

GOOD PEOPLE WHO WENT WRONG

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LESSON 1

THE BIBLE ON BACKSLIDING

Proverbs 14

14 The backslider in heart shall be filled with his own ways: and a good man shall be satisfied from himself.

1. Where does backsliding begin in an individual's experience?

2. What do you think being filled with one's own ways means?

Matthew 24

9 Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake.

10 And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another.

11 And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many.

12 And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.

13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

3. What three reasons for turning back on Christ are given as being prevalent in the last days?

4. What is implied about those who do not endure to the end?

Luke 9

61 And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my

house.
62 And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

5. *In what way is starting in the Christian life like putting one's hand to the plow?*

Galatians 1

6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

6. *What authority is to be considered greater in a Christian's life than a special or*

divine revelation?

7. *What common cult today is based on supposed revelation from an angel to a man?*

8. *How do we know we are to accept the New Testament as being divinely inspired and yet reject all other writings?*

1 Timothy 1

18 This charge I commit unto thee, son Timothy, according to the prophecies which went before on thee, that thou by them mightest war a good warfare;

19 Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck:

20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.

9. *What church action is appropriate for those who have departed from sound doctrine?*

10. *What are two things a person has to go against in order to make shipwreck in his Christian life?*

2 Timothy 4

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

11. *What safeguard has God*

established to help the struggling Christian find his way in the uncertainties of life?

Hebrews 6

4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost,

5 And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come,

6 If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.

7 For the earth which drinketh in the rain that cometh oft upon it, and bringeth forth herbs meet for them by whom it is dressed, receiveth blessing from God:

8 But that which beareth thorns and briers is rejected, and is nigh unto cursing; whose end is to be burned.

12. *What words would indicate that the person mentioned in this text once had a saving*

relationship with the Lord?

13. How are these verses to be understood? That if a person once loses his salvation, he can never return: or that if a person continues to reject Jesus he cannot be assured of a place in heaven?

Explain your answer.

Hebrews 10

24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works:

25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.

26 For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins,

27 But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries.

28 He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:

29 Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?

30 For we know him that hath said, Vengeance belongeth unto me, I will recompense, saith the Lord. And again, The Lord shall judge his people.

31 It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

35 Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.

36 For ye have need of patience, that, after ye have done the will of God, ye might receive the promise.

37 For yet a little while, and he that shall come will come, and will not tarry.

38 Now the just shall live by

faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him.

39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.

14. Do you think we exhort each other the way we should when we assemble ourselves together?

What are some ways this is done when we meet on Sundays and Wednesdays?

James 5

19 Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him;

20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

15. What should be our response be when one of our number falls away into sin or

worldliness?

2 Peter 2

18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

19 While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.

20 For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.

21 For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

22 But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb,

The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire.

text?

16. *What sure sign indicates that a popular preacher is a false prophet?*

How is this to be accomplished?

17. *Why do you think it would have been better not to have known than to know and backslide?*

1 John 2

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

19. *Should we think that every person who leaves our group is a backslider?*

2 Peter 3

17 Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness.

What reason can you give for your answer?

18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

Revelation 2

1 Unto the angel of the church of Ephesus write; These things saith he that holdeth the seven stars in his right hand, who

18. *What protection against backsliding are we given in this*

walketh in the midst of the seven golden candlesticks;

2 I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars:

3 And hast borne, and hast patience, and for my name's sake hast laboured, and hast not fainted.

4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left thy first love.

5 Remember therefore from whence thou art fallen, and

repent, and do the first works; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will remove thy candlestick out of his place, except thou repent.

20. *What do we learn about churches getting off course from this text?*

21. *What specific area was this church rebuked for?*

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. *Can a person know when he is deceived?*

2. *What are some areas in which people your age group are especially tempted to go wrong?*

3. *How do you know that a backslider can turn and be restored to salvation if he genuinely repents?*

4. *What signs should warn a person that he is in danger of losing his salvation?*

5. *Do you think it is possible for a backslider to hide a little sin and still be restored if he takes care of most of his backsliding? Give reasons for your answer.*

LESSON 2

LOT -- THE WOES OF WORLDLINESS

Genesis 13

8 And Abram said unto Lot, Let there be no strife, I pray thee, between me and thee, and between my herdmen and thy herdmen; for we be brethren.

9 Is not the whole land before thee? separate thyself, I pray thee, from me: if thou wilt take the left hand, then I will go to the right; or if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left.

10 And Lot lifted up his eyes, and beheld all the plain of Jordan, that it was well watered every where, before the LORD destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah, even as the garden of the LORD, like the land of Egypt, as thou comest unto Zoar.

11 Then Lot chose him all the plain of Jordan; and Lot journeyed east: and they separated themselves the one from the other.

12 Abram dwelled in the land of Canaan, and Lot dwelled in the cities of the plain, and

pitched his tent toward Sodom.

13 But the men of Sodom were wicked and sinners before the LORD exceedingly.

1. *Did Abram bear some responsibility for the choice Lot made? Why or why not?*

2. *What reason is given for Lot's choice of the Jordan valley?*

Genesis 19

1 And there came two angels to Sodom at even; and Lot sat in the gate of Sodom: and Lot seeing *them* rose up to meet them; and he bowed himself with his face toward the ground;

12 And the men said unto Lot, Hast thou here any besides? son in law, and thy sons, and

thy daughters, and whatsoever thou hast in the city, bring them out of this place:

13 For we will destroy this place, because the cry of them is waxen great before the face of the LORD; and the LORD hath sent us to destroy it.

14 And Lot went out, and spake unto his sons in law, which married his daughters, and said, Up, get you out of this place; for the LORD will destroy this city. But he seemed as one that mocked unto his sons in law.

15 And when the morning arose, then the angels hastened Lot, saying, Arise, take thy wife, and thy two daughters, which are here; lest thou be consumed in the iniquity of the city.

16 And while he lingered, the men laid hold upon his hand, and upon the hand of his wife, and upon the hand of his two daughters; the LORD being merciful unto him: and they brought him forth, and set him without the city.

17 And it came to pass, when they had brought them forth abroad, that he said, Escape for thy life; look not behind thee, neither stay thou in all

the plain; escape to the mountain, lest thou be consumed.

18 And Lot said unto them, Oh, not so, my Lord:

19 Behold now, thy servant hath found grace in thy sight, and thou hast magnified thy mercy, which thou hast shewed unto me in saving my life; and I cannot escape to the mountain, lest some evil take me, and I die:

20 Behold now, this city is near to flee unto, and it is a little one: Oh, let me escape thither, (is it not a little one?) and my soul shall live.

21 And he said unto him, See, I have accepted thee concerning this thing also, that I will not overthrow this city, for the which thou hast spoken.

22 Haste thee, escape thither; for I cannot do any thing till thou be come thither. Therefore the name of the city was called Zoar.

23 The sun was risen upon the earth when Lot entered into Zoar.

24 Then the LORD rained upon Sodom and upon Gomorrah brimstone and fire from the LORD out of heaven;

25 And he overthrew those

cities, and all the plain, and all the inhabitants of the cities, and that which grew upon the ground.

26 But his wife looked back from behind him, and she became a pillar of salt.

3. What are some probable reasons why Lot's sons-in-law just mocked him?

4. Give three other symptoms which reveal the degree to which worldliness had infected Lot and his family.

Luke 17

28 Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded;

29 But the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all.

30 Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed.

31 In that day, he which shall be upon the housetop, and his stuff in the house, let him not come down to take it away: and he that is in the field, let him likewise not return back.

32 Remember Lot's wife.

33 Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it.

5. How will those who are worldly in heart be treated at the second coming of Christ?

6. How much warning will people have at the time of the second coming?

2 Peter 2

7 And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked:

8 (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;)

9 The Lord knoweth how to

deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:

7. *What effect was Lot's environment having upon his soul?*

Do you think he was aware of what was happening?

8. *Why didn't Lot do something about the moral pressure he was under?*

Luke 21

34 And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.

35 For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth.

36 Watch ye therefore, and pray

always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

9. *Give three things which may overburden our hearts and sidetrack us from our heavenly preparedness.*

Romans 12

1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

10. *How can we keep from being pressed into the mold of this world?*

11. *What higher calling does*

the Christian have than the man of this world?

Colossians 3

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.

3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.

12. *Define the word affection. What does it mean to set one's affection on things above?*

Titus 2

11 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,

12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;

13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and

our Saviour Jesus Christ;
14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

13. *What conclusion can be reached about the person who claims to have salvation yet lives in worldly lusts?*

14. *Give three characteristics of the child of God from verse 14.*

James 4

4 Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

15. *What happens to our relationship with God when we try to be a friend of this world?*

16. *How does a person act who is trying to be a friend of this world?*

1 John 2
15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.

16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.

17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.

17. *What might it mean to love the things of this world?*

18. *What is the future of those who have the primary focus of their lives turned toward this world?*

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. *What are some wrong reasons for wanting to be separated from this world?*

2. *How do you think God views being separated for the wrong reasons?*

3. *What is the right reason for being separated from society?*

4. *How can parents and church leaders tell when those under their authority are being worldly?*

5. *What are some ways the church can help her people to be truly separated from this world?*

LESSON 3
 ESAU -- THE CONSEQUENCES OF CARELESS
 CHOICES

Genesis 25

29 And Jacob sod pottage: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint:

30 And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom.

31 And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright.

32 And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me?

33 And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob.

34 Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright.

