



**BIBLE BEAUTIES:
EXPLORING THE BIBLE**



Welcome to Practice Ministries Bible studies for dads and kids. You're fulfilling one of the greatest privileges and responsibility a dad has - helping teach your kids God's Word - the Bible.

This booklet, [Exploring the Bible](#) is designed to help you and your family put God's truths into practice everyday. Each worksheet corresponds to the lesson in the leader book with the same number and title. Answers to the questions in this booklet can be found in the last section of the corresponding leader book. You can download any worksheet in this book by going to the Bible Study Materials page on our website at: **www.practiceministries.org**.

We're always looking for ways to make this material better for your family, so please contact us with any questions or comments you have. Here's how you can reach us:

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LESSON # 1

THE GOOD FOR YOU FRIEND CLUB

Read **Proverbs 31:10**

Ever notice how you begin to talk alike or pick up habits or mannerisms from your friends? Soon, you become friends with the friends of your friends. Besides your parents, your friends are the people you will have the biggest influence on, and who will have the biggest influence upon you. Life is lousy if you're a hermit. What you want is to be and to choose a "Good-For-You-Friend."

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) List 5 "whatevers" God wants you to have in your life:

_____ (Philippians 4:8).

Many people take this first Bible verse to mean that you should not have any friend that is not a Christian. Not at all! What it does mean is that you should not get your values from a non-believer or let your lifestyle be heavily influenced by non-believers. Rather, you should be the one to "season" the lives of your unbelieving friends, and let Jesus' light shine through you before them, so they may "catch" your beliefs and lifestyle.

2) The Bible says, "...the salt of the earth...[and] the light of the world" (Matthew 5:13-14). How can you be salt and light today?

_____ (Romans 12:9-21)

The Bible says, "**Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends**" (John 15:13). God may never ask you to physically lay down your life for another person. But laying down your life also means giving up those parts of you that are not encouraging and not helpful to others

3) How can you lay down your life for someone today?

The words, "to be blessed" literally mean, "to be sent down the right road." The Bible says, "**Wounds from a friend can be trusted...**" (Proverbs 27:6a). Ever been told something by a friend that you needed to hear for your own good? It's called "watch-care."

4) Is there someone that you know who needs watch-care? How can you provide watch-care for that person today?

One of the toughest things to do today is to lead a godly life. We live in a society that often times encourages us to live in a way that opposes God's ways and values. Those ways are often times attractive but can be very dangerous. One of the best ways you can be a "Good-For-You-Friend" is to watch out for each other.

Be a "Good For You Friend." And when you choose a friend - make sure he or she will be one for you!

Good Words To Remember

"A [girl] of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies" (Proverbs 31:10).

LESSON # 2

THE CROWN

Read Proverbs 31:23-31

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

“Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave himself up for her to make her holy” (Ephesians 5:25).

1) In the Bible passage above, what does “the church” mean?

2) What does “gave himself up” mean?

3) How can this verse be put into practice in your friendships?

Being a Christian is not about inviting God into your life and getting what you want out of the deal. When Jesus went up on that cross, not with gold or silver – but at the cost of his own blood - He bought your body and soul that was owned by sin to be His very own. And because of that, He has things for you to do that no one else can do, because He specifically made you to accomplish those things for Him.

Guys and girls – this is what your Biblical role as a young man and a young woman is all about – finding out what God wants you to do for Him. It involves going all out for Him in whatever you’re involved in. I don’t know exactly what that is for you, but I do know what your role is in friendships: God expects the very best toward others.

4) Our society places a high value on appearance. What does the Bible say about developing good relationships?

_____ (Proverbs 31:30).

For Girls Only – But Guys, Listen In

Jesus Christ loved the church and gave Himself up for her. Girls, Christ loves you, not because you are good or worthy or beautiful, but He loves you because of His great character. And when it comes to guys, you should accept nothing less than to be treated with respect & gentleness in a friendship.

A spring is water that is gathered deep within the earth. When it finds an opening in the earth’s surface the water bubbles up and flows out. There is such a wellspring inside of you. It is your heart. Your heart is the source of your emotions, your attitudes and your actions. Your heart makes you who you are.

5) What is God most concerned about with you as a person?

_____ (Proverbs 4:23).

Good Words To Remember

“For by your heart you will be known to men; By your heart you will be measured by God.”

LESSON # 3

LOIS & EUNICE: THE LEGACY

Read Romans 10:13-17

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) What is a legacy?

2) How did your faith in God come to you?

_____ (Romans 10:13-17).

3) How does God intend for this legacy to be passed on?

_____ (Psalms 78:4-4).

4) What kind of faith did Lois and Eunice have?

_____ (2 Timothy 1:5).

"As any track coach will testify, relay races are won or lost in the transfer of the baton. There is a critical moment when all can be lost by a fumble or miscalculation. The baton is rarely dropped on the back - side of the track when the runner has it firmly in his grasp. If failure is to occur, it will likely happen in the exchange between generations!

