



Ladies of Honor
service

MODULE 2

Jesus

CAME, NOT TO

BE SERVED,

BUT TO

SERVE

OTHERS

AND TO GIVE

HIS LIFE AS

A RANSOM

FOR MANY.

“If anyone desires

to be first,

he shall be

LAST

of all

AND

**SERVANT
OF ALL.”**

—Jesus Christ

(Mark 9:35)



servant leadership

As you mature, pursue an education, and enter the workforce in search of a career, you will begin to hear certain people described as “servant Leaders.” The phrase “Servant Leadership” was originally used by Robert K. Greenleaf in 1970. He introduced the business concept in an essay he published after a great deal of thought, reflection and research.

In this story, the main character named Leo is a servant just like all the others. They all work well together as a team, until one day when Leo disappears. With this gap in their team, they suddenly realize Leo was not “just a servant;” he was their leader.

As an executive, Greenleaf introduced this idea of Servant Leadership in a business setting --in what your generation might call a social experiment. The results were revolutionary.

Although Greenleaf is credited with coming up with the phrase, the idea came about many years before. In the Bible, Jesus Christ presented the idea in his teachings. He tried to impress upon his disciples that this model of leadership--exactly the reverse of everything they had seen represented in the leadership of the day (the oppressive Roman Empire, the self-serving “royalty” of the Temple priests, and the cruelty and abuse of power of the Pharisees).

“Jesus Christ saw a leader as someone who was committed to serving his servants, and seeing his servants as equals,” explained Greenleaf. “He not only teaches his disciples about what a servant

leader should be, but he also demonstrated their characteristics by washing the feet of his disciples.”

Jesus was not afraid to be seen as an equal in the eyes of his servants. We know that he humbled himself beyond anyone else by leaving his throne in Heaven to become a human in the first place. But he went a step further. He put others first, and took on the most humble of tasks by stooping to wash his disciples’ feet. He wasn’t concerned about his rank or importance in that moment. He was just taking care of his followers.

The most important characteristic in being a Servant Leader, according to Greenleaf, is making your main priority to serve rather than lead. As you show that your confidence isn’t threatened by humbling yourself to do menial tasks, you show the true Character of Christ: that kindness is not weakness--it is strength.

As you grow into leadership and pursue being more Christlike, one of the most important things you can do to achieve that is to keep your ego in check.


Don’t let your pride or sense of self-importance keep you from obeying God in the moments he asks you to humble yourself. Don’t let your sense of keeping up your public image get in the way of truly showing the world who Jesus is by your actions. Don’t let your ambitions get in the way of the call to be a true servant leader. Resist the world’s ideas and strategies which tempt you to put others down, so you can rise up. Reject the world’s philosophy of “every man for himself.” Instead, take every opportunity to demonstrate Servant Leadership in everything you do.



keep it up!

As you continue through section, two, don't forget one of your new goals: to

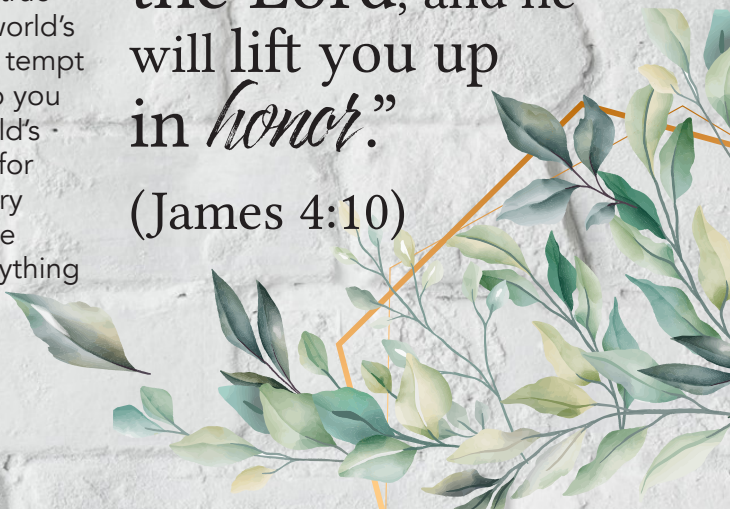
COMMUNICATE LIKE A LEADER!

Every time you see the  symbol, stop and look up the key word. Write a short definition in the space provided, then write a sentence using word. Finally, make it a point to use it a couple of times in conversation until you're comfortable with it.

 ego

“Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up in honor.”

(James 4:10)



“The first question which the priest and the Levite asked was:

'IF I STOP TO HELP THIS MAN, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO ME?'

But the good Samaritan reversed the question:

'IF I DO NOT STOP TO HELP THIS MAN, WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO HIM?'”

-Martin Luther King, Jr.



“The measure of a man’s greatness is his service to others.”

– Abraham Lincoln

In Matthew 25, Jesus tells us a story to explain just how important this is -- our regard for others, even the “least” important people.

“³⁵ For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, ³⁶ I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ ³⁷ “Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink?’ ³⁸ When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you?’ ³⁹ When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’ ⁴⁰ “The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’”

As Jesus’ disciples gathered for the passover meal on the eve of his arrest and trial, Jesus surprised everyone in the room by taking off his coat, wrapping a towel around his waist, and, grabbing the pitcher and basin of water that were sitting in the room, beginning to kneel down and wash the disciples’ feet. As they were in a rented room, maybe there were no servants handy to take care of

this task--considered a critical point of courtesy to visitors in your home during the day, when most people traveled by foot in sandals along dusty sandy roads. Furthermore, this job--which had to be a pretty dirty job for sure--was typically the job of the lowest ranking servant in the house. Nobody wanted to wash a bunch of dirty feet!

“¹² After washing their feet, he put on his robe again and sat down and asked, “Do you understand what I was doing? ¹³ You call me ‘Teacher’ and ‘Lord,’ and you are right, because that’s what I am. ¹⁴ And since I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you ought to wash each other’s feet. ¹⁵ I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you. (John 13:12-15 NLT)

Then, together, they took “the Lord’s Supper,” or, what we now call “Holy Communion.”

He began telling them about what would soon happen -- that he would be betrayed, that Peter himself would deny him. It was a serious moment.

Then, the disciples began to argue with each other about who would be the greatest among them when it was all said and done. Jesus was probably shaking his head. He had already washed their feet himself, to show them the importance of being humble and serving others. He had just described the dark days to come with a heavy heart, and here they were, practically playing king of the hill. He was quick to set them straight, once and for all.

“Jesus told them, “In this world the kings and great

men lord it over their people, yet they are called ‘friends of the people.’ But among you it will be different. Those who are the greatest among you should take the lowest rank, and the leader should be like a servant.”

(Luke 22:25-26 NLT)

To better understand the quote by the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King on the opposite page, write your thoughts about how the example in the parable might apply to you in one of your current situations.

the heart of a leader

1. INTEGRITY

“According to scripture, virtually everything that truly qualifies a person for leadership is directly related to character.”

—*John MacArthur*

Reflect: How does integrity guard your heart?

It's the water that gets on the inside of the boat that sinks it.

A real woman of God guards her integrity and sticks to her values no matter what the cost.

Proverbs 4:20-23

“My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings. Let them not depart from thine eyes; keep them in the midst of thine heart.

For they are life unto those that find them, and health to all their flesh. Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life.”

2. HUMILITY

Humility doesn't mean thinking less of yourself; it means thinking of yourself LESS and others MORE.

