

# FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

## KNOW HIS INHERITANCE: SOMETHING OLD



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**GOAL:** To know the riches of His inheritance by examining our past sinful nature.

**GUIDANCE:** Ephesians 4:22-32; Colossians 3:10-25

**GEM:** “For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body” (EPHESIANS 5:23).

“That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind” (EPHESIANS 4:22-23).

### 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

Wouldn't it be nice if we could pour our lives in a sieve, rinse, and come out clean? Realistically, life just doesn't work that way. Early on in a marriage, each spouse usually learns what will work or won't work with the other. We learn or distinguish which habits are useful, annoying or just plain obnoxious. We need to rid ourselves or drain away the selfishness, jealousy, manipulation, pride and laziness then come together for the good of the marriage.

I feel that I have plenty of experience, having been happily married for almost 42 years. It's been a bed of roses along the way with some of the beauty and the thorns. The beauty is seen in



that we've loved, supported, been faithful, prayed for, worshiped and raised two grown children together. The thorns were there to prick our hearts with disagreements (remember 42 years), hurts, deaths of family members, financial strains, burdens, sicknesses and unfulfilled dreams. Yet, through it all, we've kept our eyes on Jesus to supply what we have needed for our marriage to survive and thrive.

The atmosphere in every home is not the same. Even in Christian homes, there can be coldness, bitterness, fighting and even violence. Conflict can have a tremendous effect on all members of a family. It's only with God's help that peace can reign. He's the constant in a changing world. It's my desire that you and your marriage will be stronger after completing these studies.

## WEEK ONE: LEAVE

- 📖 Write both GEMS on 3x5 cards for study and reviewing purposes this month. Memorize the first one by the end of the second week. *"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body"* (Ephesians 5:23).
- 📖 Go over the questions and answers for Week One, p. 13.
- 📖 Did you find it difficult to leave your home and family when you got married?
- 📖 If not married, was it hard to go away for college or a job?
- 📖 How far away did you have to go from your home and family when you left?
- 📖 Is it hard to leave a church behind when you move?
- 📖 If you have children, how do you feel about them leaving?
- 📖 Leaving can be very traumatic. Think about Lot's wife. What did leaving cost her? (*Look at Luke 17:32,33; Genesis 19:26*)
- 📖 Do you ever look back and think or wish things could be different? (*I'm sure we all have done that at one time or another. But it's best to move forward and trust God for the outcome.*)
- 📖 What can be the result of leaving when God directs the circumstances? (*untold blessings*)
- 📖 What did Mrs. Noah gain by leaving? (*her life, seeing her family survive and grow, a new home, and a new ministry in different surroundings—Genesis 7:7; Genesis 8:15-18*).
- 📖 Can you think of someone else who left family behind and was blessed? (*Ruth 1:16*)
- 📖 Does leaving ever cause problems for those who remain behind? (*Genesis 31:17-21*)

**LEADER'S NOTE:** This is the story of Jacob and Rachel. Jacob worked for a man named Laban who had two unmarried daughters. Jacob fell in love with Rachel. He worked for seven years to gain Rachel as a wife, only to find out on his wedding night that his new bride was Rachel's sister, Leah. After working another seven years for Rachel, Laban still didn't want Jacob to leave. So Jacob and his two wives left during the night with everything they had. Jacob just didn't realize what Rachel had done. (*Read verse 19, again.*) Then when Laban tracked them down, Rachel lied to him (*Genesis 31:34-35*). She started this section of her marriage with deceit and sin. Not good.

- 📖 Is deceit a good thing to have or bring into a marriage?
- 📖 Start a journal for this study. Write about your experience of leaving home for a new situation.
- 📖 Close in prayer and thank God for the institution of marriage.



## WEEK TWO: SIEVE

- 🎁 Go over the GEM. Have someone say it if she's memorized it.
- 🎁 Read together the questions and answers for Week Two, p. 14.
- 🎁 What do you use your sieve (strainer) for?
- 🎁 Do you sift out the heartaches and troubles of your life?
- 🎁 What can you save from the drainage of a sieve? (*Think about draining some boiled potatoes. Do you need the cloudy water?*)
- 🎁 Does the Lord ever speak to you about draining or sifting things from your life? (*This is usually called "conviction". If you're honest, we've all experienced that.*)
- 🎁 Read Luke 22:31-32. Would we ever want to be sifted by the devil? Peter had some things that had to be sifted out of his life before he could be used greatly by God.
- 🎁 There were several steps that led to Peter's rebuke by Jesus. Let's look up some Scriptures and name them. (*Conceit—Matthew 26:33; Ease—Matthew 26:40; Rashness—John 18:10; Following afar off—Matthew 26:58; Evil association—John 18:18; Open denial—John 18:25; Blasphemy—Mark 14:70-71.*)
- 🎁 What happened with Peter after Pentecost? (*He became a "rock"—Matthew 16:18; John 1:42; Acts 1:8.*)
- 🎁 Peter made two great confessions of his faith in Matthew 16:16 and John 6:68-69. Read these.
- 🎁 Yet, what do most people remember about Peter? (*Mark 14:67-69*)
- 🎁 Do you think Peter realized how severely he had been sifted?
- 🎁 Was it worth his pain and difficulties? (*Yes, Peter even performed miracles after all the imperfections were drained away. (1) Lame man—Acts 3:6-8; Ananias and Sapphira—Acts 5:3-10; Sick healed—Acts 5:15; Aeneas—Acts 9:34; Dorcus—Acts 9:39-41*)
- 🎁 Write in your journal of a time when you were sifted and tried.
- 🎁 Close in prayer and thank God that Christ is our Savior.

