a judge in Judah)
- Adah** - Genesis 4:19-23 - wife of Lamech, mother of Jabal and Jubal
- Adah** (Bathshemeth) - Genesis 26:36:2 - Wife of Esau, mother of Eliphaz
- Ahinoam** - 1 Samuel 14:50 - Wife of Saul, mother of Jonathan, Merab and Michal
- Ahinoam** - 1 Samuel 25:43; 27:3; 30:5, II Samuel 2:2; 3:2; I Chronicles 3:1 - One of David's eight wives
- Anna** - Luke 2:26-28 - Daughter of Phanuel, widow in the temple who recognized the infant Christ as the Messiah
- Apphia** - Philemon 2 - Believed to be the wife of Philemon and either mother or sister of Archippus
- Asenath** - Genesis 41:45-30; 46:20 - Wife of Joseph, daughter of Potipherah, mother of Ephraim and Manasseh
- Athaliah** - II Kings 8:26; 11; II Chronicles 23:13-21; 24:7 - Daughter of Ahab and Jezebel, wife of Jehoram, mother of Ahaziah, killer of worshipers of Jehovah, reigned for six years as Queen of Judah
- Azubah** - I Kings 22:42; II Chronicles 20:31 - Wife of righteous King Asa, mother of righteous King Jehoshaphat
- Azubah** - I Chronicles 2:18.19 - Wife of a Caleb who was a descendant of Joshua's friend Caleb
- Bashemath I** - Genesis 28:9; 36:3, 4, 13 - Daughter of Ishmael, wife of Esau, mother of Reuel to four tribes of Edom
- Bashemath II** - Genesis 26:34; 36:10 - Hittite Wife of Esau married out of anger to parents
- Bashemath III** - I Kings 4:15 - Daughter of Solomon, wife of Ahimaaz
- Bathsheba** - II Samuel 11:2-3; 12:24; I Kings 1:11-31; 2:13-19 - Woman whose beauty led to adultery and murder. Wife of Uriah one of David's mighty men, mother of Solomon by David
- Bernice** - Acts 25:13, 23; 26:30 - Eldest daughter of Herod Agrippa who becomes wife of her uncle.
- Billah** - Genesis 29:29; 30:3-7; 35:22, 25; 37:2; 46:25; I Chronicles 4:29; 7:13 - Handmaid of Rachel, given to Jacob as secondary wife, mother of Dan and Naphtali
- Candace** - Acts 8:27 - Her eunuch is converted to God and baptized in the desert by Philip
- Chloe** - I Corinthians 1:10-11 - Mother of Christian household at Corinth where Paul stayed

**Claudia** - II Timothy 4:21 -Mentioned in Paul's letter to Timothy

**Cozbi** - Numbers 25:6-18 - Midianite woman killed by Phinehas to stop plague of idolatry and whoredom in Israel

**Damaris** - Acts 17:34 - One of Paul's converts as he preached on Mar Hill in Athens

**Deborah I** - Genesis 24:59; 35:8 - Rebekah's nurse maid, a devoted friend who died revered and loved by the family

**Deborah II** - Judges 4 and 5; Hebrews 11:32-34 - Prophetess, warrior and only female judge of Israel, wife of Lapidoth

**Delilah** - Judges 16:4-21 - Prostitute, traitor, wife of Samson the strong in body but weak in will and desires

**Dinah** - Genesis 34 - The daughter of Jacob and Leah, defiled by Prince Shechem who desired her to wife, sibling of the men who slaughtered the Shechemites in reparation

**Dorcus** (Tabitha) - Acts 9:36-43 - The charitable member of the church at Joppa who gave much Christian service, when she died Peter raised her from the dead

**Drusilla** - Acts 24:10-27 - One of three daughters of Herod Agrippa. Just as loosely moraled as the rest, she was the wife of Felix when Paul appears before his court the second time.

**Elisabeth** - Luke 1:5-80 - A descendent of Aaron, wife of Zacharias, mother of John the Baptist in her old age

**Ephah** - I Chronicles 2:46 - Concubine of Caleb; mother of Haran, Moza and Gazez

**Ephrath** - I Chronicles 2:19,50; 4:4 - Caleb's second wife, mother of Hur, after death Caleb she has a son by step-son

**Esther** – Book of Esther - The queen who saved her people from destruction

**Eunice** - Acts 16:1-3; II Timothy 1:5; 3:14 - 15; 4:5 - Daughter of Lois, mother of Timothy

**Euodias** - Philippians 4:2 - One of the first converts at Philippi

**Eve** - Genesis 2 and 3 - Wife of Adam, first woman, mother of all, first took of fruit; mother of a prophet and a murderer

**Gomer** - Hosea 1:1-11; 3:1-5 - Wife of Hosea, a harlot - the story of this couple symbolizes God's love for his adulterous people who wander after strange gods

