

FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

KNOW HIS INHERITANCE: SOMETHING NEW



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GOAL: To know the riches of His inheritance as new creations in Christ.

GUIDANCE: Ephesians 4:22-32; 5:21-33; Colossians 3:10-25

GEM: “Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God” (EPHESIANS 5:21).

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

My wedding day is stamped in my memory like no other day in my life. I woke up with excitement knowing that by the end of the day I would be a new wife, have a new husband, a new name and new surroundings. The word “new” for these things wasn’t like the word for my new dress, new shoes or even my new ring. It was new as in *never before*. I was petrified to start this chapter in my life, but thrilled at the same time.

I graduated from college on a Friday. The next week I got married on Saturday. And the next week, I started teaching school on a Monday. So many new experiences...so many new desires and expectations...it was overwhelming and wonderful. My life was never the same again.

At my age, I’ve experienced *new* over and over. But one day long ago, I realized I was a sinner who needed to be saved. That day, my life took on a different direction. The key to my life since then has been knowing my name is written down in the Book of Life. It’s still there after my change from Miss to Mrs. God knew and celebrated my wedding with me. He’s with me in every situation. What a joy to know that even with a new name, new address, new hairdo or new



whatever, He can find me. My desire for you as you do this study is for you to recognize that you are God's child and that you have your new name written down in the Book of Life. Name, role, possessions or desires won't matter when we stand before the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, as long as our name is recorded. What a day that will be when He looks at this book and calls out my name and your name.

WEEK ONE: NEW NAME

- 📖 Write the GEM on a 3x5 card for review and help in memorization this month. *"Submitting yourselves one to another in the fear of God" (Ephesians 5:21).*
- 📖 Go over the questions and answers for Week One, pp 17-18.
- 📖 What is the most recent new thing you've purchased or received?
- 📖 How did you feel when you got it?
- 📖 Do you enjoy new things?
- 📖 When you received the name "Christian," were you elated and thankful?
- 📖 Do you want to sing a new song with the redeemed?
Read Psalm 40:3, Isaiah 42:10, Psalm 149:1 and Revelation 5:9.
- 📖 Where were people first called "Christians"? (*Antioch—Acts 11:26*)
- 📖 Did these Christians take their new name seriously? (*Praying without ceasing—Acts 12:5; Fasting and prayers—Acts 13:3; Endured stoning—Acts 14:19*)
- 📖 Are we as serious concerning our name of "Christian"?
- 📖 We received not only a new name upon salvation, but a new Father. How did this happen? (*Adopted into His family—1 John 3:1, 2 Corinthians 6:18, Romans 8:15*)
- 📖 How does God feel when we become His children? (*It gives Him pleasure—Ephesians 1:4-5*)
- 📖 Are you happy to know you give God pleasure?
- 📖 Do you ever meditate on the tremendous sacrifice God the Father made so we might become His sons and daughters? (*Matthew 27:54—Stop and say a brief "thank you" to God for His remarkable gift.*)
- 📖 How intimate or personal is your relationship to your Heavenly Father?
- 📖 Write in a journal about your salvation experience when you received a new name.
- 📖 Close in prayer. Thank God for your new name written in the Book of Life.

WEEK TWO: NEW ROLE

- 📖 Say the GEM together.
- 📖 Go over all the questions and answers for Week Two, p. 19.
- 📖 What is your primary role in life? (*daughter, sister, wife, mother, boss, etc.*)
- 📖 Have you accepted this role or do you just tolerate it?
- 📖 Do you mind submitting to your husband?
- 📖 Why would God choose to have a place in your life? (*Because He's a God who wants a close relationship with His people—2 Corinthians 6:16.*)
- 📖 From the book, *Knowing God By Name*, by Mary A. Kassian, we find that one of God's names, *El Qanna*, means "Jealous God." Did you realize that God is a jealous God? (*Psalm 78:58, Deuteronomy 5:9, 1 Corinthians 10:22*)
- 📖 How does this fit with a husband and wife relationship? (*2 Corinthians 11:2—God is as a husband to the church.*)



🎁 Have you or your husband ever been jealous of one another? (*Don't comment if this will hurt you or anyone else in class. Mothers, mother-in-laws or even former girlfriends might not like to hear your answer.*)

🎁 Is jealousy a happy condition or state of mind?

🎁 Do you know the story of Hosea, from the Old Testament? (*Hosea 1:2-3*)

LEADER'S NOTE: God directed Hosea to marry a prostitute. This marriage did not start off well, as you can imagine. She was not a faithful wife, but repeatedly cheated on Hosea.

