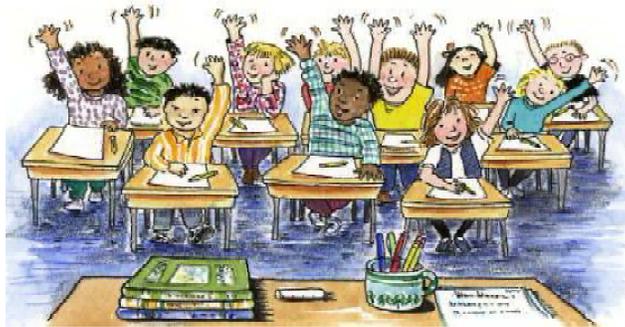


TRAINING FOR SERVICE SERIES

Training
Junior High Youth
For Service to God
#3 (Girls)



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Lesson One

"Jesus and Women"

We would like to accomplish some important things in this short study for young ladies:

1. To help make you aware of societies' efforts to change women into something different than God planned;
2. To encourage you to accept the beauty of your femininity and to hold and preserve womanly traits to be pleasing to God;
3. To encourage you to be a "Dutiful Daughter," "A Loving Wife, and "A Responsible Mother."

If these things can be accomplished, we will feel that it was worth the effort to put these things together in a study book!

Owen D. Olbricht, a close and respected friend of mine, has written an article that I feel is worth passing on to you in this first lesson. I am sure you will appreciate what he points out.

Women Stood By Jesus

By Owen D. Olbricht

Central to Christianity is the resurrection of Jesus. Paul correctly wrote, "And if Christ be not risen, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins!....If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most pitiable." (1 Cor. 15:17, 19).

Throughout the Gospels women were mostly in the background, even though some of them supported Jesus and the Apostles out of their personal means (Lk. 8:2-3). When Jesus faced the most important and trying circumstances of His earthly ministry, women stood by Him when men fled in fear (Mk. 14:50). Their staying by Jesus during those dark hours made it possible for them to be able to be the first to tell the good news of His resurrection.

Jesus' Teaching

Jesus' main efforts during His personal ministry was to see that the Apostles received adequate instruction to carry out their ministry and testify of His resurrection (Acts 10:40-41) after He ascended back into heaven. They were the only ones who are recorded to have been with Him when He revealed His impending death and resurrection. The only exception was when the Jews asked for a sign. Jesus responded, "***Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.***" (Jn. 2:19-21). Even though nothing is recorded in the Gospels concerning the exact time He talked to women about His death and resurrection, the angels

reminded the women: **"He is not here, but is risen! Remember how He spoke to you when He was still in Galilee, saying, 'The Son of Man must be delivered into the hands of sinful men, and be crucified, and the third day rise again.'"** (Lk. 24:6-7).

Women at the Crucifixion

Women went with Jesus (Mk. 15:41) when He went to Jerusalem to observe the Passover. They must have been in the city the night He was betrayed (1 Cor. 11:23), following which He, with the twelve, observed the Passover, during which He instituted the Lord's Supper (Lk. 22:14-20). The next day women followed Jesus as He was led from Jerusalem to be crucified at Golgotha, the Place of a Skull (Lk. 23:27-33). During His crucifixion, **"All His acquaintances and the women who followed Him from Galilee stood at a distance, watching these things."** (Lk. 23:49; Matt. 27:55-56); **".....and many other women who came up with Him to Jerusalem"** (Mk. 15:41). Other women were nearer to the cross—**"Now there stood by the cross of Jesus His mother, and His mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene."** (Jn. 19:25). The Apostles, except for John, were either lost in the crowd or at least nowhere to be seen. They, for fear of being identified with Jesus or being harmed by the Jews (Jn. 20:19), may not have had the courage of the women to stand by Jesus during His crucifixion.

Women at Jesus' Burial

Not only did the women remain to watch Jesus on the cross, but they also followed the removal of His body to the place where it was buried by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (Jn. 19:38-39). **"And the women who had come with Him from Galilee followed after, and they observed the tomb and how His body was laid. Then they returned and prepared spices and fragrant oils. And they rested on the Sabbath according to the commandment."** (Lk. 23:55-56). Two of these women are specifically mentioned—Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph (Matt. 28:1; Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24:1, 10).

