



# FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

## KNOW HIS CALLING IN THE COMMUNITY

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**GOAL:** To know the hope of God's calling for us as women in our workplaces and communities.

**GUIDANCE:** Judges 4–5; Acts 9:36-43; Proverbs 31; Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22–4:1.

**GEM:** “Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men. Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on an hill cannot be hid. Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house” (MATTHEW 5:13-15).

## DIFFERENT CALLING

### 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

Moving into a new neighborhood can be a traumatic experience. I know. I've only moved four times in 41 years of marriage. The most recent, after 24 years in one house, was into a newly developed subdivision. What an opportunity to develop new friendships and build community spirit.

Reality is, I've only met three people who live here thus far. Everyone either works outside the home or stays inside. We hardly ever see anyone except when they are driving by. Am I any















different? No, I seldom venture outside my doors. It's not that I'm reclusive. It's just a sign of the times and of the fast-paced world we're living in. Everyone thinks that no one has any extra time, including themselves. However, the truth is, that is only an excuse for convincing yourself that no one else really matters except you. We have too much going on in our own lives to be concerned with others. (I'm talking to myself here, too, not just you.)



Is this the right attitude? I think not. We should constantly be aware of those in need and hurting, especially if we know them or they are living close to us. When the Samaritan helped the stranger in distress, he wasn't worried about his own personal agenda. He just recognized that someone needed care and help. He ventured out of his comfort zone and ministered to this person of another race and station in life, disregarding how it might affect him. What a testimony to us of how to be a good neighbor.

Communities are made up of all types of people with different personalities, various cultures, ethnic origins, and backgrounds. We can be a witness in our own community even if all we do is let them observe us going to church. But we can be more effective by getting to know them and inviting them to go to church with us. This month, why not try to make an attempt to meet your neighbors. If not the ones next door, then get in touch with someone new attending your church. Make the effort to be more involved with people. You'll be glad you did.



## WEEK ONE: DIFFERENT CALLING (*Judges 4-5*)

-  Write the GEM on a 3 x 5 card. Read it often throughout this month.
-  Go over the questions and answers for Week 1 on p. 12-13.
-  What type community do you live in? (*city, town, rural, industrial, mountain, beach*)
-  Do you know your neighbor next door?
-  Are your neighbors only the people who are next door to you?
-  Should we be concerned with people in other countries?
-  How are we to feel toward our neighbor according to Leviticus 19:18 and Mark 12:31?
-  How can you be a better neighbor? (*Reread the suggestions on page 13 and 14, bullet points under "Light and Salt"*)
-  Besides Deborah, can you think of another working woman and community leader mentioned in the Bible? (Lydia: Acts 16:14-15)
-  Was she effective both in the community and her home?
-  Were you born and raised in or near the community in which you live now or have you been transplanted into your present community?
-  Contemplate this question, "Are you faithful to your calling?"


**LEADER'S NOTE:** Remember the disciples. When Jesus called in Matthew 4:18-21, they responded. Jesus made them "Fishers of Men." I believe they went with Jesus by faith. True faith always responds in obedience. The call of Christ impacted the disciples' lives just as it should impact our lives. Wherever God has placed us, we are to fish for men. We are where we need to be to witness for Him.


-  Make an entry in your journal and describe your relationship with your neighbors.
-  Close in prayer. Thank God for your community.


## WEEK TWO: LIGHT AND SALT (*Acts 9:36-43*)


-  Read the GEM together. Discuss what being the "Light of the World" means.
-  Read Revelation 21:23; John 1:4; Psalm 27:1; 1 John 1:5.





 **What is a bushel?** (*The dictionary describes it as a customary unit of dry volume equivalent to four pecks or equal to eight gallons. A bushel was originally a measure of capacity for grain. I remember that my dad used to fill a bushel [basket] with corn.*)


 If you put a candlestick under a bushel basket, would you see the light?


 Have you ever tried to hide your Christianity or your testimony?

 What happens when a power failure leaves you in the dark? Is it a good feeling?


