

October 2021
Theme: 20/20 Vision (Seeing the World as God Does)
"Focus: Joy"

Summary: When we commit to praise God amid our struggles, our vision and perspective on our circumstances radically change. We are transformed into joyful beneficiaries of God's goodness and, in turn, overflow with generosity and love toward others.

Scripture: Luke 21:1-4, Psalm 87:7, Philippians 4:8-9

Songs: "God is so Good" *Rejoice*, page 22; "Thrive" Casting Crowns (YouTube); Chorus: "Little is Much When God Is In It" *Rejoice*, page 525.

Suggestions and Helps

Promotional Helps

Resources: Poster and invitation are available at www.wnac.org/treasure/programhelps.

Publicity: Use a jar pattern from computer graphics to make invitations for the ladies. In the middle of the jar, write the date and time of the meeting. Make sure the church bulletin has the announcement in it before the Women's Ministry meeting. This will enable the women to schedule their calendars accordingly.

Study

Give each lady a 3x5 card or strips of paper with the verses of Philippians 4:8-9 written on it. Encourage the women to memorize these powerful Scriptures if they have not already memorized them.

Missions

Reach out to missionaries your church supports and ask them to give a joyful testimony on God's blessings in their ministry. Do this in advance. The testimony can be sent by email or live streamed. If the testimony is received through email, make copies in advance to give to the women.

Service

Challenge the women to make *Blessings Bags* to be handed out to anyone they see needing a blessing. Make Blessing Bags for anyone in need. Your ladies may choose to advertise the *Blessing Bags* on the church sign for church members needing an extra touch of encouragement. Churches have built structures on or near the road in front of their church where the needy can open a door and pick up their *Blessing Bag*. Blessing bags can contain small cans of tuna, packages of crackers, small containers of peanut butter, a bottle of water, a small bag of chips, and cookies, a small container of applesauce, a small can, or a bottle of juice, can of Vienna sausages, etc. There are many examples on Pinterest.

Prayer

Explain the term "Raise My Ebenezer" from I Samuel 7:12. Pass out cut pieces of brown or gray construction paper in the form of a stone. Have a large basket or jar for the women to put their stone in once they have written down an answered prayer. Save the 'stones' for the next meeting to be read out loud.

Give-a-way

Purchase small jars with lids and label them as *Joy Jar*. Give each lady a jar at the end of the lesson. Explain to the women to write down on a piece of paper at least one blessing or joy experienced every single day and place it in the jar. Write beneath *Joy Jar* the Scripture Lamentations 3:23.

Refreshments

Write on invitations handed out to the women they will be served 'stone soup' at the meeting. Ask specific women to bring vegetable soup, appoint someone to bring crackers/cornbread, and someone else to bring a dessert enough for the ladies attending the meeting. Make references to the stones mentioned in the lesson before serving the 'stone soup.' Explain to the women there is not a stone in any of the vegetable soups.

Extra

Operation Christmas Child's national collection week is November 15-22. Check your area for local collection places.

Make plans to support Mission North America offering on November 21, 2021.

November 2021

Theme: 20/20 Vision: (Seeing the World as God Does)

"Trust the Process"

Summary: *Vision Therapy* explains that if both eyes do not work together, exercises individualized to each patient's needs are required. If our spiritual life is to be healthy, practice is needed every day of the week, not just Sunday. We must be steadfast, and then we must mentor the spiritually immature women in teaching and in exempling.

Scriptures: I John 3:6-7; Genesis 2:16, 3:3; Matthew 28:19-20; Titus 2; Joshua 3:1-7; Deuteronomy 11:13-21; Acts 8:1-8; Luke 17:12-19; II Chronicles 2:9, 20:12

Songs: "Be Thou My Vision" Rejoice, page 23; "My Brother's Keeper" *Rejoice*, page 510; "Make Me A Blessing" Luther Barnes (YouTube).

Suggestions and Helps

Resources: Poster and invitation are available at www.wnac.org/treasure/programhelps.

Publicity: Never forget the personal invitation and the phone call asking, "May I drive by and pick you up for our meeting?"

Ice breaker: Let's get our eyes to match up. Find enough individuals in the Bible who are known by two names (such as Saul/Paul) so that each attendee can find an answer. On sticky notes, write only one name per note. Randomly, post the notes on a firm surface. Give attendees one minute to match the names. Other options for names include Tabitha/Dorcas, Simon/Peter/Cephas, Bartholomew/Nathaniel, Jesus/Christ, Jacob/Israel, Matthew/Levi, Lebaeus/Thaddaeus, Judas/Iscaiot.

Presentation: This study is based on a few key phrases. First, ***Practice***—*the prescription for spiritual health* can lead the presentation comparing prescriptions for physical health and spiritual health. The spiritually ill must take the life-giving prescriptions of Scripture and practice living that Scripture to grow healthy. Second, ***Steadfast*** – "*unwavering, loyal, faithful, devoted, steady, and constant*"— is used in Scripture 100 times; so, it definitely should be emphasized as the mindset a Christian must have to be faithful for a lifetime.

Use the **Spiritual Assessment** and **Spiritual Discipline** sections as springboards for discussion and contemplation. **Obey** covers a series of Scriptures that help us focus our thoughts on truth and challenge us to apply the remedies to our weaknesses. As a finale, be sure to offer the **Spiritual Reflection** as a guide to prayer for application to our needs. Those who hear and heed will be stronger and more centered in their faith.

Pray to know the best way to approach your group in presenting this study.

Testimony: Use the testimony time to summarize and respond to the "Self Reflection" questions: What does your spiritual practice look like? Who is your mentor? Who are you mentoring? Are you obedient (give examples and results)?

