



*The Joy
of
Obedience*

by

Susan D. Zakula



Books in the *Keepers at Home* Series

Little Keepers at Home (ages four to six)

Keepers of the Faith for Girls (ages seven to thirteen)

Joy of Womanhood Bible Study (teens through adults)

Joy of Obedience Bible Study (teens through adults)

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Dedication

I dedicate this book to my heavenly Father, Who loves me unconditionally; to my Saviour, Who died for me; and to the Holy Spirit, Who opens up the Scriptures for such a simple one as I. My appreciation goes to my husband who has proofed, edited, and, in parts, co-written every word.

“O how love I thy law! It is my meditation all the day. Thou through thy commandments hast made me wiser than mine enemies: for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for thy testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep thy precepts. I have refrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep thy word. I have not departed from thy judgments: for thou hast taught me. How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way.”

Psalm 119:97-104

Foreword

Dear Friends,

*I started out to write this book more than several years ago. I had finished *The Joy of Womanhood*, and was eager to begin the next in the series, *the Joy of Obedience*. However, the Lord had other plans for me, for He knew that although I thought I knew what obedience was, I actually knew little about true, absolute surrender. And, so, as is His way, He put me through the “school of obedience.” He has brought many situations, problems, and trials into the last few years to teach me the meaning of obedience to Him in everything, including my thoughts and attitudes of heart. My God has brought me through every test and trial, and He is more wonderful and dearer to me than ever before. I can truly say that I have discovered the “joy of obedience”!*

There are many today who teach that it is not necessary to obey God—that a little sin won’t hurt us, and there is no need for personal holiness. They falsely teach that keeping commandments is “legalism,” and yet Jesus did not seem to think along those lines at all. In fact, Jesus spoke quite often of obedience and the keeping of His commandments. He equated love for God, and love for Himself, with obedience. He said, “If ye love me, keep my commandments,” —John 14:15. Obedience is but a proof that we belong to Him, and that we love Him. After all, He has done so much for us, why would we not want to do what He has asked us to do?

If we tend to think that keeping commandments is burdensome, it is only because we do not know and understand how much God loves and cares for us. He only desires the very best for us, and He knows what is best. Oh, dear ladies, to really discover the joy of obedience, one only needs to begin obeying! “As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full,” —John 15:9-11.

To experience the joy of Jesus, to bask in His love, to abide with Him—all we have to do is keep His commandments! What a small thing is required of us, and what large blessings we receive! Why would we ever think this to be burdensome, when He meant it to be so joyous?

My heartfelt prayer for each woman and young lady working through this study is that you, too, would discover the joy of obedience. I promise you that once you taste of the joys that await those who obey, you will never want to leave the loving, abiding presence of Jesus.

Because of His great mercy to me,

Susan



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Goals

“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus,”
—Philippians 3:14.

According to the *Webster’s Encyclopedic Unabridged Dictionary*, the definition of the word goal is: the result or achievement toward which effort is directed; aim; end, the terminal point in a race. What is our terminal point for our life? Is it to be a good Christian? Is it to be a good wife and mother?

“Yea, doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ. And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith:” —Philippians 3:8-9.

When we focus our efforts on *being* something, our attention is on ourselves. We can never be good. Paul was not aiming to be a good Christian. Paul was aiming toward a Person, Jesus Christ. He was focusing on *knowing* and *servicing* Jesus, his Lord and Saviour. When we are trying to be something, we are trying to have our own righteousness. True righteousness is ours through faith in Jesus Christ.

So what is the purpose of the *Goals* section? It is to know God and serve Him while we are on our earthly pilgrimage heading for eternity. Oftentimes, the sin in our daily lives keeps us from being more effective in His service. Peter tells us to add to our faith virtue, knowledge, temperance, patience, godliness, brotherly kindness, and charity. He goes on to say *“For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ,”* —II Peter 1:8.

The purpose of the *Goals* section is to forsake sin and add to our faith. Pray and examine your life and character. Pray for the Holy Spirit to show you an area needing improvement and select this area for this year.

Let's take discontent as an example. Scripture admonishes us to be content. *“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.

The results of a discontented heart could be envy of what our friend possesses. This envy could cause us to be dissatisfied with what we have. We might grumble and complain over our lack. We would possibly begin to feel sorry for ourselves, and a good case of self-pity might settle over us. We might even become depressed about this. So you see, what appears to be a very tiny sin, just a discontented heart, has some very serious outcomes which not only could cause us much grief, but spoil the lives of others around us. Also, this one sin will keep us from being effective Christians and from being joyful women. Worst of all, this sin surely grieves the heart of God, for we are actually complaining about His provision and His fairness.

What shall we do about discontent? Find every Scripture on this subject and write them all down and memorize each one. Put them where you can see them or in places where you need a reminder. Put this sin at the top of your prayer list. Every time you yield to this sin and do not do what you should be doing, confess it immediately, and get busy! Praise God for all you do have! Count your blessings! Name them one by one! Thank God for everything. Develop a grateful spirit. Complain about nothing. Give thanks.





Goal for This Year

GOAL _____

What sin prevents me from reaching my goal? _____

How does this sin hinder me? _____

What are the Scriptures on this sin? _____

What changes am I going to make to combat this sin? _____

What positive things am I going to do to change this habit? _____

CHECKPOINTS (How am I doing?)

Record progress including failure and successes. You can also record daily struggles in your personal journal.

January _____

February _____

March _____

April _____

May _____

June _____

July _____

August _____

September _____

October _____

November _____

December _____

EVALUATION

How did you do? _____

Do you need to repeat this for next year or have you made this a permanent habit?

What more could you have done? _____



According to Thy Word

“Thy Word have I hid in mine heart that I might not sin against thee,” —Psalm 119:11

It is important to hide God’s Word in our hearts. We need to read God’s Word, meditate on God’s Word, and apply God’s Word to our lives. We need to memorize God’s Word so that we never forget it.

If we truly desire to *know* God and *do* His will daily, we must spend much time with Him, and find what *He* considers to be obedience. It does not matter what we think, or what others tell us, is obedience. We must know from *Him* what *He* considers obedience. We must apply His Word to every area of our lives. We must read the Bible for what it says, and never try to make it fit our own actions or interests. God’s Word is the absolute truth by which we must live. We must change our lives according to it, and not, as is so commonly done, interpret it to fit us.

It is my sincere hope that the format used in this book, which has helped me, will also help you to really learn to let God’s Word take hold of your heart and mind. Under the section entitled Definitions, please don’t write down what you *think* a word means. So often we are tempted to write the first thing that comes to mind, but, please remember that this is a study, and it is important to know the true and varied meanings of the words. Take the time to look up the words in a good dictionary. This process, looking up words, gives much more added depth to our understanding of words. If you do not “look up” the definitions in each chapter, you will miss out on a large portion of what you might gain from this study.

For example, we know God’s Word tells us to have a meek spirit, but few of us know what a truly meek spirit is. However, if we look it up in a good dictionary, we will find the words “meek” and “meekness” to mean: 1. Humbly patient or submissive, as under provocation from others. 2. Overly patient or submissive; spiritless; tame. 3. Gentle; kind, meek, soft, mild, modest, long-suffering, enduring, tolerant, persevering, understanding, unhurried. Synonyms would be: humbleness, resignation, surrender,

forbearance, yielding, docility; unassuming; pacific, calmness, softness, gentleness, long-suffering, modesty, kindness, tolerance, perseverance, understanding (Pacific means at peace, calm, irenic, nonbelligerent, pacifist, peace-loving, peaceable, serene, tranquil, at peace.)

After reading the full meaning behind the simple word “meekness,” we can begin to understand what it is that God values so highly, and we may possibly see just how far we have to go in our Christian walk to develop this meek spirit. We might even look up some of the words in the definition to define them further, such as “pacific.” Could these words be used to describe you or me?

Another beneficial aid in doing this study is to use a biblical concordance to locate other Scriptures which will prove the validity of your answers to the questions.

Last but not least, pray to the Holy Spirit to guide you into all truth. The Scripture says, *“Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come,”* —John 16:13.

Instructions:

- | | |
|---------|--|
| First | -Pray before doing each lesson. |
| Second | -Read the Bible verse. |
| Third | -Write the verse. |
| Fourth | -Write the verse in your own words. |
| Fifth | -Look up the definitions. |
| Sixth | -Answer the questions using Scripture whenever possible. |
| Seventh | -Memorize the verse. |
| Eighth | -Recite the verse to a designated person. |

must have a pretty special plan for our lives?

3. In what ways are man and woman created after the likeness of God?

4. What job assignments did God give to man and woman in these verses?

5. How do we have dominion over the fish, birds, and animals?

6. How are we to be fruitful?

7. Did God make us helpless? If not, how does He want us to affect our surroundings?

God never does things randomly. He always does things perfectly, and with a purpose. Men and women are the only creatures created in God's image and likeness. God had a purpose and a plan for our creation. Our daily lives are given us to live out His plan. Are you willing to obey God's plan for your life?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

DEFINITIONS

Possessed _____

Reins _____

Covered _____

Substance _____

QUESTIONS

1. How long has God been caring for your physical needs?

2. What did God know about you as you were growing in your mother's womb?

3. Would an impersonal or personal God know and care all about you?

4. Do you think that a God Who cares so much about a baby not yet born would continue to care as that baby grows to be a child, a teenager, and a woman?

5. Do you think that God, Who created and designed a baby who would grow and mature into a young woman, Who not only knows this young woman personally, but loves her very much, would design a plan that would make this

young woman unhappy?

6. Do you think that a God Who could create living beings could also create a perfect plan for each of His creations?

7. Could you trust this personal, loving God with your life? _____

8. How do you think such a God will treat those who are willing to trust Him?

Many women, young and old, though they may not speak it openly, feel that God's plan for a woman's life is somehow not fair. This, of course, can only imply that God is unfair also. Is it not possible that this philosophy is just the devil telling us the same old lie that he told to Eve? Let me ask you, would not a personal God—Who created you with love, Who gives you freely the gift of salvation, Who offers to answer your prayers and watches over you—be able to craft a plan for your life that was fair to you? And has He not done so?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



Jesus, Lord, I come to Thee,
Thou hast said I may;
Tell me what my life should be,
Take my sins away.

WEEK 3

The Lord's Thoughts Toward Me

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” —Jeremiah 29:11

WRITE VERSE

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Peace _____

Expected _____

End _____

QUESTIONS

1. Does God think about you, a woman?

2. What kind of thoughts does the Lord think about you?

3. How should that make you feel toward Him?

4. What do you think “expected end” means?

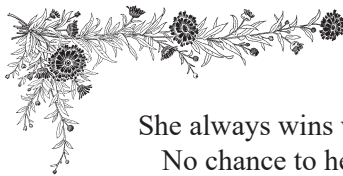
5. Do you believe that God is working toward an expected end in your own life?

6. What kind of “expected end” would God like to give us?

7. Can you trust God to work things out for good in your life?

God’s ways are the very best ways. We may not understand them, but we can trust God. Eve did not trust God. She took matters into her own hands. She let the devil convince her to interpret what God said to suit her own fancy. Are you willing to trust God to know the best way to bring about your happiness in this life?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSE - DATE SAID _____



She always wins who sides with God,
No chance to her is lost;
God’s will is sweetest to her, when
It triumphs at her cost.

Selected

WEEK 4

I Have Loved Thee

“The LORD hath appeared of old unto me, saying, Yea, I have loved thee with an everlasting love: therefore with lovingkindness have I drawn thee.” —Jeremiah 31:3

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” —John 3:16

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Everlasting _____

Lovingkindness _____

Believe _____

QUESTIONS

1. How long has God loved you? _____
2. How long will God love you? _____
3. How has God drawn you to Him? _____

4. In the Bible God used difficult, even terrible, events like captivity to bring the Jewish people to Himself. Do you think God was a loving God when He did these things to the Jewish people? Why?

5. What have been some difficult circumstances in your life?

6. Do you think a loving God allowed these difficulties in your own life?

7. How have they drawn you to Him? _____

8. How much did God love the world? _____

9. Do you feel that “the world” includes you? _____

10. What was God willing to give for you? _____
11. Do you think the giving of His Son for this purpose, knowing that persecution and death would hurt His Son terribly, caused God pain?

12. What does God ask us to do to gain everlasting life? _____

13. Do you believe? _____
14. Would this belief include trusting God with your physical life? _____
15. Can you trust the same God Who gave His only Son for you to have a perfect plan for your daily life also?

16. Why do you feel so? _____

Of course, we can trust our wonderful God. We can trust God with our eternal future, and we can trust Him with our temporal present. No matter what happens in our lives, God only thinks good and loving thoughts toward us. If God has allowed tragedies to occur, or just difficult daily situations to continue, in our lives, please remember, He is a good God that only thinks good thoughts toward us. He is working out His purposes in our lives to give us a joyful life. Sometimes the process is painful. Sometimes we are as stiff-necked as the Jewish people. Don't grumble! Rejoice in His everlasting love for you!