According to the Christian values that govern my life, my most important reason for living is to get the baton - the gospel - safely in the hands of my children...my number one responsibility is to evangelize my own children. In the words of my dad, everything else appears "pale and washed out" when compared with that fervent desire. There is no higher calling on the face of the earth." (Dr. James Dobson, Focus on the Family, 2000).

5) Think of the relay race just described. What choice did Timothy have when the baton was brought around to him?

6) Why do you think Timothy took the baton?

_____ (1 Timothy 4:12).

7) Eunice & Lois passed their faith on. How will you pass your legacy of faith on to others today?

Good Words To Remember

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:15).

LESSON # 4

HANNAH: GRACE FROM GOD (PART 1)

Read 1 Samuel 1: 1-11

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

What you see throughout Hannah's story is how God weaves His plan through her life to touch many people's lives. This brings us to the most important point of Hannah's story, and it is one that you must know and begin to understand: **Only God creates us, and only God can give you a purpose.**

1) What do you think your purpose is?

_____ (Psalm 34:3).

2) What does "glorify" mean?

3) How does God want you to glorify Him?

_____ (Romans 8:29).

Your life is meant to be a mirror – to reflect God's character to bring attention to Him. And the way to glorify God – to reflect His character – is to get to know and be like His Son Jesus Christ.

4) What's the best way to be made more like Jesus?

_____ (John 14:23).

When the Bible talks about being obedient, it means, "getting to know and be like Jesus." As you practice God's instructions, you get good at them; in fact, you get so good at them, you do them as second nature – almost without thinking about them. Obeying God changes you into being more like His Son Jesus.

Good Words To Remember

"He raises the poor from the dust and lifts the needy from the ash heap; he seats them with princes and has them inherit a throne of honor" (1 Samuel 2:8).

LESSON # 5

HANNAH: GRACE FROM GOD (PART 2)

Read 1 Samuel 1:3-8; 24-28

In Hannah Part 1, you learned that only God can give you your true purpose in life and that He wants to do great things through you. There's another lesson you can learn from Hannah's story: how to accept God's plan for you even if it doesn't seem to make sense.

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) Why do you think sometimes God allows you to go through troubles?

_____ (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

A ministry is encouraging other Christians. Sometimes it's not easy to be a Christian.

2) Have you ever experienced a time when it was hard to be a Christian?

3) One of the hardest times to be a Christian is when you experiencing "going without." Is there some "going without" you've experienced?

4) How can you use your "going without" to help others?

_____ (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).

5) Is there a situation in your life you don't like? How can you deal with it?

_____ (Hebrews 4:16).

Through Hannah, God worked His good plan to bless (send down the right road) the nation of Israel. Hannah reminds us to make ourselves available for God and trust in His plan for your life. When you allow Him to work through you, He will accomplish great things. Hannah also reminds us that God is always faithful and a refuge in times of trouble.

6) Today, ask God to reveal His plan for you and ask for the courage to follow it.

Good Words To Remember

"God is able to do immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine" (Ephesians 3:20).

LESSON # 6

TABITHA: SHOW & TELL

Read Acts 9:32-42

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) What's the first thing you know about Tabitha from her story? _____ (Acts 9:36).

2) How would you characterize Tabitha's life? _____ (James 1:22)

3) What should characterize our Christian faith? _____ (James 1:27).

4) What did the clothes Tabitha cut out and sewed represent? _____ (Matthew 26:35-45).

5) What's important for you and me to learn from Tabitha's story about doing good? _____

No matter how many good things you do, they cannot help you get to heaven. For the Christian, good works are a "therefore." They become a thank-you note to Jesus Christ, because of the gift of salvation He brings.

6) When Peter arrived to where Tabitha lay, what did he encounter? _____ (Acts 9:39).

LEFT BEHIND

There is a popular book series entitled, Left Behind. Tabitha was writing her own "Left Behind" series. She left behind clothing she had made, Christian friends, others who had come to Jesus because of her life.

Question: What is your legacy now? When people think of you, what will they remember?

Below is a short list of talents, gifts & skills that people use to help others:

- | | | | | | | |
|--------------|-----------|----------------------|----------|----------|-------------|--------|
| Art | Athletics | Carpentry | Coaching | Farming | Film-making | Giving |
| Homebuilding | | Language Translation | | Medicine | Music | Prayer |
| Speaking | | Teaching | Theater | Writing | | |

Question: What special skills, talents & gifts do you have that you can use to help others?

Question: What creative ways can you come up with to use your skills, talents & gifts to leave behind a legacy of helping others.

Good Words To Remember

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me" (Matthew 25:35-36).

LESSON # 7

MARY & MARTHA: TELL ME THE STORY

Read **Luke 10:38-42**

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) Why is Martha upset with Mary?

_____ (Luke 10: 39-40).

2) What does Jesus say about Mary?

_____ (Luke 10:42).

I believe that Martha not only opened her home to Jesus, but also made her heart Jesus' home. I believe that Martha believes that Jesus is God's Son. I think that Martha is honored that Jesus wants to come to her home, and she wants to make his visit as pleasant and comfortable as possible. But I think where Martha doesn't get it completely right, is that Martha becomes so distracted with her agenda, that she forgets what is most important to Jesus.