She returned to a life of prostitution. Then she sold herself into slavery. But Hosea paid for her, brought her home, tenderly loved her and finally won her heart as Ms. Kassian describes in the book mentioned above. Hosea's story shows God looking forward to a time when His people will call Him, "My Husband" and relate to Him in a personal intimate way (*Hosea 2:19-20*).

🎁 What does Hosea's story reveal about God's love? (*His love is a tender, relentless, faithful covenant love, a jealous love—Hosea 2:14, 18, 23.*)

🎁 How do you arouse God's jealousy? (*By straying from Him, flirting with sin, having other gods before Him*)

🎁 Write in your journal. Share how your relationship with God is developing and growing. Is it strong and on firm footings? Does God have reason to be jealous of you? Is your role as a "child of God" secure?

🎁 Close in prayer. Ask God to keep your relationship with Him righteous and pure.

WEEK THREE: NEW POSSESSIONS

🎁 Say the GEM together

🎁 Go over all the questions and answers for Week Three, pp 20-21.

🎁 If you are married, did you have a bridal shower?

🎁 What was your favorite gift?

🎁 Are you still using any of your original gifts? (*I have some 41-year-old towels, a cake cover, some vases, and several other things. Not only are they useful, they are reminders of my shower and wedding.*)

🎁 Is it wrong to cherish your possessions? (*A desire to possess is a natural thing.*)

🎁 What does God cherish? (*His church—Ephesians 5:29; Acts 20:28; Malachi 3:17*)

🎁 Name something or someone else God cherishes. (*Jesus—John 3:16, 1 John 5:1 and His children—1 John 3:1, Luke 20:36*)

🎁 Do your possessions define who you are?

🎁 Are you overly proud of what you own? (*1 Timothy 6:7*)

🎁 What will happen to anything we own? (*Moths and rust will corrupt or thieves will steal—Matthew 6:19*)

🎁 Are you thankful for God's blessings?

🎁 Do you enjoy going to or having yard sales?

🎁 How do you feel when you find a buy?

🎁 Should physical possessions be our focus? (*No, we should lay up treasures in Heaven where nothing can harm them—Matthew 6:20*)

🎁 What are these treasures in Heaven? (*Following Christ—Matthew 19:21; Eternal Life—1 Timothy 6:19, Matthew 13:44; Wisdom and understanding—Proverbs 23:23; Other souls—Psalm 126:6*)



- Write in your journal about your most treasured possession. Describe how you came to receive it and why it means so much to you.
- Close in prayer and thank God for giving us His Son, Jesus, His most cherished possession.

WEEK FOUR: NEW DESIRES

- Have two or three people say the GEM from memory.
- Go over all the questions and answers for Week Four, pp. 21-22.
- Do you really believe question 5, p.22?
- How hard is it for you to believe that God will give you what you want or desire?
- What is your greatest desire?
- If it's to seek God, He can help you achieve that desire. *Read Psalm 38:9, 63:1, 73:25 and Isaiah 26:9.*
- Do you desire the things of God?
- Is it hard to forget your "old" desires? Should we be able to forget them? (*Romans 6:4, Ephesians 4:24*)
- What should we be like? (*New creatures—2 Corinthians 5:17*)
- Are there evil desires? (*Yes—Proverbs 21:10; James 4:2*)
- What did the mother of James and John desire? (*For her sons to sit at the right hand of Jesus in Heaven—Matthew 20:20-21*)
- Why was this not the right kind of desire? (*It was the wrong time to be concerned about her sons ambitions. Much more important things had to take place— Matthew 20:22-23.*)
- In your marriage, do you desire to please your husband? Before you start snickering, listen to this paragraph from *The Dangerous Duty of Delight* by John Piper.
"The Apostle Paul says in Ephesians 5:29 that 'husbands ought to love their wives as their own bodies. He who loves his wife loves himself.' Since the wife is one flesh with her husband, the same applies to her love for him.")
- Do you feel that way about your husband? Do you love him enough?
- What would make your marriage stronger?
- Make an entry in your journal of some things you desire. Circle all that are spiritual desires.
- Close in prayer. Pray that your hearts will desire the things of Christ.

IN CLOSING...

I sat at the window and watched as the squirrel tried to get the food in the bird feeder. He longed for the tasty seeds only inches from his nose. Suddenly, a couple of beautiful cardinals swooped in and foiled his attempt.

Aren't we like that sometimes in our lives? We see or hear something we long for, but our efforts to obtain them may be in vain. Does it mean that we'll never achieve our desires? Are we to give up on life if we don't get our way? No, we have to keep on keeping on until we reach our goal.

By the way, the squirrel waited until the birds left, ran to the bird feeder again, and enjoyed a delightful meal of seeds. He didn't give up and neither should we. The Lord longs to give us the desires of our hearts.