*TWO MEN IN A HOSPITAL:
A story about selflessness.*

(Author Unknown)

Two men, both seriously ill, occupied the same hospital room. One man was allowed to sit up in his bed for an hour each afternoon to help drain the fluid from his lungs. His bed was next to the room's only window.

The other man had to spend all his time flat on his back. The men talked for hours on end. They spoke about their wives and families, their homes, their jobs, their involvement in the military service, where they had been on vacation.

Every afternoon, when the man in the bed by the window could sit up, he would pass the time by describing to his roommate all the things he could see outside the window.

The man on the other bed began to live for those one-hour periods where his world would be broadened and enlivened by all the activity and color of the world outside. The window overlooked a park with a lovely lake. Ducks and swans played on the water while children sailed their model boats. Young lovers walked arm in arm amidst flowers of every color of the rainbow. Grand old trees graced the landscape, and a fine view of the city skyline could be seen in the distance.

As the man by the window described all these in exquisite detail, the man on the other side of the room would close his eyes and imagine the picturesque scene. One warm afternoon, the man by the window described a parade

passing by. Although the other man couldn't hear the band – he could see it in his mind's eye as the gentleman by the window portrayed it with descriptive words.

Then unexpectedly, a sinister thought entered his mind. Why should the other man alone experience all the pleasures of seeing everything while he himself never got to see anything? It didn't seem fair.

At first thought, the man felt ashamed. But as the days passed and he missed seeing more sights, his envy eroded into resentment and soon turned him sour. He began to brood and he found himself unable to sleep. He should be by that window – that thought, and only that thought now controlled his life.

Late one night, as he lay staring at the ceiling, the man by the window began to cough. He was choking on the fluid in his lungs. The other man watched in the dimly lit room as the struggling man by the window groped for the button to call for help. Listening from across the room, he did not move nor push his own button, which would have brought the nurse running in. In less than five minutes the coughing and choking stopped, along with that the sound of breathing. Now there was only silence – dead silence.

The following morning, the nurse arrived to bring water for their baths. When she found the lifeless body of the man by the window, she was saddened and called the hospital attendants to take it away. As soon as it seemed appropriate, the other

man asked if he could be moved next to the window. The nurse was happy to make the switch, and after making sure he was comfortable, she left him alone.

Slowly, painfully, he propped himself up on one elbow to take his first look at the world outside. Finally, he would have the joy of seeing it all himself. He strained to slowly turn to look out the window beside the bed. It faced a blank wall. He was puzzled. He later asked the nurse what could have made his deceased roommate describe such wonderful things outside this window to him.

The nurse responded that the man was blind and could not even see the wall. She then said, "Perhaps, he just wanted to encourage you."

You can interpret the story in any way you like. But one moral stands out: There is tremendous happiness in making others happy, despite our own situations. Shared grief is half the sorrow, but happiness when shared, is doubled. If you want to feel rich, just count all the things you have that money can't buy.

"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."

(Philippians 2:3)

3 . FORGIVENESS

Keep your heart clear of grudges; you should be a clear reflection of God's mercy, not his judgment.

As we develop core values, we must be careful not to judge others according to them. While they may indeed be morally or scripturally wrong, it is not our place to judge. It is our command to love them and our mission to lead them to Christ. When others have hurt or offended you, it's especially hard to fulfill this mission, but Jesus said that if we do not forgive others, God will not forgive us. No one is perfect. No one is blameless. When you forgive others, you release the power of God's forgiveness and love in your own life to overflow onto others.



"Do **NOTHING** out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, Rather, in **HUMILITY**, value others above yourselves, **NOT LOOKING TO YOUR OWN INTERESTS** but each of you to the interests **OF THE OTHERS . "**

(Philippians 2:3-4)



a true leader **LOOKS FOR**
opportunities to help
others.

“Is there any real purpose in being alive if all we are going to do is get up every day and live only for ourselves? Live your life to help others. Give and live selflessly.”

—*Joyce Meyer*
Minister and Best-selling
Author

LEADERSHIP TASK # 2 :

look beyond your own *concerns*

A wise person once said "Someone who is all wrapped up in themselves makes a pretty small package."

This is so true -- biblical, even. When we get too wrapped up on our own concerns, our own problems, or, at the other end of the spectrum, our own accomplishments and ambitions, we lose sight of what it means to be a real leader.

As we strive to improve ourselves, it's very easy to fall into the trap of being too self-absorbed. There is a fine line between confidence and **hubris**. ▣

hu·bris: noun. excessive pride or self-confidence.

We should guard against this by constantly humbling ourselves and refocusing on our duty to help others, as God's word directs us to do.

1 Peter 4:10-11 describes the responsibility we have to use our abilities and opportunities to bring glory to God, not ourselves.

As we prove ourselves faithful to do this with small opportunities, the Lord will give us greater and greater opportunities to use our gifts to make a true difference in the lives of others. As we follow Jesus' pattern of servant leadership, investing in others, we will begin to see the fruits of our efforts, as if they were trees we have planted, watered and cared for.

One of the most notable things about people who are NOT leaders is their constant outcry for attention, sympathy or glory. They are so caught up in their own problems and drama that they fail to notice the needs and sufferings of the people around them. They insist on being in the spotlight, leaving others in their shadow.

That's the real tragedy -- they miss opportunities to minister, counsel, support or encourage someone who may desperately need it.

A real leader, on the other hand, quietly and graciously reaches out to help others without wanting any of the credit or fanfare for having done something good. That's because a true leader knows that his reward comes from God, and that it will be a greater reward than any praise or commendation that people can give.

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another.

Do you have the gift of speaking? Then speak as though God himself were speaking through you. Do you have the gift of helping others?

Do it with all the strength and energy that God supplies. Then everything you do will bring glory to God through Jesus Christ. All glory and power to him forever and ever! Amen."

(1 Peter 4:10-11)





LEADERSHIP TASK # 3 :

recognize your opportunity and *take it!*

Do you ever feel like there are not any opportunities for you? Sometimes it seems you'll never get your big break, but that's not true. God has a plan and a purpose for every one of us, filled with success, fulfillment and joy.

However, we often lose our way and find ourselves struggling to find that purpose, not because we aren't good enough, but because we are missing one or all of these three critical elements.

PREPARE

"Preparation, I have often said, is rightly two-thirds of any venture."
— *Amelia Earhart, American Aviation Pioneer*

Before you even set foot into college, trade school, or even your first job, you can begin to prepare for your future.

Consider what you may have a gift for doing really well. Think about what you really enjoy doing. Then, do some research. Use Google, or talk to your guidance counselor at school. There may be a career that's so suited to you it's a calling.

Even if you haven't figured out what that is yet, you can work on those skills and gifts to improve them. Take lessons, get coaching, take related classes, find books on the

subject, look into some on-line learning resources...there are dozens of ways you can begin to prepare yourself for your purpose.

Whatever you are destined to do, you must take ownership of what you're responsible for doing NOW, and do that exceptionally well. Prove yourself to be committed to excellence, even in the little jobs, and God will open bigger opportunities for you, just like he did for David in the "DARE" passage below.

"Whatever you do," says Colossians 3:23, "work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters."

For now, the best thing you can do to prepare is to give what you do 100% plus, every day. Do it with all your heart, do it with excellence, and do it for God's glory--to please him, not others (not even yourself).

BE AWARE

Do you ever feel like there just aren't any good opportunities at all for you? Maybe you think you're the odd man out, and you're just not cut out to be successful. Don't believe it.

The world is full of unusual and undiscovered opportunities.

Brian Scudamore struggled with reading and math all

the way to high school, but he somehow convinced Concorida University to admit him into their business program.

One day, he was sitting in a McDonald's drive-through when he noticed an old pickup truck advertising junk removal service. "Hey," he thought, "I could do that." He had been looking for a way to pay for college. It wasn't just handed to him. He patrolled the alleys in search of junk the city would not pick up and offered to haul it away.

The business took off, and through a number of steps evolved into a million-dollar-a-year business in eight years. It would grow into what is now known as 1-800-GOT-JUNK, and is franchised all over three countries, serving 150 locations.

Scudamore has since used his drive and innovation to launch several other highly unusual and successful businesses, and contributes articles regularly to Fortune magazine.

Be aware. Stay alert. Constantly keep looking around for opportunities to serve or meet a need that is going unmet. It could be the beginning of your own success story!

"You can have unbelievable intelligence, you can have connections, you can have opportunities fall out of the sky. But in the end, hard work is the true, enduring characteristic of successful people."

—*Marsha Evans*, Retired Rear Admiral in the U.S. Navy; President and CEO of the American Red Cross

DARE

There was a very young woman who was ordinary in every way, except one. She had a pure heart. She honored God above all things, and she was unspoiled by ambition, not distracted by boy-chasing or caught up with having nicer clothes than her friends. She wasn't rich. She wasn't really educated. She wasn't famous. Not yet. The girl was Mary, who would be the mother of Jesus. Because she honored God, she would one day have the highest honor of all—to carry, care for and raise the son of God. It's not an everyday story. Without a doubt, beneath the surface, this "average girl" was certainly not average.

There was another girl in the Bible—one who did, in fact win a beauty contest. She was intelligent and graceful, but she would have no idea how courageous she was until it was all down to her to save her people. Because she trusted God and was faithful to carry out the plan he put in her heart, she became a hero. Her name was Esther.

In Matthew 25:21, Jesus tells a parable about a diligent and committed servant who did all he could with the resources he was given. "Well done, good and

faithful servant;" the master told him, "you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things."

This promise certainly played out in Mary's and Esther's young lives.

"The Lord doesn't see things the way man does," God instructed the prophet Samuel, when he was looking for the next King of Israel. "...the Lord looks at the heart." He would choose a young shepherd boy named David over all the highly qualified warriors and champions around him.

The destinies of these young people were built on their faith. They had faith in God's purpose for their lives, and trusted God enough to walk through the doors God opened with confidence, and to follow through with diligence and dedication.

Because of their faithfulness to God in the little things, early in their lives, the little opportunities grew into major victories. These legends all grew out of obscurity. As they rose to the challenges God put in front of them, they rose to greatness!

Summary:

Your past is not an indicator of your future.

Your wealth is not an indicator of your future

Your family is not an indicator of your future.

David was chosen in spite of the fact that he was the least of all his family. He was chosen because he had a heart for God.

You might not live in the nicest home.

You might not have had the opportunity to attend the best schools.

Mary was chosen, in spite of being just an ordinary girl from an ordinary home.

You might not be the best student, the most athletic, or even the the most talented. You might be a nobody.

But an orphan girl name Esther had courage enough to follow God's leading wherever it took her, and it led the way to saving her people.

You alone make the decision to worship God like no one else!

You alone can chose to to look ahead of you, instead of behind you.

Worship him like only you can worship. Love God like only you can love. Serve him like only you can serve. He will see your heart and promote you to great opportunities.

“There will *never* be
another woman

who owns the **LOOK**,
the **PERSONALITY**, and
the **EXPERIENCE**,
that you do.

Those ingredients
make up the recipe

that defines

WHO YOU ARE,

and it's your gift
from the Lord -

own it.

—Candace Cameron Bure,
Actress, Producer and Author



become a great woman by studying great women

Motivational speaker, author and self-made millionaire Krish Dhanam is a man of great faith and honor. He's also a man who was influenced and changed by being in a position to be mentored by Zig Ziglar, one of the most famous motivational speakers of the 20th century.

Dhanam attributes the majority of his own personal success to Ziglar's influence.

The first time Dhanam approached him and spoke with him, Ziglar advised him to "Find excellence, and stay as close to it as you can."

Right then and there, Dhanam took his advice and offered himself to work for Ziglar, in any capacity, just so he could be near his influence.

That was the beginning of how a young ambitious immigrant who arrived in the U.S. with only a few dollars in his pocket rose to fame and prosperity. Today, he travels all over the world, inspiring other young people to do the same.

You may not have had a chance meeting with a world-famous motivational speaker or millionaire, but you can absolutely STUDY great men to learn everything that they have learned.

How do you do that?

Use the resources in section one to find inexpensive or free books about them. There are tons of biographies available, as well as books full of advice from various great women.

The point is, like Dhanam, if you are ever to achieve personal

excellence you must do three things:

SEEK DELIBERATELY

Make a conscious effort every day to look for opportunities to align yourself with people of excellence. They may not look the way you think. They may not be wealthy, educated or even fun to be around, but they are people of substance -- men with qualities that are godly, good and have lasting value. Look beyond the surface and into the character of the men you meet, to see if they really "walk the talk." Be keenly aware that you are not judging others by what people consider to be impressive. You should be asking whether GOD is impressed, or not.

"The Lord doesn't see things the way you see them. People judge by outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
(1 Samuel 16:7)

RECOGNIZE DILIGENTLY

If you are not constantly studying God's word, you won't be able to know what a Christlike woman looks like when you DO meet her.

Take control of your thoughts, where your character begins, and command them to line up with the kind of man God wants you to be.

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, one final thing. Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise."
(Philippians 4:8)

PURSUE PASSIONATELY

Daily, deeply consider the Christlike qualities you find in others, and make a constant high-energy effort to connect those qualities to your own thoughts

and actions. When it's true, it will come from deep within you, as you build a stronger and stronger relationship with the Lord, allowing him to peel away the things in your life that do not please him.

"Whoever pursues righteousness and unfailing love will find life, righteousness, and honor."
(Proverbs 21:21)

Identify some women you would like to study (other than the ones detailed on the next pages). They should be men that you know, like your pastor, your neighbor, coach, grandfather, local business owner -- any godly man in your life whom you can ask some searching questions about life and following Christ in a very real way.

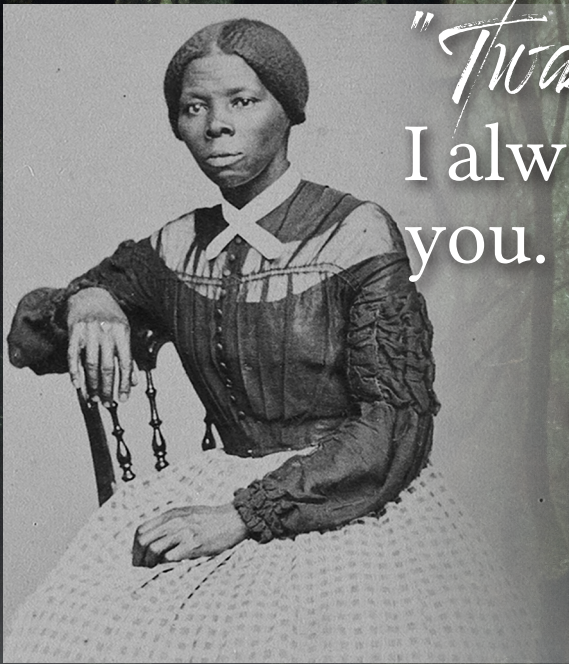
List two such women here, then, after studying this section, come up with 3 questions to ask them about overcoming hardship, or working through spiritual battles.