1. What was at the root of Esau's decision to give up his birthright?

2. Why is it important to not make on-the-spot decisions?

*3. **Despised** is a very strong word. What do you think was the reason God used such a strong word for this mistake?*

Genesis 27

30 And it came to pass, as soon as Isaac had made an end of blessing Jacob, and Jacob was yet scarce gone out from the presence of Isaac his father, that Esau his brother came in from his hunting.

31 And he also had made savoury meat, and brought it unto his father, and said unto his father, Let my father arise, and eat of his son's venison, that thy soul may bless me.

32 And Isaac his father said unto him, Who art thou? And he said, I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau.

33 And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, Who? where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed.

34 And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said unto his father, Bless me, even me also, O my father.

35 And he said, Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing.

36 And he said, Is not he rightly named Jacob? for he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing. And he said, Hast thou not reserved a blessing for me?

37 And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee,

my son?

38 And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.

4. Why do you think God allowed Esau to also lose his blessing?

5. Before birth God promised that Jacob would excel above his brother. Does this make Rachel and Jacob's actions justifiable?

6. What phrases indicate Esau's attitude about the birthright was beginning to change? Why do you think this was so?

Hebrews 12

14 Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord:

15 Looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled;

16 Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright.

17 For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

7. Why could Esau not change the situation even though he changed his mind?

8. Are there any other indications about Esau's personal life which may have contributed to these wrong choices?

Proverbs 1

20 Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets:

21 She crieth in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city she uttereth her words, *saying*,

22 How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? and the scornors delight in their scorning, and fools hate knowledge?

23 Turn you at my reproof: behold, I will pour out my spirit unto you, I will make known my words unto you.

24 Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded;

25 But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof:

26 I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh;

27 When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.

28 Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me:

29 For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD:

30 They would none of my

counsel: they despised all my reproof.

31 Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices.

32 For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them.

33 But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil.

9. What are the two kinds of people who will consistently make foolish choices and can never have a happy ending?

10. How does wisdom cry around us all the time?

11. Why do some people have such bitter consequences in their old age while others seem to have a happy ending?

Proverbs 11

14 Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety.

12. Why are wise counselors able to help us make decisions related to ourselves better than we can alone?

Romans 8

4 That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.

5 For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit.

6 For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace.

7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

8 So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

9 But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you.

Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his.

10 And if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness.

11 But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.

12 Therefore, brethren, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live after the flesh.

13 For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

14 For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.

13. What are two voices within the believer which vie for attention?

14. What are some situations where a person may make carnal choices and reap a good harvest?

15. What is the power whereby a person can overcome the temptations of the flesh?

16. Can a person who usually responds selfishly in small matters make wise decisions in the large choices of life?

Galatians 6

7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

10 As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

17. Which phrases teach the

following farm rules?

A. It is impossible to wait until late in the season (life) to start sowing good seeds and still reap a good harvest.

2. A bad deed or attitude sown will never result in good.

3. Where we put our energies or investments is where we will receive our returns.

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. Give some reasons why it is difficult for youth to make wise choices when it comes to their own lives.

2. How can parents help prepare their young children to be wise when they start making their own decisions?

3. What are some steps a person ought to go through before he makes a major choice in life?

4. What are some ways people sell their birthright today?

5. *How is it possible that a young person may despise an older person in their days of reaping and at the same time sow seeds which will lead them to reap a similar harvest.*

LESSON 4
BAALAM -- THE GRIEF OF GREEDINESS

Numbers 22

5 He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me:

6 Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

12 And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.

13 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go

with you.

14 And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us.

15 And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.

16 And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me:

17 For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.

18 And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

19 Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the

LORD will say unto me more.
20 And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.

21 And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.

22 And God's anger was kindled because he went:

1. What is the first indication that Balaam wanted to go with Balak's men?

2. Why did God allow Balaam to go even though He had earlier told him "no"?

34 And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again.

35 And the angel of the LORD

said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

36 And when Balak heard that Balaam was come, he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab, which is in the border of Arnon, which is in the utmost coast.

37 And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?

3. Why do you think God sent this warning to Balaam through his donkey?

4. What indications are there that Balaam did indeed have a relationship with the true God?

Numbers 23

7 And he took up his parable, and said, Balak the king of Moab hath brought me from

Aram, out of the mountains of the east, saying, Come, curse me Jacob, and come, defy Israel.

8 How shall I curse, whom God hath not cursed? or how shall I defy, whom the LORD hath not defied?

9 For from the top of the rocks I see him, and from the hills I behold him: lo, the people shall dwell alone, and shall not be reckoned among the nations.

10 Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!

11 And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether.

12 And he answered and said, Must I not take heed to speak that which the LORD hath put in my mouth?

17 And when he came to him, behold, he stood by his burnt offering, and the princes of Moab with him. And Balak said unto him, What hath the LORD spoken?

18 And he took up his parable,

and said, Rise up, Balak, and hear; hearken unto me, thou son of Zippor:

19 God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

20 Behold, I have received commandment to bless: and he hath blessed; and I cannot reverse it.

21 He hath not beheld iniquity in Jacob, neither hath he seen perverseness in Israel: the LORD his God is with him, and the shout of a king is among them.

22 God brought them out of Egypt; he hath as it were the strength of an unicorn.

23 Surely there is no enchantment against Jacob, neither is there any divination against Israel: according to this time it shall be said of Jacob and of Israel, What hath God wrought!

24 Behold, the people shall rise up as a great lion, and lift up himself as a young lion: he shall not lie down until he eat of the prey, and drink the blood of the slain.

25 And Balak said unto Balaam,

Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all.

26 But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the LORD speaketh, that I must do?

5. *What was Balaam's desire for his death? What should he have done to accomplish this?*

6. *How could Balaam say such wonderful things about Israel and then turn and give such evil counsel against them? (See Rev. 2:14)*

Numbers 31

8 And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.

Numbers 31

16 Behold, these caused the children of Israel, through the

counsel of Balaam, to commit trespass against the LORD in the matter of Peor, and there was a plague among the congregation of the LORD.

Joshua 13

22 Balaam also the son of Beor, the soothsayer, did the children of Israel slay with the sword among them that were slain by them.

7. *What kind of death did Balaam die? Why?*

2 Peter 2

14 Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children:

15 Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;

16 But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.

17 These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever.

18 For when they speak great swelling words of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, through much wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error.

Jude 1

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

8. *What two phrases clearly define what Balaam's problem was?*

Revelation 2

14 But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things

sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication.

Luke 12

13 And one of the company said unto him, Master, speak to my brother, that he divide the inheritance with me.

14 And he said unto him, Man, who made me a judge or a divider over you?

15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.

31 But rather seek ye the kingdom of God; and all these things shall be added unto you.

32 Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.

33 Sell that ye have, and give alms; provide yourselves bags which wax not old, a treasure in the heavens that faileth not, where no thief approacheth, neither moth corrupteth.

34 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

35 Let your loins be girded about, and *your* lights burning;

36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord,

when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately.

9. *What is more important to Jesus than fair treatment for His people?*

10. *How does covetousness make a person feel?*

11. *If life does not consist in the abundance of things, in what does it consist?*

12. *What promise does God make about our material needs?*

13. *How can we lay treasure up in heaven?*

1 Timothy 6
5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.

7 For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content.

9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

10 For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.

11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

14. *How should we relate to people who teach that wealth is proof of personal holiness?*

15. *What Christian virtue makes a person truly wealthy?*

16. *What are some hurts people make for themselves when they crave wealth?*

17. *What 4 things are church leaders to teach wealthy people? Why do you think these things are so difficult to learn?*

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. *What is a sure sign that a covetous man is coming to grips with his problem?*

2. *What is wrong when a person does not find himself willing to give 10% of his income back to the Lord?*

3. *What are some “get rich” schemes around today that should be avoided?*

4. *Why should the Christian avoid all forms of the lottery and other gambling?*

5. *What are some ways being wealthy might be dangerous for a person?*

6. *How do you know it is right for a person to enjoy working and earning and spending money for his needs?*

LESSON 5

ISRAEL -- THE DISTRESS OF DISBELIEF

Numbers 13

- 1 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,
- 2 Send thou men, that they may search the land of Canaan, which I give unto the children of Israel: of every tribe of their fathers shall ye send a man, every one a ruler among them.
- 3 And Moses by the commandment of the LORD sent them from the wilderness of Paran: all those men were heads of the children of Israel.
- 25 And they returned from searching of the land after forty days.
- 26 And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh; and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land.
- 27 And they told him, and said, We came unto the land whither thou sentest us, and surely it floweth with milk and honey; and this is the fruit of it.
- 28 Nevertheless the people be strong that dwell in the land, and the cities are walled, and very great: and moreover we saw the children of Anak there.
- 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the south: and the Hittites, and the Jebusites, and the Amorites, dwell in the mountains: and the Canaanites dwell by the sea, and by the coast of Jordan.
- 30 And Caleb stilled the people before Moses, and said, Let us go up at once, and possess it; for we are well able to overcome it.
- 31 But the men that went up with him said, We be not able to go up against the people; for they are stronger than we.
- 32 And they brought up an evil report of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, saying, The land, through which we have gone to search it, is a land that

eateth up the inhabitants thereof; and all the people that we saw in it are men of a great stature.

33 And there we saw the giants, the sons of Anak, which come of the giants: and we were in our own sight as grasshoppers, and so we were in their sight.

1. Why do you think God sent spies when in His foreknowledge He knew what kind of report they would bring back? (See Deut. 8:2-3)

2. What was the primary reason the spies brought back an evil report?

3. Why did Caleb think they should go anyway?

4. How does exaggeration of difficulties produce fear?

Numbers 14

1 And all the congregation lifted up their voice, and cried; and the people wept that night.

2 And all the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron: and the whole congregation said unto them, Would God that we had died in the land of Egypt! or would God we had died in this wilderness!