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



WEEK 5

The Lord Pitieth Them

“Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.” —Psalm 103:13-14

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Pity _____

Fear _____

Know _____

QUESTIONS

1. Why does a father pity his children? _____

2. Whom does the Lord pity? _____

3. Is it a good thing to have the Lord pity you? _____

4. How does the pity of the Lord compare with the pity of a father or mother?

5. What is fear of the Lord? _____

6. Is it only mild reverence? _____

7. Do you have true fear of the Lord? _____

8. What do you think true fear of the Lord might involve? _____

9. What does the Lord know about us? _____

God sees the big picture—in every generation, there are men and women who are trusting Him, whose physical lives are culminating with everlasting life—with Him. We tend to focus on the small picture—this generation, this life. Can we trust God, Who has seen generations come and go for six thousand years, with His plan for our lives in our own generation?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



I know not the way I am going,
But well do I know my Guide—
With a childlike trust I give my hand
To the mighty Friend at my side.
The only thing that I say to Him
As He takes it is, “Hold it fast,
Suffer me not to lose my way,
And bring me home at last.”

WEEK 6

After This Manner

“After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.” —Matthew 6:9

WRITE VERSE

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Manner _____

Hallowed _____

QUESTIONS

1. What is a father? _____

2. What kinds of things do fathers do? _____

3. God, in His Word, describes Himself as a Father. He is not a Father to everyone. Please read John 8:12-59. To whom is God a Father?

4. Is God your Father? _____

5. How would you describe your Father/daughter relationship with God?

6. Do you have a close relationship with your heavenly Father? _____
7. Describe how it is close. _____

8. Are you an obedient daughter? _____
9. How much time are you spending with your heavenly Father?

10. How are you spending it? _____

11. Do you trust your heavenly Father? _____
12. How often do you make decisions, or do things on your own, without first consulting with your heavenly Father?

13. “Hallowed” is a special term describing our heavenly Father’s name, and, of course, reflective of Who He is. When you pray and speak with your heavenly Father, how do you come to Him—in light of the fact that you are just a “daughter,” but He is the “Holy God”?

Our God, our Father in heaven, desires to have a Father/daughter relationship with us. It is too wonderful for our finite minds to even begin to understand how a great and mighty God would want to be personal with each one of His daughters. Are we not foolish indeed to fill up our lives with meaningless temporal things so that we are too busy for this relationship? Are we not again foolish to listen to this earthly world’s wisdom instead of listening to the wisdom of our heavenly Father? Dear ladies and girls, we each have the opportunity to have a special relationship with our Father. Please begin today to have a closer, more personal relationship with our heavenly Father.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSE - DATE SAID _____

DEFINITIONS

Guide _____

Instruct _____

Teach _____

Way _____

Counselor _____

QUESTIONS

1. According to God, Who shall instruct and teach us? _____
2. According to God, Who shall be our guide? _____
3. How can this be? _____
4. To Whom do you turn to for guidance? _____
5. Do you seek advice from friends? Do you read the books of men to find answers to your problems? Do you look to others for answers to your questions? Do you follow the counsel given in magazines? Do you take

an author's or teacher's advice as God's advice? Do you even bring your questions to the Lord?

6. How is our Father/daughter relationship affected when we seek the advice of others rather than going to prayer and our Father's Word to obtain His advice?

7. Does not God promise that we will find the truth in His Word? _____

8. Does not He promise that His Holy Spirit will teach us His Word? _____

9. Will the Holy Spirit lead us into error? _____

Our God desires to be our Father, our Counselor, our Teacher, and our Guide. Jesus is Truth. There is no truth apart from His Word. His truth is absolute and never changes. Young girls should seek advice and guidance from their fathers. Wives should seek counsel from their husbands. All should be in the Word, abiding in Christ, and seeking wisdom from Him.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

Great God! With wonder and with praise,
On all Thy works I look;
But still Thy wisdom, power, and grace,
Shine brightest in Thy Book.

Then let me love the Bible more,
And take a fresh delight
By day to read these wonders o'er,
And meditate by night.



WEEK 8

Eye Hath Not Seen

“But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” —1 Corinthians 2:9

WRITE VERSE

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Prepared _____

QUESTIONS

1. Who is it that is preparing something for us? _____
2. Why? _____
3. What is the very best thing that your eyes have seen and your ears have heard?

4. What is the very best thing you can dream in your heart about the future?

5. God has things too wonderful for us to even imagine. What is the only condition for receiving these wonderful things?

6. Do you love God, really love God, with your whole soul, mind, and body?

7. Describe what this means to you. _____

When God loves us so much, and has prepared such wonderful things for us, how is it that we love Him so little? Let us examine our own lives and purge out the things which hinder us from truly loving God with our whole being.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSE - DATE SAID _____

There's a land that is fairer than day,
And by faith we can see it afar;
For the Father waits over the way,
To prepare us a dwelling place there.

To our bountiful Father above,
We will offer our tribute of praise,
For the glorious gift of His love,
And the blessings that hallow our days.

We shall sing on that beautiful shore,
The melodious songs of the blest,
And our spirits shall sorrow no more,
Not a sigh for the blessing of rest.

In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore;
In the sweet by and by,
We shall meet on that beautiful shore.

Sanford Bennett

WEEK 9

God's Peace

“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.” —John 14:27

“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.” —John 16:33

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Peace _____

Troubled _____

Tribulation _____

Overcome _____

QUESTIONS

1. What does Jesus give us? _____
2. What does the world give if we belong to Jesus? _____

3. What kind of peace does Jesus give? _____

4. What things trouble your heart? _____

5. What things make you afraid? _____

6. According to Jesus, should you be troubled and afraid? Why? _____

7. How has Jesus overcome the world? _____

8. How can we overcome too? _____

9. Where will we find our peace? _____
10. How will we find it? _____

Are we not foolish Christians when we keep looking to others and the world for comfort and fulfillment? Jesus said the world will only give us tribulation. Why complain about the tribulation? Jesus said it would be so. However, He gives us what the world cannot. He gives us peace and rest. In Him, we are accepted, forgiven, and loved. He tells us not to worry or be troubled. He will care for us in this life. Those are the riches He gives us in this life. We need not be afraid when we have Jesus. He has given us His peace for this life, and He has a wonderful eternity planned for us.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

Like a River Glorious

Like a river glorious
Is God's perfect peace,
Over all victorious,
In its bright increase;
Perfect, yet it floweth,
Fuller every day,
Perfect, yet it groweth
Deeper all the way.

Every joy or trial
Falleth from above,
Traced upon our dial
By the Sun of Love.
We may trust Him fully
All for us to do;
They who trust Him wholly
Find Him wholly true.

Hidden in the hollow
Of His blessed hand,
Never foe can follow,
Never traitor stand,
Not a surge of worry,
Not a shade of care,
Not a blast of hurry
Touch the spirit there.

Stayed upon Jehovah,
Hearts are fully blessed;
Finding as He promised,
Perfect peace and rest.
Frances Havergal



Let's Do a Review

This ninth week is also a review week. Look over the preceding nine weeks. Has the Lord shown you anything unbiblical in your thoughts toward Him, or in your thoughts regarding your life? Write these down and begin to trust Him more, trusting that His way is the best way and He does know best! The written notes will serve as a future reference, and as a reminder to keep trusting.

REVIEW ALL VERSES AND RECITE TO YOUR DESIGNATED PERSON.

Genesis 1:26-28 <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalm 103:13-14 <input type="checkbox"/>	Isaiah 9:6 <input type="checkbox"/>
Psalm 139:13-16 <input type="checkbox"/>	Matthew 6:9 <input type="checkbox"/>	Corinthians 2:9 <input type="checkbox"/>
Jeremiah 29:11 <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalm 48:14 <input type="checkbox"/>	John 14:27 <input type="checkbox"/>
Jeremiah 31:3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Psalm 32:8 <input type="checkbox"/>	John 16:33 <input type="checkbox"/>
John 3:16 <input type="checkbox"/>		

WEEK 10

The Very Hairs

“Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? And one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows.” —Matthew 10:29-31

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Farthing _____

Value _____

QUESTIONS

1. Are sparrows fancy, expensive, or special birds? _____
2. What does this verse about sparrows teach us about God? _____

3. Do you have any idea how many hairs you have at this moment? _____
4. Does your heavenly Father know how many hairs you have? _____
5. What kind of God would care to know the number of hairs on each person's head? _____
6. Does He know everything about us? _____
7. Does He know every insidious sin in our hearts? _____
8. Does He love us still? _____
9. Is He willing to help us change, even though we are afraid of change? _____
10. What is it that Jesus knows we fear? _____

11. What is it specifically for you? _____

12. Why does Jesus tell us not to be afraid? _____

We cannot comprehend the love of God for us, His daughters! God knows us personally, and He knows all the intimate details about us. He knows more about us than we know about ourselves. He even knows all of our fears. Can we not trust this wonderful, all-knowing God with every detail of our lives?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 11

God Really Knows Us

“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight: but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do.” —Hebrews 4:12-13

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Quick _____

Powerful _____

Sharp _____

Piercing _____

Dividing _____

Asunder _____

Discern _____

Thoughts _____

Intents _____

Manifest _____

QUESTIONS

1. How sharp is a two-edged sword? _____

2. How does that sharpness affect a person who comes in contact with it? _____

3. What does the Word of God divide? _____

4. What do you think this means? _____

5. Is it good to be cut by God's Word? _____
6. How are we cut by God's Word? _____

7. When are we cut by God's Word? _____
8. Why are we cut by God's Word? _____

9. Does God see everything? Does God know our every thought? Does God know our secret motives? Can we hide anything from God? Can we even hide one tiny thought from God?

10. Does God know thoughts and intents of which we are not even conscious, and would deny?

11. How do you feel about what God knows about you?

God not only knows how many hairs are on our heads, He knows every thought we think and sees everything we do. God really knows us. Again, He knows us better than we know ourselves. If our God is all-knowing, and our God understands us, does He not know what would bring us the most earthly happiness? Could we trust this all-knowing God with our lives, even in that which we fear?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 12

Do Not Worry

“Therefore take no thought, saying, What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed? (For after all these things do the Gentiles seek:) for your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.” —Matthew 6:31-32

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Know _____

Need _____

QUESTIONS

1. What does “take no thought” mean? _____

2. What do eating, drinking, and clothing represent? _____

3. Who would be the Gentiles in our century? _____

4. What things do the Gentiles worry about? _____

5. Do people who say they belong to Christ worry about these same things? If so, why?

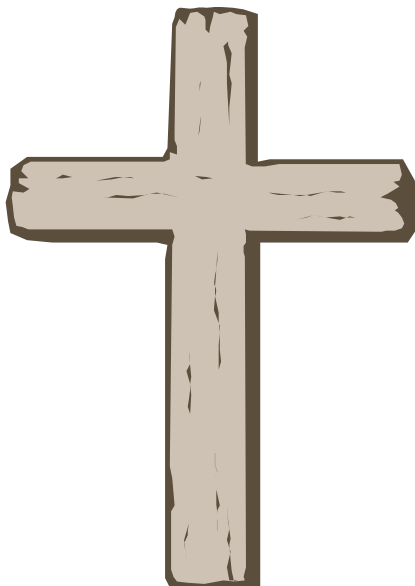
6. Why does Jesus tell us not to worry about these things? _____

7. Does this mean the Bible wrongly teaches us to work or be thrifty? Explain.

8. What exactly do you think it means? _____

Our wonderful heavenly Father knows all about our physical bodies, He knows our innermost thoughts, and He knows our needs. He does not want us to worry about the physical things in this life. He will care for them, especially if we are obeying Him in all things. Can we trust Him to care for them? If we are trusting, we are not worrying. We are simply doing our best to do right, and knowing that He is already caring for us now.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



In the previous twelve weeks, we have learned that we have a very personal God Who created us, loves us, and thinks only good thoughts toward us. He wants to be more than an impersonal God to us; He desires to be a Father to us. As a Father, He knows every detail of our physical lives, as well as all our innermost thoughts. He knows all about us, and He knows what is best for us. Through the pages of His Word, we have realized how great and loving He really is! If we know this to be true, we know that we can completely trust Him with our lives. So, let us learn to trust and obey without any reservation. Let us totally yield ourselves with absolute obedience to ALL of His Word! Will you begin to today to follow and obey?

WEEK 13

Keep the Commandments

“Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.” —Deuteronomy 13:4

“And he said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.” —Matthew 19:17

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Walk _____

Lord _____

Keep _____

Commandments _____

Obey _____

Serve _____

Cleave _____

QUESTIONS

1. Whom are we to follow? _____
2. Name five ways we should fear the Lord.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
3. Whose voice are we to obey? _____
4. How do we hear His voice? _____

5. How do we cleave unto the Lord? _____

6. Who is the only good One? _____

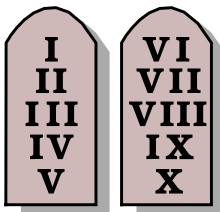
7. According to Jesus, how does one enter into life? _____

8. List the six commands given in Deuteronomy 13:4.
- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____
- 6) _____
9. Do you think these six commands are only for Old Testament believers? ____
10. To what people do these commands apply? _____

11. Do they apply to you? _____
12. Are you keeping these six commands? _____

This great and wonderful God asks only one thing of us in return for all the many things He has given us, and that is obedience. He is worthy of our obedience. He is deserving of our obedience. He commands us to be obedient. Are you obedient?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



Is it too much to keep His commandments?