Women after Jesus' Resurrection

While the men were still in hiding for fear of the Jews (Jn. 20:19), the women were busy doing what they could to prepare Jesus' body after His burial. Early on Sunday morning they went to the tomb to anoint His body with spices (Matt. 28:1; Mk. 16:1; Lk. 24:1, 10). According to John 20, Mary Magdalene was the first after Jesus' resurrection to:

1. With other women see the stone rolled away (1; Mk. 16:1-4) and with them enter the tomb and see that His body was missing (Lk. 24:2-3).
2. Tell someone that Jesus' body was gone (2).
3. See Jesus (14; Mk. 16:9).
4. Hear Him speak and speak to Him (15).
5. Be called by name by Jesus (16).
6. Hold Jesus (17).

7. Be told by Jesus concerning His ascension and be instructed to tell others He would ascend to the Father (17).
8. Tell others that she had seen Jesus (18).

A little later, as the other women were returning to Jerusalem, Jesus met them and greeted them. They came to Him and took hold of His feet and worshipped Him (Matt. 28:9-10). In obedience to the angels who spoke to them at the tomb (Matt. 28:7; Mk. 16:7), they reported what they had seen to the eleven apostles and the rest of the disciples (Lk. 24:9).

What a thrill we would have had if we could have been with the women who were a part of the one hundred and twenty who were gathered together in Jerusalem (Acts 1:14) not long before the Day of Pentecost. They would have recounted time and time again the events of the crucifixion, burial, and resurrection of Jesus. The excitement in their voices would have touched us as they repeated again and again how they had agonized and been crushed as they watched Jesus die, but how they were filled with unspeakable joy (Matt. 28:8) when they realized He was risen, and especially when they saw and touched and worshipped Him (Matt. 28:9) after His resurrection.

Observations

The men Jesus had chosen to be His special witnesses (Acts 10:41-42) were not the first to see Jesus. It was the courageous women that remained with Him during His crucifixion who had the privilege to be the first to see and tell the good news of His resurrection. However, they were not given the responsibility to proclaim in public the message they shared in private with the men who were hiding behind closed doors (Jn. 20:19, 26).

The Apostle Paul told the people of Antioch of Pisidia concerning Jesus: ***"But God raised Him up from the dead. He was seen for many days by those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, who are His witnesses to the people."*** (Acts 13:30-31). These witnesses would have included the women who came up with Jesus from Galilee to Jerusalem (Matt. 27:55; Mk. 15:41; Lk. 23:49, 55). Probably, women were among the more than five hundred brethren (Paul uses "brethren" to include brothers and sisters in Christ) who saw Jesus at one time (1 Cor. 15:6) that Paul mentioned as witnesses of Jesus' resurrection.

The women who followed Jesus are great examples of remaining faithful to Jesus and serving Him when others feared for their lives. "The devotion of these women may have encouraged the cowardly men disciples, who hid in the face of peril, to later preach the resurrection of Jesus under the threat of persecution and death. At least they are an example to all Christians of serving Jesus even when all others let Him down.

Questions for Discussion

1. What are some changed "images" of women that society is trying to portray?

2. In what way did women help Jesus during His public ministry?

3. Did Jesus reveal to women that He would be put to death and be raised again the 3rd day?

4. Do the Gospels tell that the women were at Jesus' trials?
5. What Apostle was at Jesus' crucifixion with some women?
6. Where was Jesus' mother during Jesus' crucifixion?

7. Who were concerned about the spices used in the burial of Jesus?

8. Who was the first witness of Jesus' resurrection?
9. What special role did she play in Jesus' life?

10. Why were the women allowed to witness the resurrection of Jesus first?

11. What impression do you get from the Bible account of women in Jesus' life?

Lesson Two

"Giving My Life to God"

Making important decisions is a privilege, but as well, a grave and fearful responsibility! As you begin to mature as young ladies, you are allowed to begin to make some decisions for your lives. These decisions need to be made well and wisely. You will be making decisions about:

1. What to wear and why;
2. What kind of friends I want to make;
3. What kind of a "standard" I will use to help me in my decision-making-process;
4. Whether I want to go to College;
5. Do I want to plan for a Career in the business world;
6. Do I want to get married and to whom;
7. Do I want to become a Christian and live close to God;
8. What kind of a Wife will I make;
9. What kind of a Mother will I make.....

