



FACILITATOR'S GUIDE KNOW HIS CALLING IN THE CHURCH

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GOAL: To know the hope of God's calling for us as women in our churches.

GUIDANCE: Exodus 15; Romans 16; I Corinthians 14; I Timothy 2.

GEM: "I commend unto you Phebe our sister, which is a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea: That ye receive her in the Lord, as becometh saints, and that ye assist her in whatsoever business she hath need of you: for she hath been a succourer of many, and of myself also." (ROMANS 16:1-2).

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

What do you see when you look out your windows? I see a beautiful church building with a majestic steeple atop the roof. I see my church. It's been our church home for a little over 20 years. When we recently decided to move, we chose this location because of its close proximity to the church. As we age, we thought we might not be able to handle traffic and the distance from our previous home. Living here will ensure that we get to church even if someone has to stop and help us across the highway.

Church has always been part of my life. I cannot bear the thought of not being in church or able to attend church. When I was growing up, going to revivals in the summertime was our recreation. Back then, churches had morning and night services. With numerous Free Will Baptist Churches and other denominations in our small county and surrounding counties, we went somewhere nearly every day during the summer. My parents also fed more preachers during revival



times than I can even begin to count. I didn't realize then what an impact that would later have on my life. Can you imagine trying to get young people now (or even adults) to attend revival both morning and night at a church other than theirs? It would just be unheard of.

I'm thankful that from early childhood, I learned this love for the church. I'm thankful I learned that every church is not alike and that none of them are perfect. I'm thankful I learned that the building is not the church. Most of all, I'm thankful I learned that going to church to worship is important. God meets you when you make an effort to meet Him in His house.

WEEK ONE: THE WEEKLY ROUTINE (*Exodus 15*)

- ✚ Write the Gem on a 3x5 card and in your journal. Review it often during this month.
- ✚ Go over the questions and answers for Week 1, pp. 18-19.
- ✚ What is a routine? (*Standard procedures; prescribed course of action to be followed regularly*)
- ✚ Do you have a routine when it comes to going to church?
- ✚ Do family members *know* that you are going to church on Sundays and other times? Do your children have to ask, "Are we going to church today?"
- ✚ Do stressful mornings before church put you in a worshipful mood?
- ✚ What can you do to make your Sunday morning routine better?
- ✚ Why are we to attend church?
 - (1.) The church is the body of Christ—1 Corinthians 12:12-14; Ephesians 1:22-23
 - (2.) Christ died for the church—Ephesians 5:25
 - (3.) Christ set the example—Luke 4:16
 - (4.) To exhort one another—Hebrews 10:25
 - (5.) We're part of the family of God—ohn 1:12
 - (6.) To worship with other believers—Luke 24:52
 - (7.) To offer up our praises—Psalm 100:4
 - (8.) To support the work of the church—Malachi 3:10
 - (9.) God gave the call to worship—Isaiah 2:3
 - (10.) To be taught—Mark 1:21
- ✚ How are we to worship when we are in church? (John 4:24; Psalm 5:7; Psalm 29:2)
- ✚ Are you satisfied with your worship?
- ✚ If yes, tell why? If not, what can you change?
- ✚ Detail your getting ready for church routine in your journal. Circle the things you need to work on.
- ✚ Close in prayer. Pray that your family will always be faithful to attend church.

WEEK TWO: WHAT GOD HAD IN MIND (*Romans 16*)

- ✚ Look at the Gem for the month. Why was Phebe to be commended?
 - (1) *Servant of the church,* (2) *Had need of the saints,* (3) *Helped many people,* (4) *Helped Paul*
- ✚ Would anyone say the above things about you?
- ✚ Go over the questions and answers for Week 2, p. 20.
- ✚ What word would describe Phebe today? (*Encourager*)
- ✚ Are there many "Phebes" in your church?
- ✚ Are you an encourager?



- † Think of some things you could do to help others in your church. (*Pray for them, call them, send a card, invite them for a meal or take a meal to them, offer assistance when needed, babysit*)
- † Is your church a well-rounded church, doing the things it should in every aspect—worship, preaching and teaching the Word of God, caring for each other, exercising individual gifts, soul winning and mission-minded?
- † Do you recognize and use the gifts that the Holy Spirit gave you?
- † What was the ultimate gift given by God to us? (*Jesus—John 3:16*)
- † Why are any of the spiritual gifts given? (*To better people's life in general, to help others in following Christ—building up the body of Christ*)
- † Does having a spiritual gift mean you have a lot of talent or skill? (*No, not necessarily. Many people have the ability to sing, play the piano, or other talents that have nothing to do with anything godly or spiritual in nature. We've probably all watched "American Idol" or "America's Got Talent." As a rule, neither of these shows represent people using "spiritual talent."*)
- † What then is a spiritual gift? (*It's something that God gives for the purpose of building up others in a life of faith. There are many people with special talents using their skill in spiritual ways.*)
- † Name some of these specific spiritual gifts from 1 Corinthians 12:7-11. (*Words of wisdom, words of knowledge, faith, healing, miracles-working, prophecy, distinguishing of spirits, tongues, interpretation of tongues*)
- † Paul makes it clear that even though the Corinthians had differences and diversities, they were given the same Spirit, for the same purpose. Is every member in your church alike? (*No, everyone is unique in his or her own way, the way God intended them to be.*)
- † Look up these Scriptures regarding gifts (*not all spiritual*) and list some in your journal that you enjoy: Ephesians 4:11-12; James 4:6; Philippians 4:7; Psalm 127:3; 1Peter 4:8-11.
- † Close in prayer. Thank God for His plan of the Church.