WEEK 14

If Ye Love Me

“If ye love me, keep my commandments.” —John 14:15

“Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.”
—John 14:23

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.”
—I John 2:3

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Love _____

Abode _____

QUESTIONS

1. What is the proof of our love for Jesus? _____

2. Is there any other proof? _____

3. What will He do if we love Him? _____

4. What will that do for us? _____

5. How can we know whether our love for God is real? _____

6. Is there any other way? _____

7. How real is your love? _____

8. Explain how it is real. _____

9. What might you need to change? _____ \

Our obedience to Jesus shows our love for Him. If we love Jesus, we will keep His commandments. It is our evidence of our love. We are richly rewarded for our obedience by God the Father loving us, and God the Father and Jesus making their abode with us. Think of that! What an honor! What a privilege! We are mere mortals, yet our heavenly Father and Jesus promise to be near to us and live with us! How foolish we are not to obey in everything!

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 15

Trust in the Lord

“Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” —Proverbs 3:5-6

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Trust _____

Lean _____

Understanding _____

Acknowledge _____

Direct _____

Path _____

QUESTIONS

1. What does “with all thine heart” mean? _____

2. Can you give some examples of times when you have trusted the Lord “with all thine heart”?

3. What does “lean not unto thy own understanding” mean? _____

4. In what kinds of ways do we need to acknowledge the Lord? _____

5. Name seven areas in which you acknowledge the Lord.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

6. Can you think of any areas in which you are not now acknowledging the Lord? If so, what are they?

7. When you acknowledge the Lord, what will the Lord do for you?

8. If the Lord directs your path, will you obey His direction? _____

9. What if His direction is not where you want to go?

10. Is the Lord trustworthy? _____

11. If the Lord is trustworthy, can you follow even if it to a place or duty where you do not want to go? Why?

We can obey someone we trust. Our wonderful heavenly Father is someone we can trust, and, therefore, obey. To not obey is to say that God cannot be trusted. That is exactly what the evil one wants us to do, to not trust and obey God. God wants us to obey. The evil one wants us to disobey. Whom will you trust?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



WEEK 16

A Peculiar Treasure

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine.” —Exodus 19:5

“But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries.” —Exodus 23:22

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Covenant _____

Peculiar _____

Treasure _____

Enemy _____

Adversary _____

QUESTIONS

1. What are the conditions for becoming a peculiar treasure unto the Lord?

2. Consider the words “above all people.” Does it seem that many people become “a peculiar treasure”? _____

3. Does this seem an easy thing to do? Explain. _____

4. Who or what is not God’s? _____

5. Why does He not consider them all a treasure? _____

6. Why do you think God puts conditions on His blessings? _____

7. Do you have any enemies or adversaries? _____

8. What will the Lord do for you if you obey His voice and do all that He says?

9. Is this another reason we do not need to have any fear if we obey Him?

God’s blessings are wonderful and many. If we obey, we will be a special people

to Him. We will be His treasure. He will take care of us and protect us. He will even fight our enemies and adversaries for us. We need not have any fear of the future or others. Why wouldn't we obey?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

Trust and Obey

When we walk with the Lord
In the Light of His Word
What a glory He sheds on our way!
While we do His good will,
He abides with us still,
And with all who will trust and obey.

But we never can prove
The delights of His love
Until all on the altar we lay;
For the favor He shows,
And the joy He bestows,
Are for them who will trust and obey.

Not a shadow can rise,
Not a cloud in the skies,
But His smile quickly drives it away;
Not a doubt or a fear,
Not a sigh nor a tear,
Can abide while we trust and obey.

Then in fellowship sweet
We will sit at His feet,
Or we'll walk by His side in the way;
What He says we will do,
Where He sends we will go—
Never fear, only trust and obey.

Not a burden we bear,
Not a sorrow we share,
But our toil He doth richly repay;
Not grief nor a loss,
Not a frown or a cross,
But is blessed if we trust and obey.

Trust and obey,
For there's no other way
To be happy in Jesus,
But to trust and obey.

John Sammis



WEEK 17

The Paths of the Lord

“All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth unto such as keep his covenant and testimonies.” —Psalm 25:10

“But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children’s children; to such as keep his covenant, and to those that remember his commandments to do them.” —Psalm 103:17-18

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN ?

DEFINITIONS

Mercy _____

Truth _____

Testimonies _____

Fear _____

Righteousness _____

Do _____

QUESTIONS

1. What does the Bible mean when it speaks of the paths of the Lord?

2. How can God's paths be mercy and truth? _____

3. To whom are the paths of the Lord mercy and truth? _____

4. Why do you think the paths of the Lord are not mercy and truth to the unbeliever or the disobedient Christian?

5. For how long is the mercy of the Lord? _____

6. To whom is the mercy of the Lord given? _____
7. To whom does He give His righteousness? _____
8. Do you keep His commandments? _____

All the paths of the Lord lead to Him. All of His paths bring mercy, truth, and peace. All the paths of the Lord are everlasting and His righteousness extends not only to us, but to our children and grandchildren! Why would we not want to follow all the paths of the Lord?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

Footprints of Jesus



Sweetly, Lord, have we heard Thee calling,
“Come, follow Me!”
And we see where Thy footprints falling
Lead us to Thee.

Though they lead o’er the cold, dark mountains,
Seeking His sheep,
Or along by Siloam’s fountains,
Helping the weak.

Then at last, when on high He sees us,
Our journey done,
We will rest where the steps of Jesus
End at His throne.

Footprints of Jesus, that make the pathway glow!
We will follow the steps of Jesus where e’er they go
Mary Slade

WEEK 18

Whatsoever We Ask

“And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.” —I John 3:22

“And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.”
—John 14:13-14

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Ask _____

Receive _____

Pleasing _____

Glorified _____

QUESTIONS

1. What are the two conditions listed in John 3:22 for having our prayers answered?

2. Name five things that are pleasing in God's sight.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

3. How is the Father glorified in the Son? _____

4. In Whose name are we to ask when we pray? _____

5. Does "ask in my name" mean asking as one of His? _____

6. Is anyone who uses His name one of His? _____

7. Who is one of His? _____

8. Who can ask in His name? _____

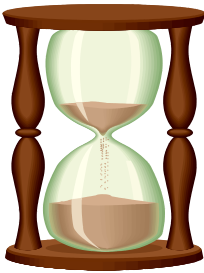
9. Do you think that obedience is a condition for receiving? Why? _____

Isn't it wonderful that our Saviour, Jesus, has promised us that if we keep His

commandments and do those things pleasing in His sight, He will answer our prayers? God's provision for those who love, trust, and obey is complete and covers our every need. Do you do only those things which are pleasing in His sight?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

Sweet Hour of Prayer

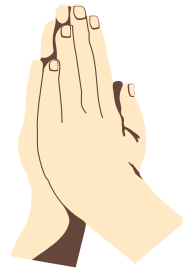


*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
That calls me from a world of care,
And bids me at my Father's throne
Make all my wants and wishes known;
In seasons of distress and grief,
My soul has often found relief,
And oft escaped the tempter's snare
By thy return, sweet hour of prayer.*

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
Thy wings shall my petition bear
To Him Whose truth and faithfulness
Engage the waiting soul to bless;
And since He bids me seek His face,
Believe His word and trust His grace,
I'll cast on Him my ev'ry care,
And wait for thee, sweet hour of prayer.*

*Sweet hour of prayer! Sweet hour of prayer!
May I thy consolation share,
Till, from Mount Pisgah's lofty height,
I view my home and take my flight:
This robe of flesh I'll drop, and rise
To seize the everlasting prize;
And shout, while passing thro' the air,
Farewell, farewell, sweet hour of prayer.*

William Walford



WEEK 19

The Joy of Obedience

“As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father’s commandments, and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full.” —John 15:9-11

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Continue _____

Abide _____

Joy _____

Remain _____

Full _____

QUESTIONS

1. How has God the Father loved His Son, Jesus? _____

2. How, then, does Jesus love us? _____
3. In Whose love are we to continue? _____
4. How do we continue in that love? _____
5. What is the condition for abiding in the love of Jesus? _____

6. What example has Jesus set for us? _____
7. In Whose love does Jesus abide? _____
8. Why did Jesus speak these things to us? _____
9. Jesus says, “that my joy might remain in you.” Why would the joy of Jesus not remain in us?

10. What does “that your joy might be full” mean? _____

11. Does this seem to mean that there are levels of joy? _____

If so, how can we have the greatest amount of joy? _____

12. How can it be that “joy” is found only in the surrender of our will and in the keeping of His will?

Dear ones, this is it—the joy of obedience! The joy of the Lord comes through no other way, but through the path of obedience. The joy of the Lord is not some magical dust that He sprinkles over us. It is reserved for those who love Him and who obey Him. Obedience is not a drudgery. Obedience is a joy for us when we realize it is the Lord we are obeying. It is a joy, and we are filled with His joy!

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



Joy Unspeakable

I have found His grace is all complete,
He supplieth ev'ry need;
While I sit and learn at Jesus' feet,
I am free, yes, free indeed.

I have found the joy no tongue can tell,
How its waves of glory roll!
It is like a great o'er-flowing well,
Springing up within my soul.

It is joy unspeakable and full of glory,
Full of glory, full of glory;
It is joy unspeakable and full of glory,
Oh, the half has never yet been told.

B. E. Warren

WEEK 20

Temptations

“There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.”

—I Corinthians 10:13

WRITE VERSE

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Temptation _____

Common _____

Faithful _____

Suffer _____

Escape _____

Bear _____

QUESTIONS

1. Define physical temptations. _____

2. List several. _____

3. Define temptations of the mind. _____

4. List several. _____

5. Define spiritual temptations. _____

6. List several. _____

7. Who is faithful? _____

8. What does God provide for us? _____
9. Why does God provide this? _____
10. How does God provide this? _____
11. List one temptation in each of the three areas (physical, intellectual, spiritual) and give one possible way how God might deliver from the temptation.
 - 1) _____
 - _____
 - 2) _____
 - _____
 - 3) _____
 - _____

God knew we would be faced with temptations. However, He loved us enough to make a way for us to escape. Too often we do not even look for God's provision when we are faced with a temptation. This is our fault, not God's. When we are tempted to disobey, even in the smallest detail, if we look up, if we look to God, He will show us a way to be obedient, and give us grace and strength for it.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSE - DATE SAID _____

Yield Not to Temptation



Yield not to temptation, For yielding is sin,
 Each vict'ry will help you some other to win;
 Fight manfully onward, Dark passions subdue,
 Look ever to Jesus, He will carry you through.

Ask the Saviour to help you,
 Comfort, strengthen, and keep you,
 He is willing to aid you,
 He will carry you through.

Horatio Palmer

WEEK 21

To Whom Ye Yield

“Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?”

—Romans 6:16

WRITE VERSE

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Yield _____

Servants _____

Obey _____

QUESTIONS

1. Describe the life of a servant. (The word “servant” meant slave in the days when the Bible was written.)

2. What does it mean to obey? _____

3. Whose servant are you? _____

4. Do you live the life of a servant? If not, why not? _____

5. List twelve things God asks of you and give a scriptural reference. For example, God tells us not to look at evil things. (Psalm 101:3).

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

8) _____

9) _____

10) _____

11) _____

12) _____

6. Do you obey in these areas 100% of the time? _____

If not, do you have a reason? _____

Since it is quite apparent in God's Word that we do serve someone—either the god of this world or the God of heaven, it is important to remember that everything we do, say, or think reflects upon Whom we really serve. Two important questions to ask ourselves before or during any activity, conversation, or even simple daydreaming, would be, "Is this for a god or The God?" and "Which God am I really serving by what I am saying or doing?"

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSE - DATE SAID _____

He Lives

I serve a risen Saviour,
He is in the world today;
I know that He is living,
Whatever men may say;
I see His hand of mercy,
I hear His voice of cheer,
And just the time I need Him
He's always near.

He lives, He lives,
Christ Jesus lives today!
He walks with me
And talks with me
Along life's narrow way.
He lives, He lives, salvation to impart!
You ask me how I know He lives?
He lives within my heart.

