
W E E K 1

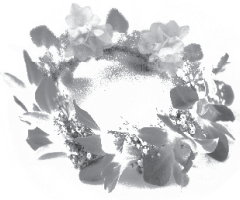
Founding your Life on God's Word



Mothers have questions. We want to know how to be a great mother, how to have a successful marriage, and how to have a fulfilling life.

Where do we go to find answers to our questions about being a woman, wife, and mother? How can we find a source of truth that isn't going to change with the pervading political climate or social reform? I believe there is a place for mothers to find absolute truth. This week, we'll discover a fountain of wisdom that is pure...





Video Listening Guide

Genesis 1:1-3

And God _____; we have a _____ God.

When God speaks _____ and _____.

He is speaking to you _____.

The primary way God speaks is through _____.

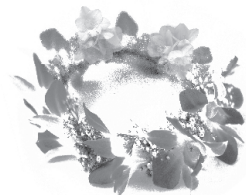
Genesis 2:7

“Breath of Life” in Hebrew means _____ like a woman in labor.

Notes:

Prayer Requests

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____



Drinking in Life

— ❧ BEGIN WITH PRAYER ❧ —

Lord, I come to You to worship You for You are great and greatly to be praised. I open my heart to You, Lord. Please teach me from Your Word. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

One of our friends recently had a scuba-diving accident. In the middle of the dive, his face mask air supply failed, and he reached out in the dark waters to his buddy to share his air supply. His buddy's emergency air regulator failed, so his friend let him breathe from his own primary air source. The first two gulps were not air, but sea water. The regulator was upside down! They tried again, and again the regulator was upside down, so he breathed in more sea water. He was starting to drown, and was blacking out, when a strong arm grabbed him and shoved the regulator into his mouth right side up. Clean air finally began filling his lungs. Diving is a trust-building sport! Without the strong arm around him, and his friend's life-giving air source available, our friend would have died that day.

While motherhood is one of the greatest blessings you could have, it can also be challenging. I would imagine that from time to time you feel overwhelmed by the dauntless task of being a godly woman, wife, and mother. Whether your children are preschoolers, teenagers, or grown adults, you probably feel "Mother Unwise" sometimes. Every now and then it feels like you're drowning. God knows how we feel and He has provided a life source right here on earth for us.

Ephesians 1:3 tells us we have every "spiritual blessing" in Christ to do the things God has called us to do. The word translated "spiritual" is the Greek word, "pneumatikos,"¹ from "pneuma"² meaning "breathe or blow." God not only breathed life into Adam, He is now breathing into you the breath of spiritual life. He holds you in His everlasting arms while He fills your spiritual lungs with His life. He is speaking to you in a way you can hear Him and understand Him. He most often will speak to you through His Word so that you will be rooted and grounded with a firm foundation.

FIRMLY PLANTED

Read Psalm 1:1-3.

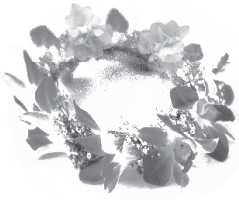
Write out verses 2 and 3.



MEMORY VERSE

*SHE SPEAKS
WITH WISDOM,
AND FAITHFUL
INSTRUCTION IS ON
HER TONGUE.
PROVERBS 31:26*





When I first became a mom, I went to the public library close to our home to diligently search the shelves for books on mothering. Although I was a Christian, and had many Bibles gathering dust on my shelves at home, I wanted to know what the latest parenting guru had to say. I took notes in notebooks and tried to memorize all their tips. That study was very unsatisfying. Intellectually it seemed right, but when I tried the tips at home over the next two to three years, my mothering only became more frustrating. You see, the “experts” didn’t agree! I needed a source that would be consistently true and give me an anchor.

THE “NOT TO DO” LIST

Look back at Psalms 1:1. It tells us what the “blessed” man (or woman) does not do. Name three things not to do:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

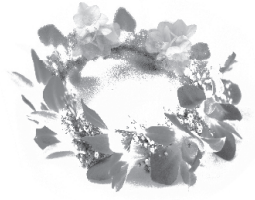
To “walk in the counsel of the wicked” means to follow worldly ways. Which of the following would be examples of walking in the counsel of the ungodly?

