

September 2022
Theme: When God Intervenes
“Abigail – Victim to Victor!”

Summary: “Abigail – Victim to Victor!” details a life of negativity and seeming defeat to an unexpected victory through courage and faith.

Scriptures: I Samuel 24 and include for personal study and comparison Ruth 1-4.

Songs: “He Is Able to Deliver Thee” *Rejoice*, page 242; “And He Cares About You” *Rejoice*, page 574; “Yes I Will” by Vertical Worship, YouTube.

Publicity: A “Rosie the Riveter” poster celebrating the strength of women in times of crisis would be an eye-catching background for a date, time, and place for a study of Abigail, who, with God’s help, worked to gain victory over a crisis.

Ice breaker: How about a Donkey ride through Moab? Utilizing a Bible-era map, create a pathway on the floor with sheets of paper. Label the sheets with rewards and hindrances for a donkey trip. Each “Abigail” contestant draws a number from 1-3 at her turn in traveling around the course. Begin the paper pathway with “Home”; include “Sandstorm Lose a Turn,” “Skip one space for feeding the hungry,” “Donkey Nap Lose a Turn,” and end at “Welcome to David’s Camp.” Add other spaces for more challenges. Provide costumes for more fun.

Presentation Ideas

Pray to know the best way to approach your group in presenting this study. You may be aware of similar situations in your women’s group. Always be sensitive to hurt, whether occurring presently or in the past. This may be the impetus to bring abuse to light and to shine upon the courage to overcome it with God’s help. Do not pry, but let God have His way.

One option for presenting the study could include a comparison/contrasting of Abigail and Ruth. Both lost their husbands. Both resided in Moab for a time. Abigail did not suffer from hunger, and Ruth did not suffer from abuse. Abigail had servants. Ruth was a servant to her mother-in-law. God sent a godly man as a rescuer to each woman. Each lived in a sin-scarred world, but God was the answer to their needs to rise above their problems and become victorious.

Testimony: This program contains a personal story regarding the dangers and sadness of abuse. Thus, it can be used effectively as a testimony pertinent to the topic while being sensitive to pain, regret, and disappointment.

Breakout Groups: Discuss the meaning of the names of the central characters. See the program for details. You may supply a Bible Dictionary or handbook for broader definitions. How did each by their actions exhibit the meaning of their names?

1. **Nabal**
2. **Abigail**
3. **David**

Further discussion and summaries brought back to the entire group could include the following study questions.

Was Abigail a victim or enabler or a combination of both?

When did she become a victor?

Study

The Grace Filled Marriage by Dr. Tim Kimmel (available through Randall House) can help with the age-old question: How do you show grace in marriage without feeling that you are being taken advantage of in the relationship?

Missions

We cannot assume that abuse and neglect abide only in our neighborhoods. In contrast, we cannot assume that abuse and neglect do **not** abide in our communities. Unfortunately, these, along with human trafficking, are worldwide plagues. These mission fields are more difficult, complicated, and dangerous than donating food for the needy and inviting children to Vacation Bible School. Be aware of the names and addresses of women's shelters and community resources to help children. But most of all, be in touch with Almighty God.

Service

How about a gently used purse drive but with an added plus? Ask all the women in your church to donate a purse filled with personal items for women in abuse shelters and the homeless. Cosmetics, personal hygiene products, and inspirational Scriptures are appropriate to include. Beware of including magazines or fiction stories since the recipients' lives may compare unfavorably to featured persons or fictional outcomes.

Prayer

Begin prayer time with the extra poem below, "Dimly Lit." Ask for a season of silent prayer for those women who have struggled with or are suffering through abuse, enablement, and other problems. Then join in group prayer for a blessing on all marriages and family life. Close with the hymn "Bless This House" on page 631 in the "Rejoice" hymnal.

Refreshments

Abigail was a polished hostess, even when her hospitality involved a picnic on a huge scale. Let us delve into her menu: Per I Samuel 25:18, Abigail's meals included two hundred loaves of bread, five sheep ready dressed, five measures of parched corn, a hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. For a similar meal, try barbequed mutton sandwiches for the main entrée if they are available locally. Add corn and the following Fig Bread:

Fig Bread

½ cup raisins	2 ½ cups flour	1 cup nut meats
½ cup figs	1 teaspoon baking powder	
2 tablespoons shortening	½ teaspoon baking soda	
1 cup honey	¾ cup milk	
1 egg	¼ cup sour milk	

Cut raisins and figs into small pieces. Cream shortening with honey until fluffy. Add beaten egg. Sift dry ingredients together and add alternately with milk. Add nuts and fruit. Bake at 325 degrees for 1 hour 15 minutes.

Extra:

"Dimly Lit"

She turned her light off
and stepped into the darkness
fading into a life of iniquity
indifferent to the reality of heaven and hell
She stands pale with a hardening heart
seeking visibility in the dimness of the world
her light once shone for the love of Christ
like a beacon her countenance was bright
She delighted in the Word of God
and the palpable assurance of His Presence
faith was the element of her Spirituality
adorned with purity and holiness
once separated from the scorned
She was humbled by God's tender mercy
now a troubled soul empty of peace
heavyhearted with the weights of her burdens
withdrawn because of her deliberate denial
She knows of repentance....
She knows Who can save her....
She knows....
the Holy Spirit woos her

forgiveness reaches into the shadow of shame
piercing the doubt with flickers of hope
Jesus calls her to Himself
the choice is made
stepping out of darkness
glints of trust enlighten her dimly lit heart
a narrow path to His Kingdom illuminated
the beautiful glimmers of glory radiate
her regrets are many
His forgiveness is so much more
once dimly lit
her heart beams with The Eternal Light.

By Mary Altgilbers