Breakout Groups: Breakout groups could discuss the Spiritual Assessment challenges:

1. "Are you practicing spiritual vision therapy daily?" How?
2. "What does spiritual discipline look like in your life?"
3. "Does steadfastness define your walk with Christ?" Define "steadfast" as it describes a spiritual life.
4. "God is the mark; anything less is sin—in what areas are you not hitting the mark?"

Further discussion and summaries brought back to the entire group could include number 2.

Study

Do a character study on the double named in the Ice Breaker section: Tabitha/Dorcas, Simon/Peter/Cephas, Bartholomew/Nathaniel, Jesus/Christ, Jacob/Israel, Matthew/Levi, Lebaeus/Thaddaeus, Judas/Iscaiot. Use a Bible dictionary, commentary, even a children's Bible to get a simple idea of how the double names came about. For instance, Jacob/Israel has a captivating story regarding his name. But a study building on that name change tells a complex story that was a challenge for Jacob/Israel all his life.

Missions

Successful ministry depends heavily on successful relationships on the field (spouses, families, co-workers) and in the United States (missions' agency, church, prayer partners). Take time this week to encourage via phone, email, or letter not only to missionaries on the field but also to sending agencies. Assure them of your prayers and your financial support.

Service

Gather unused eyeglasses for use by The Hanna Project or other mission groups that distribute eyeglasses to needy individuals worldwide. It is helpful to include the eyeglass case and prescription. If you have misplaced the prescription, you can contact optometrists to ask if they would check the prescription from the glasses. Also, purchase several inexpensive reading glasses which mission groups can easily distribute as needed.

Prayer

The pandemic, violence, and military conflict worldwide have seriously affected the spreading of the Gospel. In some large political arenas, missionaries are blocked from being able to minister in person. However, God has been busy utilizing Christians embedded in those arenas to evangelize and to bring revival. Spend time praying for these areas and the witness there.

Refreshments

Make it a "Two for Two" snack time—you can't eat one without the other! It can be chips 'n dip, Twinkies, mac 'n cheese, hot dogs and buns, soup 'n chili, spaghetti 'n meatballs, bread 'n water. Use your imagination for a variety of food.

Extras

Deliver the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes to your closest collection center during the week of November 15-22.

Support Mission North America offering on November 21, 2021.

"Surfing on the Deep Blue"

Ride the waves, my beloved
the boundless ocean calls on you
prepare yourself for the tides of life
with serene, gentle ripples on the deep blue

In a spiritual sense of hopefulness
the buoyant heart swells with humility
your spirit takes in the Breath of Life
as the glassy sea reflects tranquility

Lucid moments come with the rise and setting sun
uneasiness sinks into the world view
a sense of survival comes from mercy and grace
with serene, gentle ripples on the deep blue

Provoking the calm, the tempest surges
contentment immersed in worldly strife
internal deluge of heavyweights
render the turbulent billows of life

Drifting away beyond the horizon
remember the Anchor faithful and true
unconditional love lulls the sea
with serene, gentle ripples on the deep blue

Set your eyes on the Almighty
leave behind the wake of deep struggles
focus on His divine power

He keeps you afloat in deep troubles

Reaching for the nail-scarred Lifeline
calling on Jesus to save and rescue
resuscitates your soul for the eternity
with serene, gentle ripples on the deep blue

Mary Altgilbers

December 2021
Theme: 20/20 Vision (Seeing the World as God Does)
"Can You See?"

Summary: As believers, better vision should be one of our perpetual goals. Does Jesus ask us, like He did His disciples, "You have eyes, can't you see?" Our vision can become perfect by following His treatment plan. If the prescription is followed, this study will help your women gain better vision.

Scripture: 2 Corinthians 5:7; Mark 4; Galatians 5; 2 Kings 5;

Song: "Open Our Eyes, Lord" Maranatha! Vocal Band (YouTube); "Give Me Your Eyes" Brandon Heath Official Music Video (YouTube); "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" *Rejoice* page 258.

Suggestions and Helps

Promotional Helps

Resources: Poster and Invitation are available at <http://www.wnac.org/treasure/programhelps>

Poster or Invitation: Arrange the letters for an invitation or poster (the title, "you're invited," or any other phrase related to your program or meeting) like the letters on an eye chart. If you don't know how to create this, ask one of your church's young women or teenagers to help you with this.

Presentation Ideas

- If you have a nurse or medical professional in your church, ask her to give a short talk on eye care.
- Look for one of the posters that have a hidden picture in it that you can see by holding it close to your face, concentrating on the picture, and moving it slowly away from your face. These are called "Hidden Eye" pictures or auto stereograms. Some people see these quickly, and some can't. Or look online for scenes that have hidden pictures in them, give women a couple of minutes and see who finds the most hidden objects.

Game

Emotional Eyes: Divide the women into teams of two. They should sit facing each other. Give each woman a small card with several emotions written on the card like happy, sad, tired, mad, surprised, bored, confused, etc. Women will take turns covering their face below their nose (make sure the mouth is hidden) with a piece of paper, trying to get the other woman to guess which expression she is making by only seeing her eyes. NO laughing allowed, but that will be hard!

Missions

Some mission fields collect and give out used eyeglasses. Ask the IM office (877-767-7736) or email stacie@iminc.org for information on these projects. Some communities also have service organizations that collect used glasses to give to those in need.

Prayer

Go back through all the lessons and write down the concept of each one. Make copies for each woman. With the group divided into three sets, have each group pray about each idea, asking the Lord to strengthen their eyes to see the world as He does.