

Women's Thursday Bible Class

God's Distinctive Calling for Women 2022

Lesson six: Encourage and Equip

Introduction to bridge this lesson from the previous lessons

Titus 2:3-5 / definition of spiritual mothering

Even when.....we all faceand thus can all benefit from **verbal affirmation**. Let's look again at Elizabeth and Mary. Luke 1:39-45.

"Spirit led words with a purpose" - that led Mary to her Song of Praise - drenched with OT scriptures, very similar to Hannah's in I Samuel 2.

God's economy of what is praiseworthy is very different from the world's. *

What does Elizabeth pronounce Mary "blessed" for? V. 45

1.

Side remark on a children's book I came across.

A is for Awesome, 23 Iconic Women who Changed the World by Eva Chen

What is being taught even in children's books about what is to be praised. Refer to comments by Susan Hunt on p. 120.

Proverbs 31:28-31 - fear of the Lord

I Peter 3:4 - in God's sight what is precious?

I Tim. 5 : 10

Go back to first lesson about what are teaching our younger women.....p.19

Elizabeth spoke words that built hope and encouragement

Elizabeth had an **approachable spirit**. Read paragraph p.116

Elizabeth gave a challenge to continue **to believe and obey God's Word**.

II Tim. 3:16-17

Ps. 19:7-11

Elizabeth used "**brevity of expression**", rather than excessive words. How can this be helpful? May also mean we are listening (Jam. 1:19) and reflecting , rather than talking!!! James' image of bridling the tongue. James 3

Use our creative imaginations on the 3 month visit.

Skip Ryan's comments: How can we foster spiritual friendship (nurture) by the way we speak?

- Our speaking should reveal that we are submitting to one another
- Our speaking should reveal that we are members one of another, respecting our differences
- Our speaking hopefully solves differences rather than creates them, promoting harmony rather than strife
- Our speaking can't all be somber, serious, etc. but instead create an atmosphere of laughter . Share an ex. from myself

Next week: to be decided!

Lesson Six Discussion Questions

1. Is God identifying and helping you pinpoint anything in you life that could be hindering you from being a nurturer/servant ?
2. Is your door open? Is your heart open to listen? Do you need to widen your circle of relationships?
3. Can you share an instance when verbal affirmation was a timely encouragement that spurred you on in a direction of obedience/ faith or maybe in a difficult task you had to undertake? (or maybe another scenario)
4. Susan Hunt says, "Women need the approval of other women." Where can we justify this statement, outside of our experience?
5. Look up these Scriptures about the high value God places on wisdom and the wise use of the tongue. Prov. 3:13-15; 8:10-11; 16:16 ; 20:15 and 10:6,11?