3) Why did Jesus say that Mary had chosen what is better?

_____ (Luke 10:39).

Have you ever noticed that some of the best talks you have with your mom or dad come when you're either in bed getting ready to go to sleep or you're in the car? The distractions are gone. You have each other's full attention. When you're engaged in worship, you enter the throne room of God – you are in His presence. It's in worship, where distractions are gone that God can get across to you what He wants you to hear.

The Bible says, "...those who hope in me will not be disappointed" (Isaiah 49:23). On any given day, you can read the headlines and find that institutions like schools, government and the church; friends and even family will fail or disappoint you at times, but God will never fail or disappoint you. It's your responsibility then, to learn to listen to God, to be ready to hear what He has to say to you about how to live.

4) Dad – ask your child what is one thing that worries or upsets him or her and write it below.

5) Kids – ask your dad what is one thing that worries or upsets him and write it below.

This week, commit to pray for each other about what you wrote down.

Good Words To Remember

"...take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ" (2 Corinthians 10:5).

LESSON # 8

DADDY'S GIRL: RISKING TO GAIN

Read Mark 5: 21 - 43

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) Dads – what milestones do you remember in your child's life?

2) Kids – Why do your parents remember these moments?

3) Why was Jairus so anxious to see Jesus? _____ (Mark 5:22-23).

4) How does God view our prayers? _____ (Hebrews 4:16).

5) Why did Jesus only allow Peter, James & John in the room? _____ (v 40).

6) What kind of faith do you need to have for God to do great works? _____ (Luke 17:6).

7) Why does God want to train your faith? (Think of why the disciples were in the room).
God may want you to be the one that He uses to help train your friend's or family member's faith.

When you were young, your daddy sometimes put you on his shoulders so you could see what was going on. It allowed you to see from his point of view. Sometimes, you need to see from the point of view of someone who can or has seen more. Today, you may need to see Jesus through your mom or dad's eyes. Tomorrow, a friend may need to see Jesus through your eyes. It's one way God builds faith in you.

Daddy risked everything for his little girl. But at that point Daddy wasn't even considering what he would lose. Jairus was only concerned with what he would gain. That's "mustard seed" faith.

8) Dads – What is an area that you need to have "mustard seed faith?"

9) Kids – What is an area that you need to have "mustard seed faith?"

This week, commit to pray for each other about what you wrote down.

God is looking for people with "mustard seed" faith. It's not about what you're willing to risk. It's about what you're willing to gain.

Good Words To Remember

"For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him" (2 Chronicles 16:9).

LESSON # 9

REBEKAH: BECOMING A P.O.L.Y.W.O.G.
(Pure Obedient Loving Young Woman Of God)

Read Genesis 24:1-27

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) **What is the greatest investment you can make in your life?**

_____ (1 Peter 3:3-4).

Becoming a P.O.L.Y.W.O.G.

2) **Write down a plan to practice each quality of godliness listed below this week:**

Faith: "...Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the measure of faith God has given you" (Romans 12:3).

Goodness: "¹⁰ and find out what pleases the Lord. ¹¹ Have nothing to do with the fruitless deeds of darkness, but rather expose them" (Ephesians 5: 10-11).

Knowledge (of Jesus Christ): "...growing in the knowledge of God" (Colossians 1:10).

Self-Control: "Better a patient man..." (Proverbs 16:32).

Perseverance: "...perseverance [produces]; ⁴ perseverance, character; and character,

Kindness: "...I am the LORD, who exercises kindness, justice and righteousness on earth, for in these I delight" (Jeremiah 9:24).

Love: "A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. ³⁵ By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another" (John 13:34).

Goodness; knowing God; consistent obedience to God; kindness; and selfless concern for the well being of others are the marks of a Pure Obedient Loving Young Woman Of God.

Good Words To Remember

"For this very reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; ⁶ and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; ⁷ and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love" (2 Peter 1:5-7).

LESSON # 10

MARY: FAVOR WITH GOD

Read Luke 1: 5-38

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) **Mary's life was marked by 3 qualities that brought God's favor upon her:**

_____ (v 38)
_____ (v 34)
_____ (v 38)

2) **What is the relation between faith and accepting God's plan for your life?**

_____ (v 38).

3) **Where does faith come from?**

_____ (Romans 12:3).

4) **What is a virtue?**

_____ (Philippians 4:8).

Mary kept herself pure. She lived her life according to God's instructions and in so doing was in a position to receive God's favor and blessings. Every time you decide not to live according to God's instructions, you lose out on the possibility of a blessing.

You can bring God's favor upon you by living according to His instructions. Be pure in your thoughts (let your thoughts dwell on things pure and clean), your words (be truthful), and your actions (treat others with respect and kindness). If you want to receive God's blessings, get rid of the dirt in your life.

5) **How can you live according to God's instructions?**

_____ (Zechariah 4:6).

6) **What is the definition of a vessel?**

The Bible says that if you are a Christian, you are a vessel that carries light – the glory and knowledge of God – to help others who do not know Jesus Christ to come to know Him. This power does not come from you but from God Himself (2 Corinthians 4: 6-7)!