- _____ Calling a psychic hotline for advice
- _____ Going to a Bible study
- _____ Receiving and following counsel from a godless psychologist
- _____ Reading and planning your day by your horoscope

To “stand” in the path of sinners means to “to take one’s stand, be in a standing attitude, to remain, continue, abide.”³ In the “path” means, “habit, way, course of life, of moral character.”⁴ “Sinners”⁵ means exactly what you think it means...someone who is rebellious against God. So standing in the path of sinners is to habitually choose a pathway of rebellion.

Can you identify a pattern of behavior in your life where you remain or continue in a pattern of behavior that you know is wrong?

The idea of sitting in the seat of mockers refers to remaining or sitting down to approve that which is offensive to God. Which TV programs, current movies, or magazines might be classified as “mocking” God?



Walking, sitting, and standing are activities we do all day long. How do these ways, patterns, or worldly influences impact your role as a godly woman, wife, or mother?

When I tried to find answers to my big questions about parenting from unwise sources, I experienced the frustration that type of worldly counsel can bring.

GOD’S WORD GIVES LIFE

Re-read Psalm 1:2. What two words are used to describe what the Psalmist did with God’s Word?

1. _____
2. _____

We are to delight in and meditate on God’s Word. Let me give you an example of “delighting.” Think about your favorite dessert. When you allow yourself to have some, you savor every bite. The “law of the Lord,” or the Bible, is like that—it is the yummiest, most delicious delicacy for someone who wants to walk in the place of peace, hope, and blessing. God’s Word is our favorite, most delectable meal of the day. Psalm 34:8 says, “*O taste and see that the Lord is good.*”

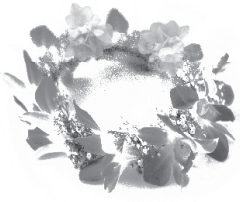
Re-read Psalm 1:3.

Describe the tree.

What does this verse say about the fruit of the tree?

What about the leaf?

What does the water represent in this verse?



The Bible promises that when I plant myself in the study of Scripture, drawing life from it to nourish my heart, mind, and spirit, I will begin to bear fruit.

The fruit of the Spirit is described in Galatians 5:22-23. Draw or sketch a healthy tree and within the leaves list all the spiritual attributes described in these verses.

You want to be a mother bearing the fruit of the Spirit for your husband, children, and the people around you. You want to be a woman who is consistently loving, joyous even in hard times, and peaceful in the middle of chaos. You want to be patient, gentle, kind, good, and faithful. And oh, how we need self-control!

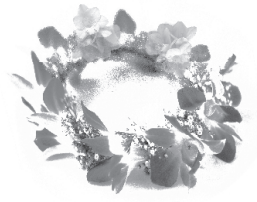
Is this impossible? Yes, in your own strength, using your own intelligence and will power, it is impossible to be that kind of woman. But thankfully, we don't have to operate in our own power. As we draw life and wisdom from Christ through His Word, we can bear such fruit. As you continue to read and study the Bible, finding out what God's Word has to say about situations you find yourself in today, and applying it to your life, you'll see yourself exhibiting more and more of these godly characteristics.

☉ Would you like for your children to have a mother who is stable and fixed like a tree planted by streams of water? Then according to our study today, what do you need to do?

Read I Corinthians 1:27-30.

Does God only choose the wise and strong to carry out His plan?

☉ Whom does God strengthen to do His assignments?



God has chosen you—even with all your inadequacies—so He might display His wisdom, His righteousness, His sanctification, and His redemption through you. This course in mothering will not teach you “Ten Steps to Becoming the Perfect Mother,” but prayerfully it will lead you to recognize that God will supply the wisdom, discernment, and insights you need if you will only surrender to Him. Jesus is calling you to **TOTAL SURRENDER AND ABSOLUTE ABANDONMENT** to His life flowing through you. Will you come to Him? Will you join us for eight weeks allowing Him to work on you and in you?

Lord, I want to be planted in Your soil so I can stand firmly planted for my children. Take my roots deep into Your Word that I may draw up the wisdom I need. You are my God and I draw life from You. I choose to turn away from relying on myself or the world's advice. I come to You with an open heart. In Jesus' name. Amen.