Alfred H. Ackley

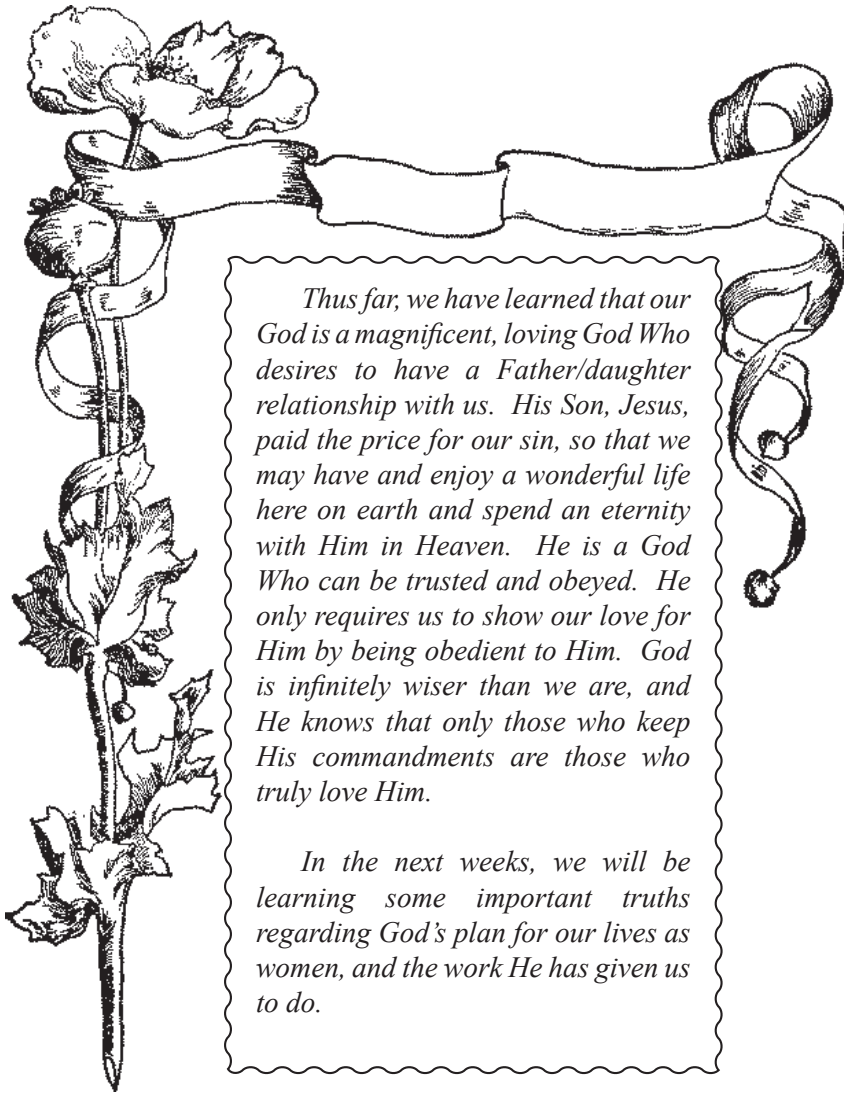


Let's Do a Review

This twenty-first week is also a review week. Look over the preceding weeks. Has the Lord shown you anything unbiblical in your thoughts toward Him, or in your thoughts regarding your life? Write these down and begin to trust Him more, trusting that His way is the best way and He does know best! The written notes will serve as a future reference, and as a reminder to keep trusting.

REVIEW ALL VERSES AND RECITE TO YOUR DESIGNATED PERSON.

Matthew 10:29-31	<input type="checkbox"/>	John 14:23	<input type="checkbox"/>	Psalm 103:17-18	<input type="checkbox"/>
Hebrews 4:12-13	<input type="checkbox"/>	I John 2:3	<input type="checkbox"/>	I John 3:22	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 6:31-32	<input type="checkbox"/>	Proverbs 3:5-6	<input type="checkbox"/>	John 14:13-14	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deuteronomy 13:4	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exodus 19:5	<input type="checkbox"/>	John 15:9-11	<input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 19:17	<input type="checkbox"/>	Exodus 23:22	<input type="checkbox"/>	I Corinthians 10:13	<input type="checkbox"/>
John 14:15	<input type="checkbox"/>	Psalm 25:10	<input type="checkbox"/>	Romans 6:16	<input type="checkbox"/>



Thus far, we have learned that our God is a magnificent, loving God Who desires to have a Father/daughter relationship with us. His Son, Jesus, paid the price for our sin, so that we may have and enjoy a wonderful life here on earth and spend an eternity with Him in Heaven. He is a God Who can be trusted and obeyed. He only requires us to show our love for Him by being obedient to Him. God is infinitely wiser than we are, and He knows that only those who keep His commandments are those who truly love Him.

In the next weeks, we will be learning some important truths regarding God's plan for our lives as women, and the work He has given us to do.

WEEK 22

The Woman for the Man

“And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him.” —Genesis 2:18

“Neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.” —I Corinthians 11:9

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Help _____

Meet _____

QUESTIONS

1. How would God know that it was not good for a man to dwell alone?

2. Do you believe this? Why? _____

3. What is a helpmeet? _____

4. Is being a helpmeet God's purpose for a woman's existence? Explain.

5. Would God's purpose for a woman—being a helpmeet—still be the same today? Why?

6. For whom does the New Testament say that the woman was created?

7. In our generation or culture, has God changed the purpose for a woman's existence?

8. How do we know this? _____

Throughout both the Old Testament and the New Testament, God tells us that He created woman for a special purpose. She was created for someone special, her husband, and her job was to be his helpmeet. We do not find any passages in Scripture telling us that God has changed His purpose for her life. His Word is everlasting. A woman finds the joy of obedience by conforming her life to God's purpose. A daughter can find the joy of obedience by serving her father, and preparing her life to be a helpmeet to her future husband.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 23

The Head

“But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.” —I Corinthians 11:3

WRITE VERSE

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Head _____

QUESTIONS

1. Who is the head of man? _____
2. Who is the head of woman? _____
3. Who is the head of Christ? _____
4. What are some of the jobs of a “head”? _____

5. What is the job of someone who is underneath a “head”? _____

-
6. Does this describe you? _____
7. What happens when a woman steps out of her assigned job and tries to do the job of the “head”?

God’s world is very structured and orderly. Everyone has a “head” or someone to follow, even our Lord Jesus Christ. Structure and orderliness brings peace and harmony. Disorder brings chaos and disharmony. A deep joy comes to the woman who is following God’s divine order for her life. Are you following your “head”?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSE - DATE SAID _____



“At that day ye shall know that I am in my Father, and ye in me, and I in you. He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father’s which sent me.” —John 14:20-24

WEEK 24

Of No Reputation

“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.” —Philippians 2:5-8

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Mind _____

Reputation _____

Servant _____

Humbled _____

Obedient _____

QUESTIONS

1. Whose mind should be in us? _____

2. What if this mind is contrary to the latest women's books, and is even different from what many Christian circles practice? Should we dare to actually have the mind of Christ concerning God's purpose for a woman's life?

3. The Bible says that Jesus was the Creator of this world, and yet took the form of flesh to become a servant to flesh. A servant is a form of a helpmeet. Servants serve their master or head. How did Jesus serve His Father?

4. How did Jesus humble Himself? _____

5. Do you ever purposefully humble yourself? _____

6. List several examples of how you have humbled yourself.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
7. Unto what did Jesus became obedient? _____
8. Are there any areas in which you are not obedient? If so, what are they?

9. How do these areas compare to being obedient unto death? _____

10. What are you going to do about these disobedient areas in your life?

God gave us Jesus as our perfect example of obedience. We gripe and complain about what we give up for the Lord, and yet few of us are ever asked to give up our lives. We moan because we can't have our way or make our own decision in a given situation. We murmur because we aren't the leader, or because our personal wishes are not always met. How quickly we forget that we are to be the wish meeters — not the expectants.

Jesus never murmured. We want praise and recognition for our work. Jesus made Himself of no reputation. Oh, that Jesus would become the pattern for our lives. Obedience brings that calmness of purpose, the setting forth to do God's will in all things, quietly, making no reputation. Won't you begin now being quietly obedient, making no reputation for yourself?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 25

Submission

“Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in every thing.” —Ephesians 5:22-24

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Submit _____

Subject _____

QUESTIONS

1. To whom is a wife to submit herself? Why? _____

2. How is a wife to submit herself? _____

3. Is it a safe to assume that a wife submits to her husband in all things good, as part of her obedience to the Lord?

4. Would not the same be true of a daughter with her father? _____
5. Who is the head of the wife? _____
6. Who is the head of the church? _____
7. Since the church is given as an example of submission to Christ, can you imagine that the church would be unsubmitive and rebellious to Christ?

The Word of God speaks of the divine order of submission in a number of places. We cannot ignore these Scriptures and consider ourselves to be “good Christian women.” The test of our obedience is not in some great service for our Lord, but in the smallest act of submission to His Word and plan for our lives. However, we must always remember that we are to love and obey God first. We love and obey God by being excellent helpmeets to our husbands, by yielding ourselves to them as we yield ourselves to the Lord. This does not mean that we would ever commit sin for them. Christ would never ask His church to sin for Him. Christ would never ask us to sin. He asks us to follow Him in His steps. In 1 Peter 2:21-22 we read, “For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth:” Jesus never sinned and neither should we.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 26

That the Word of God be Not Blasphemed

“To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.” —Titus 2:5

WRITE VERSE

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Discreet _____

Chaste _____

Keeper _____

Good _____

Obedient _____

Blaspheme _____

QUESTIONS

1. Why would a godly woman be discreet? _____
2. Why would a godly woman be chaste? _____
3. Why would a godly woman be a “keeper at home”? _____
4. Where do you think a keeper at home functions? _____
5. To whom should the “keeper at home” be obedient? _____
6. If a woman is not discreet, chaste, a keeper at home, obedient to her own husband, Whose Word is blasphemed?

7. How is God’s Word blasphemed? _____
8. Is the Word of God saying that a woman who lives her life contrary to this scriptural list is a blasphemer? Why?

9. What is your Christian testimony? Are you obedient to God or disobedient?

Our wonderful heavenly Father loved us and created us for a purpose. He gave each of us a purpose so our lives would be peaceful and orderly. He gave men and women different roles for that same reason. He did not do this to make us miserable, but so our lives would be joyful. His way is a joyful way. He promised us that! When we are obedient to God and follow the paths of the Lord, our lives will have a serenity that comes from no other way.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSE - DATE SAID _____

Now that we have established the purpose for our lives, we will study God’s commandments to learn how we as women can keep them, thereby glorifying God and proving our love for Him.

WEEK 27

Obeying His Will

“Now these are the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments, which the Lord your God commanded to teach you, that ye might do them in the land whither ye go to possess it: That thou mightest fear the Lord thy God, to keep all his statutes and his commandments, which I command thee, thou, and thy son, and thy son’s son, all the days of thy life; and that thy days may be prolonged.” —Deuteronomy 6:1-2

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Commandments _____

Statutes _____

Judgments _____

QUESTIONS

1. Whose commandments are we to obey? _____

2. Why did He give them to us? _____

3. Why should we fear God? _____

4. When and how long are we supposed to keep God's commandments?

5. What is one benefit of keeping God's commandments? _____

6. Do you think that God still wants us to keep those commandments today?
Why? _____

7. If you answered yes, how many commandments do you know? _____

8. Do you know them all? _____

9. If not, how do you intend to become more obedient? _____

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” —2 Timothy 2:15. Paul was telling Timothy to study God’s Word. The New Testament was not yet written, so what was Timothy to study? Obviously, the Old Testament. “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:” —2 Timothy 3:16. Although our sins are forgiven through the precious shed blood of Jesus Christ, and the law does not save us, it does teach us about God, and God’s way of doing things. God’s commandments teach us the biblical way of living. Our sins are forgiven because of God’s grace; however, He does ask us to be His servants and be obedient to Him. He reveals His will for us through His whole Word. We do not need to guess at what His will is. We can obey His will only through knowledge of His Word. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee.” —Psalm 119:11. Isn’t it about time that we start really studying His Word so we will not inadvertently sin against Him? What do you think?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

I Am Resolved



I am resolved no longer to linger,
Charmed by the world’s delight;
Things that are higher, things that are nobler,
These have allured my sight.

I am resolved to follow the Saviour,
Faithful and true each day;
Heed what He sayeth, do what He willeth,
He is the living way.

Palmer Hartsough

WEEK 28

Other Gods

“Master, which is the great commandment in the law? Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.” —Matthew 22:36-40

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Great _____

Heart _____

Soul _____

Mind _____

Neighbor _____

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean “On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets”?

2. The first four commandments found in the original ten commandments (listed in Deuteronomy Chapter 5) are combined and contained in the first and great commandment. Write the first four commandments.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

-
3. What is another god? _____

 4. Must another god be only wood or stone? _____
 5. How is it possible to have other gods in our generation? _____

 6. Can we make gods of our wishes, beliefs, or desires? _____
 7. Can putting some other desire before obedience to God be idolatry? _____
 8. What are some of the other gods that we might have? _____

 9. How might we bow down ourselves to them? _____

 10. How would we put these gods before our God? _____

 11. Describe any gods to whom you are bowing down. _____

 12. Write the definition for the word “vain” both from a Greek dictionary such as Strong’s, and from an English dictionary.

 13. How might we take the name of the Lord in vain today? _____

 14. Must we curse Him to take His name in vain? Explain.

15. Is it any wonder that the Old Testament Jewish people were afraid to speak His name aloud?

16. Is it possible that you are violating any of the original four commandments (the fourth will be discussed in the lesson for next week) and, thereby, violating the first and greatest commandment? If so, what sins must you forsake and what changes must you make to really obey God, proving that you do love Him with your whole heart, soul, and mind?