**Hagar** - Genesis 16; 21:9-17; 25:12; Galatians 4:24-25 - Handmaid of Sarah, mother of Ishmael by Abraham when he was 86, visited by an angel who declared the promise that her son also would be the father of many nations

**Hamutal** - Jeremiah 52:1, 2; II Kings 23:31- Daughter of Jeremiah, mother of Jehoahaz and Zedekiah a wicked king

**Hannah** - I Samuel 1; 2:1, 21 - Mother of Samuel the prophet, the barren wife of a man with two wives, she prayed and offered her child, if given one, to God. Samuel is that child, later she bears five more children

**Helah** - I Chronicles 4:5, 7 - Wife of Ashur in genealogy of Judah

**Hephzibah** - II Kings 21:1, Isaiah 62:4 - Wife of righteous King Hezekiah, mother of unrighteous King Manasseh

**Herodias** - Matt 14:3-12, Mark 6:14-34, Luke 3:19-20 - Illegal wife of Herod Antipas, she causes John the Baptist's death by havng her daughter Salome dance before Herod

**Hoglah** - Numbers 26:33, 27:1-11, 36:1-12, Joshua 17:3 - One of five daughters of Zelophehad who won the right of inheritance to their father's property as there were no male heirs

**Huldah** - II Kings 22:14-20, II Chronicles 34:22-33 - Prophetess during days of King Josiah

**Hushim** - I Chronicles 8:8-11 - A Moabite, One of two wives of Shaharaim in the genealogy of Benjamin

**Iscah** - Genesis 11:29 - A daughter of Haran, Abraham's brother

**Jael** - Judges 4:17-22, 5:6, 24-27 - Killed Sisera, as he slept by driving a tent pin through his head with a maul

**Jecholiah, Jecoliah** - II Kings 15:2 - Wife of King Amaziah and mother of King Uzziah (Azariah)

**Jedidah** - II Kings 22:1, 2 - Wife of wicked King Amon, mother of righteous King Josiah

**Jehoaddan** - II Kings 14:2 - Wife of King Joash, mother of King Amaziah

**Jehosheba, Jehoshabeath** - II Kings 11:2, II Chronicles 22:11 – She saved and hid Joash from the murderous Queen Athaliah so he might one day become king. The daughter of King Jehoram, wife of the high priest Jehoiada

**Jemima** - Job 42:14 - A daughter of Job

**Jerioth** - I Chronicles 2:18.19 - Wife of Caleb son of Hezron

**Jerusha** - II Kings 15:33, I Chronicles 6:12, II Chronicles 27:1-6 - Daughter of the priest Zadok, wife of righteous King



Uzziah who died of leprosy, mother of righteous King Jotham

**Jezebel** - I Kings 16:31, 18:4-19, 19:1, 2; 21:5-25, II Kings 9 - Wicked daughter of the king/priest of Baal, a Phoenician married to King Ahab who leads him into idolatry and murder. She dies an ignominious death as she is thrown from a wall, her body eaten by dogs

**Joanna** - Luke 8:1-3, 23:55, 24:10 - Healed by Christ of evil spirits, one of the group of women who fed and cared for Christ and the apostles, also one of the women who saw the empty tomb

**Jochebed** - Exodus 1; 2:1-11; 6:20; Numbers 26:59, Hebrews 11:23 - Mother of Moses, Aaron and Miriam

**Judith** - Genesis 26:34 - Hittite wife of Esau, daughter of Beerli

**Julia** - Romans 16:15 - Mentioned in Paul's letter to Romans

**Keturah** - Genesis 25:1-6; I Chronicles 1:32, 33 - Abraham's third wife whom he married after Sarah died. The mother of six of Abraham's sons. Zimran, Jokshan, Medan, Midian, Ishbak and Shuah.

**Lois** - II Timothy 1:5 - Mother of Eunice, grandmother of Timothy

**Lo-Ruhamah** - Hosea 1:6,8 - Daughter of Josea and Gomer, she shows God's relationship with Israel no pity or mercy

**Lydia** - Acts 16:12-15, 40; Philippians 1:1-10 - A successful businesswoman, the first convert in her family who brought the rest to conversion

**Maachah I** - II Chronicles 13:2, I Kings 15:1-2, 13, II Chronicles 11:20-22, 15:16 - Granddaughter of Absalom, wife of King Rehoboam, mother of King Abijah

**Maachah II** - I Chronicles 3:2; II Samuel 3:3 One of David's eight wives, mother of Absalom Maachah I Chronicles 2:48 concubine of Caleb son of Hezron

**Mahalath I** - I Chronicles 7:18 Great granddaughter of Joseph through Manasseh and Hammoleketh Mahalath Genesis 28:9 Daughter of Ishmael, Abraham's son through Hagar, Esau's third wife

