I’m a wife and mother. What’s your superpower?

Seriously though, we live in a world that places such emphasis on strength and power. Women of today are expected to have it all, do it all, and be all. Worse yet, we play this game of comparison that shackles us in fears and insecurities. We take our failures and compare them to the strengths of others. We take our blooper reels and compare them to other women’s highlight shots. However, this does nothing but leave us exhausted, weary, and left wondering if we are enough.

Let me share something. You are enough! God created you for a specific role. He has a plan for your life laid out in His Word. In it you will find how to live as a wife and mother, how to manage your home, raise your children, enjoy intimate times with your husband, make a difference in this world, and be a witness for His glory. It is a beautiful plan that when followed leaves the world awestruck.

This Bible study is a result of several young women in my church asking to specifically focus on being a wife and mother during our monthly studies. These young wives and mothers wanted to discover the true, biblical meaning of womanhood, in contrast to the shallow, feministic teachings that the world gives. We spent a year going over the scriptures and principles in this study. Meeting in each other’s homes and surrounded by babies and little children, we sat and discussed biblical womanhood in a modern world. I’ve arranged this study into 12 weeks or you can dive deeper into each lesson extending it into a year. Either way, this makes a perfect study for any group of women who want to know and understand their calling in this world.
I want to be a wonderful wife. What married woman doesn’t? But, the question arises as to what constitutes “wonderful”. Is a wonderful wife one who makes her husband happy all the time? Is she one who keeps the house clean and kids healthy? Does she work and contribute financially? Is she fit and beautiful? Maybe. Maybe not. I’ve known women who on the outside seemed to have it all together. They had a big house, nice car, beautiful clothes, “perfect” family and yet their marriage fell apart. And, I’ve known women who didn’t have all the nice things the world offers. Maybe they weren’t perfectly fit or gorgeous by the world’s standards. They struggled with heartaches and trials. Yet, they had a marriage that would make any woman envious along with a peace in life that passed all understanding.

If we look to the world to set the standard as to what a wonderful wife looks like, we will be grossly disappointed in the end. Because, in the end the little things that this world elevates will not matter. What will matter is how we, as God’s children, line up with His Word. I believe this is one reason there are so many divorces today. People go into marriage with unhealthy and selfish expectations. Instead of asking if this marriage will bring God glory, they ask if this marriage will make them happy.

My husband and I are approaching our 25th wedding anniversary. Before I got married I had all kinds of expectations about what marriage should look like and about what a wife and husband should be. Over the years (and through a few hard lessons) those expectations changed.
Don’t get me wrong, we should have a certain degree of expectations about marriage. However, we need to learn to bring them in line with reality. No marriage is perfect. Your husband will fail you. You will fail your husband. A healthy expectation in marriage along with the reality that people sin should drive us to the truth of God's unfailing and trustworthy character. It is God alone who will never fail us. "It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man," Psalms 118:8.

Do you want to know what makes you “wonderful”? It’s the fact that God created you in His image and with a purpose. “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. Just as Eve was created to be a helper suitable for Adam, so is every wife to her husband. I know what some are thinking. Does this mean that the wife is less of a person or that she is lower in value? Absolutely not. Her position is simply different. It is true that the worldly perception of a helper is often someone not as important, less in value or 2nd class, but as believers we need to stop thinking like the world and look to God. When God made woman, He took a part of Himself (His character and nature of Helper) and gave it to her.

- “God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble,” Psalm 46:1.
- “O Israel, trust thou in the LORD: he is their help and their shield,” Psalm 115:9.
- “My help cometh from the LORD, which made heaven and earth,” Psalm 121:2.
- “The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me.” Hebrews 13:6.
All through the Bible God is called Helper. God gave Eve a part of His character to define her role in marriage. Adam was incomplete without her. “And the LORD God said, It is not good that the man should be alone.” Eve completed Adam. What a wonderful gift to be the helper!

Not only is a wife to be a helper to her husband, but she is to respond in a very specific way. “Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord,” Ephesians 5:22. Our culture often views submission in a negative light, but if you are a Christian, submission is a beautiful term to hold dear. You see, it is through submission to Christ as Lord of our life that we are saved. To understand submission, we need to first understand what it does not mean. Submission does not mean that the wife is inferior, that the husband is permitted to be a dictator, that the wife has no opinions or input, or that the husband is always right. What it does mean is that she reverences her husband and submits to his authority in her life as unto the Lord. Submission starts from the heart. It is not about logic; it’s about love. Jesus loved us so much that He submitted to death on the cross. A Christian woman submits to the man she chooses to love in obedience to the Savior she loves. Submission should be genuine, sincere and without hypocrisy (Romans 12:9). It should be expressed though actions and not just our words (1 John 3:18). And, it should be consistent. This is the better or worse part of marriage. It’s easy to show respect to a husband who loves you as he should. But, this is not why we do it.

There is a lot that encompasses being a God-honoring wife. While the world might not understand it, a woman who follows God’s plan for her life and marriage is truly a wonderful woman!

“I am as a wonder unto many; but Thou art my strong refuge.”

Psalms 71:7
Day 1 - Being A Wife
Questions: What expectations did you have about being a wife before you were married? Have those expectations changed?

Day 2 - A Wife's Role
Study: Genesis 2:7-25
Questions: Why did God create Eve? What do you think of when you think of the term "helper"?

Day 3 - Being a Helper
Questions: What is significant about being a helper? Specifically, what does being my husband’s helper look like?

Day 4 - A Wife's Response
Study: Ephesians 5:22-33
Questions: A wife's role in marriage is that of "help meet"; what is her response in marriage? What does being submissive to my husband look like?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Have I been looking at my role as wife with a worldly mindset? Have I been responding to my husband in a biblical manner? What changes can I make that will draw me closer to the Lord and ultimately to my husband?
I will never forget the day my oldest child was born. I was filled with complete awe and wonder (and absolute terror) at the thought of God giving me this son to raise. What a responsibility! Children are one of the greatest blessings we could ever receive from the Lord. “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward,” Psalms 127:3.

I remember as a child hearing my grandmother say, “A man works from sun to sun, but a woman’s work is never done.” Once I became a mom I began to understand that statement. Mothers are true superheroes! They comfort, protect, and enforce laws. They fix things and put out fires. They teach, train and discipline. A mother acts as a counselor, chef, maid, nurse, chauffer, seamstress, and banker (to name just a few). Her job is 24/7 (Or, in my case like the laundry…never-ending!) But, of all the hats a mother wears, “teacher” is one of the most imperative.

I am a homeschool mom so I know a little about teaching. I’ve taught pre-k through 12 grade to two of my now adult children and my youngest is in high school. But, when I talk about the importance of being your child’s teacher, I’m not referring to academic lessons (although that is important). I’m referring to the most important lesson a child will ever learn.

When Jesus was asked, "Which is the first commandment of all?" He answered from the book of Deuteronomy. Known to the Jews as the Shema it begins: "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine
heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart," Deuteronomy 6:4-6. There it is. The most important thing you can teach your children is to love God with everything you are. It's as simple and complicated as that. But here is something that might surprise you. To teach our children how to love God with their all, we must start with ourselves. If we wish to turn the hearts of our children toward Him, we must first have a heart for God. Don’t make the mistake of thinking you will produce godly children. The fact is that you can’t. However, you can make sure your children have a godly mother and trust that God will do a work in their lives. While it might seem contrary, if we want to properly teach our children to love and worship God, we first need to focus on our own lives.

"And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart," Deuteronomy 6:6. Notice that the first step in preparation is to make sure that His Words are in your heart. Then, and only then, can you teach them to your children. "And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. And thou shalt bind them for a sign upon thine hand, and they shall be as frontlets between thine eyes. And thou shalt write them upon the posts of thy house, and on thy gates," Deuteronomy 6:7-9. It is your job (alongside your husband) to teach and pass on to your children the Word of God.

We don’t just teach; we also train. Teaching fills the minds of our children, but training shapes their habits. For example, we can teach them what the Bible says about worship. But, we train them when we consistently show them how to worship God in our home and in the church through song, praise, testimony, giving, prayer and the preaching of God’s Word.
In addition to teaching and training, a mother who truly loves her children will discipline them when necessary. Proof of that statement can be found by looking at how God disciplines His children. He doesn’t discipline out of anger. It is always done in love. It’s purpose is to correct not just behavior but the heart of the child. When we discipline, our words and actions should lead our children to love and fear the Lord more than they currently do.

Being a mother is hard work. It takes a lot of sacrifice to raise our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. But, it is a job like no other and well worth doing. As Billy Graham once said, “Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children.”

- "One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts." (Psalms 145:4)
- "We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments." (Psalms 78:4-7)
- "Tell ye your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation." (Joel 1:3)
- "And he said unto them, Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law." (Deuteronomy 32:46)
Day 1 - Role of Mother in Teaching
Study - Proverbs 1:8, 2 Timothy 1:5, 2 Timothy 3:14-15
Questions: What is the most important thing we could ever teach our children? What are some practical ways we can teach them spiritual truths from childhood?

Day 2 - Role of Mother in Training
Study - Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs 29:15, Ephesians 6:1-3
Questions: What is the difference between "teaching" and "training"? Is Proverbs 22:6 an ironclad guarantee? Describe a child "left to himself". Why is child training so important?

Day 3 - Role of a Mother in Disciplining
Study – Proverbs 13:24, Hebrews 12:5-8
Questions: Do I ever discipline out of anger and frustration? How does discipline prove our love? What is the ultimate goal of disciplining our children?

Day 4 - Role of a Mother in Sacrificing
Study - Exodus 2:1-10, 1 Samuel 1, 2:19-21, 1 Kings 3:16-27
Questions: In what way did each mother sacrifice in these 3 stories? In what ways does a Christian mother sacrifice for her children today?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Have you taken the time to thank your mother for her love and sacrifice? What changes do I need to make in the teaching, training and disciplining of my children?
THE HEADQUARTERS

You’ve probably said it before. “Home is where the heart is.” Jane Austen pens it like this. “There is nothing like staying at home for real comfort.” Laura Ingalls Wilder wrote, “Home is the nicest word there is.” There truly is no place like home. It is the place where memories are made. A place where life happens, lessons are taught, and tears are wiped away. It is a place of peace and comfort. Home is a haven, a respite from the world. And, for the Christian woman it is a place of ministry. I know that the home isn’t always seen in this light. In fact, modern society often views the home as nothing more than a mortgage payment where you go to get food and sleep. But, the home is so much more. In fact, in Scripture we see the home as the headquarters for the wife and mother.

In Titus chapter 2, the church is given instructions on how we are to behave as Christians. Older men, older women, younger men, and younger women are all addressed. You are to live a certain way so that the Word of God is not blasphemed (verse 5), so that an opponent may be put to shame having nothing evil to say about you (verse 8) and so that others may adorn the doctrine of God in all things (verse 10). In this passage we see that the older women are to be teachers of good things. “That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed,” Titus 2:4-5. This is a “good teaching” this is often overlooked in society today. These older, more mature Christian women were to teach the younger women practical matters of Christian living, marriage, parenting, and on being managers of their home.
So, what does it mean to be a “keeper at home”? The phrase is a compound word in the Greek made up of oikos (meaning an inhabited house or home) and ouros (meaning one who keeps or watches over something). Strong’s dictionary explains the word as “a guardian, a stayer at home, that is, domestically inclined, keeper at home”. Simply put, your home is your center of operation. We see this thought in another passage as well. “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully,” 1 Timothy 5:14.

Christian women should look and act different than others in the world. A wife and mother who conducts herself as Scripture states will indeed stand out. The world will look at her in wonder. But, that’s ok. In fact, believers in Christ are to be a little peculiar (1 Peter 2:9). A wife and mother who chooses to make the home her “work” and her family her “career” is certainly looked upon as different. No one questions a woman’s decision to spend the week working for others. Yet a woman who invests her life helping her husband build the home is often looked down upon or treated as though she is wasting her life. If this is you, take comfort in knowing that God’s Words states “every wise woman buildeth her house,” Proverbs 14:1.

There are lots of ways to “build your house”, but the most remarkable way is through ministry. First and foremost is our ministry to our husband and children. Second, we are to use our homes as ministry toward others. “Given to hospitality” is one of the characteristics of a believer (Romans 12:13). Our homes should function differently than the homes of unbelievers and used as a testimony to the Lord. Voddie Baucham in his book *Family Driven Faith* explains it like this. “Our homes must be rife with the aroma of love. Those who visit us should notice immediately that they have left the world of self-serving, egocentric narcissism and have
entered a safe harbor where people value and esteem others above themselves. Outsiders should enter our homes and never want to leave. Our neighbors should find excuses to visit us just to get another whiff of the fragrant aroma of love. The brokenhearted should long to be near us. The downtrodden and the abused should seek us out. Families on the brink of disaster should point to us and say, ‘Why can’t our home be like that?”

It is a big world out there. Sometimes it seems like our little home is just too small of a place to make a big difference, but that is worldly thinking. The difference you make as a wife, mother, and homemaker cannot be replaced, substituted or exchanged. Learn to be content in where God has you. There is freedom in contentment.

The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

Titus 2:3-5
Day 1 – Keeper at Home
Study - Titus 2
Questions - What 8 things are the older women to teach the younger women? What are some lies told by modern society that are associated with being a "keeper at home"?

Day 2 - Example of Widows
Study - 1 Timothy 5:9-15
Questions - What were some of the "good works" that the widows did in this passage? Why did Paul instruct the younger widows to re-marry? Why was the "home" such an important part of society during biblical times? Has the home lost its importance?

Day 3 - Building our House
Study - Proverbs 14:1, Proverbs 24:3, 1 Corinthians 3:11-13
Questions - What does "buildeth her house" mean? In what ways can a wife "build" her home?