These and a lot more like them will be made during the upcoming Junior High and Senior High years. **What is the advice of God to young ladies?**

Ecl. 12:1 _____

This is one decision that only you can make! No one is allowed to make this decision for you! When we make good decisions; hopefully, good things will come into our lives. But, when we make bad decisions; unfortunately, bad things come into our lives.

Gal. 6:7-8 _____

A Most Important Decision

Making the decision to become a Christian (giving my life to God) is the most important decision that I will make in my life! It should be obvious that this decision can affect all other decisions that I will make as long as I live. We are not talking about putting on a front of becoming a Christian but sincerely dedicating my life into God's service. Let's look closer at what is involved in this process.

1. I must realize that I have broken God's Law and need to be forgiven of such in order to escape paying the penalty of law-breaking.

Rom. 3:23 _____

Rom. 6:23 _____

We have a choice of either "eternal death" or "eternal life." If we choose "death" then we can live anyway we want to in this life. If we choose "life" then we must live according to the Will of God.

Matt. 7:21 _____

After the death, burial, resurrection, and ascension of Christ.....the same choice was given to thousands of people on the "Day of Pentecost!" He pointed out their sinfulness and their need of God's forgiveness. When they cried out "**What must we do?**" they were told to "**repent....and be baptized....for the forgiveness (remission) of sins....**" (Acts 2:37-38). They were encouraged to make the decision to save themselves by being obedient to the "good news" that had just been delivered to them—that is, salvation through Christ!

If we are to be forgiven (saved), then we too must be willing to repent and be baptized (immersed) so that our sins can be forgiven by God. **Have you done this yet?** If not, we encourage you to come to sufficient knowledge that you can make this all-important decision for your life.

The Importance of Repentance

While belief in Jesus as the Savior is critical to our salvation, repentance is very important also. It is in repentance that we make a vital decision to turn our life over to God so that He can guide us. Repentance is basically a change of our minds about whom we will serve and a conforming of our lives to the will of the one we will serve.

Rom.6:16-18 _____

Repentance is defined in Romans chapter 6 as:

- Verse 2—Died to sin**
- Verse 5—Walk in Newness of Life**
- Verse 6—Old man is crucified—body of sin done away with—No longer slaves of sin**
- Verse 11—Dead to sin—alive to God**

Verse 12—Let not sin reign in your mortal body—not to obey it in its lusts

Verse 13—Not to present your members as instruments of unrighteousness—but as instruments of righteousness.

Under the Old Testament, God's people were to bring animal sacrifices to offer to God—He expected them to bring the best they had (Malachi 1:6-8). If they would not listen, then He would bring curses upon them (2:2). God expects no less of us today—He wants the best we have to offer! But not an animal sacrifice, but He wants us—our whole body, spirit, and soul!

Rom. 12:1-2 _____

He wants "living sacrifices" today! He wants our complete surrender of ourselves to His will—not just part-way!

Matt. 16:24 _____

Eph. 4:22-23 _____

Eph. 4:24 _____

He then illustrates what He means in the succeeding verses (Eph. 4:25-32).

Prov. 4:18-19 _____

Concluding Thoughts

This decision to give our lives over to God is not an easy one to make because of what it involves; but, it is the only logical one in view of what it means to become a Christian and live the life of a Christian. We are promised God's care over us here (Rom. 8:28) and "eternal life" after this life is over (1 Jn. 5:12-13). As the old saying goes.....*"You can't have your cake and eat it too!"*.....So, it is with us—We cannot live a life of sin and disobedience to God and have eternal life after this life is over! We have to make a choice. Why not choose the wisest way to live?

Questions for Discussion

1. Why is it so important to decide early to give your life to God?
2. What kind of a sacrifice must we offer today?
3. Why is faith in Christ vital for us?
4. What happens if a person loves the world?
5. Why does God want the best of our sacrifices to Him?
6. What are some important decisions young people will make in their near future?
7. When does God say it is the best time to begin serving Him?
8. Why do we need God?
9. Who has God's promise of forgiveness of sins?
10. Why is repentance important to be understood?

