

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

KNOW HIS INHERITANCE: SOMETHING BLUE



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GOAL: To know the riches of His inheritance, awaiting the Church (the bride of Christ) in Heaven.

GUIDANCE: Revelation 21

GEM: “And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Revelation 21:1-2).

LEADER PREPARATION AND GUIDELINES

- (1) Each person needs a Bible, 3x5 cards, and a notebook for use as a journal.
- (2) Begin each lesson with prayer and ask for the Holy Spirit to guide you.
- (3) Familiarize yourself with the material for each study and answer all the questions.
- (4) Stress memorization of the Scriptures.
- (5) Lead with enthusiasm and excitement. Remember, you set the tone.
- (6) Use the ideas in the *WNAC Program and Plan Book: THAT YOU MAY KNOW*.
- (7) Encourage each lady in your church to attend the study. Give invitations.
- (8) Start and end your meetings on time. Value the participant’s time.
- (9) Allow time for ladies to share their own thoughts, but keep personal experiences to a minimum. You want to stress what the Bible says.
- (10) Allow time for fellowship either at the beginning of class or the end.

INTRODUCTION

Don’t you just love weddings? There’s something so sacred, so beautiful, so exciting about seeing two people who love each other commit to share the rest of their lives together. They are agreeing to leave the “old” behind and begin a “new” life as one. My son is getting married this summer so this is really personal to me. My emotions are everywhere from joy, disbelief, relief, to apprehension. This will change things forever, but hopefully in a good way.

Let me back up a little, take a breath, and explain some of the adjectives I used. I’m happy he’s going to get married, but it’s kind of a shock since he’s 38 years old and this is his first marriage. The relief is that he has found someone he loves, but I’m apprehensive because of some



marriages that I've recently seen fall apart. Thankfully, he and his fiancée are both Christians, so I've got to trust the Lord that everything will work accordingly as He has planned.

I am so thankful that God is the One in control and not me. I tend to hold on tight to my relationships, but I don't want to smother my son. I must let go. He has a right to live his life as he wants. My job was to love, provide the necessities of life, teach and encourage him while he was growing up. I believe I accomplished that. He accepted Jesus as a child and has always been in church. Now, though, he must assume responsibilities for his own family.

I'm getting blue just thinking of how I'll miss him coming over to eat with us really often, calling for our advice, helping with yard work, seeing him at church, and enjoying his apartment pool. You see, he'll be moving from our town to her town, a little over an hour away. But now he'll be doing all these things with her—which is as it should be. I'm excited about getting a new "daughter." The Bible tells us to leave father and mother and cleave to our mate. Life can cause us to experience many "blue" days, but with God's help we can turn them into happy days. You know, I will get a new dress out of this.

WEEK ONE: REDEEMED

- 📖 Write the GEM in your journal and on a 3x5 card for review this month.
- 📖 Go over the questions and answers for Week One, p. 17.
- 📖 What does the word "redeemed" mean to you?
- 📖 Redeem and redemption have several dictionary meanings. The ones with significance for Christians are: "To save from a state of sinfulness and its consequences" and "Salvation from sin through Jesus' sacrifice".
- 📖 What did Jesus' sacrifice involve? (*Giving himself up for crucifixion on the cross which meant the shedding of His blood—Isaiah 53:5; Hebrews 13:12; Philippians 2:8.*)
- 📖 Do you understand why God's plan of redemption included the shedding of blood? (1) *Life of the flesh is in the blood—Leviticus 17:11;* (2) *Blood had to be shed for the remission of sins—Hebrews 9:22;* (3) *Redemption and forgiveness came through Jesus' blood—Colossians 1:14.*
- 📖 Which couple in the Bible do we usually think of when we hear about the Jewish custom described in the first paragraph at the beginning of our study, on p. 17? (*Joseph and Mary—Matthew 1:18; Luke 1:27.*)
- 📖 Did Mary remain faithful to her promise to Joseph? (*Yes—Luke 1:34,35.*)
- 📖 Did Joseph have reason to be blue when he found out his engaged wife was pregnant?
- 📖 What gave him courage to still claim her as his bride? (*God sent an angel—Matthew 1:19,20.*)
- 📖 Did Joseph honor his Jewish traditions? Was he an important part in the life of Jesus? (*Matthew 2:13; Luke 3:23; Luke 4:16, 22.*)
- 📖 Describe in your journal or a notebook how God redeemed you.
- 📖 Close in prayer, thanking God for His wonderful plan of redemption.

WEEK TWO: READY

- 📖 Read the GEM together.
- 📖 Go over all the questions and answers for Week Two, pp. 18-19.
- 📖 What are some preparations for a wedding? (*Wedding dress, invitations, location, decorations, greenery and flowers, guests, wedding supper or food, music, groom, bride. Look in the "That You May Know" WNAC Plan Book, p. 45, for Scriptures for each one of these.*)
- 📖 Is it necessary to have everything listed for a wedding to take place? (*No, each bride and groom are different and may choose to omit or add details they want.*)