Day 4 – Content at Home
Study - Philippians 4:11-13, 1 Timothy 6:6-8, Hebrews 13:5
Questions - How important is it to be content as a "keeper at home"? What happens to us spiritually when we become discontent?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Has my perspective changed on being a “keeper at home”? Am I using my headquarters to its fullest potential?
I am pretty sure my husband was born in the wrong generation. He probably should have been born in the late 50’s, Leave it to Beaver timeframe. I say that because he would love to come home to me wearing pearls and a cute dress while vacuuming. (Thanks June Cleaver!) I’m more of a yoga pants and t-shirt type of wife. Honestly, who wants to clean the toilet all dressed up? However, he loves me anyway and understands my desire for comfort. And, I do my best to honor him in how I look and dress (especially when we go out in public).

Those days when I wear nice clothes, style my hair, paint my nails, and take time to apply makeup I feel beautiful and love making him happy. But, did you know that there is a way to dress that makes a woman even more attractive? The key is found in God’s Word. “Whose adorning let it not be that outward adorning of plaiting the hair, and of wearing of gold, or of putting on of apparel; But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price,” 1 Peter 3:3-4. There is certainly nothing wrong with a woman who desires to look beautiful for her husband, but outer beauty is fleeting. It is vain and can be snatched away by illness, old age and eventually death. The ultimate adorning that a Christian woman should concern herself with is “the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit”. In other words, we should dress ourselves from the inside out.

Another scripture about clothing comes to mind here. It is said of the Proverbs 31 woman that “strength and honour are her clothing.” Sure, she makes the finest of linen and clothes her
household with scarlet, but she wears strength and honor. This woman is amazing! I hate to admit it, but I’ve referred to her as the woman I love to hate. She is the perfect example of a wife and mother. She has a great marriage. Her children adore her. She has a beautiful home with servants who respect her. She works diligently with her hands from morning until night and is a successful entrepreneur. She is giving, kind, and wise. She certainly has it all together.

Don’t worry. The Proverbs 31 woman isn’t a real woman in the Bible. What we read is an acrostic Hebrew poem that describes a woman of noble character. She is there as an example for us to follow. So, if you think the standard is too high just remember that our husbands have Christ as the example of the perfect husband (Ephesians 5). The standard doesn’t get any higher than that. Instead of looking at the Proverbs 31 woman as someone who makes us feel inferior, we should look at the passage as a shining example of the virtuous woman we all want to be.

One of the most remarkable characteristics of this woman is her strength. From a worldly perspective, a strong woman is fiercely independent, speaks her mind, follows her heart, has a high self-esteem, and enjoys being in superior positions. But, this is not the description we see of a godly woman in scripture. The Proverbs 31 woman isn’t independent. She is building her husband’s kingdom. She doesn’t speak her mind and “tell it like it is”. She opens her mouth with wisdom and kindness. She doesn’t follow her heart. She knows that the heart is desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). She doesn’t esteem self; she esteems the Lord God. And, she doesn’t proudly seek out superior positions. She knows that God resists the proud and gives grace to the humble (James 4:6). Her strength isn’t anything she can boast of in herself. Her strength comes from the Lord and it is His strength that makes her strong.
“The LORD reigneth, he is clothed with majesty; the LORD is clothed with strength, wherewith he hath girded himself,” Psalms 93:1. Thus equipped with strength and honor, a woman of wonder rejoices in time to come. She smiles at the future because she is prepared to face whatever tomorrow holds.

Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life. She seeketh wool, and flax, and worketh willingly with her hands. She is like the merchants' ships; she bringeth her food from afar. She riseth also while it is yet night, and giveth meat to her household, and a portion to her maidens. She considereth a field, and buyeth it: with the fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard. She girdeth her loins with strength, and strengtheneth her arms. She perceiveth that her merchandise is good: her candle goeth not out by night. She layeth her hands to the spindle, and her hands hold the distaff. She stretcheth out her hand to the poor; yea, she reacheth forth her hands to the needy. She is not afraid of the snow for her household: for all her household are clothed with scarlet. She maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple. Her husband is known in the gates, when he sitteth among the elders of the land. She maketh fine linen, and selleth it; and delivereth girdles unto the merchant. Strength and honour are her clothing; and she shall rejoice in time to come. She openeth her mouth with wisdom; and in her tongue is the law of kindness. She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Many daughters have done virtuously, but thou excellest them all. Favour is deceitful, and beauty is vain: but a woman that feareth the LORD, she shall be praised. Give her of the fruit of her hands; and let her own works praise her in the gates.

(Proverbs 31:10-31)
LESSON FOUR- BIBLE STUDY

Day 1 – Her Character – Who She Is
Study: Proverbs 31:10, Proverbs 12:4, Ruth 3:10-11
Questions: Read the story of Ruth. What qualities did Ruth possess that made her a “virtuous” woman?

Day 2 -Her Conduct – What She Does
Questions: The Proverbs 31 woman is a diligent worker. Make a list of what she accomplishes each day. Is there any room for laziness in the life of a Christian?

Day 3 - Her Compassion – How She Loves
Study: Proverbs 31: 20, 26, 1 Peter 3:8, Luke 10:30-37
Questions: Action follows true compassion. How does the Proverbs 31 woman show her compassion? How did the good Samaritan show his compassion? What ways can we show compassion?

Day 4 - Her Creditability – What Others Say
Study: Proverbs 31:11-12, 23, 28-31, Matthew 5:16
Questions: What can be said about the Proverbs 31 woman’s marriage? Why is it imperative that we have a good testimony before others?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Do I have a “meek and quiet spirit” (1 Peter 3:3)? What is one thing that I learned from the Proverbs 31 woman that I can implement this week?
There is a battle raging. As children of God, we fight in a spiritual warfare. In this war we face an enemy that seeks to steal, kill, and destroy (John 10:10). He is as a roaring lion, seeking those he can devour (1 Peter 5:8). He is the father of lies (John 8:44) and the accuser of the brethren (Revelation 12:10). His schemes are many. In this invisible battle we fight against principalities, powers, rulers of darkness, and spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

We also battle the world. Jesus said, “If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you,” John 15:18-19. Because we no longer walk “according to the course of this world” (Ephesians 2:2), we are no longer beholden to this worldly system. “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,” 1 John 2:15-17.

In addition to fighting the enemy and world, perhaps the hardest battle we fight is against our own flesh. The Apostle Paul talks about it in the book of Romans. “For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me,” Romans 7:18-20.
This is a very real and present battle we wage. And even though it is hard, we are victorious in Christ Jesus! He has already overcome the enemy. “And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever,” Revelation 20:10. Through Him, we have overcome the world. “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith,” 1 John 5:4. Even our sinful flesh will ultimately be defeated. “Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin,” Romans 6:6.

However, as long as we live here on earth and in these bodies, we will fight. It is a spiritual battle, not an earthly one. “For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 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 10:3-5.

As believers we are already justified (made right with God) and one day we will be glorified (1 John 3:2). In between those times we are in the process of sanctification (set apart for God's use or being made holy). This is where the battle rages and through the power of the Holy Spirit and with the armor of God (Ephesians 6:10-18) we win this war.

“Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.” Ephesians 6:13
Day 1 - Works of the Flesh
Study – Galatians 5:13-21, Romans 8:1-8
Questions: Make a list of all the works of the flesh mentioned in Galatians. List other “fleshy” vices that are not listed. What does it mean to “walk in the flesh”?

Day 2 - Fear
Study – 2 Timothy 1:7-9, Psalms 118:4-6, Proverbs 29:25, Hebrews 13:5-6
Questions: What are things that bring fear in your marriage? As a parent? In life? What can we do to overcome the spirit of fear?

Day 3 – Stress/Worry
Questions: What things in life bring you the most stress? How does our stress and worry affect the rest of our family? What can we do to overcome stress in our life?

Day 4 - Anger
Study – James 1:19-20, Psalms 37:8, Proverbs 15:1, Ephesians 4:26, Ephesians 4:29-32
Questions: What are things that cause anger in your life? Is all anger wrong? What different ways is anger manifested? What can we do to overcome feelings of anger?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Do I believe that the enemy is already defeated? Do I live victorious or in a state of defeat? What changes do I need to make this week?
Women of Wonder do not fight their battles alone. The greatest weapon we possess is the Spirit of God dwelling within us. The Bible states that we are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise (Ephesians 1:13, 2 Corinthians 1:22). Not only are we sealed, but we have assurance that we are His because of the Spirit. “The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God,” Romans 8:16.

“If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit,” Galatians 5:25. The difference between living in the Spirit and walking in the Spirit is the difference between who we are and what we do. If you are sealed with the Spirit of God, you live in the Spirit. However, walking in the Spirit is how you conduct your life as a believer. A woman who walks in the Spirit will not fulfil the lusts of the flesh (Galatians 5:16).

Walking in the Spirit is the key to defeating the flesh. “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death. For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither
indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you,” Romans 8:1-9.

Only those who have the Spirit of God can walk in the Spirit. And, those who walk in the Spirit bear fruit. Jesus said to His disciples, “Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples,” John 15:8. What would you think of an apple tree that produced lemons? The logical conclusion would be that no matter what you call it, a tree that does not produce apples is not an apple tree. In the same way, a Christian is known by the fruit that is produced. “Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit,” Matthew 7:17-18.

The fruit that is produced by walking in the Spirit is not apples or lemons. The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, and temperance (Galatians 5:22-23). This fruit looks vastly different than the works of the flesh.

The first fruit of the Spirit is love and every other fruit hinges on this love. Love is a general theme throughout the entire Bible. The greatest commandment of all is centered on love. “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,” Matthew 22:37-38.

• We are to love God (Matthew 22:37).
• We are to love our neighbors (Matthew 22:39).
• We are to love their husbands and children (Titus 2:4).
• We are to even love our enemies (Matthew 5:44).
As believers in Christ we are to walk in love (Ephesians 5:2), be rooted and grounded in love (Ephesians 3:17), follow after love (1 Timothy 6:11), and put on love (Colossians 3:12-14). We are told in 1 John 4:8 that not only does God love, but that “God is love”. Let that sink in for a moment; He is love. And when His Spirit dwells within us, we love. “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love,” 1 John 4:7-8.

A woman who loves like God loves and has the fruit of joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness and temperance will indeed be a wonder to many. The world will stop and take notice. Lives will be changed. And God will get all the glory.

• “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour,” Ephesians 5:2.

• “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love,” Ephesians 3:17.

• “Flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness,” 1 Timothy 6:11.

• “Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity (love), which is the bond of perfectness,” Colossians 3:12-14.
Day 1 - Bearing Fruit
Study – John 15:1-8
Questions: Define the “vine”, “branch” and “husbandman”. What is the difference between abiding in Christ (vs 2) and not abiding in Christ (vs 6)? Why is bearing fruit such an important aspect in the believer’s life?

Day 2 - Fruit of the Spirit
Study – Galatians 5:22-25, Ephesians 5:9
Questions: Make a list of the fruits of the spirit in these two passages. Define them and find a corresponding Bible verse for each one.

Day 3 - The First Fruit - Love
Study – John 15:9-17
Questions: Why do you think love is listed as the first fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5:22? According to John 15, what does this love look like?

Day 4 - A Bountiful Harvest
Study – Matthew 13:18-23, John 12:24-25
Questions: What is the state of those who do not produce any fruit? Reread Matthew 13:23. Why do some people produce more fruit than others? According to John 12:24-25, what is the key to producing fruit?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Question: Romans 8:5 says, “For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.” What does this mean to you?
With all the evil in the world, it is no wonder people are fascinated with superheroes. There is just something about the antithetical principles of good verses bad, heroes defeating villains, and light overcoming darkness. We long to see a world filled with goodness. Yet, we live in a world that calls “evil good and good evil” (Isaiah 5:20). It is a dark world for sure, but the good news is that the surrounding darkness makes our light shine even brighter.

The evil in this world can be overwhelming at times, but did you know that you have power within you to overcome evil? “Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good,” Romans 12:21.

God created you for good works. “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them,” Ephesians 2:10. You don’t have to wear a red cape or have super strength to overcome evil, you just have to be a child of God. “Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God,” 3 John 1:11.

The Bible places a heavy emphasis on the child of God doing good works. One reason for this is because our Heavenly Father is good. As His children, we are His ambassadors here on earth (2 Corinthians 5:20). When the world sees good works done in His name, He is glorified (Matthew 5:16). The book of James talks about our faith and works going hand in hand. Works do not justify us (by grace we are saved through faith). However, a justified man works. “Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone. Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works,” James 2:17-18.
We do good works for God’s glory and for the benefit of others. “This is a faithful saying…that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men,” Titus 3:8. God can provide for others in any fashion. He could drop money from the sky, send His angles to work, give hands and feet to the trees, or make the animals to have wisdom. But, He chooses to use us, His children, to do the good works that are needed. “For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me,” Matthew 25:35-40.

Jesus is our ultimate example. During His earthly ministry He went around doing good works. The disciples and followers of Christ followed His example and continued with good works. Likewise, our lives should be filled with good works. Good works overcome evil. Good works glorify God. Good works are for the benefit of others. And finally, living a life of sacrifice is the least we can do. It is our reasonable service (Romans 12:1). Christ died for us. We, therefore, live for him. “Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works,” Titus 2:14.

“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.” Matthew 5:16
Day 1 – Why Good Works?
Study – Matthew 5:13-16, Ephesians 2:10, Titus 3:8, 1 Peter 2:12, James 2:14-16
Questions: What is the purpose of “good works” in the life of a believer? According to James 2, how important are our “works”? Are there things that hinder our “good works”?

Day 2 – Jesus’ Example of Good Works
Questions: What type of good works did Jesus do? Can we follow His example?

Day 3 – Biblical Examples of Good Works
Questions: List out each of these people who are involved in good works. What do all of them have in common? Why are we given examples in Scripture of people doing good works?