3 And wherefore hath the LORD brought us unto this land, to fall by the sword, that our wives and our children should be a prey? were it not better for us to return into Egypt?

4 And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt.

5 Then Moses and Aaron fell on their faces before all the assembly of the congregation of the children of Israel.

6 And Joshua the son of Nun, and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, which were of them that searched the land, rent their clothes:

7 And they spake unto all the company of the children of Israel, saying, The land, which

we passed through to search it, is an exceeding good land.

8 If the LORD delight in us, then he will bring us into this land, and give it us; a land which floweth with milk and honey.

9 Only rebel not ye against the LORD, neither fear ye the people of the land; for they are bread for us: their defence is departed from them, and the LORD is with us: fear them not.

10 But all the congregation bade stone them with stones. And the glory of the LORD appeared in the tabernacle of the congregation before all the children of Israel.

20 And the LORD said, I have pardoned according to thy word:

21 But as truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD.

22 Because all those men which have seen my glory, and my miracles, which I did in Egypt and in the wilderness, and have tempted me now these ten times, and have not hearkened to my voice;

23 Surely they shall not see the land which I swear unto their fathers, neither shall any of

them that provoked me see it: 29 Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness; and all that were numbered of you, according to your whole number, from twenty years old and upward, which have murmured against me,

30 Doubtless ye shall not come into the land, concerning which I swear to make you dwell therein, save Caleb the son of Jephunneh, and Joshua the son of Nun.

31 But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised.

32 But as for you, your carcasses, they shall fall in this wilderness.

33 And your children shall wander in the wilderness forty years, and bear your whoredoms, until your carcasses be wasted in the wilderness.

34 After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years, and ye shall know my breach of promise.

35 I the LORD have said, I will

surely do it unto all this evil congregation, that are gathered together against me: in this wilderness they shall be consumed, and there they shall die.

5. Here we see the “domino effect” of sin. What other sins were the people led into because of unbelief?

6. What did Joshua’s response say about his character?

7. What reason is given for God being so hard on this unbelief?

Psalm 95

6 O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the LORD our maker.
7 For he is our God; and we are the people of his pasture, and the sheep of his hand. To day if ye will hear his voice,
8 Harden not your heart, as in the provocation, and as in the day

of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my work.

10 Forty years long was I grieved with this generation, and said, It is a people that do err in their heart, and they have not known my ways:

11 Unto whom I swear in my wrath that they should not enter into my rest.

8. What phrase in this passage shows what happens when a person chooses unbelief?

Hebrews 3

7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,

8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

9 When your fathers tempted me, proved me, and saw my works forty years.

10 Wherefore I was grieved with that generation, and said, They do alway err in their heart; and they have not known my ways.

11 So I swear in my wrath, They shall not enter into my rest.)

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

16 For some, when they had heard, did provoke: howbeit not all that came out of Egypt by Moses.

17 But with whom was he grieved forty years? was it not with them that had sinned, whose carcasses fell in the wilderness?

18 And to whom swear he that they should not enter into his rest, but to them that believed not?

19 So we see that they could not enter in because of unbelief.

9. How can a person know

when he is allowing unbelief to grow in his heart?

10. How does God feel when people do not obey His commands?

Hebrews 4

6 Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of unbelief:

7 Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

8 For if Jesus had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.

9 There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God.

10 For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased from his own works, as God *did* from his.

11 Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any

man fall after the same example of unbelief.

11. *What lesson about our salvation is learned from the Children of Israel's example of unbelief?*

Mark 16

14 Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

12. *Was the doubt in the disciples heart about Jesus' resurrection justifiable? Support your answer.*

Romans 11

17 And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;

18 Boast not against the

branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.

19 Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in.

20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, *take heed* lest he also spare not thee.

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in *his* goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

24 For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural *branches*, be grafted into their own olive tree?

13. *Why is God working more directly with the Gentiles in the church, and not as much with the*

Jews?

1 John 4

17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world.

18 There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.

14. *What does this verse teach us about the kind of relationship God wants with His children?*

Revelation 21

7 He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son.

8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.

15. *What is wrong when a person lives in continual fear that his life is not approved by God?*

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. *Does witnessing miracles on a regular basis make it easier to believe and obey God? Explain your answer.*

2. *What are some difficult things for you to really believe about God and His Word?*

3. *Is it unbelief if we do not accept a promise of God literally but only want to apply it in a spiritual way?*

4. *What is a proper balance in going to a medical doctor for help and just trusting in God for help?*

5. *What modern day businesses thrive on people's lack of trust in God?*

LESSON 6 KORAH -- THE REAPING OF REBELLION

Numbers 16

1 Now Korah, the son of Izhar, the son of Kohath, the son of Levi, and Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab, and On, the son of Peleth, sons of Reuben, took men:

2 And they rose up before Moses, with certain of the children of Israel, two hundred and fifty princes of the assembly, famous in the congregation, men of renown:

3 And they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron, and said unto them, Ye take too much upon you, seeing all the congregation are holy, every one of them, and the LORD is among them: wherefore then lift ye up yourselves above the congregation of the LORD?

4 And when Moses heard it, he fell upon his face:

5 And he spake unto Korah and unto all his company, saying, Even to morrow the LORD will shew who are his, and who is holy; and will cause

him to come near unto him: even him whom he hath chosen will he cause to come near unto him.

6 This do; Take you censers, Korah, and all his company;

7 And put fire therein, and put incense in them before the LORD to morrow: and it shall be that the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy: ye take too much upon you, ye sons of Levi.

1. What phrase indicates the status of these men who rebelled against Moses?

2. What attitude do you think was making them act this way?

3. What were some arguments the men used to try to prove that authority really shouldn't try to tell the rest what to do?

4. Check Numbers 15 for the context to see what the issue was that proceeded this reaction.

12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up:

13 Is it a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?

14 Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey, or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up.

15 And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

5. As their rebellion grew, what were some tactics Korah's

company used against Moses?

23 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

24 Speak unto the congregation, saying, Get you up from about the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

25 And Moses rose up and went unto Dathan and Abiram; and the elders of Israel followed him.

26 And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.

27 So they gat up from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.

28 And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind.

29 If these men die the common death of all men, or if they be

visited after the visitation of all men; then the LORD hath not sent me.

30 But if the LORD make a new thing, and the earth open her mouth, and swallow them up, with all that appertain unto them, and they go down quick into the pit; then ye shall understand that these men have provoked the LORD.

31 And it came to pass, as he had made an end of speaking all these words, that the ground clave asunder that was under them:

32 And the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods.

33 They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation.

34 And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, Lest the earth swallow us up also.

6. Why was Moses careful not to use his own strength or cunning to destroy the rebellious company?

41 But on the morrow all the congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and against Aaron, saying, Ye have killed the people of the LORD.

42 And it came to pass, when the congregation was gathered against Moses and against Aaron, that they looked toward the tabernacle of the congregation: and, behold, the cloud covered it, and the glory of the LORD appeared.

43 And Moses and Aaron came before the tabernacle of the congregation.

44 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

45 Get you up from among this congregation, that I may consume them as in a moment. And they fell upon their faces.

46 And Moses said unto Aaron, Take a censer, and put fire therein from off the altar, and put on incense, and go quickly unto the congregation, and make an atonement for them: for there is wrath gone out from the LORD; the plague is begun.

47 And Aaron took as Moses commanded, and ran into the midst of the congregation; and, behold, the plague was begun among the people: and he put on incense, and made an atonement for the people.

48 And he stood between the dead and the living; and the plague was stayed.

49 Now they that died in the plague were fourteen thousand and seven hundred, beside them that died about the matter of Korah.

7. Why did the people continue to blame Moses even though they saw God bring the punishment?

8. How did Moses and Aaron show that they did not have a bad attitude against these difficult people?

Jude 1

8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and speak evil of dignities.

9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves.

11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.

9. If Satan is so clearly in the wrong, why could Michael not bring a railing accusation against him?

*10. What does **gainsaying** mean?*

Acts 23

1 And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men *and*

brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.

2 And the high priest Ananias commanded them that stood by him to smite him on the mouth.

3 Then said Paul unto him, God shall smite thee, thou whited wall: for sittest thou to judge me after the law, and commandest me to be smitten contrary to the law?

4 And they that stood by said, Revilest thou God's high priest?

5 Then said Paul, I wist not, brethren, that he was the high priest: for it is written, Thou shalt not speak evil of the ruler of thy people.

11. What does this little insight reveal about respecting authority even when it is out of place before God?

Romans 13

1 Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God.

2 Whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation.

12. Who is the power behind every earthly authority?

1 Thessalonians 5

12 And we beseech you, brethren, to know them which labour among you, and are over you in the Lord, and admonish you;

13 And to esteem them very highly in love for their work's sake. *And* be at peace among yourselves.

13. Give two responsibilities God has given you toward your church leaders.

Hebrews 13

7 Remember them which have the rule over you, who have spoken unto you the word of God: whose faith follow, considering the end of *their*

conversation.

17 Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy, and not with grief: for that is unprofitable for you.

14. Give two more responsibilities God has given you toward your church leaders.

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. Why do you think God established authority? Could not man have been better off without it?