**Mahalath II** - II Chronicles 11:18 First of King Rehoboam's 18 wives and 60 concubines, granddaughter of David

**Martha** - Luke 10:38-41; John 11; 12: 1-3 - Martha, Mary and Lazarus (NT). She was cumbered with much serving

**Mary** - Matthew 1: 2: 12:46; Luke 1; 2; John 2: 1-11, 19:25; Acts 1:14 - Mother of Jesus

**Mary Magdalene** - Matthew 27:56, 61; 28:1; Mark 15:40, 47; 16:1-19; Luke 8:2; 24:10; John 19: 25; 20:1-18 - Freed of seven devils by Jesus, she became a devoted follower and caretaker. She was at the cross, at the tomb and the first to see the risen Christ.

**Mary** mother of James and Joses - Matthew 27:55-61; Luke 8:2, 3; Mark 15: 40; 16:8 - Mother of James the apostle and Joses. She was one of the women who followed and financially supported Christ; was at the cross and again with the women who saw the empty tomb

**Mary** mother of Mark - Acts 12: 12 - Mother of Mark who wrote the gospel of Mark

**Mary of Bethany** - Luke 10:38-41; John 11; 12: 1-3, 7 - The sister of Martha and Lazarus she is famed for choosing "that good part" of spiritual growth over worldly cares

**Mary of Rome** - Romans 16:6 - One of the few given special greetings by Paul in his letter to the Romans

**Mehetabel** - Genesis 36:38; I Chronicles 1: 50 - Wife of Hadad, king of Edom

**Merab** - I Samuel 14:49; 18:17-19 - Oldest daughter of Saul promised to David but given to Adriel

**Michal I** - I Samuel 14:19; 18:20-28; 19:11-17; 25:44; II Samuel 3: 13-14; 6: 16-23; 21:8; I Chronicles 15:29 - First wife of David, younger daughter of Saul, she loved, protected and eventually lost favor with David

**Milcah II** - I Genesis 11:29; 22:20-23; 24:15 - Daughter of Haran, wife of Nahor, grandmother of Rebekah and Laban

**Miriam** - Exodus 15:20-21; Numbers 12:1-15; 20:1; 26:59; Deuteronomy 24:9; Micah 6:4 - Sister of Moses and Aaron, she followed Moses basket, was a prophetess to Israel, offended God by discounting Moses' greatness and was cursed with then cured of leprosy

**Naamah I** - Genesis 4:22 - Daughter of Lamach and Zillah, sister of Tubal-cain

**Naamah II** - I Kings 14:21, 31; II Chronicles 12:13 - Solomons wife (one of many). An idolatrous Ammonite whose son Rehoboam became the last king of a united Israel

**Naarah** - I Chronicles 4:5-6 - One of two wives of Ashur

**Naomi** - Book of Ruth - The widowed mother-in-law of Ruth who became an ancestress to King David and Jesus Christ

**Nehushta** - II Kings 24:8 - Wife of righteous King Josiah's unrighteous son Jehoiakim

**Noadiah** - Nehemiah 6:14 - A false prophetess who tried to stop Nehemiah from finishing the restoration of the Temple

**Noah** - Numbers 26:33; 27:1 - One of the five daughters of Zelophehad and co-inheritor

**Orpah** - Book of Ruth 1 - The other daughter-in-law of Naomi

**Peninnah** - I Samuel 1:2, 6 - The second wife of Elkanah whose initially barren first wife Hannah became the mother of the prophet Samuel  
Persis Romans 16:12 A woman mentioned by Paul as one who labored for the Lord

**Phoebe** - Romans 16:1-2 - A woman recommended by Paul as a servant of the Lord who should be assisted

**Priscilla** - Acts 18:2, 18, 26; Romans 16:3; I Corinthians 16:19; II Timothy 4:19 - Priscilla and her husband Aquila are strong believers and good servants in building the church

**Puah** - Exodus 1:15 - Egyptian midwife ordered to kill Israelite babies at birth but did not do so blaming lack of compliance on the quickness with which Israelite women delivered

**Rachel** - Genesis 29; 30; 31; 33:1-7; 35:16-26; 46:19, 22, 25; 48:7; Ruth 4:11; I Samuel 10:2; Jeremiah 31:15; Matthew 2:18 - Beloved wife of Jacob she was barren for years finally offering her maid to Jacob to bear children. Eventually a mother she died giving birth to Benjamin

**Rahab** - Joshua 2:1-3, 6:17-25; Matthew 1:5; Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25 - The Amorite harlot who helped Joshua's spies overcome Jericho. She married Salmon, one of the spies; was the mother of Boaz who married Ruth. An ancestress of David and hence Jesus Christ

**Rebecca or Rebekah** - Genesis 22:23; 24; 25: 20-28; 26:6-35; 27; 28:5; 29:12; 35:8;49:31; Romans 9:6-16 - Wife of Isaac, mother of twins Jacob and Esau. She helped Jacob trick Isaac into giving Jacob the birthright blessing.