Day 4 – Daily Living
Study – Romans Chapter 12
Questions: Why are Christians called to overcome evil with good? In what ways can we practically do this today (individually, as a family, within the church)? List examples of good works mentioned in chapter 12. Is it easier or harder to do good works as the world becomes darker?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Am I living a life filled with good works? Is my motivation to do good works pure and true?
By now I hope that you have well established in your mind what a Woman of Wonder looks like. She’s not some weak and feeble girl going through life without purpose. She is a warrior. She lives a purposeful and exciting life alongside her husband. She works hard and helps him build a kingdom. Clothed in strength and honor, she battles in a spiritual war with the power of God inside her.

The influence a woman has on society is great. Give her children and her sphere of influence is multiplied. We’ve all heard the famous saying by Williams Ross Wallace. “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.” Napoléon Bonaparte said, “Let France have good mothers, and she will have good sons.” The Koreans have a proverb that says, “What is learned in the cradle is carried to the grave.” Mothers shape society. A godly mother shapes society and eternity.

One of the greatest missions a Woman of Wonder has is to help her husband train up warriors for the kingdom. “Lo, children are an heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward. As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate,” Psalms 127:3-5. Consider arrows in the hands of a mighty man. They are carefully formed. They are used to fight a battle. They are designed to be well aimed and sent forth with power. Now, consider children raised by godly parents. They are shaped and carefully molded. They are raised in the nurture and
admonition of the Lord. Dressed in the armour of God, they are then sent out as warriors to fight the darkness of this world. Happy are the parents that have such children. “The father of the righteous shall greatly rejoice: and he that begetteth a wise child shall have joy of him. Thy father and thy mother shall be glad, and she that bare thee shall rejoice,” Proverbs 23:24-25.

In Christian circles we use phrases like “nurture and admonition of the Lord” when talking about parenting. It’s a nice sounding platitude, but what does it mean? What does it look like to bring up children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord as stated in Ephesians 6:4? Fortunately, we have a perfect parenting example to follow. As you and your husband raise children, the goal is to strive to emulate the ways in which your heavenly Father parents His children.

Our Heavenly Father:

- Demonstrates Love (1 John 4:8, John 3:16, Romans 5:8)
- Expects obedience (Deuteronomy 27:10, John 14:15)
- Disciplines (Hebrews 12:6-7)
- Listens (Psalms 116:1-2)
- Doesn’t Show Favoritism (1 Peter 1:17, Acts 10:34, Romans 2:11)
- Forgives (1 John 1:9, Psalms 103:11-13)
- Provides good things (James 1:17, Matthew 7:11)
- Protects (Psalm 91:1-13)
- Teaches (Psalms 25:8-9)
- Extends grace & mercy (Psalms 86:5)
It changes our perspective when we realize that we are to parent as God parents. In fact, it's quite humbling. The next time your children are disobedient, be reminded that you at times live in disobedience toward your Heavenly Father. How does He respond to you? Remember the gospel and then engage your children. Our focus should be reaching their heart and pointing them toward the Savior. In doing that, you are training warriors for the kingdom.

Some good things to remember in child training is to practice the 3 C’s of godly parenting – conviction, courage, and consistency. A Woman of Wonder has conviction. Conviction is not just beliefs that we hold; it is those beliefs that hold us. You see, you will easily let go of convictions you hold, but those that hold you will never be relinquished. She also has courage. It takes a lot of courage to train warriors for the Kingdom of God. It will not be easy (most high callings are not), but it will be worth it. Finally, she is consistent. This is perhaps one of the hardest as we deal with it each day. However, consistency is key in child training.

God has entrusted our children to us. What an awesome responsibility! When we consider the high calling and standards that is placed on Christian parents, it can be overwhelming. I know this from experience. There are times that I have outright failed. Did I teach them enough? Was I consistent enough? Did I miss opportunities? Regardless, my husband and I are the ones God chose to parent our children. Parenting is hard, but it is also very rewarding. Do not be discouraged, the enemy wants you to lose heart. Run to God’s Word and let the light of His truth shine bright. God is on your side! No one has a more vested interest in your children than the Lord. Be encouraged! Turn to Him. Trust in His leading and follow His precepts. You are training mighty warriors. Raising them to love and serve the Lord is one of the greatest works you will ever do as a Woman of Wonder!
Day 1 – God loves, nurtures and provides for His children
Study – 1 John 4:8, John 3:16, Romans 5:8, Ps 116:1-2, 1 Peter 5:7, James 1:17, Matt 7:11
Questions: How does God’s love look different than the world’s love? What is the greatest act of love we can show our children? As God’s child, what does it mean to you that he hears and listens to you (Ps 116:1-2)? What comes to mind when you think about providing for your children?

Day 2 – God expects His children to obey
Questions: How high are God’s expectations for His own children? Why should we teach our children to honor and obey us? How is honor and obedience foundational to all other teaching and training?

Day 3 – God disciplines His disobedient children
Questions: Why does God discipline His children? What is the motivation behind His discipline? In what ways does God discipline? What does this teach us about how we are to discipline our own children?

Day 4 – God extends forgiveness, grace, and mercy to His children
Study – 1 John 1:9, Psalms 86:5, Ephesians 2:8, Psalms 136
Questions: Why must we parent our children out of a heart of forgiveness? What is the difference between grace and mercy? How does each apply to the way in which we parent our children?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Why is it important to look to God as the perfect parenting example? Do I parent my children in a way to points them to God the Father? What changes do I need to make my parenting style?
After a long day of purposeful living, training warriors, and fighting for truth and justice there is nothing like falling into the arms of the man you love. Those intimate moments are an essential part of a healthy marriage.

Some tend to think that because the act of sex is “behind closed doors” that it shouldn’t be openly talked about or discussed. Others believe that because the enemy seeks to distort and pervert it that sex is not a good thing. Satan uses our sinful flesh, past sexual sins, lust, adultery, pornography, and such to defile the marriage bed. But God’s plan is that “marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled,” Hebrews 13:4. So, let me assure you. Sex is a beautiful thing. It is a divine gift from God to be enjoyed within the context of marriage.

Sex is meant to be pleasurable and healthy. It bonds a husband and wife physically (as one-flesh), spiritually, and emotionally. It is for procreation. How wonderful of our Creator to make the act of reproduction fun and enjoyable! In addition to these reasons, the intimacy between a husband and wife is a picture of the union (one-flesh) intimacy between Christ and the Church. Christ is the Bridegroom (Matthew 9:15). The church is the Lamb’s wife (Revelation 21:2, 9). “For we are members of his body, of his flesh, and of his bones. For this cause shall a man leave his father and mother, and shall be joined unto his wife, and they two shall be one flesh. This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church,” Ephesians 5:30-32.

Because sex is a gift from God, it must be done God’s way.
God’s blessings are always found within His boundaries. As already mentioned, sex is limited to one man and one woman in the context of marriage. God designed sex to be natural, so it should not damage our bodies in unnatural ways. It reflects God’s love; therefore, it is not demanding. It is intended to be enjoyed by both husband and wife. In other words, sex should not be selfish. Coming together as “one flesh” should be a very selfless act. As sinful beings, unless we are under the direction of the Holy Spirit, we will never fully get what one flesh or selflessness truly is. It is a divine quality of giving over of one's self completely. This concept is so foreign to everything society says that it almost feels wrong. So, when we talk of sex in light of the "one flesh" concept we begin to understand it is not about what we "get" out of the act itself, but rather what we "give" that makes the act fulfilling.