2. Why is it difficult for those under authority to have a proper evaluation of those who are over them?

3. Is it possible that those in authority may be in the wrong? How should those under them relate to this?

4. What can parents do to help their children learn to relate to authority in life?

5. What should the young person do who realizes he has never learned to properly respect authority?

6. What are some benefits of being under authority instead of being in rebellion?

LESSON 7

MOSES -- THE AFTERMATH OF ANGER

Exodus 32

19 And it came to pass, as soon as he came nigh unto the camp, that he saw the calf, and the dancing: and Moses' anger waxed hot, and he cast the tables out of his hands, and brake them beneath the mount.

20 And he took the calf which they had made, and burnt it in the fire, and ground it to powder, and strawed it upon the water, and made the children of Israel drink of it.

21 And Moses said unto Aaron, What did this people unto thee, that thou hast brought so great a sin upon them?

22 And Aaron said, Let not the anger of my lord wax hot: thou knowest the people, that they are set on mischief.

Leviticus 10

16 And Moses diligently sought the goat of the sin offering, and, behold, it was burnt: and he was angry with Eleazar and Ithamar, the sons of Aaron which were left alive, saying,

17 Wherefore have ye not eaten the sin offering in the holy place, seeing it is most holy, and God hath given it you to bear the iniquity of the congregation, to make atonement for them before the LORD?

Numbers 12:3

3 (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.)

Numbers 16

12 And Moses sent to call Dathan and Abiram, the sons of Eliab: which said, We will not come up:

13 *Is it* a small thing that thou hast brought us up out of a land that floweth with milk and honey, to kill us in the wilderness, except thou make thyself altogether a prince over us?

14 Moreover thou hast not brought us into a land that floweth with milk and honey,

or given us inheritance of fields and vineyards: wilt thou put out the eyes of these men? we will not come up.

15 And Moses was very wroth, and said unto the LORD, Respect not thou their offering: I have not taken one ass from them, neither have I hurt one of them.

1. Summarize the real reason why Moses became angry in each of the illustrations above.

2. Is anger always a sin? Why or why not?

3. How could Moses be the meekest man who ever lived and have these occasions of anger in his life?

Numbers 20

1 Then came the children of Israel, even the whole congregation, into the desert of

Zin in the first month: and the people abode in Kadesh; and Miriam died there, and was buried there.

2 And there was no water for the congregation: and they gathered themselves together against Moses and against Aaron.

3 And the people chode with Moses, and spake, saying, Would God that we had died when our brethren died before the LORD!

4 And why have ye brought up the congregation of the LORD into this wilderness, that we and our cattle should die there?

5 And wherefore have ye made us to come up out of Egypt, to bring us in unto this evil place? it is no place of seed, or of figs, or of vines, or of pomegranates; neither is there any water to drink.

6 And Moses and Aaron went from the presence of the assembly unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation, and they fell upon their faces: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto them.

7 And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying,

8 Take the rod, and gather thou

the assembly together, thou, and Aaron thy brother, and speak ye unto the rock before their eyes; and it shall give forth his water, and thou shalt bring forth to them water out of the rock: so thou shalt give the congregation and their beasts drink.

9 And Moses took the rod from before the LORD, as he commanded him.

10 And Moses and Aaron gathered the congregation together before the rock, and he said unto them, Hear now, ye rebels; must we fetch you water out of this rock?

11 And Moses lifted up his hand, and with his rod he smote the rock twice: and the water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their beasts also.

12 And the LORD spake unto Moses and Aaron, Because ye believed me not, to sanctify me in the eyes of the children of Israel, therefore ye shall not bring this congregation into the land which I have given them.

13 This is the water of Meribah; because the children of Israel strove with the LORD, and he was sanctified in them.

4. Give some reasons why this situation may have been so vexing to Moses.

5. Do any of these reasons justify Moses' disobedience? Why or why not?

6. Why was God so severe in the punishment he gave Moses?

Psalm 106

32 They angered him also at the waters of strife, so that it went ill with Moses for their sakes:
33 Because they provoked his spirit, so that he spake unadvisedly with his lips.

7. Along with the fault of striking the rock when he was not supposed to, what other error did Moses make?

Matthew 5

22 But I say unto you, That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire.

8. Is there ever a time when it is legitimate to be angry with one's brother?

9. What might cause a person to be angry when no fault is to be found in his brother?

Luke 9

54 And when his disciples James and John saw this, they said, Lord, wilt thou that we command fire to come down from heaven, and consume them, even as Elias did?

55 But he turned, and rebuked them, and said, Ye know not what manner of spirit ye are of.

10. What spirit do you think it was that made these disciples want to call down fire upon the Samaritans?

Ephesians 2

1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

11. What is it about the unconverted man that makes him so prone to anger?

Ephesians 4

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath

12. How is it possible to become angry but not sin?

wrath which he finds springing up over little every day happenings?

30 And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

James 1

31 Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

19 Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:

32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

20. For the wrath of man worketh not the righteousness of God.

14. Why is it impossible for anger to ever bring about lasting good?

13. How can a person get victory over an unreasonable

3. What is the right thing to do when you know your anger has caused you to sin against your brother?

4. What is the right way to handle the feeling of anger that comes when you know you have not been treated fairly?

5. How does having a feeling that you are very important only make the problem of anger worse?

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. How should you respond to a person who is very angry with you?

2. What are some sins that anger may lead people into?

LESSON 8
SAUL -- THE ENTANGLEMENTS OF ENVY

1 Samuel 18
 5 And David went out whithersoever Saul sent him, and behaved himself wisely: and Saul set him over the men of war, and he was accepted in the sight of all the people, and also in the sight of Saul's servants.
 6 And it came to pass as they came, when David was returned from the slaughter of the Philistine, that the women came out of all cities of Israel, singing and dancing, to meet king Saul, with tabrets, with joy, and with instruments of musick.
 7 And the women answered one another as they played, and said, Saul hath slain his thousands, and David his ten thousands.
 8 And Saul was very wroth, and the saying displeased him; and he said, They have ascribed unto David ten thousands, and to me they have ascribed but thousands: and what can he have more but the kingdom?
 9 And Saul eyed David from that day and forward.
 10 And it came to pass on the morrow, that the evil spirit from God came upon Saul, and he prophesied in the midst of the house: and David played with his hand, as at other times: and there was a javelin in Saul's hand.
 11 And Saul cast the javelin; for he said, I will smite David even to the wall with it. And David avoided out of his presence twice.
 12 And Saul was afraid of David, because the LORD was with him, and was departed from Saul.
 13 Therefore Saul removed him from him, and made him his captain over a thousand; and he went out and came in before the people.
 14 And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways; and the LORD was with him.
 15 Wherefore when Saul saw

that he behaved himself very wisely, he was afraid of him.
 16 But all Israel and Judah loved David, because he went out and came in before them.

1. What prior event in Saul's life had led Samuel to inform Saul that God was not going to give the kingdom to his son?

2. How did this set the stage for Saul's intense envy of David?

3. What prior event in David's life also set the stage for Saul to envy him?

4. Do you think there was anything David could have done to change Saul's envy?

5. What are some side effects envy had in Saul's life?

17 And Saul said to David, Behold my elder daughter Merab, her will I give thee to wife: only be thou valiant for me, and fight the LORD'S battles. For Saul said, Let not mine hand be upon him, but let the hand of the Philistines be upon him.
 18 And David said unto Saul, Who am I? and what is my life, or my father's family in Israel, that I should be son in law to the king?
 19 But it came to pass at the time when Merab Saul's daughter should have been given to David, that she was given unto Adriel the Meholathite to wife.
 20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.
 21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in the one of the twain.
 22 And Saul commanded his servants, saying, Commune with David secretly, and say,

Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.

23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you a light thing to be a king's son in law, seeing that I am a poor man, and lightly esteemed?

24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David.

6. What tactic did Saul use to try to get David to fall?

27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.

28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD was with David, and that Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

29 And Saul was yet the more

afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

30 Then the princes of the Philistines went forth: and it came to pass, after they went forth, that David behaved himself more wisely than all the servants of Saul; so that his name was much set by.

7. Why did everything Saul did to destroy David only backfire on him, while David become more popular all the time?

1 Samuel 19

19 And the evil spirit from the LORD was upon Saul, as he sat in his house with his javelin in his hand: and David played with his hand.

10 And Saul sought to smite David even to the wall with the javelin; but he slipped away out of Saul's presence, and he smote the javelin into the wall: and David fled, and escaped that night.

11 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's

wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.

12 So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.

8. What warning should we take from this account when we feel a little envy coming into our hearts toward someone?

9. While we would never throw a javelin at someone we envy, what are some mean tactics we could be tempted with if envy were in our hearts?

Pr overbs 14

30 A sound heart is the life of the flesh: but envy the rottenness of the bones.

Proverbs 23

17 Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Proverbs 27

4 Wrath is cruel, and anger is outrageous; but who is able to stand before envy?

10. What are some physical effects envy has on its victims?

11. How does a proper fear of God help a person overcome envy?

Ecclesiastes 4

4 Again, I considered all travail, and every right work, that for this a man is envied of his neighbour. This is also vanity and vexation of spirit.

12. How do people tend to feel when they observe envy expressed toward someone?

Mark 15

9 But Pilate answered them, saying, Will ye that I release unto you the King of the Jews?

10 For he knew that the chief priests had delivered him for envy.

11 But the chief priests moved the people, that he should

rather release Barabbas unto them.

12 And Pilate answered and said again unto them, What will ye then that I shall do *unto him* whom ye call the King of the Jews?

13 And they cried out again, Crucify him.

14 Then Pilate said unto them, Why, what evil hath he done? And they cried out the more exceedingly, Crucify him.

13. How could Pilate know their motive was envy?

14. Why didn't the priests explain to Pilate why they wanted Jesus crucified?

Romans 1

29 Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy,

murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers,

Philippians 1

5 Some indeed preach Christ even of envy and strife; and some also of good will:

1 Timothy 6

4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings,

Titus 3

3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

15. How is it possible for the heart to be purged from envy and turned to good?

tempted to feel envious of? Why?