## WEEK THREE: CLEAVE

- 🎁 Go over the second GEM, "*That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; and be renewed in the spirit of your mind*" (*Ephesians 4:22-23*).
- 🎁 Read together the questions and answers for Week Three, p.15 together.
- 🎁 Notice the words, "put off" at the beginning of the GEM. What are you to "put off"? (*The old life, deeds, outlooks, attitudes, the old way of living*)
- 🎁 Living as a Christian, do you find it hard to put your old life behind you?
- 🎁 Can we cleave to anyone unless we "let go" the old life? (*Romans 12:9; Deuteronomy 4:4 10:20, 11:22-23*).
- 🎁 What does the phrase "deceitful lusts" mean to you?

**LEADER'S NOTE:** Ray Stedman states in his teachings that we usually interpret lust as sexual desire. But the word is much broader than that. It does not mean only sexual desire, although it does include that, but it means any urge or basic desire. Those deceitful urges are constantly coming to us as we react to various situations in which we find ourselves. It could be the urge



to indulge yourself by overspending. There are always new gadgets and gimmicks that promise to satisfy. But man was not made to be satisfied by owning things.

- 📖 Can you think of other deceitful lusts or urges? (*smoking, lying, cheating, manipulating others, criticism, etc.*)
- 📖 Thinking of our GEM, what does the Christian discover when he puts off the “old man”? (*That all the urges from the “old man” or former life are completely valueless. They are deceitful, promising much and delivering nothing.*)
- 📖 What is the best part of cleaving to your mate? (*Stability, love, protection, encouragement, honor, fellowship*)
- 📖 Don't you love the idea that only death will separate you and your mate? (*Remember your wedding vow—"Till death us do part"?*)
- 📖 Write in your journal about your relationship to your mate. You may want to write this a love letter. If you are not married, write about your relationship with Jesus the Bridegroom.
- 📖 Close in prayer and thank God for marriages and helpmates.

## WEEK FOUR: WEAVE

- 📖 Have someone say or read the second GEM.
- 📖 Go over the questions and answers for Week Four p. 16.
- 📖 Do you like to embroider, crochet, or weave?
- 📖 Do you remember the square pot holders that children used to make using a little frame and bands? They always turned out right because they were woven inside a frame from one corner to the other. (*I know I was proud of the ones I made.*)
- 📖 Does your life look like the front of a beautiful tapestry or embroidered piece or does it look like the back where the threads are all tangled and gnarled? (*If you have some embroidery, bring it to show the front and then the back. Pillowcases work well for this.*)
- 📖 How are we to “weave” our lives to portray the beauty of the tapestry? (*“By the renewing of our spirit in our mind—by believing in Jesus Christ and receiving Him as Lord and Savior.*)
- 📖 Does it take work and effort to do these things so they turn out pretty?
- 📖 The Bible says that it takes wisdom of heart (Exodus 35:35).
- 📖 Would you rather weave a life of service and obedience to God or a life of misery and heartache to the devil?
- 📖 Can others see that Christ has been woven into your life?
- 📖 What do you need to do in order to keep threads from tangling and breaking? (*Weave your life with: prayer, Bible reading, church attendance, faithfulness, giving, service to others, thankfulness and gratitude.*)
- 📖 Is your marriage woven so tightly that others see your love for each other, your family and your God?
- 📖 Is your church a beautiful example to the community of the love of Christ and His saving grace?
- 📖 Make an entry in your journal describing how your church is a testimony to the community.
- 📖 Close in prayer and thank God for the opportunity to influence those with whom you come in contact.

## IN CLOSING...

I love my husband. He's my "better half" as the saying goes. He completes me in a way that no other human can. Yet, I can't rely merely on him. I have to place greater faith and trust in Jesus. Then when things don't turn out right or problems arise, I know I still have hope in the One who is the Rock of Ages. He'll never let me down or leave me. Humans will disappoint and hurt no matter how strong their love. God is unchanging and sovereign. Put your faith totally in Him.