Maybe, like me, you have been married a long time. Sometimes after being together for so long sex becomes routine (or worse, nonexistent). But, it is important to remember that the intimate union between a husband and wife is necessary for promoting the happiness of one another and the purity of the marriage. (You are the only one that can fulfill your husband’s sexual desires. No one else can fulfill that need in him. And likewise, the same is true of him.) If this act can be weakened, even in the subtlest fashion, a marriage can be weakened. It happens like this. Life ensues. We get busy. Children come. We become tired. Burdens weigh. We grow indifferent. Communication ceases. Sex goes from a pleasurable anticipation to a dreaded duty. Our union suffers. The marriage is weakened, and Satan has gained a foothold. For this reason, we are warned in scripture, “Defraud ye not one the other, except it be with consent for a time, that ye may give yourselves to fasting and prayer; and come together again, that Satan tempt you not for your incontinency.” (1 Corinthians 7:5) The cultivation of biblical sexuality in your marriage is imperative.
The relationship we have with our spouse should be well guarded. Here are a few things that have greatly improved the intimate time I have with my husband and our marriage in general. First, make date night a priority. It doesn’t have to be fancy or expensive. Just spend time together, just the two of you. Talk to each other. Go for walks. Hold hands. Be romantic. Second, take a nap. One of my dearest friends gave me this advice years ago. She said, “Take an afternoon nap so that when your husband comes home you will have energy left for him.” He doesn’t want your leftovers. Respect him enough to take care of your body. If an afternoon nap is improbable, at least set some time aside in the evenings for relaxing. Slow down. Breath. Say "no" occasionally to outside demands. Learn to take pleasure in the simplicity of life. Enjoy your husband. Finally, if you desire to have an intimate marriage make sure you give your husband sexual hugs. When my husband speaks to men he encourages them to give their wife several “non-sexual” hugs a day. A wife needs that from her husband. She needs him to wrap his arms around her, tell her he loves her, and expect nothing sexual in return. However, let me encourage each of you to give your husband those sexual hugs. Be the one to initiate. He needs you to wrap your arms around him, tell him you love him, and then give yourself fully to him.

Sex is a beautiful part of marriage. God has given it to us as a gift. To understand this gift, pick up the Song of Solomon and read it with your husband. From a human standpoint, life finds its highest fulfillment in the love between a husband and wife. Likewise, from a spiritual standpoint, we see that fulfillment in the love God has for His children. It is in His love that we strive toward cultivating holy, God-honoring, biblical sexuality.

“My beloved spake, and said unto me, Rise up, my love, my fair one, and come away,”
Song of Solomon 2:10
LESSON NINE - BIBLE STUDY

Day 1 – The Purpose – Picture
Study – Ezekiel 16:8, Revelation 19:7-8, Ephesians 5:31-32, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20
Questions: Explain how the sexual relationship between a husband and wife is portrayed as a certain picture in both Old and New Testament. What is meant by “one-flesh” and why is purity in marriage so imperative?

Day 2 – The Purpose - Procreation
Questions: If we take the whole Bible in context we see that just producing children is not the sole goal of marriage. However, one goal is to make children that are disciples of Christ. How is this to be accomplished?

Day 3 – The Purpose - Pleasure
Study – Proverbs 5:18-19, Genesis 2:25, Hebrews 13:4
Questions: God intended for sex to be pleasurable within the context of marriage. How has the world distorted this view? What practical things can I do to make time with my husband more pleasurable?

Day 4 – Intimacy Killers
Study – I Corinthians 13:4-5, 1 Corinthians 7:3-5, Ephesians 5:28-29
Questions: Because marital sex is a gift from God and for His glory the Enemy seeks to destroy it. In what ways can he do this? Discuss each: Busyness, Child-centered marriage, Sins (selfishness, impurity, etc.)

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Have I had a wrong perspective about sex? What can I do to improve the sexual relationship I have with my husband?
People all around you are in a frantic race to “make it” in this world. They toil, and struggle to make it to the top. Money, success and happiness is the goal. Some succeed; others fail. Regardless, there is an emptiness associated with building your own kingdom. King Solomon understood this. He built the mightiest of kingdoms. He spent years gathering great riches, treasures, and everything his heart desired. Yet, toward the end of his life he concluded that none of it brought true pleasure or real joy. He said, “Then I looked on all the works that my hands had wrought, and on the labour that I had laboured to do: and, behold, all was vanity and vexation of spirit, and there was no profit under the sun,” Ecclesiastes 2:11.

Kingdoms of this earth will all fade away. But, this doesn’t mean people will stop trying to build one. Mankind wants to rule and reign. It’s in their inherent nature. It’s not the golden rule, but the rule of gold (You know the one. “He who has the gold, makes the rules”) that motivates them. Love for wealth and riches drives them. For this reason, Christians are warned in Scripture that the love of money is the root of all evil (1 Timothy 6:10).

Man-made kingdoms fall, but there is a Kingdom that will forever stand. “The LORD hath prepared his throne in the heavens; and his kingdom ruleth over all,” Psalms 103:19. Women of Wonder view life through God’s kingdom lens. We are not seeking to build an earthly kingdom for our own sake. We are not laying up treasures that waste away. We don’t work and labor to simply gain more. But, we do work and labor.
We labor here on earth because we are stewards of God. The earth is His and the fulness thereof (Psalms 24:1). Everything belongs to Him. Do you remember the story of Joseph from Genesis? His jealous brothers sold him to Ishmaelite traders who then sold him as a slave to Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh and captain of the guard. It’s a tragic story, but it does not end there.

“And the LORD was with Joseph, and he was a prosperous man; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian. And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand. And Joseph found grace in his sight, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand. And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field. And he left all that he had in Joseph's hand; and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured,” Genesis 39:2-6.

As a slave, Joseph owned nothing. Yet, he was a fruitful and blessed manager over all that Potiphar had, overseeing the entire household. In a similar fashion, we are completely indebted to God, slaves if you will. All that we have belongs to God. He gives to us good things and the stewardship over it.

This reality makes dealing with money issues a lot easier. Instead of fretting over getting rich, we focus on being good stewards of what God has given us. Instead of worrying about how to spend money, we go to God in prayer and ask Him how He wants us to spend it. Instead of seeking more money for our own pleasure, we seek to use our resources for His kingdom. Instead of worrying
about finances, we trust in our Father to provide for our needs. Instead of wanting more, we learn contentment. Jesus said, “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you,” Matthew 6:33.

You cannot live without money. Perhaps this is one reason Jesus spoke so much about it during His earthly ministry. Many of His parables addressed how to handle money and possessions and He used money to buy things during His ministry.