 When the power/lights come back on, what is the attitude then? (*Relief, happiness, excitement, rejoicing—because we're no longer in darkness.*)


 Is it the same way when a sinner sees the “light”? (*Luke 15:7 tells us there is joy in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than 99 just persons.*)

 Is it your responsibility to make sure others hear the Gospel? (*2 Timothy 4:1-2 tells us to love and care for each other in light of Who will judge us. Paul was charging Timothy to do this preaching, and in the telling, we receive the same charge to be messengers of the Gospel.*)

 What does it mean to be "salt" in the world? (*for us to be a Christian influence—Matthew 5:13; Mark 9:50; Luke 14:34.*)


**LEADER'S NOTE:** In Biblical days, salt was a precious commodity. It served as a seasoning, a preservative, a disinfectant for wounds, and even as payment in certain situations. The Hebrew people harvested salt by pouring sea water into pits and letting the water evaporate until only salt was left. The flavor of salt makes things taste better. But salt can also have a negative effect, making something barren or without worth.


 Why did Lot's wife turn into a pillar of salt? (*She disobeyed and lost her influence—Genesis 19:17, 26*)


 Close in prayer. Ask God to make you “Light and Salt” in your neighborhood.


### WEEK THREE: OUTSIDE THESE WALLS (*Proverbs 31*)


 Write the GEM in your journal. Are you trying to commit it to memory?

 Go over questions and answers for Week 3, p. 15-16.


 Why is being poor and needy mentioned so much in the Bible? (*Jesus identified with this class of people because he grew up in the home of a poor, hardworking carpenter.*)

 How do you feel when you see a homeless person or someone in need holding signs on the side of the road? (*I used to think, “They need to get out and get a job.” Now, I know that is not always easy to do, or that person may not even be able to work. Everyone has their own circumstances. So I think, “Give and let God take care of how they use the money.”*  
**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *That's not to say we shouldn't be wise about giving—for example, offering food, gas, or actual resources rather than cash.*)


 Do you ever help them by either giving money or buying them a meal? You may be the source of the only blessing that person will receive.


 Read the parable of the “Good Samaritan” in Luke 10:30-36. What was the answer to the question in v. 36? (*v. 37-he that showed mercy*)


 Then what does Jesus instruct everyone to do? (*“Go, and do thou, likewise”*)

 God is very concerned with the poor and needy of this world. Read James 2:5, Isaiah 41:17, Psalm 82:4, and Psalm 72:12.




 What does Jesus remind us about the poor? (*That they will always be with us—Matthew 26:11.*)


 What does He say about the poor in Spirit? (*That they're blessed—Matthew 5:3*)


 Close in prayer. Ask for God to bless anyone who is destitute, in financial trouble, or in desperate situations.

#### WEEK FOUR: NINE TO FIVE (*Ephesians 6:5-9; Colossians 3:22-4:1*)


 Read the GEM together again as a group. If anyone memorized it, ask them to say it.


 Go over the questions and answers for Week 4, p. 17.


 Do you work outside your home?


 Share a little bit about your work and workplace.


 What is the atmosphere like on your job?

 Is it easy to share your faith with your co-workers or with the public?


 Do you apply the principle of Ecclesiastes 9:10 to your job?


 Do you have a job that you enjoy? If not, why?


 Name some different type of jobs that women typically have? (*Nurses, teachers, secretaries, receptionist, dental assistants, doctors, computer techs, salespersons, day care workers*)


 Name some unusual jobs that women might have? (*Truck driver, construction worker, etc. Several years ago, it would not have been hard to come up with a list. Now, it's not unusual for women to do just about any job there is.*)

 How does working outside the home compare to working in the home?

 If you could do either (not a have-to situation), which would you choose?

 Could you or do you fulfill your job at home with excellence?

 Make an entry in your journal to tell how you can be usable for God where you are.

 Close in prayer. Ask God to bless women who are homemakers and those who work outside the home. Give thanks for both.

#### IN CLOSING...

Have you been out and about? Did you meet anyone interesting? Being a good neighbor may be a challenge for some, but the rewards can be worth it. Many people have neighbors who become life long friends. They get to share in each other's joys and sorrows when interests are blended together. It's wonderful to be able to say, "Hi, there, neighbor! It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood."