



women devoted to God

Lesson 1

The Handmaid of the Lord

by Linda Minnick

*And Mary said, "Behold, the 'handmaid' (KJV) of the Lord;
may it be done to me according to your word."
Luke 1:38*

Purpose of class: To encourage and aid single women in all walks of life to live in undistracted devotion to the Lord for His glory

Resources

1. Mentoring Biblical Womanhood MP3 Resources for Ladies
-*Sisters in Christ*, Cindy Melius Garland, August Sunday School Classes, 2009, MP3 S101
2. Recommended Reading List
3. Bibliography of Biographies
-*Psalms 145:3-12*

Observations from Luke 1:26-38

1. She had _____ from God.

*Luke 1:26-27 The angel Gabriel was sent **from God** to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin.*

2. She was _____.

*Luke 1:27 to **a virgin** engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the descendants of David; and **the virgin's** name was Mary.*

3. She was _____.

-with salvation vs. 47
-with a ministry for the Lord

*Luke 1:28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, **favored one!**"*

*Luke 1:30 The angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; for **you have found favor with God.**"*

4. She did not _____.

Luke 1:29 But she was very perplexed at this statement.

5. She had _____.

*Luke 1:28 And coming in, he said to her, "Greetings, favored one! **The Lord is with you.**"*

6. She did not _____.

*Luke 1:30 The angel said to her, “**Do not be afraid, Mary**; for you have found favor with God.*

7. She was given _____.

*Luke 1:26-27 The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city in Galilee called Nazareth, **to a virgin.***

*Luke 1:35 The angel answered and said to her, “**The Holy Spirit** will come upon you, and **the power of the Most High** will overshadow you; and **for that reason** the holy Child shall be called the Son of God.*

8. She was given _____.

Luke 1:34 Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?”

*Luke 1:37 “For **nothing will be impossible** with God.”*

9. She was completely _____.

***Luke 1:38** And Mary said, “Behold, **the bonds slave of the Lord**; may it be done to me according to your word.”*

Applications

1. **Like Mary**—You have a specific, individual appointment from God.

1 Corinthians 7

⁷ . . . each man has his own **gift from God**, one in this manner, and another in that.

¹⁷ Only, as the Lord has assigned to each one, as **God has called each**, in this manner let him walk.”

³⁴ . . . The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband.

³⁵ This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

⁴⁰ But in my opinion she is happier if she remains as she is; and I think that I also have the Spirit of God.

2. **Like Mary**—You have found Favor with God.

Ephesians 4

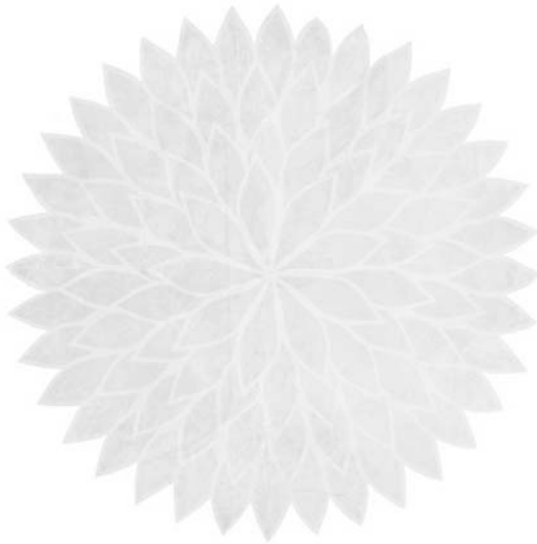
⁷ But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ's gift.

¹⁶ from whom the whole body, being fitted and held together by what every joint supplies, according to the proper working of each individual part, causes the growth of the body for the building up of itself in love.

3. Like Mary—Be the Handmaid of the Lord.

Spiritual Growth

2 Peter 1:2-3, 5-7 Grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord; seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence . . . Now for this very reason also, applying all diligence, in your faith supply moral excellence, and in your moral excellence, knowledge, and in your knowledge, self-control, and in your self-control, perseverance, and in your perseverance, godliness, and in your godliness, brotherly kindness, and in your brotherly kindness, love. For if these qualities are yours and are increasing, they render you neither useless nor unfruitful in the true knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.



🌿 **Character**

The Woman Who Feels the Lord

-vs. 10—her worth

-vs. 11-24—her works (5 mentions of “hands”)

1 Timothy 2:9-10 Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves . . . by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.

-vs. 25-27—her character (as also illustrated in vs. 11-24)

STRONG ----- *Strength and*
DIGNIFIED----- *dignity are her clothing,*
CONFIDENT----- *and she smiles at the future.*
WISE ----- *She opens her mouth in wisdom,*
KIND----- *and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.*
EFFICIENT--- *She looks well to the ways of her household,*
INDUSTRIOUS ---- *and does not eat the bread of idleness.*

-vs. 28-31—her praise

✿ **Undistracted Devotion**

1 Corinthians 7:34-35 . . . The woman who is unmarried, and the virgin, is concerned about the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and spirit; but one who is married is concerned about the things of the world, how she may please her husband. This I say for your own benefit; not to put a restraint upon you, but to promote what is appropriate and to secure undistracted devotion to the Lord.

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