Even though we are warned about the love of money, it is important to understand that money is not evil. A hammer can be used to smash a window or build a church house. A gun can be used to commit a crime or stop a murderer. The internet can be used to spread the pornography industry or promulgate the gospel to all nations. All of these things - hammer, gun, internet - are just tools. They are neither good or bad in themselves. The same is true of money. The question to ask is, “How are we using the tools God gives us?” Are we faithful? Are we using our resources for the Kingdom of God? Will our Lord and Master one day be able to say of us, “Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of the Lord.” Matthew 25:21

What the Bible says about Money

- Money is a gift from God (Deuteronomy 8:18)
- Having money is not wrong (Proverbs 10:22)
- The pursuit of money should not be our highest goal (Proverbs 23:4)
- Believers must be willing to lose money if God desires (Job 1:20-22)
- Those with money are not to be preferred over those without (James 2:1-4)
- Money must not be loved or hoarded (1 Timothy 6:6-10)
- Those with money are not to be proud or seek its security (1 Timothy 6:17)
- Money must be used for the kingdom (1 Timothy 6:18)
- A good man leaves behind an inheritance. (Proverbs 13:22)
Day 1 – Who is Responsible?
Study – Genesis 2:15, Genesis 3:17-19, 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12, 2 Thessalonians 3:10-12, 1 Timothy 5:8
Questions: Is work a curse? Who is responsible to work and earn money for the family? How is a man who does not provide for his family described? Are there exceptions?

Day 2 – A Helpmeet Must Help
Questions: What does it mean to be your husband’s help meet? Why are two better than one? List examples from Scripture where a wife is a huge help to her husband and examples where she is more of a hindrance than a help to her husband?

Day 3 – An Entrepreneurial Woman
Study – Proverbs 31:10-31
Questions: Is the Proverbs 31 woman a working woman? In what ways does she work, provide for her family, and make money? Is there a principle that I can learn from her and apply to my life?

Day 4 – Money
Study – Proverbs 10:4, 10:22, Proverbs 13:11, Deuteronomy 8:18, 1 Samuel 2:7, 1 Timothy 6:6-10
Questions: In what ways does God often bless the working man? What becomes of the lazy man? Is having money wrong? Is it the “root of all evil”?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: What is the purpose of having/making money? Do I need to change my perspective on money?
Do you ever get tired? I sure do. Some days I feel like I can’t continue the good fight. My body grows weary. My faith seems weak. The attacks from the enemy are relentless. And, I just want to quit. Then I remember the words of Christ. “In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world,” John 16:33. Oh victory in Jesus! He has overcome! What a comforting thought.

We often make the mistake of thinking that because Christ has overcome that we will not suffer persecution or endure trials. This is simply not true. We live in a cursed world corrupted by sin and filled with decay, deformity, and death. There is pain, heartache, disease and destruction all around us. The good news is that this world is not our home. We are strangers and pilgrims looking for a heavenly country that God has prepared (Hebrews 11:13-16). One day, we will be home. What a day that will be! Until then, we travel this road as ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:20) on a mission (2 Corinthians 5:9-11).

When the days are hard we must remember that we are not alone. Our Captain will never leave or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). He traveled this road before us in perfection, defeated death, rose again, and sits on the right hand of God making intercession for us. “What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand
of God, who also maketh intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord,” Romans 8:31-39.

In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us! Does this thought change your perspective on life? It sure does mine! When we fully grasp this, our attitude changes. We don’t live in defeat but go from victory unto victory with an attitude of thanksgiving. Actually, I like to call it “thanks-living”. We don’t just give thanks to God, but we live in a state of thankfulness. “In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you,” 1 Thessalonians 5:18. Notice that the Bible doesn’t say, “for everything” give thanks, but it says “in everything” give thanks. I’m not thankful for problems, but I can be thankful in the midst of them. No matter what comes, we can be thankful. Thanks-living consists of three traits: gratitude, contentment, and joyfulness.

Gratitude is recognizing, appreciating, and acknowledging the favors or benefits from the Lord. “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning,” James 1:17. What has the Lord given you? An easier question to ask would be, “what hasn’t He given you?” Gratitude turns what we have into enough. In other words, when you have gratitude, it’s easy to be content.
The Apostle Paul talked about contentment. “Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content. I know both how to be abased, and I know how to abound: every where and in all things I am instructed both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me,” Philippians 4:11-13. Being content means that you choose to be at peace with what God has provided without complaining. Remember, Paul wrote this epistle to the Philippians while in prison in Rome. He later wrote in Hebrews, “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.

A grateful and content person will indeed be joyful. Joyfulness is delighting in the service and presence of God regardless of circumstances. “And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation,” Psalms 35:9. Our joy comes from God. When the storms in life come, my joy is in the fact that God is my refuge. When I’m weak, my joy is in the fact that God is my strength. When others oppose me, my joy is in the fact that God is my defender. When I’m afraid and don’t know what tomorrow holds, my joy is in the fact that God is all knowing. When the fiery darts from Satan are thrown, my joy is in the fact that God is my shield. My joy comes from the fact that God is. He is enough and that thought brings gratitude, contentment, and great joy.

“But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord,” 1 Corinthians 15:57-58.
Day 1 – Having an attitude of Thanks-living
Study – 1 Thessalonians 5:18, Romans 12:1-2, Isaiah 26:3, Ephesians 4:22-24
Questions: What does it mean to have an attitude of “thanks-living”? What important thing must we do to have this kind of attitude? What does it mean to renew our mind?

Day 2 – Gratitude – a trait of thanks-living
Study – Psalms 92:1, Psalms 100, Colossians 3:15-17, Hebrews 13:15-16
Questions: What is the definition of “gratitude”? Look up the words to the song “Count your blessings”. Take a few moments to write out your many blessings.

Day 3 – Contentment – a trait of thanks-living
Study – Philippians 4:4-13, Hebrews 13:5, 1 Timothy 6:6-8
Questions: What is the definition of “contentment”? What is the key to having contentment? What are some areas of life that I struggle with being content in?

Day 4 – Joyfulness – a trait of thanks-living
Study – Psalms 35:9, Psalms 5:11-12, 1 Peter 1:3-8, 1 Thessalonians 5:16
Questions: What is the definition of “joyfulness”? What is the difference between being joyful and being happy? What does it mean to have “joy unspeakable and full of glory”?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Do I live in victory or do I go though life acting defeated? What can I do to be more grateful, content and joyful?
What makes a person a hero? What drives the firefighter to run into a burning building or a police officer to use his body as a shield to protect others? What motivates a soldier to risk his life for his country? What moves a missionary to serve in third world conditions or leads a pastor to labor, minister, and watch for the souls of his people? What inspires a mother to tirelessly care for her children or a child to care for an elderly parent day in and day out? The answer boils down to selflessness. Being selfless is what drives, motivates, moves, leads, and inspires heroes of this world.

Selfishness, on the other hand, is what drives, motivates, moves, leads, and inspires all acts of sin. People covet, murder and steal because they think more of themselves than others. Gluttony, drunkenness, and sexual immorality is because of the desire to please self. Name the sin and you can attribute it to selfishness. Even creating a false god to worship is an act of selfishness. This might surprise you, but Satanism (Founded by Anton Szandor LeVey in 1966, the leader of the Church of Satan and author of The Satanic Bible) is rooted in selfishness. It is an ego-centric belief system, teaching that self is the most important entity in the universe and that an individual is his or her own god.