Despite all Mary's virtues she still needed the Holy Spirit to help her carry out God's plan for her. God is the potter; we are the clay. A lump of clay cannot by itself become a beautiful bowl. The potter has to shape the clay little by little until it is just the way he wants it so it is useful to him. Likewise, we cannot by ourselves carry out God's plan without His help. A car with an empty gas tank won't get very far. Without the power of the Holy Spirit, we can't take His light to others.

Mary accepted God's will for her life. If you want God to do great things through you, accept His plan for you and allow His Spirit to fill you (I promise nothing weird will happen). By allowing these two blessings into your life, God will do, **"immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us"** (Ephesians 3:20).

Good Words to Remember

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said" (Luke 1:38).

LESSON # 11

ESTHER: FOR SUCH A TIME AS THIS

Background

Esther was an orphaned Jewish girl living in Persia (modern day Iran). Her cousin Mordecai, who was a minor official of the palace, raised her as his own daughter. Xerxes (who reigned from 486-465 B.C.), the Persian king, had divorced his wife. When he sought a new queen from among the maidens of his kingdom he chose Esther. When the Jews in the empire were faced with destruction Esther was able to save them.

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) Is God in control in the world today?

2) In recent events such as 9-11 and the war in Iraq, what evidence have you seen that God's hand is upon the world?

3) What is God most concerned about with you as a person? _____ (1Peter 3:3-4).

4) How can you recognize inner beauty in a person? _____ (Galatians 5:22-23).

5) How did Esther win favor with everyone who saw her? _____ (Esther 2:20).

6) How did Jesus grow in favor with God and all who saw Him? _____ (Luke 2:51-52).

Jesus followed his parents' instructions as he was growing up. And he grew in favor with God and all around him. When you live a life pleasing to God, by obeying Him (and it starts with obeying mom & dad), you will find favor with Him. And God will also give you favor with others.

7) What ways might God be preparing you for serving Him throughout your life?

8) Esther knew the time had come to do what God had positioned her to do. What risk was involved? _____ (Esther 4:15-16).

9) What situations have you taken been in (or are in) that require you to take a risk?

Esther believed that she was chosen "for such a time as this." If you're facing a situation that involves some risk, pray that God would give you courage to stand up for what's right. Look for opportunities today to do so. Perhaps you have been chosen for such a time as this.

Good Words To Remember

"...And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"
(Esther 4:14).

LESSON # 12

SUZY SHUNAMMITE: A THANKFUL HEART

Background

Throughout the Bible, great men and women were given successors to carry on and complete their work. Moses had a successor (Joshua) to help bring Israel into the Promised Land. In the New Testament, John the Baptist was followed by Jesus. Another such man was the Old Testament prophet Elijah.

God sent Elijah (whose name means "The Lord is my God") to the northern kingdom of Israel in 875 B.C. to oppose the Baal worship going on - You might remember Elijah and the "Falter At The Altar" - the showdown between Elijah's God of Israel and the Prophets of Baal's false god "Baal." Um - God won. Elisha became Elijah's successor in 848 B.C. Evidently, Shunem was a place that Elisha came to quite frequently, because this Shunammite woman (let's call her Suzy) always helped take care of him while he was in town.

Read 2 Kings 4: 8-13

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) What's the first thing you find out about Suzy?

_____ (2 Kings 4:8).

2) How did Suzy view her resources?

_____ (2 Kings 4:9-10).

Suzy had a thankful heart. A thankful heart helps you keep things in the proper perspective - focusing on what you do have and not on what you wish you had. Suzy discovered the secret of developing a thankful heart.

3) How do you develop a thankful heart?

_____ (2 Kings 4:13).

4) How can you develop contentment?

_____ (Philippians 4:11-13).

Jesus Christ gives you the power to be thankful which leads to being content, which leads to being happy. But when your focus is on having money and wishing for more and more, that leads you into thinking that getting more and more is the only thing that will make you happy. And the Bible says that kind of consuming thinking "pierces you with many griefs." That kind of thinking robs you of being thankful, which robs you of being content, which robs you of being happy.

5) What is kindness?

_____ (1 Corinthians 13:4).

6) How can you learn to be kind?

_____ (1 Timothy 6:17-19).

7) Question: How can you start developing contentment and kindness in your life today?

Good Words To Remember

"...A thankful heart is a happy heart (Veggie Tale's: Madame Blueberry).

LESSON # 13

LYDIA: AN OPEN DOOR

Background

Lydia's story teaches us the greatest truth of the Bible: God loves you and desires above all else to have a relationship with you; like a dad who loves his child and is crazy about her. And because God loves you so much, He goes to great length to bring to you the most precious gift anyone could imagine or hope for.

Read Acts 16:13-15

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) What was God's gift to Lydia?

_____ (Acts 16:14).

2) How much does God love you?

_____ (Romans 5:6-8).

3) The Bible has good news / bad news. What's the bad news?

_____ (Isaiah 53:6).

_____ (Romans 6:23).

4) What's the good news?

_____ (Romans 6:23).

5) What do you have to do to earn God's rescue?