WEEK THREE: WOMEN AND CHURCH (1 Corinthians 14)

- † Read the Gem several times together.
- † Go over the questions and answers for Week 3, p. 21.
- † What are your views on 1 Corinthians 14:34?
- † Read 1 Timothy 2:12. What does “usurp authority” mean?
- † Is that what women are doing when they teach, sing in the choir, work in the nursery, pray aloud, or pursue other opportunities in the church? (*No, of course not. Remember the gifts that the Holy Spirit gives? Women possess these gifts also, and are to exercise them to build up the church.*)
- † Are women important to the church?
- † Name some notable women in our church and one thing that they do. (*For example: Mary-Hospitable; Phyllis-Good Teacher; Beth-Excellent Nursery Worker*)
- † What determines the value of a woman? (*Proverbs 31:30—the person of Jesus Christ*)
- † What are the gifts Paul lists in Romans 12:6-8? (*Prophecy, ministry or service, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and the showing of mercy*)
- † Did you realize there is actually a gift of giving? (*Luke 6:38*)
- † Name some duties of the church that Paul describes in the remainder of this chapter—Romans 12:9-18. (*Brotherly love/humility, preferring one another, Not slothful, Fervent in spirit, Serve God, Rejoicing in hope, Patient in tribulation, Benevolence, Hospitality, Honesty, Peaceful, Spiritual joy, Spiritual hope*)



LEADER'S NOTE: Paul is interested in the character of the believer. He wants spiritual fruit to be a result of using these gifts. If we're not using the gifts that God gave us, then we're not producing any results (Philippians 4:17; Colossians 1:10). Look at your life and see if you are using your gifts in the best way for everyone that you come in contact with. If interested in finding out more about Paul's study of gifts in Romans, go to www.raystedman.org/romans.

- ‡ Close in prayer and thank God for the women of your congregation.

WEEK FOUR: CORE ISSUES (1 Timothy 2)

- ‡ If anyone memorized the Gem, have them say it. If not, read it together.
- ‡ Go over the questions, and answers for Week 4, p. 22.
- ‡ Do you pray for the leadership of your church?
- ‡ Are there others in your church with the gift of prophecy besides your pastor? (*Many laymen also have the gift of being able to speak the truth in a powerful way which is the gift of prophecy.*)
- ‡ Do you consider yourself holy?
- ‡ Is it hard to be holy women in our world today? (1 Peter 1:16; 2 Peter 3:11)
- ‡ What are some things that make holiness difficult? (*media views, television, movies, magazines, computers, peer pressure, laxness in morals and dress*)
- ‡ Are you then exercising your gifts that God has given you? (*Read Romans 12:6-8 one more time.*)
- ‡ Do you know people whose gifts are easily recognized? (*When a person is always available to work at or for the church, it's a powerful testimony to the reality of Christ living in them. Some gifts may not always appear spiritual in nature. The spiritual gifts of service or helps could involve flower arranging or even dishwashing.*)
- ‡ Is there a way to discover the measure of your gifts? (*Yes. Matthew 9:29 says the measure of the gift is your faith. Jesus was telling His disciples that what they could accomplish would be proportionate to the faith they possessed.*)
- ‡ When are gifts given? (*Upon conversion*)
- ‡ Paul tells us in 2 Timothy 1:6 to, "To stir up the gift that is in you which was given unto you." He was telling them to get busy and use the gift. What can God do through you?
- ‡ Does God always use the most likely people to do His work? (No. Remember Moses [Exodus 4:10] and a little shepherd boy named David [1 Samuel 17:42]?)
- ‡ Write in your journal about gifts that are or would be personally valuable. Tell how you would use them to benefit others.
- ‡ Close in a prayer of thanksgiving for your church, your pastor, deacons, trustees, and/or other staff.

IN CLOSING

Just this week I've heard the statement, "I don't know what people do who don't know the Lord and have a church family to help in times of crisis." That is so very true. Our relationship with God enables us to have a close relationship with fellow believers-our church family. When we need someone, we know who we can call. It may be that we just need prayer support. They can help. It may be that we need fellowship. They can help. It may be that we need help with moving or painting. They can help. What a blessing to know we have *family* whom we can call to come to our aid. I know from personal experience. I sincerely hope and pray that you love your church and support it completely.