Then, take some time to sit down with them and discuss these questions. Listen carefully to their counsel. Ask them for scriptures to study about the subjects you discuss. You might even ask them to recommend their favorite authors who have helped them grow spiritually.

Question 1:

Question 2:

Question 3:



"'Twasn't me, 'twas the Lord!"
I always told Him, 'I trust to
you. I don't know where to
go or what to do, but I
expect You to lead me,'
and He always did."

—*Harriet Tubman*, Escaped Slave, Freedom
Activist, Leader of the Underground Railroad

HARRIET TUBMAN

When the Coronavirus practically held the world captive nearly the first half of 2020, people of all ages in the free world struggled with being told to stay home. The orders brought a strange new reality with its new constraints on the freedom of all the "first world" population, especially. Never in our lives had we been so restrained from the most basic freedoms to go when and where we wanted, to visit and gather...being kept apart from grandparents, friends, boyfriends, and society, in general, was enough to make even the introverts crave being around groups of people. Graduations, weddings, concerts, family reunions, and vacations were just some of the things that were canceled, leaving a trail of disappointment and tears among young people with expectations, dreams, and plans they had cherished and built for years.

Imagine a life where you never had any such dreams, plans or choices. Imagine all your freedoms stripped away, and, suddenly, you're a captive--a slave--with no hope of ever going anywhere or doing anything you want to do again. Being under a "shelter at home" order, or being grounded, is probably the closest that you will ever come to life as a slave, though it's only a tiny sample of how it feels to be forever stuck in a single place, owned, like an animal, by another person, and completely under their power.

Before the Emancipation Proclamation in 1865, the horrifying practice of human slavery stole the youth, freedom and even the lives of many people. Harriet Tubman was one such African-American woman born into slavery in 1820. But she rose to the challenges she faced and emerged greater than her

assigned identity as a slave. She had a calling--a mission. She lived a life that would prove her identity and worth came not from her birth papers, showing she was a slave, but from God, who created everyone equal.

Her early life was full of experiences no child should have to endure. Three of her sisters were sold into slavery far away from home, and she suffered physical violence every day which caused her permanent physical injuries.

"I grew up like a neglected weed – ignorant of liberty, having no experience of it."

"The most severe injury occurred when Tubman was an adolescent. Sent to a dry-goods store for supplies, she encountered a slave who had left the fields without permission. The man's overseer demanded that Tubman help restrain the runaway. When Tubman refused,

the overseer threw a two-pound weight that struck her in the head. Tubman endured seizures, severe headaches and narcoleptic episodes for the rest of her life. She also experienced intense dream states, which she classified as religious experiences.”⁷

She eventually married, but sadly, even her husband refused to join her in her efforts to stand up for and free other slaves. When she made her first voyage to freedom, he stayed behind and found a new wife.

Harriet would marry again and adopt a child, but little is known of her personal life. It was her mission that made her known.

In 1849, she escaped slavery through a network of rebels setting up nighttime escape routes referred to as the Underground Railroad. Two of her brothers accompanied her but returned for fear of being captured. After seeing them safely home, she walked and ran nearly 90 miles to cross over into Philadelphia, a free state.

“When I found I had crossed that line,” she later recalled, “I looked at my hands to see if I was the same person. There was such a glory over everything; the sun came like gold through the trees, and over the fields, and I felt like I was in Heaven.”

Her journey could have ended there. She could have remained safe and free, building a new life for herself in a place where she never had to fear again, but her desire to help others burned in her heart--her mission would not be denied.

Although she helped countless others escape to freedom, Harriet was never satisfied with the level of her mission. She found work as a cook and a

nurse for the Union Army, and soon her skills and courage elevated her to new ventures. She served as an armed scout and a spy, all because of her passion to see slavery defeated. Her bravery was so far beyond what commanders had seen before. As a woman and a slave, uneducated and untrained, she seemed to have God-given abilities and bravery beyond explanation. With God’s help, she surpassed even the most ambitious soldiers on the field. She was the first woman to lead an armed expedition in the war, guiding the Combahee River Raid, which liberated more than 700 slaves in South Carolina.⁸

After the war and slavery finally ended, Harriet Tubman spent the rest of her life helping others in many ways, as best as she could. She was an activist for women’s right to vote, assisted the poor, poor as she was, and spoke to countless assemblies of people about the issues that were near and dear to her heart. She would never be famous or rich. She would never be accepted by some of society, whose prejudices prevented them from seeing her value. But she did live to be 93, dying surrounded by her loving friends and family, and was buried with full military honors.

Undoubtedly, Harriet Tubman made her mark. As a major operator of the Underground Railroad, she earned the nickname “Moses,” devoting her life to set her people free. She lived with honor. She fought with passion. She died, fully honored and her memory lives on as a remarkable woman whose courage was relentless because she knew her identity and worth were assigned by God, not man.

“Every great
dream
begins with a
dreamer.

Always remember,
you have within
you the strength,
the patience, and
the passion to
reach for the stars
to change the
world.”

--Harriet Tubman

Is there a dream, a passion for change, that God has planted in your heart? Begin to nurture and proclaim that dream by confessing it here:

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

THE TUBMAN FACTOR: IDENTITY

1. Describe some things in Tubman's early life that could have burned negative things into her mind about her identity.

2. Tubman said: "'Twas the Lord. I always told him, 'I trust to you. I don't know where to go or what to do, but I expect you to lead me,' and He always did.'" Describe one specific example of how YOU can apply this principle in your own life.

3. Consider the Ladies of Honor core values: Loyalty, Integrity, Generosity, Honesty, Trustworthiness. Describe how Tubman lived out each of these values in her lifelong journey.

4. Tubman's Identity Challenge:

A. Select one of the challenges from her early life that could have undermined God's purpose for her, and connect it to something you or a close friend has experienced.

B. Find a scripture in the Bible that breaks that curse of poor identity. Copy the verse AND THEN rewrite it in your OWN words:

C. Describe how this one powerful scripture could change the outcome of your life, as you overcome your own hardest challenges. Be specific.

CONFESSION: "I AM WHO GOD SAYS I AM, ACCORDING TO HIS WORD. OTHERS DO NOT DEFINE ME OR ASSIGN MY WORTH. MY IDENTITY DOES NOT EVEN COME FROM MY OWN IDEAS; IT COMES FROM HIM AND HIS DIVINE PLAN FOR MY LIFE."



“We need to stop making what people have done **TO** us bigger than what Jesus did **FOR** us.”

— *Christine Caine*, International Speaker, Author, Evangelist, Activist against Human Trafficking, Founder of the A21 Campaign

CHRISTINE CAINE

Harriet Tubman will forever be honored as a soldier in the trenches, putting her life on the line to rescue slaves and lead them to freedom.

But the shadow of slavery continues all around the world, and it takes many forms. The Emancipation Proclamation abolished it, by law, in the United States, followed by Constitutional Amendments clarifying and underscoring the founding fathers' words that "all men are created equal."

Yet, human trafficking still happens. Human beings are bought and sold for a price, on an ongoing basis, and they are unable to escape. The battle continues, and it's mostly a battle of public opinion because so many people are unaware of the truth. That's where our next hero found her life's mission, as the voice for the silent.

"It is one thing to be awakened to injustice and quite another to be willing to be inconvenienced and interrupted to do something about it."

Christine Caine, with her husband Jeremy, co-founded A21, a global organization devoted to abolishing slavery worldwide while raising awareness and helping victims recover. Where did her passion for this mission come from? She was a childhood victim of sex abuse, herself.

"I tried to tell somebody that could have

intervened," she related. "But 40 years ago in Australia, the word abuse didn't even exist. Nobody talked about that stuff. You walked in the shame of it, and you buried it."

Healing from that experience did not happen overnight. But the scars of her early years of abuse grew into a deep compassion for others who are trapped. She was brought up in a culture where women's opinions are disregarded, and they certainly are not worthy of a life's work that would grow to a global scale. It's not what she expected, but it's an outcome she uses to encourage other women and inspire them into leadership.

"I want women to know that they are not less than, weaker, second, or not enough. They are created in God's image-- greatly valued, loved, chose, wanted and adored by the Creator of the universe."

Being exploited--taken advantage of--as a child, she has a heart for those who suffer from the lifelong hurt and guilt they experience. Like victims of child abuse, women trapped in prostitution are vulnerable and dependent on their caretakers. They have been manipulated, most commonly with threats, violence, and drugs, to submit, to cooperate and to never dare escape.

The problem is global. According to a study from the United Nations' International Labour Organization, it is estimated 3.8 million adults

and 1 million children were victims of forced sexual exploitation in 2016 around the world. Prostitution and pornography are not the only kinds of slavery. Various means of forced labor, or labor exploitation, run rampant in the United States, such as farm workers, factory workers, and household laborers. A recent report by the Global Slavery Index estimates that there are over 400,000 people living in modern-day slavery in the United States alone. Very few of these cases are ever prosecuted because the victims will not come forward--there is too much at stake.

Federal reports have estimated that 14,500 to 17,500 victims are trafficked into the United States annually. This does not include the number of victims who are trafficked within the United States each year. According to the National Human Trafficking Hotline, 10,949 cases of human trafficking were reported in the United States in 2018.⁹

*"Human trafficking," "trafficking in persons," and "modern slavery" are umbrella terms used to refer to both sex trafficking and compelled labor. Relevant U.S. and international law describe this compelled service using a number of different terms, including involuntary servitude, slavery or practices similar to slavery, debt bondage, or forced labor.*¹⁰

Slavery isn't over. It's real, and it still happens, regardless of how many laws forbid it. Where the law has failed to conquer such evil, heroes like Christine Caine are front-line soldiers in the fight against the injustices for these victims who are too afraid--or too ashamed--to speak out. As with anyone in a high-profile situation, publicly defying organized crime, she has risked her safety and endured mass criticism.

She urges women of all ages, everywhere, to dare to pursue the passion God has put in their hearts,

in spite of all the obstacles life puts in their way.

As a sexually exploited child, she could have become a statistic, with a life full of drug abuse, depression and self-destruction. But, according to Romans 8:28, God "works everything together for good, to those who love God and are called according to his purpose."

"I want women to know God can use everything the enemy meant for evil in their lives for good." wrote Caine in one of her many best-selling books. "He can take their stories of shame and redeem them-- first for their own freedom and then to help others."

True freedom is found in forgiveness. If we truly, fully receive the mercy God has given us, we can let go of the hurts of the past and begin to heal.

"When we are wounded, we leak toxic waste, and that waste poisons us and the people around us—even when we are completely unaware of it..." wrote Caine in her book *Unashamed*. "The reality is: Hurt people hurt people. Broken people break people. Shattered people shatter people. Damaged people damage people. Wounded people wound people. Bound people bind people."

We all have scars, but we all have choices. We can choose to give into what's happened to us, or we can choose to put all of our history of hurts and disappointments in God's hands. He wants to heal our hearts and make us whole, complete and vibrant. He wants us to leave our anger and hurt behind, along with the shame that he took away with his death on the cross. He wants to make us new, and use us for something beautiful, powerful and amazing... and bigger than we ever dreamed.

"It is very hard to fully step into your destiny while you are still holding on to your history."

-Christine Caine

truth, healing and freedom

If you're dealing with a hurt that has not healed, dare to let go of it and forgive the person who harmed you.

Talk with your mentor about it, and ask them to help you pray about healing from that pain. Then keep your heart open to the opportunities God will bring you to help someone else dealing with the same kind of pain.

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)

THE CAINE FACTOR: RESTORATION

1. How has Caine’s early life driven her desire to make an impact on the lives of others?

2. How can you use one of your own hurts and hardships to inspire hope in others? Be specific.

3. How does forgiveness play a role in healing from the pain others have inflicted on us? Pretend you are writing an explanation in a letter to a good friend who needs your advice. Use the verses in this article, PLUS two other verses you find yourself to support your explanation.

4. Were you surprised at how much modern-day slavery is still ongoing? Imagine a girl being trapped in a situation like that for years, with no hope, and then, suddenly, she's rescued. She's ashamed, broken, and wondering how God could ever love someone like her. She goes to church, in search of answers, and finds Jesus there, but then some of the people find out about her past. They judge her, and look at her like she's not worthy to be their friend. What do you do?

Can you think of a VERY similar situation in the Bible where Jesus was confronted by church people trying to judge such a woman? Find the story and retell it in your own words, then explain why Jesus solved the confrontation the way he did.

CONFESSION:
IN CHRIST, I AM A NEW CREATION. I AM NO LONGER DEFINED BY THE SINS OF MY PAST; I HAVE A NEW FUTURE. I AM FREE, NEW, WHOLE, GOOD, AND LOVED.



“Lovely One,
if you dare to
dream, you must
be brave enough
to fight.”

-Lisa Bevere



DEBORAH

Sitting at the city gates on the edge of a vast desert wilderness, men who were leaders among the people of Israel debated the law, with all its different situations and factors, its varying effects on society and the critical element of fairness in issuing judgments. These are no amateurs -- they have been educated and groomed for the role of teaching God's people exactly how to live by God's laws, standing as the mediator in property disputes, and deciding punishments where the law has been broken. Picture this: sitting there, thousands of years ago, among these men, one feminine voice rings out with a strong sense of justice, words full of wisdom, delivered with confidence and conviction in as strong an argument as any man in the circle. It was a woman named Deborah.

Traditional Jewish Chronology dates the reign of Deborah, also a prophetess, from 1107 BC until her death in 1067 BC. This was about five hundred years before Esther--a time a constant war between societies and tribes, camp raids, captivity...a time of barbaric behavior, by today's standards. Certainly, it was a time when it was rare for women to have a say in anything, let alone sit in the judgment seat of her people.

The Old Testament Book of Judges describes

her "courtroom" and jurisdiction clearly - "She rendered her judgments beneath a date palm tree between Ramah in Benjamin and Bethel in the land of Ephraim." This was one of the tribes of Joseph.

The Hebrew term shofet, which is translated into English as "judge," is closer in meaning to "ruler," a kind of military leader or deliverer from potential or actual defeat...The office of judgeship in the tribal confederacy of the Israelites, which was centred at a covenant shrine, was not hereditary. The judges arose as Yahweh saw fit, in order to lead an erring and repentant people to a restoration of a right relationship with him and to victory over their enemies. The quality that enabled a person selected by Yahweh to be a judge was charisma, a spiritual power that enabled the judge to influence, lead, and control the people caught between the allurements of the sophisticated Canaanite culture and the memory of the nomadic way of life with its rugged freedom and disdain for "civilization."¹¹

Surely Deborah took ownership of her role authority and grace, being an inspired prophet of God, with clear direction from him. She judged fairly and well, and led her people by example into a life that pleased God.