If we are going to obey God, it is important to know what He expects of us. His commandments are the place to begin. God gave His commandments in the Old Testament, and Jesus reaffirmed them in the New Testament. May we say with the psalmist, "Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in the law of the LORD. Blessed are they that keep his testimonies, and that seek him with the whole heart. They also do no iniquity: they walk in his ways. Thou hast commanded us to keep thy precepts diligently. O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes! Then shall I not be ashamed, when I have respect unto all thy commandments. I will praise thee with uprightness of heart, when I shall have learned thy righteous judgments. I will keep thy statutes: O forsake me not utterly. Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. With my whole heart have I sought thee: O let me not wander from thy commandments. Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee." —Psalm 119:1-11

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEKS 29 & 30

The Sabbath

“Keep the sabbath day to sanctify it, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee. Six days thou shalt labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, nor thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thine ox, nor thine ass, nor any of thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; that thy manservant and thy maidservant may rest as well as thou.” —Deuteronomy 5:12-14

“If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on my holy day; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the LORD, honourable; and shalt honour him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the LORD; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the LORD hath spoken it.” —Isaiah 58:13-14

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Sabbath _____

Sanctify _____

Work _____

Rest _____

Holy _____

Delight _____

Honor _____

QUESTIONS

1. What does it mean to keep the Sabbath day? _____

2. Why did God create the Sabbath day? _____

3. What does it mean to sanctify the Sabbath day? _____

4. Do you sanctify the Sabbath day? _____
5. Do you think the Sabbath day is still important to God in this day? _____

6. What do you think are His things that He wants us to do? _____

7. In what ways do people violate the Sabbath day? _____

-
8. Do you do all your work in six days? _____
 9. If you answered no, why do you work on the seventh day? _____
 10. What are your “own ways” that you do on the Sabbath day? _____
-
11. What are your “own words” that you speak on the Sabbath day?

-
12. What is your “own pleasure” that you do on the Sabbath day?

-
13. Would shopping, dining out, playing games, baby showers, housework, or homework be considered “your ways”?

-
14. When we persist in doing our own things on His day, are we worshiping ourselves instead of honoring God?

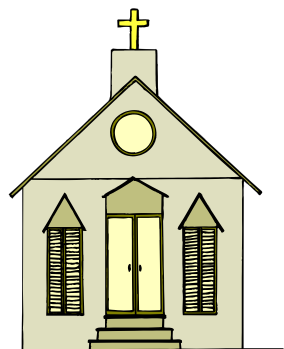
-
15. Why does God say that honoring Him on His Sabbath day proves that we are delighting ourselves in Him?

-
16. How does God look on the things that you do on His day? _____
 17. How does God bless those who honor Him on His day? _____
 18. What changes do you need to make to observe God’s plan for His day of rest?

Dear friends, we are striving for not the letter, but the spirit: “for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.” —2 Corinthians 3:6. In Deuteronomy, God gives us His command regarding His Sabbath day. In Isaiah, God defines for us what He expects the attitudes of our hearts to be concerning His Sabbath Day. Does not He give spirit and life to His law? Does not our God desire us to keep His Words, not legalistically, but with our whole hearts? Shall we not call His commandments our delight? Should not the attitudes of our hearts be filled with joy and delight in keeping His day holy and set apart to Him?

Our wonderful God knows what is best for us, and thus, He has given us His commandments for our own good. The Scriptures tell us over and over that if we love Him, we will keep His commandments. When we do not keep them, we do not love Him. We love ourselves more than Him. Today there is no death penalty for violating His Sabbath day. We are not ruled by fear of death (Exodus 31:14-17) in order to keep the Sabbath. However, should we not be ruled by our love of God to keep His Sabbath? It is because of His love and grace to us that we earnestly desire to love Him and keep His commandments. So often we want to do great things for God, all the while being disobedient to Him in the things He asks of us. God does not want our great works; He wants our love, proved by our obedience in all things. If you want to ride upon the high places of the earth and be fed with God’s heritage, make God’s Sabbath, His day of rest, your delight. In doing this, you will find true rest, rest which only comes from the Lord. Won’t you begin today to keep His Sabbath holy?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



WEEK 31

Lord of the Sabbath

“And he said unto them, What man shall there be among you, that shall have one sheep, and if it fall into a pit on the sabbath day, will he not lay hold on it, and lift it out? How much then is a man better than a sheep? Wherefore it is lawful to do well on the sabbath days.” —Matthew 12:11-12

“For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.” —Matthew 12:8

“And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath.” —Mark 2:27-28

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Lord _____

Lawful _____

QUESTIONS

1. Why would any man rescue his animal on the Sabbath day? _____

2. Why do you think the Pharisees thought it was wrong to help a man on the Sabbath?

3. Why is it in the spirit of the law to do well on the Sabbath day? _____

4. What types of things would be considered doing “well,” or doing “good things,” on the Sabbath day?

5. What does it mean to be “Lord of the Sabbath”? _____

6. What does it mean for the Sabbath to be “made for man”? _____

7. Why is not “man made for the Sabbath”? _____

The Lord Jesus is Lord of the Sabbath. He set the perfect example for us. He went about doing good even on the Sabbath. He went about doing His Father’s business. You see, Jesus kept God’s law perfectly. Jesus wasn’t legalistic in the negative sense as the Pharisees were. He was simply legal in the most perfect way, adding grace to His obedience to the law.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 32

Honor Thy Father and Mother

“Honour thy father and thy mother, as the LORD thy God hath commanded thee; that thy days may be prolonged, and that it may go well with thee, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.” —Deuteronomy 5:16

“Honour thy father and mother; (which is the first commandment with promise;) that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.” —Ephesians 6:2-3

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Honor _____

QUESTIONS

1. What does the word “honor” mean in both the Hebrew and Greek dictionaries?

2. Since this command was given to adults, do you think that adults should continue to honor their parents even after they are married? Explain.

3. Why do you think that God would find it necessary to include “*Honour thy father and mother*” in the ten commandments?

4. What is the difference between honor and obedience? _____

5. List six ways we can honor our parents.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

6. What promise does God give us if we keep this commandment?

7. Do you keep this commandment? _____

Notice that the word "honor" in the original language includes implications of money or support. Our parents may not be Christian. They may even hate Christianity. If so, we should be very careful about our fellowship, so as not to allow them to have any negative influence on the spiritual lives of our children; but that does not relieve us from the obligation to do our best to be a support to them, or to meet their needs.

It is not enough to say that we love God. He has given us His commandments to keep and work to do, and part of our work for Him is to honor our parents. Honoring our parents is one of the quiet, hidden acts of obedience. No one else usually knows what we do for our parents, but God knows. It is Him we seek to please, and He will reward us accordingly.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



WEEKS 33 & 34

Anger

“Thou shalt not kill.” —Deuteronomy 5:17

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. 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 5:21-24.

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Kill _____

Angry _____

Danger _____

Against _____

Reconcile _____

QUESTIONS

1. What does the sixth commandment mean? _____

2. What were the penalties for killing in the Old Testament?

3. The Pharisees taught the letter of the law. The act of killing someone was sinful. A person who actually killed someone would face judgment. According to Jesus, who else will be in danger of His judgment?

4. Jesus taught the spirit of the law. He spoke about anger against another. *“For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies:”* —Matthew 15:19. So where do murders begin?

5. How does an angry person behave? _____

6. Does anger make you feel vindictive or vengeful? _____

7. Do you have angry feelings in your heart toward anyone? _____

8. How do you behave toward those with whom you become angry? _____

9. “Raca” is a scornful word meaning “O empty one.” We might call someone “O worthless one” or “empty-headed.” A proud person looks haughtily down on another and judges another to be worthless. Jewish people who called

their brother “Raca” would be in danger of the council, of being punished by the Sanhedrin for reviling an Israelite. Jesus again goes beyond the letter of the law telling his listeners that whoever says “Thou fool” shall be in danger of the fires of hell. “Fool,” in this sense, means dull or stupid. It would seem again that pride would cause us to look down on our brothers and hold them in low esteem. The question to us is, “Should we be guilty of looking down on anyone?” Explain.

10. Are you guilty of looking down on anyone? _____

11. Sometimes this haughty judging of another’s value may cause us to say things which might be violations of “Thou shalt not kill.” Are we killing our brother’s or sister’s reputation by judging them, or verbalizing our low opinion of them? How are you guilty of “Thou shalt not kill”?

12. Jesus says if you are bringing a gift to God, and you remember that your brother or sister has something against you, keep the gift until you are reconciled to your brother. Remember, in the previous verse, Jesus is speaking about what we are doing to others, and how we are judging our brother. More than likely, if we have done this, our behavior has not been sinless toward our brother. If our behavior has been sinful, it is no wonder that our brother has something against us. We must make it right. Whom have you not treated right?

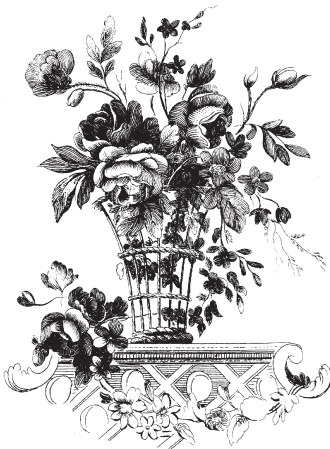
13. Is there a sister you have been judging? _____

14. Is there a neighbor who is not able to have fellowship with you because of unkind words?

15. If so, how do you plan to make it right? _____

God's law was and is perfect and eternal. "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." —Psalm 119:89. The Pharisees looked at the law as useful for political and judicial reasons. To them, it was a collection of rules to govern their Jewish society. They lived by the letter of the law. Jesus taught the spirit of the law. He gave body and life to it. He was the fulfilling of the law. "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil." —Matthew 5:17. He showed us that the law is highly personal, and that it is for the individual. It is for me! It is for you! We, in our daily lives, can live out the spirit of the law, which is truth and love. Oh, my dear friends, let us not be guilty, as the Pharisees were, of living by the letter of the law. Let us live by the spirit.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



If I belittle those whom I am called to serve,
talk of their weak points
in contrast perhaps with what I
think of as my strong points;
If I adopt a superior attitude,
forgetting "who made thee to differ?
and what hast thou that
thou hast not received?"
Then I know nothing of Calvary love.

Amy Carmichael

WEEK 35

Let's Not be Stumbling Blocks

“Neither shalt thou commit adultery.” —Deuteronomy 5:18

“Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.” —Matthew 5:27-28

“Let us not therefore judge one another any more: but judge this rather, that no man put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way.” —Romans 14:13

WRITE THESE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Adultery _____

Look _____

Lust _____

Stumbling _____

Block _____

Occasion _____

Fall _____

QUESTIONS

1. Jesus went beyond the fleshly definition of adultery. What was His definition?

2. What is a stumbling block? _____

-
3. Does a stumblingblock refer more to tripping someone so that they fall physically, or fall spiritually?

 4. How can a woman's appearance be a stumblingblock? _____

 5. How can a woman become an occasion for a Christian brother to fall?

 6. In order to sin, does the "stumblingblock" need to purposefully try to make others fall, or just dress to "look good" without any care for, or about, others?

 7. What types of women's dress can cause stumbling? _____

 8. Is it safe to assume that if God expects women to cause no temptation to men, He has a standard of dress for women, which would not be a stumblingblock to any Christian brother?

 9. What do you think God's standard of dress would be?

 10. The world talks about being attractive. Whom do attractive women attract?

 11. What is the root sin which causes so many women to strive so hard to be beautiful and attractive?

12. How can a woman's attire also be a stumblingblock to other women? _____

13. God talks about chastity, purity, modesty, and holiness in His Word. Do these adjectives describe you?

14. Do you believe that you, a woman, will give an account to God for every man or woman whom you caused to stumble through your appearance?

15. What will be your account to God for dressing this way? _____

Immodest dress really says a great deal about the person so dressed. It tells God and everyone else whom that person loves the most. It is easy to see that it is not God. You see, if we really loved God, we would love our Christian brothers, and we would show this love by dressing very modestly, so as to never be a stumblingblock or occasion of sin to them. Dressing immodestly really reveals the true state of our hearts. We are either harlots at heart or daughters of our heavenly Father. Which are you?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



WEEK 36

Thou Shalt Not Steal

“Neither shalt thou steal.” —Deuteronomy 5:19

“Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” —Ephesians 4:28

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN

DEFINITIONS

Steal _____

Labor _____

Working _____

Give _____

QUESTIONS

1. Few of us would consider ourselves guilty of this commandment. . . but I wonder . . . What does steal really mean?

2. What kinds of things can be stolen? _____

3. Can we steal a better test grade than we deserve by cheating? Do we borrow things from others and forget to return them, or do we return them damaged or worn out? Do we borrow “consumable” goods? Do we tend to “fudge” a little at tax time? When we shop, do we haggle and whine instead of paying a fair price? Do we repeat gossip, thereby stealing a little of someone’s good name? Do we make copies of tapes or videos, thereby stealing income from those who produce the materials? Do we make copies of computer software instead of purchasing it for ourselves? Do we take credit which rightly belongs to another? There are hundreds of ways that we can “come by” that which is not ours that are seldom, if ever, called what they are—stealing. Can you think of any other ways we might steal?

We might need to take a very close look at ourselves to see how honest we really are. After all, others might not know, but God does know. We may easily fool others, but He is never fooled, and no matter what we tell ourselves to rationalize our actions, He is not convinced. It is He Whom we are seeking to obey and please. It is our dear heavenly Father to Whom we are seeking to prove our love by keeping His commandments. Our honesty is revealed in the little, daily things.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 37

No Lie Is of the Truth

“Neither shalt thou bear false witness against thy neighbor.” —Deuteronomy 5:20

“Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the old man with his deeds;”
—Colossians 3:9

“I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.” —I John 2:21

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

False _____

Witness _____

Lie _____

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it such a serious sin to bear false witness against your neighbor?