**Rhoda** - Acts 12:1-19 The servant of Mary mother of Mark. She was so stunned by hearing Peter's voice at the gate the night he was miraculously released from prison that she ran to tell the praying saints rather than open the door.

**Rizpah** - II Samuel 3:7; 21:8-14 - Wife of Saul, mother of two of his seven sons. They were killed to appease the Gibeonites who survived Saul's slaughter in hopes this would end a three year drought

**Ruth** - Book of Ruth, Matthew 1:5 - The Moabite who followed her mother-in-law Naomi to a foreign land where by her goodness and loyalty she won the heart of Boaz; an ancestress of Christ

**Salome I** - Matthew 14:6-11; Mark 6:22-28 - Daughter of Herodias, she danced for Herod and won his promise of anything she asked. At her mother's prompting she asked for John the Baptist's head.

**Salome II** - Matthew 20:20-24; 27:56; Mark 10:35-40; 15:40-41; 16:1-2 - Mother of James and John, she along with husband Zebedee followed Christ. She ministered to him, was at the cross and was with the group of women who discovered the empty tomb

**Sapphira** - Acts 5:1-11 She along with her husband conspired to sell all and give to the church but instead kept some back and lied about it. She dropped dead at her lie.

**Sara, Sarah, Sarai** - Genesis 11:29-31; 12:5-17; 16:1-8; 17:15-21; 18; 20:2-18; 21:1-12; 23:1-19; 24:36-37; 25:10-12; 49:31; Isaiah 51:2; Romans 4:19; 9:9; Hebrews 11:11; I Peter 3:6 - Barren beautiful wife of Abraham she gave her maid to him who bore him Ishmael. In her old age she miraculously bore Isaac the heir.

**Shelomith** - Leviticus 24:10-13 - A Danite married to an Egyptian; her son is stoned for blaspheming God when he was not allowed to camp with the Israelites.

**Sherah** - I Chronicles 7:24 - An Ephraimite who inherited three villages and enlarged them

**Shiphrah** - Exodus 1:15 - A midwife who protected children born when ordered to kill them by Pharaoh

**Shomer** - II Kings 12:21 - Moabite mother of Jehozabad who killed King Joash of Judah

**Susannah** Luke 8:2-3 One of the women who ministered to Christ with her substance

**Syntycha** - Philippians 4:2 - One of the active members of the early church at Philippi

**Tamar I** - Genesis 38:6-30; Ruth 4:12; I Chronicles 2:4, Matthew 1:3 - The woman who played the part of a prostitute to have a child with Judah, an ancestress of Christ

**Tamar II** - II Samuel 13; I Chronicles 3:9 - daughter of David and Maacah, she was raped by her half brother Amnon.

**Tamar III** - II Samuel 14:27 Daughter of Absalom; niece of Tamar

**Taphath** - I Kings 4:11 - A daughter of Solomon

**Timna** - Genesis 36:12; 22; I Chronicles 1:39 - Concubine of Eliphaz mother of Amalek  
**Tirzah** - Numbers 26:33 - One of the five daughters of Zelophehad and co-inheritor  
**Tryphena** - Romans 16:12 - One of the women greeted by Paul in his letter to the Romans  
**Tryphosa** - Romans 16:12 - One of the women greeted by Paul in his letter to the Romans  
**Vashti** - Esther 1; 2:1; 4:17 - The queen who refused to appear before her drunken husband King Ahasuerus and his friends. For this reason she was divorced and Esther took her place  
**Zebudah, Zebidah** - II Kings 23:36 - Wife of righteous King Josiah, mother of Jehoahaz & unrighteous King Jehoiakim  
**Zeresh** - Esther 5:10, 14; 6:13 - Haman's wife, the man who convinced King Ahasuerus to all the killing of all the Jews  
**Zeruah** - I Kings 11:26-40 - Mother of Jeroboam King after ten tribes revolted against Solomon's son King Rehoboam  
**Zeruiah** - II Samuel 17:25; I Chronicles 2: 16 - A sister of David, mother of Joab and Asahel  
**Zibiah** - II Kings 12:1; II Chronicles 24:1 - Wife of King Ahaziah, mother of Jehoash  
**Zillah** - Genesis 4:19-23 One of Lamech's two wives, mother of Naamah and Tubal-cain  
**Zilpah** - Genesis 29:24; 30:9-10; 35:26; 37:2; 46:18 Leah's maid given to Jacob by whom he fathered Gad and Asher  
**Zipporah** - Exodus 2:21- 22; 4:24-25; 18:1-6 Moses wife, mother of his sons Gershom and Eliezer



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