_____ (Ephesians 2:8-9).

6) How do you become saved – rescued from sin?

_____ (Romans 10:9-10).

7) How can you thank God after you've been rescued for years or for just 2 minutes?

_____ (Joshua 24:15).

8) What are ways you can practice thanking God:

At Home: _____

At School: _____

At Activities: _____

With Friends: _____

In Worship: _____

Good Words To Remember

"For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith--and this not from yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8).

LESSON # 14

LYDIA: COMING & GOING

Read Acts 16:13-15

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) Jesus has two words for every person:

Who ever is thirsty let him _____ (Revelation 2:17)

Therefore _____ (Matthew 28:19)

Read Acts 16:6-14

2) Do you think He went to all the trouble of rerouting Paul's trip, to come to Lydia just to have her stay the same? _____

3) Do you think Jesus has gone to all the trouble of rescuing you just to have you sit and do nothing for Him? _____

4) After Lydia invited Christ into her life, what did she do first? _____ (Acts 6:15).

5) So how should you respond to God whether you've been rescued for a long time or just for a few minutes? _____ (Ephesians 2:10).

In Jesus' time on earth, the word "lord" meant a master with the power and the right to rule. A Christian is a believer in Jesus Christ. A disciple is a follower of Jesus Christ. As a Christian, you can choose to obey God or disobey Him. Obeying God makes you more like Jesus. God will keep making you more like Jesus as long as you let Him. But God will not force you to act like a Christian. When you disobey God, **you**, instead of Jesus are being the lord of your life. You can choose to keep learning God's way, or you can quit studying. You can try to think and act as Jesus – or you can make excuses for acting "like everybody else."

Henrietta Mears said, "**God doesn't call us to sit on the sidelines and watch. He calls us to be on the field, playing the games.**" Whether you're a brand new Christian, or have been one for a while, God wants you in the game, not on the sidelines watching.

6) Jesus says, "Come." Have you? If you haven't, will you?

7) Jesus says, "Go." Have you? If you haven't, ask Jesus right now what He wants you to do for Him. Write down what you think He may be telling you:

Good Words To Remember

"...go..." (Matthew 28:19).

LESSON # 15

ELIZABETH: TRAGEDY TO TRIUMPH

Read **Luke 1:5-17**

Elizabeth's life reflected the 4 "P"s:

God's **P**resence (His glory)*****God's **P**urpose*****God's **P**lan*****God's **P**erson

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

God's Presence

Perhaps the best way to describe God's presence is "Glory." The original meaning of the word "glory" in the Bible means "weight" or "the worth" of something.

1) What is God's worthiness? What is He worthy of?
_____ (Revelation 4:11).

2) How was God's presence evident in Elizabeth's life?
_____ (Luke 1:6).

3) How can God's presence show up in your life?
_____ (Micah 6:8).

God's Purpose

4) What is God's purpose for your life?
_____ (Ephesians 2:4-9).

The whole purpose of your life and even your salvation is not all about you or what you can get out of it – it's about bringing glory to God – giving Him honor and praise for who He is

5) How can you bring honor to God through your life?
_____ (Romans 12:1).

It's all about your attitude. Pleasing God may not always be easy or even be what you want to do, but it will please God and will be what's best for you.

God's Plan

6) What is God's plan for your life?
_____ (Ephesians 2:10).

7) What are some "chores" that you think God is asking you to do for Him?

God's Person

8) How can you be God's person?
_____ (1 Corinthians 4:2).

Good Words To Remember

"Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful" (1 Corinthians 4:2).

LESSON # 16

BATHSHEBA: YOU GOTTA HAVE THE “DO-BEES”

Read 2 Samuel 11:1-6

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) Your teacher tells your class to read a book that you don't think is right to read. What ways can you think of to approach your teacher about this?

2) You have a math test tomorrow. You've put off studying but you don't want to get a bad grade. The temptation might be to:

3) How could you avoid this kind of situation?

4) A group of girls you really want to “hang out with” are sitting at lunch together, making fun of a not-so-popular-girl. They invite you to sit at the table with them, and ask you to “add to” the conversation. The temptation might be to:

5) How could you handle this situation?

6) While at a friend's home, your friend's older sister who you think is really cool, invites you and your friend to try drugs. The temptation might be to:

7) How could you handle this situation?

A Temptation is something you want even if it is wrong to do or have]. The Bible says that a temptation can seize you, but its grip is not as strong as God. God promises that you can stand up to any temptation. So let's talk about standing up to temptation.

8) Jesus was tempted. How did Jesus stand up to temptation?

_____ (Matthew 4:1-4).

9) How can you prepare yourself for temptations?

Be _____ (1 Thessalonians 5:6).

Be _____ (Proverbs 25:28).

Be _____ (Psalm 119:1).

Be _____ (Psalm 16:6).

Good Words To Remember

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it” (1 Corinthians 10:13).

LESSON # 17

MRS. NOAH: A MINISTRY & A MISSION

Read **Genesis 7:11-13**

Mrs. Noah had a ministry & a mission: to help rebuild the world – starting with educating and training her children in godliness. This means she first had to know God.