☉ MOTHERING TIP ☉

Write out Bible verses on little notes and stick them to the mirror and television. Choose uplifting and encouraging verses. You might start with verses from Psalms 1, Psalms 23, and Ephesians 1.

Day 2



MEMORY VERSE

SHE SPEAKS
WITH WISDOM,
AND FAITHFUL
INSTRUCTION IS ON
HER TONGUE.
PROVERBS 31:26



A Rock



BEGIN WITH PRAYER



I praise You Lord, for You are worthy of praise. I thank You for Your wonderful love. Lord, I open my heart to all You want to reveal to me today. In Jesus' name. Amen.

SHAKY GROUND

Like some of you, I was reared in a Christian home. My family not only went to church, we opened the doors for everyone to enter and locked them back when everyone left. I was born on a Sunday and was in the church nursery two weeks later! But all that church attendance didn't totally prepare me for family life. I had a lot more to learn about putting all my trust in God's actual words.

Read Matthew 7:24-25.

Copy verse 24 here.

⊗ What two things are we are to do with God's Word?

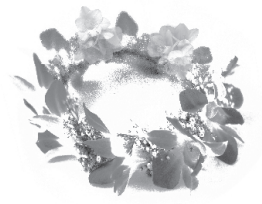
1. _____
2. _____

If we do that, we will be compared to... _____

According to Matthew 7:24, how can you build your family on a solid rock?

Re-read Matthew 7:25.

Jesus did not ever promise us a trouble-free life as Christians. In fact, He knows there will be difficulties!



- ☉ In your life, the rain, floods and winds represent:
- ___ difficulties with your husband
 - ___ trouble with your ex-husband, the father of your children
 - ___ financial stress
 - ___ problems with a child
 - ___ too much work; not enough time and energy
 - ___ moving to a new location
 - ___ other _____
 - ___ all of the above

Why did the house in verse 25 remain?

MY ROCK

Read II Samuel 22:2, 3, 32, 33, 47. (If you have time, read the whole chapter.)

Write out verse 47.

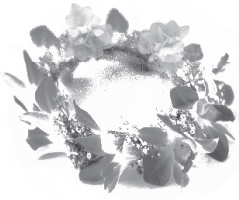
Who is the Rock on whom we can build our lives?

Now read Matthew 7:26-27. Notice that the foolish man Jesus described heard His words but didn't act on them. Stop for just a moment and ask Jesus this question: "Lord, have You said something to me that I heard but did not act upon?"

LISTENING TO GOD

Hearing from God takes spiritual discipline. These are some of the basic elements involved in the process:

- Take a few minutes of silence to listen. Become like a little child. When we come before our Father sincerely in openness and trust, He will respond. If we ask for instruction, He will give it. Wait before Him until you hear your Shepherd's voice.
- Write down what you believe you are hearing from God. Journaling is important because, believe it or not, you may forget what God tells you! You also need a record of God's work in your life.
- Discuss what God has said to you with your husband, if you are married, or with



your father, pastor, *Wisdom for Mothers* mentor, or other godly persons in your life. This step is very important. If your husband, mentor, pastor, or friend isn't sure you perceive correctly what God is communicating to you, pray together about the matter for a few days. Listen to godly counsel and listen to your husband, even if he is not a Christian. God gives wisdom to husbands for their wives and wisdom to other godly authorities for single women. If the message is from God, there will be agreement from all of your godly counselors and your authorities.

- Any message from the Lord will completely agree with Scripture. In fact, as you read the Bible, it will underline everything God is telling you in your time of listening prayer.

Often Christians are afraid to approach God in listening prayer. We're afraid to respond to God's voice because we feel we may have been mistaken in what we "heard." Or we may be afraid we may do something wild, foolish or wrong, thinking we were following God. None of us want that.

So what is it like to hear from God? I can give you my personal experience.