2. In order to “bear false witness against thy neighbor,” is it necessary to lie about him or her?

3. Can leaving “false impressions” about our neighbor do damage to him?

4. How might we leave false impressions, and what kind of damage can they do?

5. Is giving misinformation to our neighbor the same as “lying”? How so?

6. Could withholding information also be considered “lying”? How so?

7. What kind of spiritual damage can we do our neighbor by the witness of a false or insincere Christian walk?

8. What does it mean that we have “put off the old man”?

9. To whom is the apostle John writing? _____

10. What does it mean that “no lie is of the truth”?

11. If you have some truth and some lie, what do you have? _____

12. Do you believe that you are breaking God’s commandment when you lie?

13. Would it be considered lying to deceive our neighbor about anything that might harm anyone in any way?

14. Would it be lying to gossip or repeat something that we do not know is true about someone?

15. How can we bear false witness without speaking?

16. Would we be violating this commandment by allowing another to be blamed for our wrong-doing? Why?

17. How should we act when an enemy is slandered in our presence, and we know that the slander is false?

18. How do we violate this commandment when our conversation elevates us at the expense, or detriment, of others, however slight that may be?

19. Can you give an example of how one could elevate her own reputation above another's by not quite telling the truth, or leaving something out, in a matter?

20. What might you need to change? _____

We may tend to excuse our little departures from the exact truth. In fact, we may even write them off as not important, calling them "little white lies," but according to God's Word, they are very serious violations of His commandment. We are told in several places that "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets." —Matthew 7:12. Would others not want to be told the truth? Would others want to be deceived? Would others want us to bear false witness against them?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 38

Covetousness

“Neither shalt thou desire thy neighbour’s wife, neither shalt thou covet thy neighbour’s house, his field, or his manservant, or his maidservant, his ox, or his ass, or any thing that is thy neighbour’s.” —Deuteronomy 5:21

“For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.” —Romans 13:9

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Desire _____

Covet _____

Fulfilling _____

QUESTIONS

1. Why does God forbid us to covet? _____

2. What are some feelings that result from indulging in covetousness?

3. What do we feel toward the person who owns what we covet?

4. How does this compare with how God wants His children to regard others?

5. List some ways that we can tempt others to covet what we have?

6. If I love my neighbor as myself, would I really want my neighbor to covet any of the things that I have?

7. Is it possible to covet other things besides possessions? Is it possible to covet our neighbor's appearance, personality, or achievements?

8. Is there anything you covet about your neighbor?

9. Why do you covet these things?

10. Do you think that if you could have these things or do these things, you would be happier? Why?

11. Identify some errant thoughts that cause covetousness.

Probably nearly all of us fail at one time or another and commit the sin of covetousness. We may covet our neighbor's prettiness, or singing talent, or beautiful clothes. We may envy the large house in which she lives, or her lifestyle, or even her well-behaved children. Envy keeps us from loving. Envy keeps us from contentment. Envy keeps us from enjoying God's blessings in our own lives. Of course, we must confess this as sin and earnestly strive to no longer covet. The reverse side of us not envying others is that we should so live as not to be a stumblingblock to others in this area. Jesus was our most excellent example in this area of living. No one was envious of the home in which He lived, of His clothing, of His education, or of His appearance. Don't you think it would be fitting for us as believers to seek to cause no envy in another's heart by living in modest houses, dressing modestly, and seeking to be women of no reputation? Could we not so love our sisters in the Lord that we would never seek to be better, seek to attract more attention, or seek to have more?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



Let's Do a Review

This thirty-eighth week is also a review week. Look over the preceding weeks. Has the Lord shown you anything unbiblical in your thoughts toward Him, or in your thoughts regarding your life? Write these down and begin to trust Him more, trusting that His way is the best way and He does know best! The written notes will serve as a future reference, and as a reminder to keep trusting.

REVIEW ALL VERSES AND RECITE TO YOUR DESIGNATED PERSON.

Genesis 2:18 <input type="checkbox"/>	Isaiah 58:13-14 <input type="checkbox"/>	Matthew 5:27-28 <input type="checkbox"/>
1 Corinthians 11:9 <input type="checkbox"/>	Matthew 12:11-12 <input type="checkbox"/>	Romans 14:13 <input type="checkbox"/>
1 Corinthians 11:3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Matthew 12:8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Deuteronomy 5:19 <input type="checkbox"/>
Philippians 2:5-8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Mark 2:27-28 <input type="checkbox"/>	Ephesians 4:28 <input type="checkbox"/>
Ephesians 5:22-24 <input type="checkbox"/>	Deuteronomy 5:16 <input type="checkbox"/>	Deuteronomy 5:20 <input type="checkbox"/>
Titus 2:5 <input type="checkbox"/>	Ephesians 6:2-3 <input type="checkbox"/>	Colossians 3:9 <input type="checkbox"/>
Deuteronomy 6:1-2 <input type="checkbox"/>	Deuteronomy 5:17 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 John 2:21 <input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 22:36-40 <input type="checkbox"/>	Matthew 5:21-24 <input type="checkbox"/>	Deuteronomy 5:21 <input type="checkbox"/>
Deuteronomy 5:12-14 <input type="checkbox"/>	Deuteronomy 5:8 <input type="checkbox"/>	Romans 13:9-10 <input type="checkbox"/>

These past weeks of study have shown that God's perfect law transcends both the Old and New Testaments. Jesus came, lived, died, and rose again. He not only paid our sin debt, but He gave us His powerful example of daily living in perfect harmony with the commandments He expects us to keep. In the next weeks, we will study and learn some of the many ways we are commanded to live as we strive to walk in His steps. Doing so is a challenge to us all.

WEEK 39

Bringing Every Thought

“Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ;” —2 Corinthians 10:5

WRITE VERSE

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Imaginations _____

Exalt _____

Captivity _____

QUESTIONS

1. What do the words “casting down” mean? _____

2. How do we bring our thoughts into captivity? _____

-
3. Into Whose captivity are our thoughts to be brought? _____
 4. Why is this necessary? _____

 5. Does this passage seem to say that we are not entitled to think our own thoughts about things, but rather, we are to think Christ's thoughts? _____
 6. Why is this necessary? _____

 7. Where will we learn the "knowledge of God"? _____
 8. Can we bring all of our thinking into line with the Bible? _____
 9. If we find that we hold different thoughts from the Bible about the issues of life and daily living, what should we do?

 10. What thinking patterns do you need to change? _____

We can see that God not only expects us to abide by His perfect law, but He also requires much more from us. He not only requires that our actions be pleasing to Him, but our thought life also. When we bring our thoughts into the captivity of Christ, we will no longer be deciding to think for ourselves. We will not have our personal opinions about things. We will have His. When our thoughts are His, we will not have bitter, complaining, or jealous thoughts in our hearts. We will not experience worry, greed, or discontent. Our actions will be determined by our thought lives, and, therefore, our actions will glorify our Lord. The battle for godly living takes place first in the mind. If you have a problem with sinful thoughts, please take them to Jesus, and pray for Him to take them away, and bring His thoughts to your mind.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSE - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 40

Think on These Things

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.” —Philippians 4:8

WRITE VERSE

WHAT DOES THIS VERSE MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

True _____

Honest _____

Just _____

Pure _____

Lovely _____

QUESTIONS

1. What things do we know to be true? _____

2. Name some things that are honest. _____

3. Name some things that are just. _____

4. Name some things that are pure. _____

5. Name some things that are lovely. _____

6. What do the words “good report” mean? _____

7. Name some things that are of a “good report.” _____

8. Do the books that you read conform to the reality of Christ, display honesty and justness in the characters, and reflect a loveliness in the reader’s mind? Can you give a good report about them to Jesus, your Lord?

9. Do the books you read contain romance, adventure, excitement, worldliness, and other things that stimulate the flesh?

10. Evaluate these types of books in light of this verse. _____

-
-
11. List any of your books that Jesus might not approve. _____
-
-
12. If you watch television or videos, list anything that you might need to discard in order to have the utterly pure mind that Jesus wants you to have.
-
-
13. What types of items would not be approved of by God? _____
-
-
14. Can you think of anything else in your life that might not match up with this scriptural list for our thought lives, hindering you from wholly giving your mind to Christ?
-
-

Can you begin to see that our excellent God, our wonderful and loving heavenly Father, does have a plan for our lives, and this plan requires that we walk in His ways, according to His commands, even bringing our thoughts into submission to Him? Why is this so? Because He knows by His design that the only way we can be happy here on earth, and have eternal happiness, is by submitting to Him Who made us, because He does know best! Dear ladies and girls, why cling to the deceptive lies of this world, which teach that the way of happiness is to think for ourselves, be independent, demand our rights, and live for today? How foolish is the wisdom of this world. How marvelous is God's wisdom. Let us surrender all to our heavenly Father, even to the surrendering of our thought lives.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSE - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 41

Adorning Ourselves

“In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; but (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works.” —1 Timothy 2:9-10

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Modest _____

Shamefacedness _____

Sobriety _____

QUESTIONS

1. Why are women admonished to wear modest clothing? _____

2. What types of clothing reflect the definition for modesty? _____

3. Why is there a warning against expensive garments and costly jewelry?

4. Should we wear clothing or jewelry that cause us to be noticed? Explain the reason for your answer.

5. How does your appearance match with this scriptural list? _____
6. Are there any clothes or other items you might need to discard in order to fulfill this godly standard for your appearance?

7. What kinds of behavior draw the notice of others? _____

8. How would our behavior reflect shamefacedness and sobriety? _____

9. How does a woman adorn herself with good works? _____

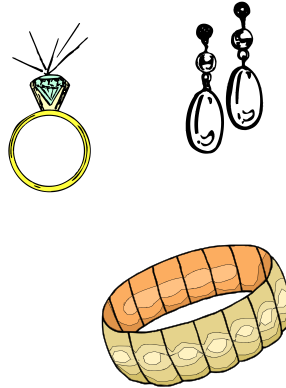
10. Should a woman try to be noticed for her good works? _____
11. Should she try not to be noticed for her good works? _____
12. With what good works should you adorn yourself? _____
- _____
13. How will your heavenly Father reward you for them? _____
- _____

If we are going to be totally obedient to God, we will not only keep His commandments and yield our thoughts to Him, but our appearance will also reflect our obedience to Him. We will dress for His glory — not our glory. Our behavior will also be modest, and our lives will be full of good works, not personal pleasures and entertainments. You see, we have only one life to live, and it will soon be past. We can fill it up with the pleasures of this life, living for self, and, thereby, making ourselves idols, or we can follow in the steps of Jesus, and do the will of our heavenly Father. The choice is ours. What will you do?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

*Can I keep them still—my jewels?
 Shall I, can I, yet withhold
 From that living, loving Saviour
 Aught of silver or of gold?
 Gold so needed, that His gospel
 May resound from sea to sea;
 Can I know Christ's service lacketh
 Yet forget His 'unto Me'?*

*No, I lay them down—my jewels,
 Truly on the altar now.
 Stay! I see a vision passing
 Of a gem-encircled brow.
 Heavenly treasure worn by Jesus,
 Souls won through my gift outpoured;
 Freely, gladly I will offer
 Jewels thus to crown my Lord.” Selected*



WEEK 42

Giving Thanks Always

“In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.” —1 Thessalonians 5:18

“Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ;” —Ephesians 5:20

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Thanks _____

Will _____

QUESTIONS

1. Why does God command us to give thanks? _____

2. What does it mean to give thanks in everything? _____

3. Why does God command us to give thanks in even the things that we see only as disappointing and painful?

4. Why is there nothing over which we should have ungrateful hearts?

5. Is there anything life over which you have an ungrateful or complaining spirit?

6. What sins do you recognize in a bitter spirit, a complaining attitude, or an ungrateful heart?

7. Do you really believe that everything that happens to you is a cause for thanksgiving? Why?

8. What are some of the good things that God does for us through difficult situations and pain?

Our heavenly Father tells us over and over again through the pages of His Word that what is in our heart matters. It is easy to put on “standards” or “perform good works,” but to keep our hearts and minds focused on His goodness, to praise His name in every situation, to trust Him when we cannot see, and to be grateful for all His mercies to us, is a challenge. Our sinful self wants to declare that “we deserve more, God is unfair, He doesn’t know what is best, etc.” When “self” rules, we are miserable creatures indeed; but when we “surrender all” to Him, our thankful hearts are filled with His peace and joy. Why not determine to be obedient, even in the thoughts and attitudes of our hearts?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



Thank You, Lord

Thank you, Lord, for saving my soul,
Thank you, Lord, for making me whole;
Thank you, Lord, for giving to me
Thy great salvation so rich and free.

Now thank we all our God,
With heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things hath done,
In Whom the world rejoices.

Who from our mother’s arms
Hath blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
And still is ours today.

Mr. and Mrs. Seth Sykes



WEEK 43

Be Kind

“And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.” —Ephesians 4:32

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” —Matthew 6:12

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Kind _____

Tenderhearted _____

Forgiving _____

QUESTIONS

1. “Be ye” is telling us how to be. It describes how we are to live and behave. It is a command. “Be ye.” Does kindness describe your behavior toward both your family members and those outside of your family? _____
2. List seven ways you can be more kind to others.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
 - 6) _____
 - 7) _____
3. What hidden sins of the heart keep a person from being kind?

