January 11, 2010

Mary's Character

Memory Verse: This needs to be memorized by our next meeting.
Luke 1:45… "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

This month we are going to be looking at some of the character traits of Mary, the mother of God. Mary had some amazing qualities that allowed her to be used by God in such a powerful way– she gave birth and raised the Savior of us all! To be Women of God we need to learn about and apply some of Mary's character traits in our own lives. As you read, write down in your journal things you don't understand and underline things in your Bible that stick out to you.

Read Luke 1:26-38

1. What do you think Mary was expecting her life to be like before the angel Gabriel appeared to her?

2. Read verses 35-38 again. What was Mary's response when Gabriel told her God's plan for her life? What does this say about Mary's character?

3. Is there something in your life right now that God is telling you to do? What is your attitude toward God? If we are to respond to God like Mary did what do we need to say?

January 14, 2010

MARY'S CHARACTER

Memory Verse: This needs to be memorized by our next meeting.
Luke 1:45… "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Today we are going to read a passage in the Bible that talks about the characteristics of a noble woman, a woman of God. Mary would have been familiar with this and adopted these attitudes into her own life. As you read, write down in your journal things you don't understand and underline things in your Bible that stick out to you.

Read Proverbs 31:10-31:

1. As you read, list in your journal the qualities a wife of noble character has.

2. Now I know you aren't getting married, but what can you take away from this passage on being a *woman* of noble character?

3. Write down in your journal some ways you can incorporate the qualities you read about into your own life right now.

J

January 18, 2010

Mary's Heart of Praise

Memory Verse: This needs to be memorized by our next meeting.
Luke 1:45… "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Mary was blessed by God and she remembered to praise Him for it. This week, we are going to be learning about giving praise to God in our own lives, like Mary did. As you read, write down in your journal things you don't understand and underline things in your Bible that stick out to you.

Read Luke 1:39-56

1. Our memory verse is in this passage, read it again– v. 45. Do you think this verse only applies to Mary or can it apply to you too?

2. How do we "believe what the Lord has said"? Does it mean an angel has to visit us?

3. Read Mary's response again and write down all the things Mary praises God for.

4. Being humble is a key part of remembering to praise God– when we are humble we acknowledge that it isn't us but God working through us that makes things happen. On a scale of 1-10, where do you think God would rate your humility, 1 being very proud and 10 being very humble?

5. What does this passage say God does for those who are humble? What do you think those things mean?

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January 21, 2010

MARY'S PRAISE TO GOD

Memory Verse: This needs to be memorized by our next meeting.
Luke 1:45… "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

1. When was the last time you praised God for all the wonderful things he has done for you?

2. Take a minute to write down in your journal all the things you need to praise and thank God for in your life. Now spend some time in prayer praising God for all of those things.

CHALLENGE:

Every night before you go to sleep, get on your knees and praise God for one thing that He has done for you that day. It can be for a beautiful sunset or Him helping you change your
character– anything, as long as you praise Him for at least one thing everyday. Write down in your journal how it makes you feel or what you experience.

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January 25, 2010

MARY'S Faith Thru Trials

Memory Verse: This needs to be memorized by our next meeting.
Luke 1:45… "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

There will be times in all our lives when we will face trials, pain, or suffering. This even happens to people who are blessed by God! God never promises things will be better or easier but that He will always be there and our reward will be in heaven. Even Mary had to face much pain and suffering, but she remained faithful through it and we can too! As you read, write down in your journal things you don't understand and underline things in your Bible that stick out to you.

Read Luke 2:21-35

1. In your own words, write down what Simeon said to Mary. vs 34&35
2. Do you think Mary was blessed by God? From what you have read about Mary, do you think she lived according to His word? Does God promise Mary her life will be free from trails, pain and suffering?
3. From what you know of Mary and Jesus, what do you think it means "a sword will pierce your own soul too"?

Read John 19:19-27

We see here that Mary was at Jesus' crucifixion. She raised him from a baby. She was called "blessed among women" and yet she had to watch her baby boy die. Now skip down to verse 34.

4. How does this fit in with what Simeon had told her earlier? Write down what you think Mary felt right then.
5. Think of a time in your own life or in the life of someone close to you when you/they went through trials, pain, or suffering– write it down in your journal.
6. Mary kept her faith through her suffering, what are some ways we can do the same?

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January 28, 2010

MARY'S Faith Thru Trials

Memory Verse: This needs to be memorized by our next meeting.
Luke 1:45… "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

Where is God when tough stuff hits us? Read the story below and write in your journal anything that sticks out to you.

Malachi 3:3 says: ***"He will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver."***

This verse puzzled some women in a Bible study and they wondered what this statement meant about the character and nature of God. One of the women offered to find out the process of refining silver and get back to the group at their next Bible Study.

That week, the woman called a silversmith and made an appointment to watch him at work. She didn't mention anything about the reason for her interest beyond her curiosity about the process of refining silver. As she watched the silversmith, he held a piece of silver over the fire and let it heat up. He explained that in refining silver, one needed to hold the silver in the middle of the fire where the flames were hottest as to burn away all the impurities.

The woman thought about God holding us in such a hot spot then she thought again about the verse that says: "He sits as a refiner and purifier of silver."

She asked the silversmith if it was true that he had to sit there in front of the fire the whole time the silver was being refined. The man answered that yes, he not only had to sit there holding the silver, but he had to keep his eyes on the silver the entire time it was in the fire. If the silver was left a moment too long in the flames, it would be destroyed.

The woman was silent for a moment. Then she asked the silversmith, "How do you know when the silver is fully refined?" He smiled at her and answered, "Oh, that's easy - when I see my image in it."

1. What does this story say about God when we are going through tough times?
2. Is it hard to trust God and have faith when things don't seem to be going right in our lives? Why?
3. How does this story relate to the life of Mary?
4. How does it relate to your life?

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February 1, 2010

MARY – Used by God

Memory Verse: This needs to be memorized by our next meeting.
Luke 1:45… "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

This last month we have been learning different characteristics of Mary. This week we are going to be looking at how we too can be used by God like Mary was.

1. Re- read all the Bible verses from the last three weeks. Takes notes on anything that sticks out to you that you may not have noticed the first time you read.

CHALLENGE:

2. Pick a specific character trait (attitude, praise, or faith) that you feel you need to work on the most. Write it down in your journal and brainstorm 3 specific things you are going to do this week to begin to change your heart.

3. Spend some time in prayer asking God for His help and guidance. Ask Him to show you specific areas in your life that He wants you to work on.

Keep track in your journal on your progress as God starts to change your heart

February 4, 2010

MARY – Used by God

Memory Verse: This needs to be memorized by our next meeting.
Luke 1:45… "Blessed is she who has believed that what the Lord has said to her will be accomplished!"

This week we are learning about being used by God. Remember Mary was "just" a young, poor, Jewish girl, probably never thought that she would do anything super important but because she was willing to be used by God, He used her to change the world. As you read, write down in your journal things you don't understand and underline things in your Bible that stick out to you.

Read Ephesians 2:10

1. According to this passage, who are we? Write what it says in your journal.

2. Do you think God wants to use you? Does God have a plan for you? Do you think God makes mistakes? What does it mean "his workmanship"?

3. What was God's plan for Mary?

How do we know God's plan for us? **Read Romans Chapter 12**

4. According to this chapter, how do we know God's will? Look at verse 1&2 again. What would this look like in your life.

5. Read through the passage and as you do, list all the character qualities mentioned. Do you think Mary did these things?

6. What do you need to start doing in your life to be like Mary– ready to be used by God?

Continue to pray that God will change you and use you like He used Mary. Work on building your character based on what you have learned over this last month.