2. Do you think this is a problem a person will just naturally grow out of? Why or why not?

3. How can we best relate to one of our friends when we think they are struggling with a problem of envy toward someone else?

4. From the examples of Cain, Saul, and the chief priests in Jesus' day, what do you think is at the root of most murders today?

5. How does Jesus' commandment that we are to love our neighbor as ourselves answer the problem of envy?

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. Of all the people with whom we relate, who are we the most

LESSON 9
ABSALOM -- THE PERIL OF PRIDE

- 2 Samuel 15
- 24 And the king said, Let him turn to his own house, and let him not see my face. So Absalom returned to his own house, and saw not the king's face.
- 25 But in all Israel there was none to be so much praised as Absalom for his beauty: from the sole of his foot even to the crown of his head there was no blemish in him.
- 26 And when he polled his head, (for it was at every year's end that he polled it: because the hair was heavy on him, therefore he polled it:) he weighed the hair of his head at two hundred shekels after the king's weight.
- 27 And unto Absalom there were born three sons, and one daughter, whose name was Tamar: she was a woman of a fair countenance.
- 28 So Absalom dwelt two full years in Jerusalem, and saw not the king's face.
- 29 Therefore Absalom sent for Joab, to have sent him to the king; but he would not come to him: and when he sent again the second time, he would not come.
- 30 Therefore he said unto his servants, See, Joab's field is near mine, and he hath barley there; go and set it on fire. And Absalom's servants set the field on fire.
- 31 Then Joab arose, and came to Absalom unto his house, and said unto him, Wherefore have thy servants set my field on fire?
- 32 And Absalom answered Joab, Behold, I sent unto thee, saying, Come hither, that I may send thee to the king, to say, Wherefore am I come from Geshur? it had been good for me to have been there still: now therefore let me see the king's face; and if there be any iniquity in me, let him kill me.
- 33 So Joab came to the king, and told him: and when he had called for Absalom, he came to the king, and bowed himself

on his face to the ground before the king: and the king kissed Absalom.

1. What unique conditions existed in Absalom's life that may have contributed to his pride?

2. What symptoms of pride do you see surfacing in this account from Absalom's life?

3. Who do you think God placed in Absalom's life as the primary person that could have helped him face his problem?

2 Samuel 15

- 1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom prepared him chariots and horses, and fifty men to run before him.
- 2 And Absalom rose up early, and stood beside the way of the gate: and it was so, that when any man that had a

controversy came to the king for judgment, then Absalom called unto him, and said, Of what city art thou? And he said, Thy servant is of one of the tribes of Israel.

- 3 And Absalom said unto him, See, thy matters are good and right; but there is no man deputed of the king to hear thee.
- 4 Absalom said moreover, Oh that I were made judge in the land, that every man which hath any suit or cause might come unto me, and I would do him justice!
- 5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.
- 6 And on this manner did Absalom to all Israel that came to the king for judgment: so Absalom stole the hearts of the men of Israel.
- 7 And it came to pass after forty years, that Absalom said unto the king, I pray thee, let me go and pay my vow, which I have vowed unto the LORD, in Hebron.
- 8 For thy servant vowed a vow while I abode at Geshur in Syria, saying, If the LORD

shall bring me again indeed to Jerusalem, then I will serve the LORD.

9 And the king said unto him, Go in peace. So he arose, and went to Hebron.

10 But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron.

11 And with Absalom went two hundred men out of Jerusalem, that were called; and they went in their simplicity, and they knew not any thing.

12 And Absalom sent for Ahithophel the Gilonite, David's counsellor, from his city, even from Giloh, while he offered sacrifices. And the conspiracy was strong; for the people increased continually with Absalom.

13 And there came a messenger to David, saying, The hearts of the men of Israel are after Absalom.

4. What sinister problem was pride producing in Absalom's heart?

5. What methods did Absalom use to steal the hearts of the people to his side?

6. How could Absalom be so kind to the people when at the same time he was planning such cruelty against his father?

7. Surely David was aware of what Absalom was doing. If he was, what reasons can you give for him not doing anything to stop him?

2 Samuel 16

21 And Ahithophel said unto Absalom, Go in unto thy father's concubines, which he hath left to keep the house; and all Israel shall hear that thou art abhorred of thy father: then shall the hands of all that are with thee be strong.

22 So they spread Absalom a tent upon the top of the house; and Absalom went in unto his

father's concubines in the sight of all Israel.

8. Contrast how pride works in a person's life compared with how humility works.

2 Samuel 18

9 And Absalom met the servants of David. And Absalom rode upon a mule, and the mule went under the thick boughs of a great oak, and his head caught hold of the oak, and he was taken up between the heaven and the earth; and the mule that was under him went away.

14 Then said Joab, I may not tarry thus with thee. And he took three darts in his hand, and thrust them through the heart of Absalom, while he was yet alive in the midst of the oak.

15 And ten young men that bare Joab's armour compassed about and smote Absalom, and slew him.

16 And Joab blew the trumpet, and the people returned from pursuing after Israel: for Joab held back the people.

17 And they took Absalom, and cast him into a great pit in the wood, and laid a very great heap of stones upon him: and all Israel fled every one to his tent.

18 Now Absalom in his lifetime had taken and reared up for himself a pillar, which is in the king's dale: for he said, I have no son to keep my name in remembrance: and he called the pillar after his own name: and it is called unto this day, Absalom's place.

9. How does the manner of Absalom's death seem a just payment for his life?

10. What special concern about mortality do those who are proud have?

Psalms 10:4

4 The wicked, through the pride of his countenance, will not seek after God: God is not in all his thoughts.

Proverbs 3

7 Be not wise in thine own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.

8 It shall be health to thy navel, and marrow to thy bones.

11. How does a proper fear of the Lord help a man have victory over pride?

12. What are some ways humility may contribute to good physical health?

Proverbs 13:10

10 Only by pride cometh contention: but with the well advised is wisdom.

Proverbs 28:25

25 He that is of a proud heart stirreth up strife: but he that putteth his trust in the LORD shall be made fat.

13. What is the link between pride and contention (people being argumentative and not getting along with others)?

Proverbs 6

16 These six things doth the LORD hate: yea, seven are an abomination unto him:

17 A proud look, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood,

18 An heart that deviseth wicked imaginations, feet that be swift in running to mischief,

19 A false witness that speaketh lies, and he that soweth discord among brethren.

14. What do you think is meant by “a proud look”?

Isaiah 3

16 Moreover the LORD saith, Because the daughters of Zion are haughty, and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, and making a tinkling with their feet:

17 Therefore the Lord will smite with a scab the crown of the head of the daughters of Zion, and the LORD will discover their secret parts.

18 In that day the Lord will take away the bravery of their tinkling ornaments about their feet, and their cauls, and their round tires like the moon,

19 The chains, and the bracelets, and the mufflers,

20 The bonnets, and the ornaments of the legs, and the headbands, and the tablets, and the earrings,

21 The rings, and nose jewels,

22 The changeable suits of apparel, and the mantles, and the wimples, and the crisping pins,

23 The glasses, and the fine linen, and the hoods, and the vails.

24 And it shall come to pass, that instead of sweet smell there shall be stink; and instead of a girdle a rent; and instead of well set hair baldness; and instead of a stomacher a girding of sackcloth; and burning instead of beauty.

25 Thy men shall fall by the sword, and thy mighty in the war.

26 And her gates shall lament and mourn; and she being desolate shall sit upon the ground.

15. What is the manner in which haughtiness tends to show up in women?

16. How does God feel about the outward ornamentation, and the other things women do to try to make themselves physically appealing?

1 Peter 5:5-6

5 Likewise, ye younger, submit yourselves unto the elder. Yea, all of you be subject one to another, and be clothed with humility: for God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble.

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

17. What does the phrase “be clothed with humility” mean?

18. What are some ways God is

going to exalt the humble in due time?

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. Why do we as humans have to struggle with pride?

2. What is the connection between having an inferiority complex and being proud?

3. Why are proud people so hard to get along with?

4. How can a person know if he is proud?

5. How can a person overcome his pride?

LESSON 10
DAVID — THE ANGUISH OF ADULTERY
(ADULT MEN)

2 Samuel 11

1 And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth *to battle*, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem.

2 And it came to pass in an eveningtide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman *was* very beautiful to look upon.

3 And David sent and enquired after the woman. And *one* said, *Is* not this Bathsheba, the daughter of Eliam, the wife of Uriah the Hittite?

4 And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her; for she was purified from her uncleanness: and she returned

unto her house.

5 And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, *I am* with child.

1. What circumstances may have contributed to David's vulnerability to this temptation?

2. What was the first step of David's fall into adultery?

3. How does the pleasure of adultery compare with the pain of reaping?

6 And David sent to Joab, *saying*, Send me Uriah the Hittite. And Joab sent Uriah to David.

7 And when Uriah was come unto him, David demanded *of him* how Joab did, and how the people did, and how the war prospered.

8 And David said to Uriah, Go down to thy house, and wash thy feet. And Uriah departed out of the king's house, and there followed him a mess *of meat* from the king.

9 But Uriah slept at the door of the king's house with all the servants of his lord, and went not down to his house.

4. Why is it that other sins naturally go along with the sin of adultery?

5. What is the natural response to committing an evil deed?

14 And it came to pass in the morning, that David wrote a letter to Joab, and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah.