But Deborah was not pleased with her people's situation. The Canaan (Jabin) had oppressed and harrassed her people for 20 years. It had reached a boiling point in her heart; she was compelled to

take action.

Excerpt from the Book of Judges Chapter 4

“6 Then she sent and called for Barak the son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali, and said to him, ‘Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded, ‘Go and [a]deploy troops at Mount Tabor; take with you ten thousand men of the sons of Naphtali and of the sons of Zebulun; 7 and against you I will deploy Sisera, the commander of Jabin’s army, with his chariots and his multitude at the River Kishon; and I will [b]deliver him into your hand?’”

8 And Barak said to her, “If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!”

9 So she said, “I will surely go with you; nevertheless there will be no glory for you in the journey you are taking, for the Lord will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.” Then Deborah arose and went with Barak to Kedesh. 10 And Barak called Zebulun and Naphtali to Kedesh; he went up with ten thousand men under[c] his command, and Deborah went up with him...

15 And the Lord routed Sisera and all his chariots and all his army with the edge of the sword before Barak, and Sisera alighted from his chariot and fled away on foot. 16 But Barak pursued the chariots and the army as far as Harosheth Hagoyim, and all the army of Sisera fell by the edge of the sword; not a man was left.”

Although the battle would never have been fought and won if Deborah had not

directed it and then, going above and beyond the call of duty by accompanying the commander and his troops to the battlefield, this was not the “victory won by a woman’s hand” that Deborah prophesied.

The captain of the enemy army had slipped away, escaping in the confusion of battle. Coming upon a solitary tent in the wilderness, he sought shelter, thinking the family, old friends of his, would be sympathetic. who was home alone would.

The “lady of the house” was home alone. She invited him in, gave him some milk to drink, and covered him up as he dozed off, exhausted from the battle and then running, probably for miles. As he lay sleeping inside that tent, she quietly took a tent peg and hammer, and killed him. For all his slayings and victories, this enemy commander lay dead, defeated, by the hand of a woman.

Israel enjoyed peace for 40 years after this army and its notorious captain was finally put down, and the “Song of Deborah” which follows in the next chapter tells the tale of their triumph over the enemy - a tale of the courage of Israel’s army, Barak, their commander, and two women. One, whose undaunted courage dared to face the enemy at the battlefield, and the other, who quietly sealed the victory with her own two hands.

The battle had been won, and the oppression of the enemy ended, just as the prophet said: at the hand of a woman.

“Obedience is less painful than regret.”

– Christine Caine

when called to act, go!

Consider Cain’s words and explain it in your own words. Give an example from your own life, and pray that God will give you the courage to act NOW.

THE DEBORAH FACTOR: DARING

1. How did Deborah's courage come through in her actions? What was so unusual about it, culturally, at the time?

2. Do some research about the role of Judges in ancient Israel. What did they do? What was their guide?

3. How do you imagine Deborah's courage may have played a role in setting her apart as a leader and a judge in the first place? (or, why does it take courage to be a Judge, even today?)

4. Explain how courage--daring to do right--is a critical part of leadership. Give some specific examples from the Bible (either men or women) and at least one modern example.

5. Find two or three scriptures you like on courage/daring and copy them here for future reference.

CONFESS:
"I WILL GOVERN MY HEART WITH FAITH, NOT FEAR. I WILL NOT BE AFRAID OF WHAT PEOPLE THINK OR SAY; I ANSWER TO GOD. I WILL NOT HESITATE, BUT I WILL GO ABOVE AND BEYOND THE CALL OF DUTY WHEN GOD CALLS ME TO ACTION."



“Once I realized that right thinking is vital to victorious living. I got more serious about thinking about what I was thinking about, and choosing my thoughts carefully.”

-Joyce Meyer

LYDIA

In the 16th chapter of the Book of Acts, between the accounts of the many travels of Paul and Silas, we find a story of one of their encounters with a woman named Lydia.

We don't know much about her, really, except that she was a "trader in purple."

11 From Troas, we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. 12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district[a] of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

13 On the Sabbath, we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. 14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a be-

liever in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

40... After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left.

According to Smithsonian Magazine, "In ancient Rome, purple was the color of royalty, a designator of status. And while purple is flashy and pretty, it was more important at the time that purple was expensive."

Purple dye was difficult and time-consuming to make, requiring a great deal of effort and source material (it came from snails, actually!) to make even a small amount of dye.

It would appear that Lydia chose her business well. With the rising fashion of purple as the color of royalty and the rich, the cloth was in high demand, and the price rose with that demand. But, like most successful women, there is much more to her story. She was presumed to be a wealthy woman, being successful in her trade and having some degree of notoriety. She had the resources and confidence to step up when Paul came to minister in her region, opening her home and her resources to the travelers.

The ancient world wasn't exactly driven by grants for women-and-minority-owned businesses, such as we find in modern commerce. It's possible that Lydia learned what she knew as part of a family business, and grew her own venture out of that.

However, biblical scholars are mostly in agreement that Lydia was most likely originally a slave because she was known as Lydia of Thyatira, or the woman from Lydia (a country in Asia Minor), rather than an actual name of the day. In ancient times, slaves were commonly referred to by their place of birth, rather than a name.

It is also presumed since she had the command of her household, enough to offer the apostles shelter there, that she was a widow, rather than a single woman. It was common in the day for slaves to be given to their owners' sons as wives, so it's safe to assume that this was her history, too.

So, this was the likely life of the woman referred to as Lydia, who would appear to be, on the surface, a self-made independent woman of great wealth. Her life was no fairy tale. A slave. An arranged marriage. A life of hard work, earning a living from the skills she learned as a servant. Once a servant, always a servant--that was the mindset of the day. But she gave the word a different meaning.

Lydia the servant girl and grown into a wealthy, successful mature woman. We don't know if she was mistreated by her master when she was a slave. No one ever said whether her marriage was happy or miserable. But we do know that she was not living her life as a victim. She was kind and generous, full of hospitality and well-liked and respected in her community. There is no room for bitterness, anger or blame in a life like that.

We know very little about her, but the only talent ever mentioned was her success in trading purple cloth. This would have definitely required confidence, negotiation skills, and

knowledge of the market and her product. As far as we know, she was not a singer, an artist, or a woman of great beauty. She had financial resources, and that became her "talent." That was the means of being able to support a ministry she believed in, to help advance a cause that needed her help.

Because she rose above the limitations of her early life, she made an eternal impact. She stands, through all time, as one of the earliest examples of the patronesses or benefactresses who would continue to support ministries, charities, and individuals in need.

Lydia is considered the first European convert to the Christian faith and is revered among many Orthodox denominations as a saint, an equal with the apostles, because of the role she played in advancing their missions.

This idea of equality, which was revolutionary at the time, really originated with Jesus, who openly regarded all souls as equals. Perhaps this idea struck a chord in Lydia's heart, making her eager to accept a religion that actually recognized her value as an individual.

If Christ's redemption makes us all God's children, equally loved and cherished, then we have no room for anger, bitterness or living our lives out as a victim. As a new creation, you must forgive others, in order to be forgiven. You must let go of the past and let God determine how it may be used for his glory in the present. You must let go of blame, revenge and self-pity to make room for love, generosity, and kindness. If you want to move on, to a place where God can truly bless you, you must stop trying to work out the past and get to work on your future.

“I want my life to radiate what happens when God has a person's heart at His full control, when every event or circumstance is simply another avenue to know Him better and show forth His glory.”