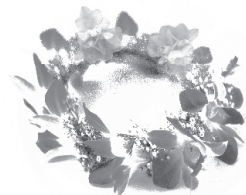
When I hear from God, it is usually something like this. Sometimes while I'm praying, thoughts flood my mind that are healing, bring order, and wholeness. Thoughts that were not there only moments before. Sometimes I am suddenly convicted of sin that needs confessing and wrongs that need righting. Sometimes He sends thoughts to my mind as I "hear" Him speaking something specific to me.

But sometimes when I ask God to speak, there is silence. I feel like saying, "Is anybody up there?" This is never the response from Him that I want, but it is in these times that I am learning that God is moving and working "behind the scenes." Either I'm not ready to hear what He has to say or circumstances are not fully ready and the timing isn't right for me to know. I'm learning to get very still before Him, focus only on His face, and wait. In due time, He will speak. And when He does, it is usually something so wonderful and of such major importance that it astounds me.

Lord, I want to learn to hear Your voice. You are the Shepherd and I am Your lamb. Call me by name and speak to me. I am Your servant and I am listening. In Jesus' name I make this prayer. Amen.

❧ MOTHERING TIP ❧

Your job as a mother is to be a trainer, not an entertainer! Your child's character development is more important than his comfort!



A Lamp

— ❁ BEGIN WITH PRAYER ❁ —

Abba Father, instruct me and give me wisdom as I drink in Your Word today. Shine the light on the truth You desire to reveal today. I pray this in Your name. Amen.

Today we are going to read Psalm 119. It is long, containing 176 verses! Don't worry about reading the whole chapter if you are short on time today. (If you do have extra time, you might skim the whole chapter before you begin answering the questions.) We've made it easy for you to see the heart of this beautiful chapter of the Bible that describes God's Word. Just fill in the matching exercise below.

Match the verses from Psalm 119 to the attributes of God's Word:

VERSES:

- A. 24, 105, 130
- B. 142, 151, 160a
- C. 152, 160b
- D. 28, 50, 93
- E. 89
- F. 98, 99, 100
- G. 86, 140

ATTRIBUTES:

- ___ Gives wisdom
- ___ Is everlasting
- ___ Gives direction and counsel
- ___ Gives strength and comfort
- ___ Is pure and faithful
- ___ Is truth
- ___ Is forever settled in heaven

The Psalmist made some decisions about God's Word. Read the following verses from Psalm 119 in your Bible. Circle the key word that is common to each set of verses. What was the decision the Psalmist made in each of these verses?

Verses 8, 22, 44, 57, 146:

Verse 11:

Verses 15, 23, 27, 48, 78, 97, 148:

Verses 16, 24, 35, 47, 70, 92, 143, 174:

Verses 127, 140, 159, 163, 167:

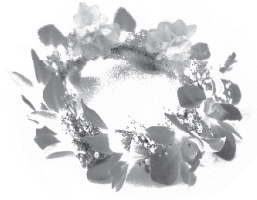


MEMORY VERSE

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PROVERBS 31:26*



❧ MOTHERING TIP ❧



Suzanna Wesley, mother of John and Charles Wesley, had 19 children. Ten of them lived to adulthood. She found an unusual way to be alone with God each day. She would flip her apron up over her head and the children knew not to bother her because she was praying. She prayed each day for one hour, and she also committed to spending time with each child for spiritual training for one hour each week.



Used with permission from John Wesley Holiness of Heart and Life

Her son, John Wesley is the founder of the Methodist Church, and Charles wrote many beautiful hymns we still sing.

Here are the sixteen rules Suzanna established over 200 years ago for rearing children:

1. Eating between meals is not allowed.
2. As children, they are to be in bed by 8 pm.
3. They are required to take medicine without complaining.
4. They are to subdue their self-will so that they might be open to God's salvation.
5. Teach a child to pray as soon as he can speak.
6. Require all to be still during Family Worship.
7. Give them nothing they cry for, and only that which they ask for politely.
8. To prevent lying, punish no fault which is first confessed and repented.
9. Never allow a sinful act to go unpunished.
10. Never punish a child twice for a single offense.
11. Commend and reward good behavior.
12. Any attempt to please, even if poorly performed should be commended.
13. Preserve property rights, even in smallest matters.
14. Strictly observe all promises.
15. Require no daughter to work before she can read well.
16. Teach children to reverence God.