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) How did Nellie get to know God?

_____ (Genesis 6:9).

2) Why is it important for you to get to know Jesus?

_____ (2 Corinthians 5:20).

3) How can you train to become a good ambassador for Jesus Christ?

_____ (Colossians 3:16).

In a ministry, you help other Christians. In a mission, you help people who are not Christians to know Jesus. If you are a Christian, God has given to you a ministry and a mission.

4) How do you find out what your own ministry & mission is?

_____ (Isaiah 6:8).

5) What is the first step to fulfilling your own ministry & mission?

_____ (Genesis 7:13).

6) How did Nellie know she could accomplish the ministry & mission God gave to her?

_____ (Hebrews 11:1).

7) How can you practice being godly?

_____ (John 17:16)

_____ (2 Corinthians 4:18)

8) Dads (Moms), how has God’s power been displayed in your life, and how has that allowed you to trust and believe in God’s promises?

Good Words To Remember

“I’ll achieve my mission, looking with eternal vision” (2 Corinthians 4:18).

LESSON # 18

PHARAOH'S DAUGHTER: COMPASSIONATE CUTIE

Read Exodus 1:6-11; 1:22-2:10

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) How does God view you?

_____ (Ephesians 2:10).

2) How does God want you to treat others?

_____ (Colossians 3:12-13).

3) What does God want you to do when you see that someone has a need?

_____ (Proverbs 3:27).

4) How can you develop compassion toward others?

_____ (Exodus 2:11).

5) Why does God want you to help carry each others burdens?

_____ (Mark 5:19).

6) When you invite Jesus into your life, what privileges does God give to you?

_____ (Galatians 4:6-7).

When God adopts you, He changes you. God makes you into a new creation, continually made more like Jesus in your thoughts, words, actions, deeds and attitudes, so that you will continually be prepared to live with Him and enjoy Him forever. This is the inheritance you receive as an adopted child of God.

Good Words To Remember

"I'll develop a passion for compassion" (Colossians 3:12).

LESSON # 19

RUTH: OF ONE HEART

Read Ruth 1:8-16; 2:8-12

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) How does God want you to treat others?

_____ (Ruth 1:8).

2) How can you develop devotion toward others?

- _____ (Colossians 4:2).
- _____ (Exodus 20:12).
- _____ (Galatians 6:2).
- _____ (Titus 3:8).

3) What came about to Ruth as a result of her kindness?

_____ (Ruth 2:8-10).

4) What are your favorite smells – ones that remind you of growing up?

Smells remind us of people and places. Living a God-pleasing-life is like wearing a fragrance – The Bible says, “**God...through us spreads everywhere the fragrance of the knowledge of him**” (2 Corinthians 2:14). People will remember you by the way that you live. The way you live will either attract people to God or push them away from Him. The decisions you make today, will influence people for hundreds of years. Your “smell” will hang around for a long time!

5) Read Galatians 5:21-22. If people were to remember you by the fruits listed in the passage, which one would you smell like?

6) Who is someone that might need your help today – someone that you will decide to walk with through their time of need?

Good Words To Remember

“...Where you go, I will go...” (Ruth 1:16).

LESSON # 20

THE QUEEN OF SHEBA: THE GREAT TREASURE HUNT

Read 1 Kings 3:7-13; 10:1-13

In Hannah Part 1, you learned that only God can give you your true purpose in life and that He wants to do great things through you. There's another lesson you can learn from Hannah's story: how to accept God's plan for you even if it doesn't seem to make sense.

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) Why was Solomon such a great king?

_____ (1 Kings 3:7-9).
_____ (1 Kings 3:10-13).

Solomon's desire was to be a good king. He knew that what he needed to be a great king, money couldn't buy. Above all, Solomon wanted to know truth, so he could lead his people in the ways that are good and right.

2) Why did God give Solomon such wisdom & wealth?

_____ (1 Kings 10:9).

3) What did Shelly hope to gain from this treasure hunt?

_____ (Matthew 12:42).
_____ (1 Kings 10:1).

4) What was Shelly's response to Solomon after sitting at his feet learning?

_____ (1 Kings 1:9).

5) Why should you want wisdom above all else?

_____ (Proverbs 8:11).

6) Why is asking for knowledge of the truth better than asking for riches and power?

_____ (Ecclesiastes 5:10).

Though Solomon's wisdom and knowledge was great, the Bible says that, "**now one greater than Solomon is here**" (Matthew 12:42). As Christians, you and I have the opportunity to learn about God from God Himself, through His words to us in the Bible and through talking with Him in prayer. Those who come to the Lord Jesus will find Him not only greater than Solomon and wiser, but kinder. His divine riches infinitely exceed even Solomon's. And Jesus' greatest pleasure is to share them with us! The Bible says, "**...Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us**" (Ephesians 3:20).

Good Words To Remember

"How beautiful are the feet of those who bring good news!" (Romans 10:15).