—*Priscilla Shirer*,
Life Interrupted

when life is harsh

You often hear people say, when someone is having a difficult life, that everything happens for a reason. It may sound like a worn-out phrase, or even an unfeeling thing to say, but, regardless of the intention of the person who says it, the axiom holds true. It lines up with God's word.

Read Jeremiah 29:11 and Romans 8:28-38 to discover:

-God has plans for you

-His plans are good

-He will use everything in your life for a purpose

-He is devoted to you and

loves you, and nothing can

ever change that.

THE LYDIA FACTOR: ATTITUDE

1. Research and explain "victim mentality."

2. What might have been the alternate life story of Lydia, if she had defined herself as a victim?

3. What are some effects have you seen in people who have accepted a victim mentality?

4. Research the word "Entrepenuer" What might have been some of Lydia's abilities that propelled her into success and being able to support the apostles' efforts to spread the gospel?

6. What are some injustices you have experienced in your own life? How have you dealt with them?

7. How can you take Lydia's example of overcoming injustice in her own life and make the best of your own?

Read the story of Joseph in the Old Testament (Genesis 37, 39-47) and compare his rise from slavery to Lydia. Look for as many similarities as you can. What term would you use to describe their successful outcomes?

CONFESS:
 "I AM NOT A VICTIM; I AM AN OVERCOMER. I WILL NOT BLAME OTHERS FOR MY PATH IN LIFE; I WILL TRUST GOD TO MAKE THE BROKEN THINGS INTO SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL. I WILL LOVE OTHERS MORE THAN I AM LOVED; BE MORE GENEROUS THAN OTHERS HAVE BEEN TO ME; BE KINDER THAN OTHERS SEEM TO DESERVE, BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT JESUS DID FOR US AND DOES FOR US...FOR ME!"

OVERCOMING

obstacles is the mark of a great leader.

Sometimes the greatest obstacles make the strongest leaders.

Some overcame poverty, racism, lack of opportunity, physical limitations, or unfair treatment.

▣ obstacle [ob-stuh-kuhl] noun. something that obstructs (gets in the way of) progress

What are some obstacles you think every Christian woman may face?

Consider the four great women you just read about. Name one obstacle they all had in common, and describe how you can relate to it.

Copy TWO scriptures you've found in Magazine 3 so far that address your own obstacles.

*"When God demands **MORE OF** you, it's because He sees **MORE IN** you."*

-Steven Furtick

*Hannah More

was an Author, Philanthropist and education pioneer in 18th century England. She was instrumental in setting up twelve schools for "common people" against great opposition, in a time when the farming, labor and even the church communities resisted education for anyone but the wealthy.

Other quotes by Hannah More:

"It is not so important to know everything as to know the exact value of everything, to appreciate what we learn, and to arrange what we know."

"The keen spirit seizes the prompt occasion; makes the thought start into instant action, and at once plans and performs, resolves and executes!"



IDENTIFY at least two obstacles in your life, and describe how they might make you stronger if you overcome them.

“Obstacles are those frightful things you see when you take your eyes off the goal.”

- *Hannah More**



THE EAGLE, an equally strong and beautiful bird of prey, is a symbol of courage, wisdom and strength. Its symbolism is shared by numerous countries, legends and religions.

One of the legends, or, really, parables, goes like this:

The eagle soars high up on the drafts above the clouds and swoops fiercely down into the water to catch fish and game with its razor-sharp talons. The eagle also builds nests high in the mountains in the tops of majestic mountain trees.

A mighty eagle once laid its eggs in the nests in the top of the trees in a beautiful pine forest. One day as the wind blew fiercely the tree began to sway back and forth.

One of the large eagle eggs fell out of the nest and bounced down on the soft pine branches below; onto the ground, rolling into a valley below. At the base of this mountain was a large turkey farm. The eagle egg rolled down the hillside into the valley, rolling right into the nest of a nesting turkey. Of course, the eagle's egg was much larger than the turkey eggs around it, but the mother set upon the large egg mistaking it as one of her own.

After a few weeks, the eggs began to, one by one, crack and the small turkeys began to climb out of their newly broken shells. Finally, after all the others had hatched the larger egg cracked open and out popped the strangest looking turkey the mother had ever seen. It was much larger than the other turkeys, it had great stubs of wings and was much larger than the others. The mother immediately accepted this strange chick in spite of its strange looks, but the others were much less

accepting.

Over time, the other chicks developed soft downy white feathers, but this chick developed black wiry pin feathers that spread out into thick plumes. The large chick was so much clumsier than the others and often tripped over its own wings trying to walk like them. The other turkeys would make fun of it and laugh.

The large awkward turkey began to feel so sad and self-conscious. He felt like he never could quite fit in. He would even try to hide his large wings as he walked to avoid the laughs and ridicule of others. But no matter where he went, he always stood out and became the object of ridicule. The other turkeys would peck around upon the ground to find bits of seeds, food, trash, and whatever else lay on the ground. The large awkward turkey did have any taste for that style of eating. Strangely, he would long for a fish or something else fresh, but he could ever find it on the turkey farm. So, he had to eat the trash on the ground with the other turkeys.

One day, the strange, large turkey was walking in the yard and happened to look up towards the sky. In the sky, he saw great soaring eagles. As he saw the eagles, his heart began to pound and he began to dream of soaring on the drafts like the eagles. He longed to fly high in the air and circle the sun. As he dreamed of flying, he began to stretch his large wings out into the wind. Feeling the wind fill his wings, he rose higher and higher, and looked down only to see the other turkeys looking up at him with great disapproval, mocking him. He immediately dropped his head, hid his wings behind his back and never dared to stretch them again.

It's not unusual to feel like you don't fit in with the others. But your difference is not that you are less than others, only that you are different. It's that "different" feeling that makes us shy, makes us hesitate to speak up, makes us afraid to be ourselves.

But God did not make you to fear. He didn't make you to fit in with everyone, either. He made you to stand out! The things that seem strange and different about you to others are not your weaknesses; they are your strengths! They are not something to hide; they are something to send you soaring!

“When we hide our

STRENGTHS

to fit in with others,
we war against

OUR ORIGINAL PURPOSE

and the *identity* that

GOD CREATED US

to have.”

God made you to soar. He made you to excel and to be a champion. You were not created to be a turkey, you were made to be an eagle.

You were not made to eat the garbage the world offers, but to consume the things that make you strong. Never choose to fit in just to please others. Rejoice that you were made to be a mighty creation of God - a mighty and majestic woman; you were made to be a leader, and not a follower.

"EAGLE-EYE"

...is an old expression used to describe someone who can see tiny details from far away, either literally or figuratively.

Besides the usual pair of eyelids, bald eagles have a see-through eyelid called a nictitating membrane. They can close this membrane to protect their eyes while their main eyelids remain open. The membrane also helps moisten and clean their eyes.

Eagles also have sharper vision than humans, and their field of vision is wider. They can also see ultraviolet light.¹²

As a leader, you should be an eagle-eye, too: always on the lookout for the enemy, scouting good opportunities, seeing the "big picture," using your foresight to think things through, and taking a high-level point of view -- God's point of view -- on every situation and challenge.

"The attacks against your life have much more to do with who **YOU MIGHT BE** in the future than who **YOU HAVE BEEN** in the past."

— Lisa Bevere,

Best-selling Author &
International Speaker/minister



Leaders show courage

“The young are not afraid
of telling the truth.”