4. How would Jesus describe you—as tenderhearted or as hardhearted?

5. God commands us to be tenderhearted. List seven ways you can be more tenderhearted toward others.
 - 1) _____
 - 2) _____
 - 3) _____
 - 4) _____
 - 5) _____
 - 6) _____
 - 7) _____

6. The Bible says much about forgiveness. We are simply not allowed to have an unforgiving spirit, to hold grudges against others, to seek vengeance, or to think about “getting even.” What about you? Is there someone that you haven’t forgiven? Who?
-
7. Is there someone to whom you give the “cold shoulder,” and are not warm and friendly? _____
8. How does your behavior compare with being tenderhearted and forgiving?
-
9. Why are we to forgive others? _____
-
10. How did Jesus teach us to ask forgiveness for our sins? _____
-

Some Christians may tend to skip over such verses as not being too important, but there are no verses in the Bible that are not important. We are commanded to walk in the steps of Jesus, Who was compassionate, tenderhearted, kind, and forgiving. His standard of living is to be our standard. Dear ladies, let us take a close look at our own hearts, and see where we are failing to be like our Lord Jesus. Let us not worry about the sins of others, for we have so much for which to be forgiven ourselves. Our heavenly Father forgives us for Christ’s sake. Can we not forgive others for the sake of Christ also?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



WEEK 44

Bless Them

“Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.” —Romans 12:14

“Who, when he was reviled, reviled not again; when he suffered, he threatened not; but committed himself to him that judgeth righteously.” —1 Peter 2:23

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Bless _____

Persecute _____

Reviled _____

Suffered _____

Threatened _____

Committed _____

QUESTIONS

1. It is easy to be nice to those who are nice to us, but difficult to be nice to those who take advantage of us, or treat us unkindly. If someone recently treated you unkindly, how did you respond?

2. How did your response compare with God's command? _____

3. What could you change to be more Christ-like next time? _____

4. Persecution has a stronger meaning than being treated unkindly. If we are persecuted, we are harassed, punished, abused, treated roughly. Has this ever occurred in your life?

5. How did you respond to the person who did so? _____

6. How did your response compare with God's command? _____

7. What could you change to be more Christ-like next time? _____

8. Have you ever had someone revile, slander, insult, or humiliate you? _____

9. Did you tell others about the incident, thereby turning them against that person and winning them to you? _____

10. How could you have blessed the person who reviled or slandered you instead?

These seem to be difficult verses to obey because when we suffer mistreatment at the hands of others, our “self” screams for satisfaction; but our blessed Saviour, Jesus, set the example for us. He experienced all, and more than we will ever experience. He knows what it is to be lied about, persecuted without a cause, humiliated, reviled, and yet He did not treat His persecutors as they treated Him. He loved them enough not to respond, but rather to lay down His life for them. He committed Himself unto His Father in Heaven, Who will judge righteously in His time. Can we not begin to walk in the steps of our Saviour, Jesus? Can we not begin to really and truly love others despite how they treat us? Can we bless those who persecute us? Can you?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



If washed in Jesus' blood,
Then bear His likeness too!
And as you onward press,
Ask, "What would Jesus do?"

Give with a full, free hand;
God freely gives to you!
And check each selfish thought
With "What would Jesus do?"

WEEK 45

Abstain

“Abstain from all appearance of evil.” —1 Thessalonians 5:22

“Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul;” —1 Peter 2:11

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Abstain _____

Appearance _____

Evil _____

War _____

Strangers _____

Pilgrims _____

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it necessary for a Christian to abstain even from the appearance of evil?

2. Can you name a few things which have the appearance of evil? _____

3. If we are to abstain even from the appearance of evil, would it be biblically correct to think that we can watch or read evil things as long as we do not do them? Why?

4. Why does Scripture call us strangers and pilgrims to the things of this world?

5. As strangers, how should we be “different” from the world? _____

6. How can you be a stranger to the activities, lifestyles, goals, and entertainments of the world?

7. What are fleshly lusts? _____

8. Why are we commanded to abstain from fleshly lusts? _____

9. Name a few fleshly lusts that are sometimes even disguised as if they were Christian qualities. (For example, a sense of not being like other sinners is self-righteous pride, a lust of the flesh.)

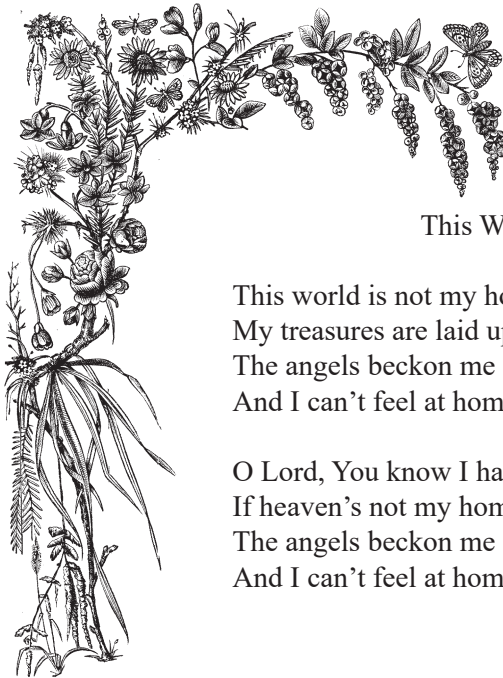
10. How do fleshly lusts war against our souls? _____

11. What fleshly lusts do you recognize warring against your soul? _____

12. What changes can you make in your life that will help you avoid them or abstain from them?

Does the word “pilgrim” describe you? Do you feel that you are a stranger in this land? If we truly belong to our Lord Jesus Christ, we will be strangers in this world. Our hearts will be with Him in His heavenly Kingdom. We will be living our lives to please Him and not to fulfill the lust for the things of this world. Yes, we will be different. Why is that such a terrible thing? Jesus was different. Yes, people will not understand us, but why should we expect them to? People did not understand Jesus either. Folks will think badly of us and misjudge us. Yes, they did that to Jesus too. What does it matter? Believers do not belong to this world; they are strangers in this kingdom of Satan. Believers belong to Jesus, and because of that, they will abstain from the things of this world, and they will count it a joy to do so. Are you joyous about being different? Are you glad you are a stranger and pilgrim in this world?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



This World's Not My Home

This world is not my home, I'm just a passing through.
My treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue;
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

O Lord, You know I have no friend like You,
If heaven's not my home, then Lord what will I do?
The angels beckon me from heaven's open door,
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

Albert Brumley

WEEK 46

Be Ye Holy

“But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.” —1 Peter 1:15-16

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.” —I John 2:15-17

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Holy _____

Manner _____

Conversation _____

QUESTIONS

1. God commands us to be holy. How does the word “holy” describe, or not describe, you?

2. If it does not describe you, why doesn't it?

3. Since all “manner of conversation” pertains to every area of our lives, in order to obey this commandment, what would a life of holy conversation look like if it sought to obey this command?

4. What things are in your life that you must discard if all of your conversation is to be holy?

5. What specific things might be in your life that carry unholy influences?

6. What excuses do you use for unholiness? (For example, do you continue to read trashy novels because the authors pretend to be Christian and claim that these books are about biblical concepts or events, yet are full of seamy, sordid details that drag readers to an unholy, worldly mind set?)

7. Do you think that God's command for us to be holy would include our thought life as well? Why?

8. Much of the world professes Christianity. Define the difference between the holiness of God and the holiness of general "Christian" world opinion.

9. Why does God admonish us not to love the things of this world?

10. Why does God tell us that if we love the world, His love is not in us? _____

11. List some sins that would come under “lust of the flesh.”

12. List some sins that would come under “lust of the eyes.”

13. List some sins that would come under the “pride of life.”

14. Why are not these things, these successes, these lusts, of the Father? _____

15. Since they are not of the Father, would you think that they might be considered “unholy conversation”?

16. God tells us that all these things will pass away. Why do you think people have such a difficult time giving up things in this life for the more enduring and eternal rewards of doing God’s will?

17. What about you? Are you seeking after the things of this life instead of doing the will of God?

18. What are some things you might need to change in order to give your activities

eternal value? _____

There are so many today who tell us there is no need for personal holiness. They seem to negatively equate personal holiness with pharisaical legalism and standards of self-righteousness. To them the age of grace means that nearly anything is acceptable to God, but in this age of grace, according to God's Word, we are commanded to be holy, to be holy as He is holy.

Holy living has nothing to do with legalism, but everything to do with pleasing God. The Bible teaches us to seek grace to resist temptation, yet many today selfishly want to believe that the purpose of grace is to grant indulgence to unholy living. However, we can clearly see from these Scriptures that our holiness is revealed by our holy conversation in all things. A holy person will not subscribe to the lusts of the flesh, nor the lust of the eyes, nor seek the pride of life. A holy person will be doing the will of God, and will abide forever with Him. Does your "manner of conversation" reflect God's holiness?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

Take Time to Be Holy

Take time to be holy, speak oft with thy Lord;
Abide in Him always, and feed on His Word.
Make friends of God's children; help those who are weak;
Forgetting in nothing His blessing to seek.

Take time to be holy, the world rushes on;
Spend much time in secret with Jesus alone;
By looking to Jesus, like Him thou shalt be;
Thy friends in thy conduct His likeness shall see.

William D. Longstaff

WEEK 47

Praying Fervently

“Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.” —James 5:16

“Pray without ceasing.” —1 Thessalonians 5:17

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Confess _____

Faults _____

Pray _____

Fervent _____

Avail _____

QUESTIONS

1. How is it helpful to us to confess our faults to one another?

2. Why do you think God tells us to pray for each other?

3. Why do you suppose that a righteous man's/woman's prayers avail, perhaps, much more than an unrighteous person's prayers?

4. Why must the prayers be fervent? _____

5. What are your prayers for your friends like—"Bless so & so," or fervent?

6. Since "praying without ceasing" means never to stop praying, do you really think it is sufficient to have just morning and evening prayer times? Explain.

7. How can you "pray without ceasing"? _____

Our heavenly Father is so wise and so loving. He knows that if we are in a constant state of prayer, we will face much less temptation to sin. He also knows that if we are confessing our own faults, we will be less likely to be critical of the faults of others. When we pray fervently and without ceasing for our friends, He knows that we truly will be caring toward them. When we pray without ceasing, we will learn to talk with Him about every problem, every care, every worry, every need, and every person. We will have His perfect peace because He is in charge and can care for everything much better than we can. In fact, the Scriptures say, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee." —Isaiah 26:3. We can simply rest in Him, and, oh, dear friends, what a blessed rest that is! Won't you develop the habit of praying without ceasing about everyone and everything?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



Did You Think to Pray?

Ere you left your room this morning,
Did you think to pray?
In the name of Christ our Saviour,
Did you sue for loving favor,
As a shield today?

When your heart was filled with anger,
Did you think to pray?
Did you plead for grace, my brother,
That you might forgive another
Who had crossed your way?

Oh, how praying rests the weary!
Prayer will change the night to day;
So in sorrow and in gladness,
Don't forget to pray.

Mrs. M. A. Kidder

WEEK 48

Preferring Others

“Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.” —Philippians 2:3-4

“Be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love; in honour preferring one another;” —Romans 12:10

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Strife _____

Vainglory _____

Lowliness _____

Esteem _____

Honor _____

Preferring _____

QUESTIONS

1. Can you list a few reasons why nothing should be done through strife?

2. How can one avoid “vainglory” in what one does? _____

3. Why should we esteem others better than ourselves? _____

4. List seven ways we can treat others better than ourselves.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

4) _____

5) _____

6) _____

7) _____

5. Why are we commanded to look not just on our own things, but on the things of others as well?

6. What types of actions will show that we are looking on the things of others?

7. How does “looking on the things of others” reflect the spirit of “lowliness of mind”?

8. Why do you think God’s Word tells us that it is best for us to prefer others before ourselves?

9. List several ways we can honor or prefer others before ourselves.

10. Is it possible that if we are going to prefer others before ourselves, we might have to sacrifice some of our own desires or needs in order to fulfill the desires, or meet the needs, of those closest to us?

11. What would be an example of this? _____

12. What would the attitude and mannerisms be of someone who is “kindly

affectionate”?

13. Could these verses describe your attitudes and behavior toward others?

14. If not, what changes do you need to begin making in your life? _____

Once again, God’s Word speaks to us of our inner heart attitudes. It is so easy to join a church, keep rules, and lead a “moral” life. It is quite a different thing to put others before ourselves, to honor others, and to be concerned about the things of others. Why is this so difficult for us? Is it because we must deny ourselves in order to prefer others? The world tells us to put ourselves first, to take care of our needs first. However, God’s Word tells us to put others first. This was the example of our Lord. He came humbly, serving man. Can you imagine that? The Creator serving the very beings He created. He desires us to serve our fellow creatures. He commands us to put them before ourselves. He tells us to treat them kindly and with affection. Dear ladies, are we really doing this? Are we kindly affectioned to those in our own household and circle of acquaintances? Are we truly preferring others before ourselves?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



WEEK 49

How We Show Our Love for Others

“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.” —1 John 5:2-3

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Grievous _____

QUESTIONS

1. What does God consider the “love of God” to be?

2. Why are God's commands not grievous?

3. How do we show true love to others?

4. Why is it essential to keep God's commandments in order to show our love to others?

5. When others exert pressure upon us to possibly do something wrong, and we are tempted to entertain the thought that we do not want to offend them, and so we are therefore unsure what to do—what do these Scriptures tell us to do?