LESSON # 21

PRISCILLA: A SPRINGBOARD INTO MINISTRY

Read Acts 18:1-4; 18-27

The Apostle Paul had just left Athens, Greece and arrived in Corinth, a large city about 50 miles west of Athens. Corinth was not exactly a place where you'd take the family on vacation. Let's just say that it would have made Mardi Gras look like Disney World. It is to this community that Paul has come to spread the Gospel. While waiting for his traveling buddies, Silas & Timothy to catch up with him, he met a couple named Priscilla & Aquila.

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

- 1) **What does it mean to be a strong Christian** _____ (Acts 11:26).
- 2) **Why was it important that Priscilla & Aquila were strong Christians (remember they were living in Corinth)?** _____ (Matthew 5:13).
- 3) **Every Christian is a minister. What should your ministry do?** _____ (1 Timothy 4:6-7).
- 4) **Dads (Moms) – What kind of work do you do? Is there a value to your work outside of your work arena?**

- 5) **Priscilla & Aquila used their work as a natural platform to springboard into ministry. What natural platform do you have to get yourself into position for ministry?**

- 6) **What ministry ideas can you pursue working with others?**

- 7) **What are the advantages of working together?**

- 8) **What might you risk when you tell others about Jesus?** _____ (Matthew 6:10).
- 9) **If those around you recall the last encounter they had with you, what would they remember?**

Good Words To Remember

“By God be approved so you don’t get booed” (2 Timothy 2:15).

LESSON # 22

ANNA: A LIFE OF WORSHIP

Read **Luke 2:36-38**

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) What does Anna's example teach you about getting to know God?

_____ (Luke 2:36-28).

2) Does hanging around church or youth group or going to Bible study help you get to know God?

Anna stayed at the temple most of her time. It appears she didn't have a job. Some people may have thought her life was a waste. But her "work" was doing what God wanted her to do. And her commitment to "doing her life God's way" reminds us that it is God who produces fruit (good stuff) for His purposes through us. Jesus said, "...**My Father will honor the one who serves me**" (John 12:26).

3) What is worship?

_____ (Romans 12:1-2).

4) How can you tune into God?

_____ (Luke 5:16).

5) How do you know what God wants you to do for Him?

_____ (Psalm 85:8).

6) Why should you praise God?

• _____ (Psalm 40:3)

• _____ (Psalm 33:1).

Anna's life of preparation, prayer and praise allowed her to be sensitive to God's voice when He called upon her. And Anna was always ready to respond saying, "Yes Lord! Here I am. What can I do for You today?" Anna's life of worshipping God makes her a Bible Beauty. Developing a life-style of preparation, prayer and praise will make you a Bible Beauty as well.

Good Words To Remember

"I'll please the great I AM, with all who I am" (Romans 12:1).

LESSON # 23

THE DAUGHTERS OF SHALLUM

Read Nehemiah 3:12, 4:1-16

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

1) Why did Nehemiah want to rebuild the wall surrounding Jerusalem?
_____ (Nehemiah 1:3).

2) What can you tell about what Shallum taught his daughters?
_____ (Nehemiah 3:12).

3) Kids – What kind of project(s) would you enjoy doing with your Dad (Mom)?

4) Dads (Moms) – How can your child be a part of your work and ministry?

5) Dads – What steps can you take to coach your child in the basics of the Christian faith?

Nehemiah had a clear understanding of what God wanted him to do (Nehemiah 2:17-18). What he needed was for people to buy into what God wanted done. The question that might be going on in your mind right now is, “How do I know what God wants me to do?” In other words, “What’s my part of the wall?”

Here are a few guidelines that might help you recognize what God wants you to do for Him:

1. What are you passionate about? That’s a good place to start.
2. Ask God what part of the wall needs to be worked on – where’s the best place to plug in.
3. If you’re already working on a part of the wall, ask God whether it’s the part of the wall that you’re supposed to work on

6) What kinds of opposition might come your way when you undertake God’s work?
_____ (Nehemiah 4:7-9).

7) What’s your best offense against those who oppose God’s work?
_____ (Ephesians 6:18).

8) What’s the best way to know if you’ve really bought into God’s work?
_____ (Nehemiah 4:14).

Remember the Shallum girls. They knew how to work and were not above it. They looked for and recognized God’s work. They bought into God’s work, and worked at it with all their hearts. And with God’s help, they pressed on and saw it through to completion by staying alert and overcoming opposition. Follow their example, and you’ll be a daughter of Shallum.

Good Words To Remember

“Do not fear, for I am near; My right hand will help you to stand” (Isaiah 41:10).