- 📖 Do you think it's the same for the Heavenly Wedding? Does every detail have to be in place? (*One does have to be ready—Matthew 24:44; Matthew 25:10; Revelation 19:7.*)
- 📖 What about unreadiness? (*Matthew 24:38, 39; Matthew 25:6-13; Luke 21:34.*)
- 📖 Who prepared the way for the arrival of Jesus? (John the Baptist—*Matthew 3:1-3; Mark 1:3; Luke 3:2,3; John 1:6-8.* It's so important; all four Gospels record this.)
- 📖 Where else do we find this prophesied? (*Isaiah 40:3*)
- 📖 Will Jesus return? (*John 14:3*)
- 📖 Are you prepared for the coming of Jesus? (*Luke 12:37; Matthew 24:44*)
- 📖 What is the purpose of His return? (*Reward—Matthew 16:27; Separating of people—Matthew 25:32; Judgment—2 Timothy 4:1; To gather His own—1 John 2:28.*)
- 📖 Do we all have an appointment with God? (*Yes—Hebrews 9:27.*)
- 📖 Notice some of the times the word “come” is mentioned in the Bible. (1) *Isaiah 1:18*; (2) *Matthew 11:28*; (3) *1 Timothy 2:4*; (4) *Revelation 3:20*; (5) *Revelation 22:17.*
- 📖 In all of the above Scriptures, being *ready* is essential. Share why: (numbered answers correspond with numbered Scripture above). (1) *Ready to listen to the Lord*; (2) *ready for rest*; (3) *ready for the truth*; (4) *ready to open up your heart*; (5) *ready to accept the living water.*
- 📖 If you are married, describe your wedding in your journal. Write down as much detail as you can remember. If you aren't married, choose an important event in your life such as graduation, a recital, important sports event or something else and write down details for that.
- 📖 Pray a prayer of praise for your readiness for the return of Jesus. If you are not ready, ask God to forgive anything in your life keeping you from being ready to meet Him.

WEEK THREE: REJOICING

- 📖 Say the GEM together as a group. Ask if anyone is trying to memorize it,
- 📖 Go over the questions and answers for Week Three, pp. 19-20.
- 📖 Do you know an acronym for JOY? (*Jesus first, Others second, and Yourself last*)
- 📖 Is that always true in your life? Who do we normally think of first? (*Be honest, because most times it's all about us, our needs and wants.*)
- 📖 Do you ever ask, “But how can I have joy with all my problems?” (*Then think on Psalm 30:5.*)
- 📖 How would things or situations in your life change if you always put Jesus first?
- 📖 Do we have to give up our happiness when we become Christians? (*No. John 10:10 tells us Christ came to give abundant life, a joyful life, if we trust Him.*)
- 📖 Read Nehemiah 8:10. The people were afraid they couldn't keep the Law. They were reminded their strength was where? (in the joy of the Lord)
- 📖 Sing the chorus “The Joy of The Lord,” *REJOICE*, p. 540. Notice what the second verse tells us—“If you want joy, you must praise for it.”
- 📖 Do you believe that statement?
- 📖 How important is it for Christians to be joyful in their life? (*Isaiah 35:10; 61:10; Romans 14:17; 1 Peter 1:8.*)
- 📖 Do you laugh with your husband? (*I remember thinking my husband was the silliest person ever—before we started dating, that is. His sense of humor, however, is partly what made me fall in love with him. We've been laughing together for 42 years this month. So laugh, and laugh often.*)



- 📖 Make an entry in your journal of the things that make you happiest.
- 📖 Close in prayer. Ask God to give you the gift of joy in your life. If you're going through a hard time right now, then pray that your burdens will be lifted and replaced with a joyful attitude.

WEEK FOUR: REWARDED

- 📖 if anyone memorized the GEM, allow this person time to say it. If not, read it together.
- 📖 Go over the questions and answers for Week Four, pp. 20-21.
- 📖 What are some of the rewards in being married? (*a friend and companion; a lover; someone to laugh with, cry with, worship with; a financial partner; cooking partner—some do this more than others; someone to pump the gas [I know, I'm spoiled]; and many other fringe benefits.*)
- 📖 Do you believe God rewards faith? (*Hebrews 11:6,11*)
- 📖 Has God rewarded you with anything special recently?
- 📖 Are Christians promised rewards? (*Yes.*)
- 📖 In what form? (*Crown of glory—I Peter 5:4; Crown of life—James 1:12; Crown of righteousness—2 Timothy 4:8.*)
- 📖 What are some rewards of spiritual service? (*Joy of the Lord—Matthew 25:23; Children of the Highest—Luke 6:35; Won't lose reward—Matthew 10:42; Soul winners to shine brightly—Daniel 12:3.*)
- 📖 What are some rewards for enduring suffering? (*Reign with Christ—Revelation 20:4 and 2 Timothy 2:12; Great reward in Heaven—Matthew 5:11,12; Glory to be revealed—Romans 8:18.*)
- 📖 Write in your journal and describe what you consider to be your greatest reward from God.
- 📖 Close in prayer and thank God for His rewards and blessings

IN CLOSING...

Traditions are important, vows are made to be kept, ceremonies and celebrations are fun to attend, and commitment should be a life-long contract. The next time you attend a wedding, think of "Something old, something new, something borrowed, and something blue". Remember that one day you will be welcoming Jesus as your bridegroom. Please say "I do" and vow "for better, for worse, for richer, for poorer, in sickness and in health" to do whatever it takes to be included in that glorious heavenly wedding.