6. How can we be sure of what to do in any given situation? _____

These are some of the most important verses in the Bible for a person who is struggling with peer pressures, family pressures, or job pressures. There is only one course of action for a believer; a person who knows Jesus Christ, and that is to keep His commandments. The best way we can show our own love for God is to obey Him, and the best way for others to see our love of God is for them to see that we keep His

commandments. If we put people or things in front of God and His commandments, we are showing that those people and things are more important to us than God. Hence, others see that we love them more than God. We have created idols for ourselves. How do you know if you love your brother, sister, or neighbor? By always obeying God and putting God first. If you do not put God first, you do not truly love others, nor do you love God. Whom do you really love?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

I Am Resolved



I am resolved no longer to linger,
Charmed by the world's delight;
Things that are higher, things that are nobler,
These have allured my sight.

I am resolved to go to the Saviour,
Leaving my sin and strife;
He is the true One, He is the just One,
He hath the words of life.

I am resolved to follow the Saviour,
Faithful and true each day;
Heed what He sayeth, do what He willeth,
He is the living way.

I will hasten to Him,
Hasten to Him,
Hasten so glad and free;
Jesus, Greatest, Highest, I will come to Thee.

Palmer Hartsough

WEEK 50

Lawful But Not Expedient

“All things are lawful for me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but all things edify not. Let no man seek his own, but every man another's wealth.” —1 Corinthians 10:23-24

“For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” —Galatians 5:13-14

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Expedient _____

Lawful _____

Edify _____

Liberty _____

QUESTIONS

1. In what ways could something be lawful but not expedient?

2. List several things that are lawful but not expedient.

3. In what ways could something be lawful but not edifying?

4. List several things that are lawful but not edifying.

5. Why are we to seek another's wealth or well-being instead of our own? _____

6. Can you think of a situation where you would seek another's best interest instead of your own?

7. How could one's Christian liberty be an occasion to the flesh or a stumbling block for someone else?

8. Can you think of an occasion which would demonstrate this?

9. How can we use our liberty to serve another?

10. How is the law fulfilled? _____

11. Why does this fulfill the law? _____

So many people think of the law as a list of "Thou Shalt Nots," but that just is not true. The law is fulfilled by "loving our neighbour." The law is not negative but positive. It is not merely a list of "Do Nots" but a list of "Do's." Do put your neighbor before yourself. Do serve your neighbor. Do good to your neighbor. Do be kind to your neighbor. Do treat your neighbor as you would like to be treated. Do. Do. Do. Yes, we have liberty and grace, but it is only liberty and grace to love our neighbor more. It is grace to do—not grace to indulge. And, remember how we know we love our neighbor? We know we love our neighbor by keeping the commandments of God. My friends, how are you using your liberty and grace?

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

WEEK 51

Prove All Things

“Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.” —1 Thessalonians 5:21

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” —2 Timothy 2:15

WRITE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Prove _____

Study _____

Divide _____

QUESTIONS

1. According to what should we prove all things? _____

-
2. How is that done? _____

 3. Why is it necessary to prove all things? _____

 4. Is there anything that we should not prove?

 5. Does study mean that we should read what “learned men” wrote about an issue to come to the truth about it?

 6. What do we get when we study the teachings, doctrines, and sermons of men?

 7. How does that differ from what we get when we study the Word of God?

 8. God promises that the Holy Spirit will give us understanding for His Word. Does He extend that promise to the writings of men?

 9. Explain how study of men’s writings often leads people away from the truth.

 10. What kind of study leads us toward the truth?

 11. To what time limit is God restricted in order to bring us to the truth on any given issue?

12. How will we know when we have proved something to ourselves from God’s Word by His Holy Spirit?

13. How does one “wrongly divide” the Word of truth?

14. Can you imagine any way that the Holy Spirit of God would lead us into error if we are willing to ignore all that we have been taught by men to obtain truth directly from Him?

There are those who would frighten us into thinking that we cannot rightly divide God’s Word without their help. If this were so, God would have told us to seek the counsel of men. Instead, He told us to seek Him. Jesus tells us to “ask, seek, and knock.” He further tells us that His Holy Spirit will be given to believers—to us—and that His Holy Spirit will teach us the truths of His Word. “Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.” —John 16:13. The Spirit of truth will rightly divide the Word for us. We have only to pray and ask. Do you believe this? If so, why not start “proving” all your beliefs about things spiritual, and even things carnal, about things you think are important, and about things which you deem of lesser consequence? Why not take it all to the Spirit of Truth, and learn from Him the truth of these matters? Only then will you be sure of being a woman “approved unto God,” who “needeth not to be ashamed.”

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____



WEEK 52

How We Know That We Know Jesus

“And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him. But whoso keepeth his word, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him. He that saith he abideth in him ought himself also so to walk, even as he walked.” —1 John 2:3-6

WRITE THESE VERSES

WHAT DO THESE VERSES MEAN?

DEFINITIONS

Liar _____

Perfected _____

QUESTIONS

1. How do we really know that we do know Jesus?

2. So many people, even those who say they are Christians, say they know Jesus. How will we know if they know Jesus?

3. What does God's Word call those who claim His name, yet do not keep His commandments?

4. It would seem that the keeping of God's commandments, according to His Word, is as important in the New Testament as in the Old Testament. Would you think that any doctrine, any teaching, or any person who tells us that it is not necessary to keep God's commandments would be from God?

5. How is the love of God perfected in those who keep His commandments?

6. Is God's love being perfected in you? _____

This is the final week for the Joy of Obedience. These final verses make a statement about us. They make a statement about our Christian walk. You see, our walk talks far more than our talk talks. God is going to look at our walk, not listen to our talk. Jesus is going to look and see if we are keeping His commandments and walking in His steps. If we really know God, and we really know Jesus, we will be keeping the

commandments. Why? Because we know Him, and we know that His commandments are but loving rules for our own good. We keep them because we know that He loves us. We keep them because we love Him. We keep them because they are a delight to us, and we delight to do His will. We keep them because our God is a mighty God, and a God to be trusted. Our God knows what is best for us, and He knows that our joy lies in keeping His Word. Let us always remember that Jesus said, "These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and that your joy might be full," —John 15:11.

MEMORIZE AND RECITE VERSES - DATE SAID _____

Redeemed

Redeemed, how I love to proclaim it!
Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
Redeemed throu' His infinite mercy,
His child, and forever, I am.

Redeemed, and so happy in Jesus,
No language my rapture can tell;
I know that the light of His presence
With me doth continually dwell.

I think of my blessed Redeemer,
I think of Him all the day long;
I sing, for I cannot be silent;
His love is the theme of my song.

I know I shall see in His beauty
The King in whose law I delight;
Who lovingly guardeth my footsteps,
And giveth me songs in the night.
Fanny Crosby



Let's Do a Review

This fifty-second week is also a review week. Look over the preceding weeks. Has the Lord shown you anything unbiblical in your thoughts toward Him, or in your thoughts regarding your life? Write these down and begin to trust Him more, trusting that His way is the best way and He does know best! The written notes will serve as a future reference, and as a reminder to keep trusting.

REVIEW ALL VERSES AND RECITE TO YOUR DESIGNATED PERSON.

2 Corinthians 10:5 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Peter 2:23 <input type="checkbox"/>	Romans 12:10 <input type="checkbox"/>
Philippians 4:8 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Thessalonians 5:22 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 John 5:2-3 <input type="checkbox"/>
1 Timothy 2:9-10 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Peter 2:11 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Corinthians 10:23-24 <input type="checkbox"/>
Thessalonians 5:18 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Peter 1:15-16 <input type="checkbox"/>	Galatians 5:13-14 <input type="checkbox"/>
Ephesians 5:20 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 John 2:15-17 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 Thessalonians 5:21 <input type="checkbox"/>
Ephesians 4:32 <input type="checkbox"/>	James 5:16 <input type="checkbox"/>	2 Timothy 2:15 <input type="checkbox"/>
Matthew 6:12 <input type="checkbox"/>	Thessalonians 5:17 <input type="checkbox"/>	1 John 2:3-6 <input type="checkbox"/>
Romans 12:14 <input type="checkbox"/>	Philippians 2:3-4 <input type="checkbox"/>	

Bible Reading

The most important reason for reading the Bible is not to check off the daily reading, and not because “good” Christians read the Word, but to come to KNOW GOD and to KNOW His thinking on every issue of life. God’s Word IS truth. God’s Word IS our measuring stick. All other philosophies must be compared to truth. All wisdom, knowledge, and the very love of God, are contained in the pages of His Word. It is not how much we read that is important, but that we read to KNOW HIM.

Read! Read! Read! Read and record what you read on the following chart

(Do not wait until January to begin. Start now in the current month.)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
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3						
4						
5						
6						
7						
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11						
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	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUNE
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28						
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30						
31						

NOTES

	JULY	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
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Prayers

Prayer is not something we do at a certain time of day. Prayer should permeate every minute of every day. *“Pray without ceasing,”* —II Thessalonians 5:17. There should never be a time, a thing, or an event that we cannot pray over to our heavenly Father. Praying certainly involves lifting our physical needs to God; but more importantly, it also involves asking God to meet our spiritual needs. We should be praying over everything we say, every phone conversation we hold, every book we read, every television program we watch, the music to which we listen, and the games and activities in which we participate. We need to pray over everything. Prayer is confessing our sins, begging for wisdom, worshiping God, and so much more. *“If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you,”* —John 15:7. Abide means to live with or live in. We are to live with Jesus, never leaving Him for a moment. Prayer is our means of communicating and communing with our God. Use this section to form a more consistent prayer life.

Date	Prayers	Answers

Others

God sent Jesus for the sake of *others*. Jesus came to earth for *others*. The virtuous woman lived her life for *others*. God did not put us here to live our lives selfishly for ourselves. Jesus was our example, and we are to walk in His steps. We only need to look around to see and begin to meet the needs of all those who cross our paths.

Meeting the needs of *others* takes our minds off of ourselves. It takes time, thought, and purpose to meet the needs of *others*. One must do this on a consistent basis to develop the habit of living for others.

Meet twenty-four needs of *others* this year. This is just two a month. Record what you did. Work for others may include doing things for widows, people who are sick, the poor, rest home residents, orphans, or a crisis pregnancy center.

January	_____

February	_____

March	_____

April	_____

May	_____

June	_____

July	_____

August

September

October

November

December

Others

Lord, help me live from day to day
In such a self-forgetful way,
That even when I kneel to pray,
My prayer shall be for others,

Help me in all the work I do
To ever be sincere and true,
And know that all I'd do for You
Must need be done for others.

Others, Lord, yes, others,
Let this my motto be:
Help me to live for others,
That I may live like Thee.

Let "self" be crucified and slain
And buried deep: and all in vain
May efforts be to rise again,
Unless to live for others.

Charles D. Meigs



Year End Evaluation

It is important to evaluate ourselves at least once a year. We need to take a look at ourselves to see which direction we have been heading. Are we growing closer to our Lord, or further away? Are our lives more disciplined, or have we become more self-indulgent? Have we become holier, or more worldly? We need to check where we are, and make changes for the next year.

How did you do in your Bible reading? _____

How did you do in your Bible memory? _____

How did you do in your prayer life? _____

How did you do focusing on others? _____

Did you reach any personal goals? _____

What were your strongest areas? _____

What were your weakest areas? _____

How can you improve on these? _____

More Resources

If you have discovered the true “joy of obedience,” why not continue your study and discover the true “joy of womanhood”? It is the first step to becoming the woman God would have you to be!

Joy of Womanhood, by Susan Zakula. Have you ever wondered where your joy went? Or perhaps you have never felt joy, real joy in who you are and joy in your life? If so, this Bible study will help you discover joy that is lasting. It is a fifty-two week Bible study delving into the very core issues of womanhood and the essence of joy. It is in a workbook format, so take pen in hand and begin! Perfect for ladies' Bible Studies, lessons for teens, or a mother-daughter study.

Are You Serious About Marriage? by Susan Zakula.

How is your marriage doing? Do you have a close, loving relationship with your husband? Do you feel that you are “one,” as you set out to be years ago? Or are things beginning to unravel as the stresses of life mount?

Are you disappointed in your husband? Are you disappointed in life? Are you disappointed in your marriage? Are you struggling? Perhaps this little book, *Are You Serious About Marriage?* will shed some light on the perplexing issues women face.

It is not written from a know-it-all attitude but from the heart of a woman that knew nothing, and had to learn along the way. It is not a “20 Steps to a Great Marriage,” but the sharing of a journey to become a wife as God has intended a woman to be.

We have had a tremendous number of requests from our former *In Keeping With the Faith* subscribers to put this series of marriage articles into a book. We have, and they now continue to bless and help wives to be godly, loving helpmeets to their husbands. People have requested them for future reference, for their children, for newly married women, for women who are struggling in their marriages, for Bible studies, and for those young women preparing for marriage. We have received countless testimonies of changed lives, and changed marriages, as a result of these articles.

If you are ready for a change and want to really get serious about your marriage, give this a read.

Little Keepers at Home

Keepers of the Faith for Girls

If you have daughters or granddaughters, please encourage them to discover the joy of being a girl by learning to be keepers at home. The *Little Keepers* and *Keepers at Home* handbooks are filled with practical knowledge, encourage Christian character, and inspire godly habits. Start now to prepare your girls to be all God would have them to be!

All of the above are available from Keepers of the Faith.

Visit us on the web at keepersofthefait.com

or

Contact us at: sales@keepersofthefait.com