15 And he wrote in the letter, *saying*, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle,

and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die.

16 And it came to pass, when Joab observed the city, that he assigned Uriah unto a place where he knew that valiant men *were*.

17 And the men of the city went out, and fought with Joab: and there fell *some* of the people of the servants of David; and Uriah the Hittite died also.

26 And when the wife of Uriah heard that Uriah her husband was dead, she mourned for her husband.

27 And when the mourning was past, David sent and fetched her to his house, and she became his wife, and bare him a son. But the thing that David had done displeased the LORD.

6. How do you think David felt after he had successfully covered all the evidence of his adultery?

7. How did God feel about this sin?

2 Samuel 2

- 1 And the LORD sent Nathan unto David. And he came unto him, and said unto him, There were two men in one city; the one rich, and the other poor.
- 2 The rich *man* had exceeding many flocks and herds:
- 3 But the poor *man* had nothing, save one little ewe lamb, which he had bought and nourished up: and it grew up together with him, and with his children; it did eat of his own meat, and drank of his own cup, and lay in his bosom, and was unto him as a daughter.
- 4 And there came a traveller unto the rich man, and he spared to take of his own flock and of his own herd, to dress for the wayfaring man that was come unto him; but took the poor man's lamb, and dressed it for the man that was come to him.
- 5 And David's anger was greatly kindled against the man; and he said to Nathan, *As* the LORD liveth, the man that hath done this *thing* shall surely die:
- 6 And he shall restore the lamb

fourfold, because he did this thing, and because he had no pity.

- 7 And Nathan said to David, Thou *art* the man. Thus saith the LORD God of Israel, I anointed thee king over Israel, and I delivered thee out of the hand of Saul;
- 8 And I gave thee thy master's house, and thy master's wives into thy bosom, and gave thee the house of Israel and of Judah; and if *that had been* too little, I would moreover have given unto thee such and such things.
- 9 Wherefore hast thou despised the commandment of the LORD, to do evil in his sight? thou hast killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword, and hast taken his wife *to be* thy wife, and hast slain him with the sword of the children of Ammon.
- 10 Now therefore the sword shall never depart from thine house; because thou hast despised me, and hast taken the wife of Uriah the Hittite to be thy wife.
- 11 Thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will raise up evil against thee out of thine own house, and I will take thy

wives before thine eyes, and give *them* unto thy neighbour, and he shall lie with thy wives in the sight of this sun.

- 12 For thou didst *it* secretly: but I will do this thing before all Israel, and before the sun.
- 13 And David said unto Nathan, I have sinned against the LORD. And Nathan said unto David, The LORD also hath put away thy sin; thou shalt not die.
- 14 Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the LORD to blaspheme, the child also *that is* born unto thee shall surely die.
- 15 And Nathan departed unto his house. And the LORD struck the child that Uriah's wife bare unto David, and it was very sick.
- 16 David therefore besought God for the child; and David fasted, and went in, and lay all night upon the earth.
- 18 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that the child died.

8. What were some of the consequences of David's adultery?

9. How do we know David had genuine repentance?

Why then did he still need to reap for his sins?

Psalm 51

- To the chief Musician, A Psalm of David, when Nathan the prophet came unto him, after he had gone in to Bathsheba.
- 1 Have mercy upon me, O God, according to thy lovingkindness: according unto the multitude of thy tender mercies blot out my transgressions.
- 2 Wash me thoroughly from mine iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin.
- 3 For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin *is* ever before me.
- 4 Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done *this* evil in thy sight: that thou mightest be justified when thou speakest, and be clear when thou

judgest.
 5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.
 6 Behold, thou desirest truth in the inward parts: and in the hidden *part* thou shalt make me to know wisdom.
 7 Purge me with hyssop, and I shall be clean: wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.
 8 Make me to hear joy and gladness; *that* the bones *which* thou hast broken may rejoice.
 9 Hide thy face from my sins, and blot out all mine iniquities.
 10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.
 11 Cast me not away from thy presence; and take not thy holy spirit from me.
 12 Restore unto me the joy of thy salvation; and uphold me *with thy* free spirit.
 13 *Then* will I teach transgressors thy ways; and sinners shall be converted unto thee.
 14 Deliver me from bloodguiltiness, O God, thou God of my salvation: *and* my tongue shall sing aloud of thy righteousness.
 15 O Lord, open thou my lips;

and my mouth shall shew forth thy praise.
 16 For thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give *it*: thou delightest not in burnt offering.
 17 The sacrifices of God *are* a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise.
 18 Do good in thy good pleasure unto Zion: build thou the walls of Jerusalem.
 19 Then shalt thou be pleased with the sacrifices of righteousness, with burnt offering and whole burnt offering: then shall they offer bullocks upon thine altar.

10. *Who did David acknowledge he had sinned against ?*

11. *What reasons did David give for committing his sin?*

12. *What did David believe it would take to atone for his sin?*

Proverbs 5

1 My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding:
 2 That thou mayest regard discretion, and that thy lips may keep knowledge.
 3 For the lips of a strange woman drop as an honeycomb, and her mouth is smoother than oil:
 4 But her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a twoedged sword.
 5 Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell.
 6 Lest thou shouldest ponder the path of life, her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them.

13. *What tactics does the strange woman use to snare her victim?*

Proverbs 6

23 For the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life:
 24 To keep thee from the evil

woman, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman.

25 Lust not after her beauty in thine heart; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.
 26 For by means of a whorish woman a man is brought to a piece of bread: and the adulteress will hunt for the precious life.
 27 Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?
 28 Can one go upon hot coals, and his feet not be burned?
 29 So he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife; whosoever toucheth her shall not be innocent.
 30 Men do not despise a thief, if he steal to satisfy his soul when he is hungry;
 31 But if he be found, he shall restore sevenfold; he shall give all the substance of his house.
 32 But whoso committeth adultery with a woman lacketh understanding: he that doeth it destroyeth his own soul.
 33 A wound and dishonour shall he get; and his reproach shall not be wiped away.
 34 For jealousy is the rage of a man: therefore he will not spare in the day of vengeance.

35 He will not regard any ransom; neither will he rest content, though thou givest many gifts.

14. *Why is there more shame for adultery than for something like stealing?*

15. *What are some other inevitable consequences of adultery?*

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. *What are some tactics Satan is using today to break down moral purity and reserve?*

2. *What can we do to protect our youth from unwholesome social relationships?*

3. *What are some pointers for restoring a man who has fallen into moral failure?*

4. *Does marriage make moral purity easier or more difficult?*

5. *If a person has developed sinful habits in his youth, what can he do to find victory over them?*

LESSON 10
 MICHAL -- THE WOES
 OF THE CONTENTIOUS WOMAN
 (ADULT WOMEN)

1 Samuel 18
 20 And Michal Saul's daughter loved David: and they told Saul, and the thing pleased him.
 21 And Saul said, I will give him her, that she may be a snare to him, and that the hand of the Philistines may be against him. Wherefore Saul said to David, Thou shalt this day be my son in law in *the one of the twain*.
 22 And Saul commanded his servants, *saying*, Commune with David secretly, and say, Behold, the king hath delight in thee, and all his servants love thee: now therefore be the king's son in law.
 23 And Saul's servants spake those words in the ears of David. And David said, Seemeth it to you *a light thing* to be a king's son in law, seeing that I *am* a poor man, and lightly esteemed?
 24 And the servants of Saul told him, saying, On this manner spake David.
 25 And Saul said, Thus shall ye say to David, The king desireth not any dowry, but an hundred foreskins of the Philistines, to be avenged of the king's enemies. But Saul thought to make David fall by the hand of the Philistines.
 26 And when his servants told David these words, it pleased David well to be the king's son in law: and the days were not expired.
 27 Wherefore David arose and went, he and his men, and slew of the Philistines two hundred men; and David brought their foreskins, and they gave them in full tale to the king, that he might be the king's son in law. And Saul gave him Michal his daughter to wife.
 28 And Saul saw and knew that the LORD *was* with David, and *that* Michal Saul's daughter loved him.

29 And Saul was yet the more afraid of David; and Saul became David's enemy continually.

1. *What did David and Michal's relationship seem to be like in the early days of their marriage?*

1 Samuel 19
 11 Saul also sent messengers unto David's house, to watch him, and to slay him in the morning: and Michal David's wife told him, saying, If thou save not thy life to night, to morrow thou shalt be slain.
 12 So Michal let David down through a window: and he went, and fled, and escaped.
 13 And Michal took an image, and laid *it* in the bed, and put a pillow of goats' *hair* for his bolster, and covered *it* with a cloth.
 14 And when Saul sent messengers to take David, she said, He *is* sick.
 15 And Saul sent the messengers *again* to see David, saying, Bring him up to me in the bed, that I may

slay him.
 16 And when the messengers were come in, behold, *there was* an image in the bed, with a pillow of goats' *hair* for his bolster.
 17 And Saul said unto Michal, Why hast thou deceived me so, and sent away mine enemy, that he is escaped? And Michal answered Saul, He said unto me, Let me go; why should I kill thee?

2. *How do you know that Michal valued her relationship with David more than her relationship with her father?*

3. *Is it unusual for such a loyalty to exist in this way?*

2 Samuel 6
 14 And David danced before the LORD with all *his* might; and David *was* girded with a linen ephod.
 15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with

the sound of the trumpet.

16 And as the ark of the LORD came into the city of David, Michal Saul's daughter looked through a window, and saw king David leaping and dancing before the LORD; and she despised him in her heart.

17 And they brought in the ark of the LORD, and set it in his place, in the midst of the tabernacle that David had pitched for it: and David offered burnt offerings and peace offerings before the LORD.

18 And as soon as David had made an end of offering burnt offerings and peace offerings, he blessed the people in the name of the LORD of hosts.

19 And he dealt among all the people, *even* among the whole multitude of Israel, as well to the women as men, to every one a cake of bread, and a good piece *of flesh*, and a flagon *of wine*. So all the people departed every one to his house.

20 Then David returned to bless his household. And Michal the daughter of Saul came out to meet David, and said, How glorious was the king of Israel

to day, who uncovered himself to day in the eyes of the handmaids of his servants, as one of the vain fellows shamelessly uncovereth himself!

21 And David said unto Michal, *It was* before the LORD, which chose me before thy father, and before all his house, to appoint me ruler over the people of the LORD, over Israel: therefore will I play before the LORD.

22 And I will yet be more vile than thus, and will be base in mine own sight: and of the maidservants which thou hast spoken of, of them shall I be had in honour.

23 Therefore Michal the daughter of Saul had no child unto the day of her death.

4. *What are some reasons why Michal despised David in her heart?*

5. *What do you think some deeper reasons may have been?*

6. *How did her despising attitude show?*

7. *Why did David react toward Michal the way he did?*

Proverbs 19

13 A foolish son *is* the calamity of his father: and the contentions of a wife *are* a continual dropping.

Proverbs 21

9 *It is* better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house.

19 *It is* better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman.

Proverbs 25

24 *It is* better to dwell in the corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman and in a wide house.

8. *What are some factors which can change a sweet, loving bride into an angry,*

contentious woman?

Ephesians 5

22 Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord.

24 Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing.

33 Nevertheless let every one of you in particular so love his wife even as himself; and the wife *see* that she reverence *her* husband.

9. *Why does the Scripture urge women to reverence their husbands rather than to love them?*

10. *How should a woman relate to her husband when she is sure his idea or way of approach is inferior to her own?*

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. *What would you advise a young courting girl to do when she likes her boyfriend well enough but she does not feel she can respect his character?*

2. *How can we raise capable daughters who will rise to the challenge of homemaking, and mothering and yet not despise their husbands?*

3. *What is the best way for a wife to change her husband's faults?*

4. *If a woman is not to be contentious, how should she relate to projects around the house that just do not get done?*

5. *What are some joys that are the portion of the woman who has learned to express respect toward her husband?*

LESSON 10
SAMSON -- THE SNARE OF SENSUAL SEDUCTION
(YOUTH MEN)

Judges 14

1 And Samson went down to Timnath, and saw a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines.

2 And he came up, and told his father and his mother, and said, I have seen a woman in Timnath of the daughters of the Philistines: now therefore get her for me to wife.

3 Then his father and his mother said unto him, *Is there* never a woman among the daughters of thy brethren, or among all my people, that thou goest to take a wife of the uncircumcised Philistines? And Samson said unto his father, Get her for me; for she pleaseth me well.

4 But his father and his mother knew not that it *was* of the LORD, that he sought an occasion against the Philistines: for at that time the Philistines had dominion over Israel.

7 And he went down, and talked with the woman; and she pleased Samson well.

1. Where do you think Samson made his first mistake in becoming involved with the Philistine girl?

2. What was the reason Samson wanted this woman for his wife?

3. Why did Samson's parents prefer that he would find an Israelite wife?

4. Since "it was of the Lord" (v4), was Samson in the perfect will of the Lord in this occasion? Explain your answer.

15 And it came to pass on the seventh day, that they said unto Samson's wife, Entice thy husband, that he may declare unto us the riddle, lest we burn thee and thy father's house with fire: have ye called us to take that we have? *is it not so?*

16 And Samson's wife wept before him, and said, Thou dost but hate me, and lovest me not: thou hast put forth a riddle unto the children of my people, and hast not told it me. And he said unto her, Behold, I have not told *it* my father nor my mother, and shall I tell *it* thee?

17 And she wept before him the seven days, while their feast lasted: and it came to pass on the seventh day, that he told her, because she lay sore upon him: and she told the riddle to the children of her people.

18 And the men of the city said unto him on the seventh day before the sun went down, What *is* sweeter than honey? and what *is* stronger than a lion? And he said unto them,

If ye had not plowed with my heifer, ye had not found out my riddle.

19 And the Spirit of the LORD came upon him, and he went down to Ashkelon, and slew thirty men of them, and took their spoil, and gave change of garments unto them which expounded the riddle. And his anger was kindled, and he went up to his father's house.

20 But Samson's wife was *given* to his companion, whom he had used as his friend.

5. Why were Samson's wife's loyalties more with her people than with her husband?

6. What was Samson's "honeymoon" like? Why?

Judges 15

1 But it came to pass within a while after, in the time of wheat harvest, that Samson visited his wife with a kid; and he said, I will go in to my wife into the chamber. But her

father would not suffer him to go in.

2 And her father said, I verily thought that thou hadst utterly hated her; therefore I gave her to thy companion: *is* not her younger sister fairer than she? take her, I pray thee, instead of her.

18 And he was sore athirst, and called on the LORD, and said, Thou hast given this great deliverance into the hand of thy servant: and now shall I die for thirst, and fall into the hand of the uncircumcised?

19 But God clave an hollow place that *was* in the jaw, and there came water thereout; and when he had drunk, his spirit came again, and he revived: wherefore he called the name thereof Enhakkore, which *is* in Lehi unto this day.

20 And he judged Israel in the days of the Philistines twenty years.

7. *What are some of the bitter results of a marriage outside of the Lord?*

8. *What indications do we have that Samson settled down after the foolish choices of his youth and did well for many years?*

Judges 16

1 Then went Samson to Gaza, and saw there an harlot, and went in unto her.

2 *And it was told* the Gazites, saying, Samson is come hither. And they compassed *him* in, and laid wait for him all night in the gate of the city, and were quiet all the night, saying, In the morning, when it is day, we shall kill him.

3 And Samson lay till midnight, and arose at midnight, and took the doors of the gate of the city, and the two posts, and went away with them, bar and all, and put *them* upon his shoulders, and carried them up to the top of an hill that *is* before Hebron.

9. *Why after 20 years of judging God's people, was Samson back associating with harlots?*

4 And it came to pass afterward, that he loved a woman in the valley of Sorek, whose name *was* Delilah.

5 And the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and said unto her, Entice him, and see wherein his great strength *lieth*, and by what *means* we may prevail against him, that we may bind him to afflict him: and we will give thee every one of us eleven hundred *pieces* of silver.

6 And Delilah said to Samson, Tell me, I pray thee, wherein thy great strength *lieth*, and wherewith thou mightest be bound to afflict thee.

7 And Samson said unto her, If they bind me with seven green withs that were never dried, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.

8 Then the lords of the Philistines brought up to her seven green withs which had not been dried, and she bound him with them.

9 Now *there were* men lying in wait, abiding with her in the chamber. And she said unto him, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And he brake the withs, as a thread of tow is

broken when it toucheth the fire. So his strength was not known.

10 And Delilah said unto Samson, Behold, thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: now tell me, I pray thee, wherewith thou mightest be bound.

11 And he said unto her, If they bind me fast with new ropes that never were occupied, then shall I be weak, and be as another man.

12 Delilah therefore took new ropes, and bound him therewith, and said unto him, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And *there were* liers in wait abiding in the chamber. And he brake them from off his arms like a thread.

13 And Delilah said unto Samson, Hitherto thou hast mocked me, and told me lies: tell me wherewith thou mightest be bound. And he said unto her, If thou weavest the seven locks of my head with the web.

14 And she fastened *it* with the pin, and said unto him, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And he awaked out of his sleep, and went away with the pin of the beam, and with

the web.
 15 And she said unto him, How canst thou say, I love thee, when thine heart *is* not with me? thou hast mocked me these three times, and hast not told me wherein thy great strength *lieth*.
 16 And it came to pass, when she pressed him daily with her words, and urged him, *so* that his soul was vexed unto death;
 17 That he told her all his heart, and said unto her, There hath not come a razor upon mine head; for I *have been* a Nazarite unto God from my mother's womb: if I be shaven, then my strength will go from me, and I shall become weak, and be like any *other* man.
 18 And when Delilah saw that he had told her all his heart, she sent and called for the lords of the Philistines, saying, Come up this once, for he hath shewed me all his heart. Then the lords of the Philistines came up unto her, and brought money in their hand.
 19 And she made him sleep upon her knees; and she called for a man, and she caused him to shave off the seven locks of

his head; and she began to afflict him, and his strength went from him.

20 And she said, The Philistines *be* upon thee, Samson. And he awoke out of his sleep, and said, I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself. And he wist not that the LORD was departed from him.
 21 But the Philistines took him, and put out his eyes, and brought him down to Gaza, and bound him with fetters of brass; and he did grind in the prison house.

10. Why did Samson tell Delilah the secret of his great strength?

11. What did Samson falsely believe about his great strength?

Proverbs 7

1 My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee.
 2 Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye.

3 Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart.
 4 Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call u n d e r s t a n d i n g thy kinswoman:
 5 That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her word.

12. How does following wisdom as a pattern in life help to protect a man from the snare of adultery?

6 For at the window of my house I looked through my casement,
 7 And beheld among the simple ones, I discerned among the youths, a young man void of understanding,
 8 Passing through the street near her corner; and he went the way to her house,
 9 In the twilight, in the evening, in the black and dark night:
 10 And, behold, there met him a woman with the attire of an harlot, and subtil of heart;
 11 (She is loud and stubborn;

her feet abide not in her house:
 12 Now is she without, now in the streets, and lieth in wait at every corner.)
 13 So she caught him, and kissed him, and with an impudent face said unto him,
 14 I have peace offerings with me; this day have I payed my vows.
 15 Therefore came I forth to meet thee, diligently to seek thy face, and I have found thee.
 16 I have decked my bed with coverings of tapestry, with carved works, with fine linen of Egypt.
 17 I have perfumed my bed with myrrh, aloes, and cinnamon.
 18 Come, let us take our fill of love until the morning: let us solace ourselves with loves.
 19 For the goodman is not at home, he is gone a long journey:
 20 He hath taken a bag of money with him, and will come home at the day appointed.
 21 With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him.
 22 He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter, or as a fool to the correction of the stocks;

23 Till a dart strike through his liver; as a bird hasteth to the snare, and knoweth not that it is for his life.

24 Hearken unto me now therefore, O ye children, and attend to the words of my mouth.

25 Let not thine heart decline to her ways, go not astray in her paths.

26 For she hath cast down many wounded: yea, many strong men have been slain by her.

27 Her house is the way to hell, going down to the chambers of death.

13. What particular characteristic of this youth made him vulnerable to the wiles of this harlot?

14. Where should this young man have learned about physical pleasures?

15. What temptations did this woman use to draw her victim into adultery?

16. What facts of adultery did she fail to highlight?

3. What are some pointers for restoring a youth who has failed morally?

4. Explain how a godly courtship contributes to a happy marriage relationship, and how carnal practices in courtship prepare for mistrust and heartache.

5. If a person has developed sinful habits in his youth, what can he do to find victory over them?

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. What are the steps that usually lead a youth down the road to fornication or other uncleanness?

2. What can a young man do to make sure he does not become seduced by a strange woman?

LESSON 10
DINAH -- THE DISTRESS OF DEFILEMENT
(YOUTH WOMEN)

Genesis 34

- 1 And Dinah the daughter of Leah, which she bare unto Jacob, went out to see the daughters of the land.
- 2 And when Shechem the son of Hamor the Hivite, prince of the country, saw her, he took her, and lay with her, and defiled her.
- 3 And his soul clave unto Dinah the daughter of Jacob, and he loved the damsel, and spake kindly unto the damsel.
- 4 And Shechem spake unto his father Hamor, saying, Get me this damsel to wife.
- 5 And Jacob heard that he had defiled Dinah his daughter: now his sons were with his cattle in the field: and Jacob held his peace until they were come.
- 6 And Hamor the father of Shechem went out unto Jacob to commune with him.
- 7 And the sons of Jacob came out of the field when they heard *it*: and the men were grieved, and they were very wroth, because he had wrought folly in Israel in lying with Jacob's daughter; which thing ought not to be done.
- 8 And Hamor communed with them, saying, The soul of my son Shechem longeth for your daughter: I pray you give her him to wife.
- 9 And make ye marriages with us, *and* give your daughters unto us, and take our daughters unto you.
- 10 And ye shall dwell with us: and the land shall be before you; dwell and trade ye therein, and get you possessions therein.
- 11 And Shechem said unto her father and unto her brethren, Let me find grace in your eyes, and what ye shall say unto me I will give.
- 12 Ask me never so much dowry and gift, and I will give according as ye shall say unto me: but give me the damsel to wife.

13 And the sons of Jacob answered Shechem and Hamor his father deceitfully, and said, because he had defiled Dinah their sister:

14 And they said unto them, We cannot do this thing, to give our sister to one that is uncircumcised; for that *were* a reproach unto us:

15 But in this will we consent unto you: If ye will be as we *be*, that every male of you be circumcised;

1. Why does the scripture refer to being involved in fornication as being defiled?

2. What do you think were the steps as this pure young woman became a woman who was defiled?

3. How did Shechem feel after his encounter with Dinah?

4. How did Dinah's brothers feel? Why?

26 And they slew Hamor and Shechem his son with the edge of the sword, and took Dinah out of Shechem's house, and went out.

27 The sons of Jacob came upon the slain, and spoiled the city, because they had defiled their sister.

28 They took their sheep, and their oxen, and their asses, and that which *was* in the city, and that which *was* in the field,

29 And all their wealth, and all their little ones, and their wives took they captive, and spoiled even all that *was* in the house.

30 And Jacob said to Simeon and Levi, Ye have troubled me to make me to stink among the inhabitants of the land, among the Canaanites and the Perizzites: and I *being* few in number, they shall gather themselves together against me, and slay me; and I shall be destroyed, I and my house.

31 And they said, Should he deal with our sister as with an harlot?

5. What do you think the rest of Dinah's story was?

6. How do you think Dinah could have protected herself against fornication?

7. How might this story have ended differently if Dinah would have preserved her purity?

2 Samuel 13

- 1 And it came to pass after this, that Absalom the son of David had a fair sister, whose name was Tamar; and Amnon the son of David loved her.
- 2 And Amnon was so vexed, that he fell sick for his sister Tamar; for she was a virgin; and Amnon thought it hard for him to do any thing to her.
- 3 But Amnon had a friend, whose name was Jonadab, the son of Shimeah David's brother: and Jonadab was a very subtil man.

- 4 And he said unto him, Why art thou, being the king's son, lean from day to day? wilt thou not tell me? And Amnon said unto him, I love Tamar, my brother Absalom's sister.
- 5 And Jonadab said unto him, Lay thee down on thy bed, and make thyself sick: and when thy father cometh to see thee, say unto him, I pray thee, let my sister Tamar come, and give me meat, and dress the meat in my sight, that I may see it, and eat it at her hand.
- 6 So Amnon lay down, and made himself sick: and when the king was come to see him, Amnon said unto the king, I pray thee, let Tamar my sister come, and make me a couple of cakes in my sight, that I may eat at her hand.
- 7 Then David sent home to Tamar, saying, Go now to thy brother Amnon's house, and dress him meat.
- 8 So Tamar went to her brother Amnon's house; and he was laid down. And she took flour, and kneaded it, and made cakes in his sight, and did bake the cakes.
- 9 And she took a pan, and poured them out before him; but he refused to eat. And

Amnon said, Have out all men from me. And they went out every man from him.

- 10 And Amnon said unto Tamar, Bring the meat into the chamber, that I may eat of thine hand. And Tamar took the cakes which she had made, and brought them into the chamber to Amnon her brother.
- 11 And when she had brought them unto him to eat, he took hold of her, and said unto her, Come lie with me, my sister.
- 12 And she answered him, Nay, my brother, do not force me; for no such thing ought to be done in Israel: do not thou this folly.
- 13 And I, whither shall I cause my shame to go? and as for thee, thou shalt be as one of the fools in Israel. Now therefore, I pray thee, speak unto the king; for he will not withhold me from thee.
- 14 Howbeit he would not hearken unto her voice: but, being stronger than she, forced her, and lay with her.
- 15 Then Amnon hated her exceedingly; so that the hatred wherewith he hated her was greater than the love wherewith he had loved her.

And Amnon said unto her, Arise, be gone.

- 16 And she said unto him, There is no cause: this evil in sending me away is greater than the other that thou didst unto me. But he would not hearken unto her.
- 17 Then he called his servant that ministered unto him, and said, Put now this woman out from me, and bolt the door after her.
- 18 And she had a garment of divers colours upon her: for with such robes were the king's daughters that were virgins apparelled. Then his servant brought her out, and bolted the door after her.
- 19 And Tamar put ashes on her head, and rent her garment of divers colours that was on her, and laid her hand on her head, and went on crying.
- 20 And Absalom her brother said unto her, Hath Amnon thy brother been with thee? but hold now thy peace, my sister: he is thy brother; regard not this thing. So Tamar remained desolate in her brother Absalom's house.

8. How do you know that what Amnon felt in his heart was lust and not love?

9. What are some of the characteristics of a lustful man?

10. What can a Christian woman do to protect herself from the advances of an ungodly man?

Song of Solomon 8

1 O that thou wert as my brother, that sucked the breasts of my mother! when I should find thee without, I would kiss thee; yea, I should not be despised.

2 I would lead thee, and bring thee into my mother's house, who would instruct me: I would cause thee to drink of spiced wine of the juice of my pomegranate.

3 His left hand should be under my head, and his right hand should embrace me.

4 I charge you, O daughters of

Jerusalem, that ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he (*Hebrew says "it"*) please.

5 Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee.

6 Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.

7 Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

11. What are the dangers of awakening romantic love before it is God's timing?

1 Timothy 5

11 But the younger widows refuse: for when they have begun to wax wanton against Christ, they will marry;

12 Having damnation, because they have cast off their first faith.

13 And withal they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house; and not only idle, but tattlers also and busybodies, speaking things which they ought not.

14 I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.

15 For some are already turned aside after Satan.

12. How does God's plan of marriage help spare from temptations?

Titus 2

3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;

4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children,

5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed.

13. What are the rewards of following God's plan for womanhood rather than worldly ideas?

Questions for Thought and Discussion

1. *What are some ways living in the daydream world of romantic fantasies only frustrates a girl?*

2. *How might reading worldly novels sow seeds that will bring heartache into the life of a young woman?*

3. *What are some body mannerisms a woman should practice if she wants to signal to those around her that she is a godly woman?*

4. *How can a young woman be friendly to men and yet leave a clear impression that “I’m not available for any wrongdoing?”*

5. *Since a man is naturally more tempted with lust than a woman, how can a courting girl help her boyfriend keep a pure mind, maintain a pure courtship, and make preparation for a pure marriage?*