LESSON # 24

THE BIBLE BEAUTY HALL OF FAME

Opportunities to explore the Bible:

- 1) **What should a Bible Beauty base her self-worth on?**
_____ (Proverbs 31:30).
- 2) **What should a Bible Beauty's faith be like?**
_____ (2 Timothy 1:5).
- 3) **Read Matthew 25:35-36. How can you creatively help others know Jesus?**

- 4) **What does a Bible Beauty remember that is most important to Jesus?**
_____ (Matthew 4:4).
- 5) **What are qualities of a Pure Obedient Loving Young Woman Of God (POLYWOG)?**
_____ (2 Peter 1:5-7).
- 6) **What is a Bible Beauty's response to God?**
_____ (Luke 1:38).
- 7) **A Bible Beauty has a thankful heart. How can you develop a thankful heart?**
_____ (Acts 16:15).
- 8) **How does a Bible Beauty earn trust?**
_____ (1 Corinthians 4:2).
- 9) **How does a Bible Beauty develop the moral strength to handle temptation?**
_____ (Psalm 16:6).
- 10) **How can you be a good friend?**
_____ (Galatians 6:2).
- 11) **What does a Bible Beauty realize is her most valuable possession?**
_____ (Proverbs 8:11).
- 12) **What can be a Bible Beauty's most effective ministry?**
_____ (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
- 13) **What does a Bible Beauty realize about worship?**
_____ (Romans 12:1).
- 14) **What should you as a Bible Beauty instill in your life?**
_____ (Nehemiah 3:12).
- 15) **Physical appearance may be important, but what is even more important to God?**
_____ (1 Peter 3:4).

Good Words To Remember

"He put a new song in my mouth, a hymn of praise to our God. Many will see and fear and put their trust in the LORD" (Psalm 40:3).

THANKSGIVING LESSON
STORIES OF THANKSGIVING

Read **Stories of Thanksgiving*, Psalm 105:1-2**

Opportunities to Explore the Bible

1) Where does everything you have come from?

_____ (Psalm 24:1).

2) What has God given to us?

- _____ (John 3:16)
- _____ (John 10:10)
- _____ (1 Corinthians 2:9).

3) How can you be thankful even in difficult circumstances?

_____ (Genesis 50:20).

We have lots to be thankful for. But the second part of thanksgiving is the giving. The Bible says, **“Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each man should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion [because you have to], for God loves a cheerful giver” (2 Corinthians 9:6-7).**

4) How can you practice using your abilities, your time, and your money to give?

A brand new way I can use my abilities to help others

- In my community is: _____
- Outside my community is: _____

A brand new way I can use my time

- In the community is: _____
- Outside my community is: _____

A brand new way I can use my money

- In the community is: _____
- Outside the community is: _____

Good Words To Remember

“Make known among the nations what [the Lord] has done” (Psalm 105:2).

* Stories of Thanksgiving are found in the leader book, The Thanksgiving Lesson

CHRISTMAS LESSON

THE CRIPPLED LAMB

Read **The Crippled Lamb (Christmas Lesson)* Luke 2:8-20**

Opportunities to explore the Bible

1) Who does God have compassion for?

_____ (Psalm 68:6, Psalm 34:18).

2) How might someone who is crippled feel?

_____ (Acts 3:2, Luke 14:21).

3) How does God feel about the lame or the crippled?

_____ (Mathew 15:32).

4) What does God want you to bring to him?

_____ (Matthew 2:11, Romans 10:9).

5) Who were among the first to greet Jesus?

_____ (Luke 2:15).

Good Words To Remember

**“The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit.”
(Psalm 34:18).**

* The story, The Crippled Lamb, by Max Lucado, is found in the Leader Book

STORY TIME

The thought of “telling your story” – how Jesus Christ came into your life, can be a little uncomfortable. Perhaps you’re afraid of failing or that you won’t know what to say. But if Jesus Christ is in your life, you do have a story to tell, and learning how to tell your story may be just what it takes to bring the good news of Jesus Christ into someone’s life.

So, here we go...if you’ve never thought much of how to tell someone your story, here are some ideas and suggestions for putting your story together.

Conversion

If you remember a specific time, place or event when you accepted Jesus Christ into your life, then perhaps “conversion” fits best. If conversion fits best, try shaping your story around these questions:

- What was your life like before you invited Jesus into your life?
- What led (events, conversation, etc.) you to accept Jesus as your Savior?
- How and when did you receive Christ as Savior? As Lord?
- How has Jesus changed your life?

Journey

If your faith seems more like a journey, then perhaps “Spiritual Journey” fits best. Try these questions:

- What have been some key events in which God has worked in your life?
- What experiences, circumstances or people helped develop your faith in Christ?
- How would your life be different without Jesus? (i.e.: lifestyle, attitudes, priorities, relationships, etc.).

Sharing The Gospel Through Your Story

Try fitting these questions in your story:

- How do you understand God’s purpose in creation? (Ephesians 1:5)
- How do you understand your purpose in life? (Matthew 22:27-29)
- How have you experienced sin in your life? (John 14:15)
- What are (were) the consequences of that sin? (Isaiah 59:2).
- How did you put your faith in Jesus Christ (the solution)? (Ephesians 2:8-9)
- How have you been reconciled to God (what were the results)? (Romans 5:11).
- What role has the church or others played for you? (1 Corinthians 12:27)

Putting Your Story Together

- What elements of your story might be interesting to someone else?
- What Bible verses might you include under each of the previous questions?
- What experiences in your life can form illustrations to help you tell your story?
- Write your story as if you were telling someone else
- Keep it between 3-5 minutes

(Continued on next page)

In the spaces below, write out your testimony – your story - of how you invited Jesus Christ into your life as your Savior and Lord!