Lesson Three

"Being 'Modest' and a 'Lady'"

One of the great challenges of young ladies is for them to be modest in how they dress and how they conduct themselves. We have an expression that has been coined in the past to identify such a person—**"She is a Lady!"** Thus, I hope you can see the reason for the title of this lesson that ties the two together. Closely tied to both of these terms is the idea of **Purity!** God purifies us of our sins when we obey the Gospel (1 Pet. 1:22; Acts 15:9; Tit. 2:14). James challenges God's people to continually cleanse their hearts and hands (Jas. 4:8). And the Apostle John reminds us that if we have the hope of a Christian, we will purify ourselves (1 Jn. 3:3). The Apostle Paul challenges the young man, Timothy, to be an example of purity to others, but to act with purity towards his sisters in Christ (1 Tim. 4:12; 5:2). **Obviously, not all young ladies nor older woman in the church are modest, pure, nor a lady!** This is what makes the challenge all the greater for you young ladies!

What is Modesty?**1 Tim. 2:9**

Notice that it says: **"with propriety and moderation"** and **"proper for women professing godliness."** The English word "Modesty" indicates a principle by which a person decides how to dress and conduct themselves in public. *"Modesty is observing conventional standards of proper dress and behavior; free from coarseness or indecency; chaste in thought and conduct."*

Why be concerned about clothing? What purpose does clothing serve? At least three reasons could be given for such concern:

1. Clothing is for protection from various dangers;
2. Clothing is for ornamentation of our bodies;
3. Clothing is for the purpose of showing modesty.

Clothing can be a symbol of a person's character.

1. Dress dirtily and slovenly—shows a poor self-image.
2. Dress showy and costly—shows the person wants to be thought of as needing attention or seen as rich.
3. To dress modestly—shows that the person wants to be regarded as a person who respects God's Will.

If a person dresses immodestly:

1. She probably desires the attention of men;
2. Her actions will probably be flirtatious and enticing;

3. She is more apt to misbehave than the person who dresses modestly.

What is your evaluation of the following quotations:

"Unconscious factors guide your choices of clothing."

"A person's appearance reveals one's state of mind and sends out a message to everyone who sees you."

"A woman may dress to attract attention to her femaleness, but may not be fully aware that she is doing so."

"Christian ladies should not wear clothes which call attention to certain parts of the body which will arouse erotic impulses in men or boys."

Modesty and Sexual Interest

One of the purposes for clothing is to cover up—not to uncover! Sex is a powerful force place in humans by God. Its purpose is for the benefit and happiness of a husband and wife only—to help hold them together.

Heb. 13:4 _____

God created in us the desire, but He tells us we must control this desire—direct it correctly! Putting proper clothing on should help to keep the wrong desires under control.

1 Thess. 4:3-5 _____

Modesty and Immodesty

When we says that something is Modest; then, we are also inferring that beyond this is what is called Immodest! It is well-known that clothes and the lack of it has a tendency to regulate the sexual interest of men. Notice how advertisements use scantily clothed women to get the attention of men. Also notice that it is men that usually have "pin-up" women to look at and lust after. It is important that Christians fight against fleshly desires (1 Pet. 2:11; Eph. 5:3, 12; 1 Cor. 6:15; Matt. 5:28). It is also important for Christian women to set the proper examples of Modesty before their daughters—as well as to instruct them clearly of their responsibilities in these matters (Tit. 2:3-5).

But now, let us turn to the thought of "Being a 'Lady!'"

Who is a "Lady?"

We believe that this term was coined to identify a person who wanted to be proper, upright, and someone to be respected! To be referred to as a "Lady" was considered a compliment. We would like to take this term a step further and say that it ought to identify a godly woman or a godly young woman as well. The following passages will show who God calls a "Lady!"

1. She is gentle and kind (1 Cor. 13:4)
2. She is courteous, not rude (1 Cor. 13:5)
3. She is modest (1 Tim. 2:9)
4. She is slow to take offense (1 Cor. 13:4, 7)
5. She is refine in her tastes (1 Cor. 13:6)
6. She controls her tongue (Jas. 1:26)
7. She shows compassion (2 Cor. 1:4)
8. She contributes to human happiness (1 Cor. 13:7)
9. One who walks uprightly (Prov. 15:21)
10. She has self-respect (1 Cor. 13:4)
11. She values character (1 Cor. 11:1)
12. She guards her conscience (Acts 24:16)
13. She has high standards (Matt. 5:48)
14. She is honest (Heb. 13:18)
15. She means "yes" and "no." (Matt. 5:37)
16. She is polite (1Cor. 13:5)
17. She is helpful to others (Gal. 6:1-2)
18. She has courage, cheerfulness, hope, and virtue (2 Pet. 1:5-7)

Concluding Thoughts

A girl cannot be a good Christian without striving to be a "Lady!" A "Lady" develops within that beauty of soul—she has character! Good men will definitely respect a "Lady!" Are you striving to be a "Lady" or should we ask:

"Are you striving to be the kind of Christian that God desires?"

Questions for Discussion

1. Upon what is a lady's qualities based?

2. Would you rather be a real lady or a lady of glamour?

3. What is a good definition of modesty?

4. How do you determine when clothing or actions are modest?

5. What does purity have to do with modesty or being a lady?

6. What are at least three reasons for clothing?

7. Does clothing indicate the kind of person you are?

8. Can a Christian woman dress immodestly and not realize it?

9. What is the connection between modesty and sex?

10. Why do men have "pin-up" pictures?

Lesson Four

"Being a 'Dutiful Daughter'"

God's plan is for a man and a woman to get married and form a home into which children can be born and raised by loving and concerned parents.

Gen. 2:22-25 _____

As you grow up in a home as a young girl you become known as the "daughter" of your parents. You need to be a "dutiful daughter!" This is especially true if you are a believer in God and respect His Word.

Eph. 6:1-2 _____

To honor parents is to respect them. We show this respect by:

1. Listening and going by their experience, wisdom, judgment, and teaching.
2. Having a wholesome attitude towards them, their advice and their correction.
3. Carrying out the assigned duties with joy and love.

Our parents have given us the privilege to be a part of a loving family—we must uphold our part by being a "dutiful daughter!" It is to strive to be the kind of daughter that they will be proud of, trust, and respect.

What do we lose when we fail to do our part in the family?

1. We can lose the respect of the family and even our friends.
2. We can lose a place of honor in the family.
3. We can lose our own self-respect.

What if we succeed in doing our part in the family—what do we gain?

1. We can be prepared to be good wives and mothers.
2. We can be prepared to take our place in the church.
3. We can be prepared to be the worthy woman in Proverbs 31.

What are some things that a "dutiful daughter" should do?

1. Be cheerful and do good deeds for others to make them happy. (Phil. 2:4)
2. Take time to be with and do things together with the family. (1 Cor. 12:25)
3. Show an interest in what others are doing in the family. (1 Cor. 12:14-17).
4. Make a sincere effort to understand your parents. (Col. 3:20)
5. Accept the authority of parents with love and respect. (Eph. 6:2)
6. Introduce your friends to your parents. (1 Cor. 15:33)
7. Be more and more responsible as a person around the house. (Col. 1:23)

Good personalities and character are developed in the right kind of a home. You can help to make it the right kind of a home!

What do the following Scriptures say to you about how you should be a dutiful daughter?

Prov. 20:11 _____

Prov. 23:22 _____

Prov. 28:24 _____

Prov. 15:5 _____

Prov. 1:8 _____

What will preserve and keep us from the way of evil?

Prov. 2:10-12 _____

How is the "perverse" or "immoral" woman described?

Prov. 2:16-19 _____

Questions for Discussion

1. What is a home?

2. What determines our value as a person?

3. How do we show honor to parents?

4. How does a daughter gain respect of her parents?

5. Why should children obey their parents?

6. What can we lose if we are not a dutiful daughter?

7. What can we gain if we are a dutiful daughter?

8. Why should a Christian woman want to be identified with an immoral woman?

9. When should a daughter rebel against the authority of her parents?

10. How can we be sure we do not walk the way of evil?

Use to take notes

Lesson Five

"Being a Godly Wife"

Young ladies and women have a special place to fill in God's over-all plan for mankind. You need to know that the WORLD is dependent upon you as a group to help keep mankind on the right track! It is significant to notice that when the sons of God married the daughters of men that the world became extremely wicked! (Gen. 6:1-5). Some have even suggested this idea by this phrase: "**As the women go, so goes our nation—whether 'to the dogs' or to 'heights of greatness.'**" Whether you agree with this phrase or not, it is quite evident that women play a major role in helping to keep things going in the right direction.

Young ladies, you have much to prepare for in your years ahead! You are already being trained in your home for your future. You are growing up in a family like you will have some day. You observe the relationships in your home and will more than likely copy what you see. You are learning first hand how to be a sister, wife, and mother. Along with this, you also need spiritual training—What the Bible teaches about the place, responsibilities, and benefits of being a future wife and mother.