- Anne Frank

One of the greatest defining characteristics of a leader is the ability to show courage at all times -- even the toughest times, especially in the toughest times -- for the benefit of others. Courage empowers you to rise above peer pressure, mediocrity, challenges of every kind, and even sudden devastation. Courage is the inner strength that grows stronger with being tested, instead of weakening or breaking under the pressure. Courage is being the source of peace and confidence when others are distressed or afraid.

As leaders, especially, God calls us to be women of courage--he even commands us to **HAVE** courage--but where does that courage come from?

Let's look at one excellent example of courage in the Bible (Esther) alongside a slightly more modern example, Anne Frank. The complete Old Testament account Esther can be found in the book of Esther,

which was covered in Magazine 2.

As a young girl, most likely in her early teens, she was taken captive and introduced into the Persian King's harem, a group of women who belonged to him. Yes, they were slaves, more or less, living there for his entertainment and pleasure. We know that being intelligent and strong of heart, she stood out from the other girls and soon made her way to the top of the King's list in favorites. Although she was crowned queen, she had no more real freedom than any of the other women captives who lived in the palace.

Yet, the scriptures tell us, she rose above her confinement with a spirit that would not be held captive, courage that would not be intimidated, and a mind that would not be subdued by any human.

In ancient Persia, women--even queens--were powerless and had no say, really, in anything. How did this teenage girl rise above the expectations of her low rank in life do what none of the great warriors could? She had a different kind of courage--it came from God. It was grown

from faith.

Imagine her running into the palace, uninvited, to face the king--an act that amounted to a direct threat to the King and a disregard for his authority, at the same time! It was usually punishable by death, and she knew this very well. Her courage, running to the king, is an echo of another young person, running toward what others considered was certain death. It was just like David, running to meet Goliath, shouting "You come to me with sword, spear, and javelin, but I come to you in the name of the Lord of Heaven's Armies!"

On the inside, her heart must have been shouting the same battle cry, in spite of her calm face and sweet smile. The fire in her eyes would have told it all. Perhaps that's what pierced the King's heart as he called off the guards and raised his scepter to her. Instead of condemning her to death, he asked, gently what she wanted? He was ready to give her half of his kingdom!

In the end, Esther saved her people. She stood in defiance of custom, rank, and even the law to obey the call of God to rise up and defend them.

This was not an empty act of protest. This was not a show of civil disobedience or rebellion. She was obeying God, after a period of prayer and fasting. She was not just called to be an example, she was chosen to act and to be a hero. Now, for all of time, she remains as one of only two women to have a whole book of the Bible named for them, devoted to their respective stories. Forever, when girls study the history of God's chosen people, they will study Esther, a very young woman who rescued her people.

Fast forward over two thousand years to the Nazi-occupied Netherlands. Huddled in a hidden group of rooms with a handful of others in the capital city Amsterdam, a girl named Anne Frank had a sharp mind and courageous soul like Esther. As a young Jewish girl who was certainly a serious reader, judging from her skill in writing at the age of thirteen, it's more than likely that she not only studied the book of Esther but was inspired by it. With insight and wisdom beyond her years and a passion for trying to address injustice with her words, Anne must have felt a connection with the young woman from history who, held captive like herself, had a burning desire to save her people.

As family after family was swept away into concentration camps and certain death, Anne was among a few people who survived only because they were hidden for two years. While people confined to their houses during the Coronavirus lockdowns experienced some degree of restlessness,

frustration and fear, it bears no comparison to the horror that awaited beyond the hidden door, if Anne and her companions had ever been discovered by Nazi soldiers. Relentlessly, they searched every home again and again, in search of Jewish people who were being hidden by their family and friends. Their national leader, Adolf Hitler, had ordered that they all must be rounded up and sent away, as they were threats to national security. The Persian law, ordering the execution of all Esther's people, had said the same. Some six million Jewish people who had fallen under German Nazi rule in 1940's Europe would meet the same fate as the ones in Esther's time had meant to see: they would all be murdered.

This dark period of world history, known as the Holocaust, would have since faded into the past leaving a shadow without faces, events without feeling, had it not been for the courageous heart of a young girl named Anne Frank. Day after day, night after night, instead of huddling in the corner and crying herself to sleep, she refused to act as if she were powerless. She poured out her heart and soul onto the pages of her diary, painting vivid images of the horror and fear, carefully chronicling the human suffering they endured, and fearlessly penning her thoughts and opinions about it all.

"I finally realized that I must do my schoolwork," she wrote, "to keep from being ignorant, to get on in life, to become a journalist, because that's what I want! I know I can write ..., but

(CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE)



"Real courage is when you know you're licked before you begin, but you begin anyway and see it through no matter what." -- Harper Lee, Author of *To Kill a Mockingbird*

These are the words of an ordinary girl with extraordinary insight and courage. As she undertook to attack racism in the middle of the south in the Civil Rights movement, she knew she had a giant to slay.

But she persevered, and so she would become yet another young woman whose writing would have a world-changing impact.

The plot and characters of *To Kill a Mockingbird* are loosely based on her childhood impressions of her 1930's world, including the neighborhood, its people, and an event of injustice that was burned in her mind. Racism ran rampant in the deep south, when she was a child, and the things she saw, heard and felt evolved into a novel that exposed the ugliness of racism and celebrated the courage of those who challenged it. Published in the middle of the civil rights revolution, it became a powerful tool in enlightening the minds of readers to the truth, provoking soul-searching questions and heated conversations ever since it hit the bookstores in 1960. It was an instant best-seller and won the Pulitzer Prize in 1961 - the greatest honor for any author - and has since sold more than 30 million copies.

The written word is a powerful weapon against ignorance and injustice. Commit your time and your heart to journaling as much as you can, especially about situations you've experienced or witnessed. Pour out your passion. Build your vocabulary. Sharpen your expression. Someday, your words may change the world, too!

Leaders show courage

it remains to be seen whether I really have talent ..."

Eventually, Anne and her hidden companions would be discovered and captured. Sadly, she died in 1945 in a concentration camp, within a few weeks before British soldiers would have liberated her from the horrible place. Her writings were put into the hands of a family friend who had no idea she had chronicled so much, with so much detail. Her book, a compilation of all these manuscripts and notes, was published after her death. It has since sold millions of copies and has been translated for readers around the world.

George Santayana, a philosopher, essayist, poet, and novelist, once said: "Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it."

While Anne was locked behind secret walls and doors, she could not physically defend her people. But because she so skillfully and thoroughly created a snapshot of history to be forever taught and discussed, she saved future generations from thoughtlessly creating the same situation again.

Visit: annefrank.org to learn more about Anne Frank and the place she was hidden. This website is maintained by museum that has memorialized her life and death, and contains a great deal of informational videos and information about what her experience must have been like.

"NOW IS THE TIME TO KNOW
that God is able.
To connect your
current reality
with God's
present ability."
- Priscilla Shirer

"FULFILLING OUR DESTINY
and realizing our potential
all begins in our mind.
That's why the devil
tries to bombard
our thinking."
- Christine Caine

"WHEN YOU GET INTO A TIGHT PLACE
and everything goes against you,
till it seems as though you could not
hang on a minute longer, never give
up then, for that is just the place
and time that the tide will turn."
- Harriet Beecher Stowe

"OUR GREATEST FEAR SHOULD NOT BE
of failure but of succeeding at things
in life that don't really matter."
- Francis Chan

"DESTINY IS REVEALED
in seasons of confrontation
rather than in seasons
of comfort."
- Lisa Bevere