The world is confused by selflessness. We live in a “look out for #1” world that applauds self-esteem and values worth by the number of social media responses to our “selfies”. Selflessness is looked upon as a weakness, but the truth is that a selfless person has great power. Selflessness is not thinking less of yourself; it is thinking of yourself less. It is putting God first (esteeming Him not self) in your life so that you can put others first. It is dying to self...
and living for Him. “I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me,” Galatians 2:20.

Every act Jesus did during His earthly ministry was selfless. Jesus, even though He was God, did not think of demanding His rights as God, but laid aside all majesty, power, and glory and took on the form of a servant. He lived a perfect life, doing the will of His Father (John 5:30, John 6:38). He humbled Himself and gave His life (Matthew 20:28) by dying a criminal’s death on the cross for you and me. He is our example! “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. 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 2:3-8.

Love and selflessness go hand in hand. When asked what the greatest commandment was, “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 22:37-41. Every command from God can be summed up with love. Here is where selflessness comes in. Love is not just something we say or think. It is a verb. It’s what we do. “My little children, let us
not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth,” 1 John 3:18. We show our love by our actions. We love by seeking the welfare of others, sometimes even at great personal sacrifice and self-denial.

A selfless Woman of Wonder is loving, but she is also giving. She gives her time, talents, and treasures. Time is a precious commodity. We only have so much and often giving our time is one of the most selfless things we can do. As good stewards, we are to make the best use of the time God has given us (Ephesians 5:16). The psalmist said, "teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom," Psalms 90:12. God has given each of us talents. What talents has He given you? Are you using them for His glory? In the book of Acts we read about a lady who used her talents for the benefit of others. “Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did,” Act 9:36. Tabitha used her talents to sew coats and garments for the widow women (Acts 9:39). When she fell sick and died, Peter came and prayed over her. God brought her back to life and the passage says that “it was known throughout all Joppa; and many believed in the Lord,” Act 9:42. A selfless woman also gives her treasures. She isn’t greedy, and she doesn’t hoard treasures for herself. She understands that where your treasure is, there will your heart be also (Matthew 6:21). Therefore, she is giving.

A selfless Woman of Wonder is loving, giving and forgiving. You may wonder how forgiveness plays along with selflessness. Let me explain it like this. Forgiveness is a choice. We do it because we are commanded (Matthew 18:21-22). We do it because we want to be forgiven (Matthew 6:14-15). And, we forgive because we are most like God when we do (Luke 23:34, 1 John 1:9). When we choose to be unforgiving, we do it out of selfishness. We get
hurt and to protect self, we don’t want to forgive. But, here’s the deal. As child of God, bought with the precious blood of Christ, we are no longer our own (1 Corinthians 6:19). Your feelings do not belong to you anymore. If you are harboring unforgiveness in your heart, let it go. Give it to God and be free.

There is such power in living a life given over completely to God.

“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.

“And he said to them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it,” Luke 9:23-24.

“But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof,” Romans 13:14.
Day 1 – Selfishness – A True Weakness
Study: Judges 17:6, Proverbs 14:12, 2 Timothy 3:1-5
Questions: What happens every time in the Bible when mankind does that which is right in his own eyes? What does “lovers of their own selves” mean? What acts follow this mindset? Are we living in the last days?

Day 2 – A Selfless Woman is Loving
Study: 1 Corinthians 13:4-8, Romans 12:10, Philippians 2:1-4
Questions: What are the 16 characteristics of love listed in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8? How does having the “same love” with our brothers and sisters in Christ help us have the “same mind”?

Day 3 – A Selfless Woman is Giving
Questions: Why do we give? In what ways are we to give to others? Who are we to give to?

Day 4 – A Selfless Woman is Forgiving
Questions: Why do we forgive? Are we to forgive only those who ask? Have I harbored unforgiveness in my heart?

Day 5 – Practical Application
Pick one scripture reference from this week to memorize and meditate upon this weekend.
Questions: Are there areas in my life that I am selfish in? What can I do this week to be more selfless? In what way does being selfless make us powerful?
ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Kimberly Williams is a beloved wife, homeschooling mother and writer. She authored *Living Out the Word*, a series of expository ladies Bible studies through the books of the Bible, *From the Mouth of Babes*, a compilation of short stories about life, children, faith, and this world we live in and a homeschooling book called *Home Discipleship: Much More than ABC’s and 123’s*.

Kimberly enjoys speaking to women and encouraging them in their daily walk with the Lord. She points them to God’s Word and challenges them to be a true help meet to their husbands and loving mothers to their children. You can follow Kimberly at [www.kimberlywilliams.org](http://www.kimberlywilliams.org)

Her newest book, *The Eden Concept: Marriage God’s Way* is co-authored with her husband and scheduled to be released in February 2018.

Thank you for reading *Women of Wonder*. To order a printed copy visit [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com).
As women we are programmed to want happiness, but the happiness of this world is fleeting. Through studying Philippians we can identify our true source of joy. This study will answer questions as, “Is our happiness what God is concerned with?” or “Is being happy the same as having the joy the Bible speaks of?” To order a copy of Rejoice: A verse by verse study for women through Philippians click here.

What does it mean to have faith? Through studying the book of James we can identify the true meaning of having faith in God. This study explains that faith is simply having confidence in the trustworthiness of God.” To order a copy of Faith: A verse by verse study for women through James click here.

What does love look like? Is God’s love like ours, or is ours like His? Find out what the Apostle of Love has to say in his epistles about God’s amazing love. Love in not only a general theme within the Epistles of John but also throughout the entire Bible. The greatest commandment of all is centered on love. As believers in Christ we are to walk in love, be rooted and grounded in love, follow after love, and put on love. We are told in 1 John 4:8 that not only does God love, but that “God is love”. During this verse by verse study, we will drive into the deep truths of God and learn what true love is and how we are to respond. To order your copy of Love: A verse by verse study for women through the Epistles of John click here.
Home Discipleship: Much More than ABC’s and 123’s is about the discipleship process we find all throughout Scripture applied to the home. It covers the biblical mandate we have as parents, the structure of the Christian home, how to keep the proper perspective, fundamentals and practicalities of home discipleship, and addresses how a homeschooling lifestyle can help parents accomplish this very objective. Each chapter includes practical application questions to be used for personal reflection and family discussion.

Order your copy today by clicking here!

As the world struggles with what they perceive marriage should be there is One with all the answers. The Eden Concept dismisses mankind’s view of marriage and sees it as God, the Absolute Authority, designed it. Man’s happiness and self-gratification is dismissed as the standard and instead God’s Word is elevated as the design for a thriving and fulfilling marriage. It doesn’t matter if you’re a newlywed or have been married for 50 years, God wants to do a work in your life and for His glory. For those who do not know where to begin, The Eden Concept points you directly to the source of Truth.

Coming February 2018!
“I am as a wonder unto many; but Thou art my strong refuge.”
Psalms 71:7