Responsibilities of a wife

Titus 2:3-5 _____

Prov. 31:10-12 _____

Eph. 5:22-24 _____

The home needs a leader—God has given that responsibility primarily to the man (husband). The woman (wife) is to have a submissive role in the home. Reasons are given by God for this arrangement.

1 Cor. 11:3 _____

1 Cor. 11:7 _____

1 Cor. 11:8 _____

1 Tim. 2:11-13 _____

1 Tim. 2:14 _____

Things the Wife Needs to Avoid

1. Putting others before her husband. God should be first in her life, but her husband should be second before all else! Not even before her parents, nor her children (Gen. 2:24). If both put each other first after God there should be no "in-law" problems.

2. Discourtesy or nagging. (1 Cor. 13:5; Prov. 27:15-16). Mutual love and respect should be the basis of their marital relationship (Eph. 5:33). Nagging is usually a means to get one's way!

3. Neglect of personal appearance. To be sloppy in one's appearance and a poor housekeeper usually goes together. The "worthy woman" is not lazy nor negligence. (Prov. 31:22, 27, 31).

4. Try to live above her income. One of the main problems that leads to the break-up of homes is the mishandling of money—over-spending! The "worthy woman" shows how it should be done. (Prov. 31:14, 24, 31).

The Reward of the "worthy woman"

1. A godly woman can often be a means of helping to save her unbelieving husband. (1 Peter 3:1-2).

2. Her children call her blessed. (Prov. 31:28). They are the recipient of her industrious efforts. They feel secure in their home.

3. Her husband praises her. (Prov. 31:28). He gives recognition to her great efforts in behalf of the family. His acceptability in the community is partially due to her actions (Prov. 31:23).

4. God praises her. (Prov. 31:30). God adds his recognition to such a wife and mother. Her works praise her (Prov. 31:31). She has excelled them all. (Prov. 31:29).

Who would not be blessed in such a home!

The Wife of a Spiritual Leader in the Church

The wife has a great deal to do with her husband's being appointed to a leading role in the church. Not only is she expected to meet certain qualities (1 Tim. 3:11), but she obviously can help or hinder her husband from having or not meeting these qualities that are expected of him. Just being a Christian requires an awful lot of qualities to be put into our lives.

A word of caution! Since the wife plays such an important role in the life of her husband, it is imperative that they be in agreement on the roles or responsibilities that they both take on. There has been many a marriages that have been broken up or greatly affected by the husband or wife wanting to do something that the other does not feel comfortable with. We have preachers in our brotherhood who are separated from the wives because they insisted on becoming a preacher—but the wife was not comfortable with being a preacher's wife. It is important that they be of one mind about such roles in life since both are affected by the choice.

It is an honor and a privilege to be an Elder, Deacon, Teacher, or Preacher in the Lord's Church. But both husband and wife must feel this way if they are to effectively work together and support one another. Neither should want to force their mate into a role or responsibility against their will or better judgment.

God has designed that leadership in the Church is to be by men! Women are not to take the lead or exercise authority over the man (1 Cor. 13:34; 1 Tim. 2:12). But the wife can certainly help her husband to be "*known in the gates when he sits among the elders of the land.*" (Prov. 31:23).

Concluding Thoughts

While the wife is suppose to play a submissive role in the Home and in the Church; yet, all of us (both men and women) have to be submissive in some areas of our lives to others. But this submission does not detract from or take away the importance of the role that a wife plays in the life of her husband. (Prov. 31:11). We are truly dependent upon one another—not only for our existence, but for our successes in this life (1 Cor. 11:11-12).

Young ladies, set your goals high for your life and for your future home and family. Most of all make the decision to be the best Christian that you can be to bring honor and glory to your maker (1 Cor. 10:31).

Questions for Discussion

(Teacher, please note—you may want to ask the wife of an Elder, a Deacon, and a Preacher to be present to answer questions or make suitable comments to the young ladies)

1. Do you agree with the statement: "As the women go, so goes our nation?"
2. What kind of training do young ladies get in their homes that prepare them for their future home?
3. What are some primary responsibilities of a wife in a home?
4. What are some reasons given for God giving the leadership to the man in the Home and Church?
5. What are some things that a wife needs to avoid in her home?
6. What are the Rewards of being a "worthy woman?"

Lesson Six

"Being a Godly Mother"

The home is the training place for our children's future homes! God encourages parents to teach their children (Eph. 6:4) and also older women to teach younger women how to conduct themselves in their new homes (Titus 2:3-5). Younger women are encouraged to love their husbands and their children; to be discreet, chaste, good, and a homemaker; and to be obedient to their own husbands that the word of God may not be blasphemed. We believe that most parents realize the need for such things, but the problem comes when the job is not done well or according to the teachings of the Word of God.

The Glory of Motherhood

Society has recognized for centuries the important role that women (mothers in particular) play in the stability and effectiveness of the home. Her impact is shown by a statement that all are familiar with: ***"The hand that rocks the cradle rules the world."*** The saying is obviously true! When women fulfill their God-given roles well—society will be blessed! When they abdicate them—society will be cursed. The cradle that she will not rock, will have its affect on our world.

Young ladies, do not let the influences of "godless people" affect how you feel about yourself as a woman, nor how you should view yourself as a godly wife or a godly mother. Let God direct your thinking and your life, not the world (Rom. 12:2).

Women are designed to be Mothers

1 Tim. 2:15 _____

The great uniqueness of women is that they are the only ones that can be **"Mothers!"** The above Scripture is stated in contrast to the man's role of leadership in the home. The woman has a special area of work that only she can do effectively:

1. It is important—very important!
2. It is fulfilling!
3. It has its own special glory and honor for her!

Mothers have been a tremendous blessing to the world through their children:

1. The mother of Moses gave us the "meekest man!"

2. The Mother of John the Baptist gave us the "greatest prophet."
3. The Mother of Jesus gave the world a Savior!

When we look at the great men and women in society and in the Church, we also see them as being taught and trained at their mother's knee. She gave them the start in life that has blessed both society and the Church. Mothers are needed in the home!

1. She is designed to give tender, loving care needed by infants.
2. Her emotional nature is what makes her a good mother and nurse.
3. They can give children a sense of **protection, security, and love** that is basic to the forming of their lives.

To be a wife, women must be willing to leave father and mother and be joined to her husband. But to be a good mother, she has to be willing to let her children go—both physically and emotionally. Mother-in-law trouble comes when Mothers will not cut the "apron strings!" A mother's great gift to her children is a sense of independence and responsibility as an adult.

This is possibly illustrated with Mary and Jesus.

1. At age 12, Jesus expressing His first efforts at independence. ***"Know you not that I must be about My "Father's business."***
2. At age 30, They were at a wedding feast where the wine ran out. Mary said to Jesus, ***"Son, they have run out of wine, do something."*** The time for cutting the apron strings has come! He said to her, ***"Woman, what does your concern have to do with Me? My hour has not yet come."***
3. During His public ministry, His mother and family were seeking for Him. Jesus said, ***"Who is my mother, or my brethren? Those who do the will of God."*** Let go, I am my own man!

What a blessing Mothers can be when they can let their children go!

Things Mothers can give to Their Children

1. Give them a Christian home.
2. Give them love (Tit. 2:4).
3. Give godly instruction (Eph. 6:4).
 - a) Parental knowledge is a necessary inference.
 - b) Provide for each area of learning and development.
 - c) Begin early—be diligent (Deut. 6:6-7; 2 Tim. 1:5; 3:15).
4. Give them discipline (Heb. 12:7-8).
 - a) A child learns to respect authority (Eph. 6:1).
 - b) A child learns to trust and respect you.
 - c) Brings joy to the parents (Prov. 29:17).

5. Give them good habits (personal, social, spiritual).
6. Give them a sense of responsibility.
7. Give them an appreciation for the beautiful.
8. Give them a sense of true values (material and spiritual).
9. Give them a good education along with Bible knowledge.
10. Give them a genuine faith in God.

Rewards of Motherhood

1. The salvation of your children (Prov. 22:6).
2. Children will be a delight to you (Prov. 29:17).
3. You will be praised by your children, husband, and God (Prov. 31:28).
4. And possibly....many, many more!

Concluding Thoughts

God has designed women to be wives and mothers. Their greatest sense of fulfillment will be found in these two areas. That does not mean that they cannot do other things, but these are primary. To be a godly wife and mother is a great challenge with great rewards. Our rulers have set aside a special day to honor the great work of mothers. What a blessing it will be to mothers in the Day of Judgment to hear those very desirable words from God: *"Well done, good and faithful (mothers)!"*

