Wives of the Bible
Study Guide
Become a Woman and Wife of Influence
by Jolene Engle
#1 Eve- The Wife of Influence

1. According to Genesis 2:18 why was Eve created?

2. Did God design Eve to compete and contend with her husband or to come along side and complement him?

3. Define Complement:

4. Share some ways you can help make one of your girlfriends a better person. For example, would you nag and criticize them or would you try to encourage and inspire them?

5. Now apply the above thought-process towards the relationship you have with your husband. Would you treat him differently then the way you would treat your girlfriends? Why or why not?

Merriam Webster’s Dictionary defines influence as the following:

- The power to change or affect someone or something: the power to cause changes without directly forcing them to happen

- A person or thing that affects someone or something in an important way
There is no other woman that God has designed to influence your husband like the way He has designed you. The position that you hold as a wife is a powerful position! You have been created to better your husband and to influence him towards a life that glorifies the Lord. We saw earlier in Genesis 2:18 why God created Eve, but now we’ll quickly see how she used her influence for her own glorification, rather than bringing glory to the Lord.

6. In Genesis 3:5, what does Satan say to Eve and who does he say Eve will be like?

7. Who else in the Bible wanted to be like God? Read Isaiah 14:12-14 and record what it says.

Eve hung out with the wrong crowd; one who was opposed to God and His word. The world that we’re living in today is in direct opposition to the Bible. According to society, the role of the wife is not a position given much consideration, nor is it held in high honor or esteem. Yet, according to God’s Word, this position brings tremendous worth and influence to not just our husbands, but to the world around us since our marriages are designed to reflect Christ and the Church.

**For you to ponder:** Are you currently spending time with people who influence you towards godliness or ungodliness? Do these outside influences share the same viewpoint that God holds of you as a wife? Do these outside influences cause you to be a wife who contends, competes, or complements your husband? Do you have any relationships that cause you to stumble as a Godly wife?

In Genesis 3:13, we read in the book how Eve was deceived by Satan. Then in 1 Timothy 2:13-14 we see God’s order in the marriage, as well as, the reason for the wife’s protection/headship:  
*For Adam was formed first, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

8. Read Ephesians 5:23 and 1 Corinthians 11:3 and write what the Bible says according to headship in Marriage.
Now I don’t know about you, but the above verses sure ruffled my feathers when I was single and newly learning the Bible. I was a woman who was conditioned by the world so I was pretty bent out of shape when I found out what God required for a Biblical marriage. Because of this, I was content to remain single and here was my reason why.

God has a biblical blueprint for marriage, and at the time of my life, I wasn’t willing to play the game of marriage according to the Lord’s guidelines, (obviously, I’ve since changed my mind!) Any woman can get married and become a wife, but I didn’t want to be just any woman; I wanted to be a Godly one, who reflected the image of my Savior. I wanted to be a woman who had the type of marriage that God intended. This all sounds wonderful but the reality was I knew I needed to change. More specifically, I needed to lay down my pride and submit to His Guide if I was going to have a glorious marriage, the kind that reflected His love.

9. What, if any, type of thinking do you need to change in order to have the type of marriage that God intended?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

Eve changed the world when she heeded the voice of the Enemy rather than heeding the voice of God. How can you change the world for the better? How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a godly influence in your husband’s life today? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #1

Use your influence to draw your husband closer to you and to the Lord.

2. According to Ephesians 5:33b, how does the Lord want you to treat your husband?

God knew we would be prone to disrespecting our husbands, thus it’s why He gave us this command in the Scriptures.

Definition of Respect:
- To take notice of; to regard with special attention; to regard as worthy of special consideration; hence,
- to care for; to heed.
- To consider worthy of esteem; to regard with honor.

3. In today’s society, it’s extremely common to see a wife disrespecting her husband. We see this action displayed on television shows, commercials, and even in played out in the life around us; amongst non-believers, as well as, believers. What does God’s Word say in Romans 12:2 so you don’t fall into the pattern of being a wife of this world?

4. According to Proverbs 12:4, how does the Lord view an excellent wife? What about a wife who causes her husband shame?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to show your husband respect today? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #2

Follow your husband in his shortcomings as long as it is not in his sin.
1. According to Genesis 16:2 whose voice did Abram heed? Was it God’s voice or his wife’s voice?

2. We saw this pattern earlier in the Scriptures back in the Garden of Eden, in Genesis 3:6, whose voice did Adam heed? Was it God’s or his wife’s?


Husbands have the propensity to be influenced by their wives, so much so, that they will disobey God and not lead their families according to how God commanded them. Isn’t that an eye-opener!

Now to give you a better understanding of a woman’s natural tendency, let’s look at Genesis 3:16. "And you will desire to control your husband, but he will rule over you.” (NLT)

Wives have the propensity of wanting to dominate and contend with their husbands.

Based on what you’ve just read in the Scriptures, has the light bulb come on yet? Now do you see how men can so easily shirk their God-given responsibilities and not lead their families? And how women can so easily step forward and take control?

4. Read James 4:1 and write what the Bible says about where fighting comes from.

5. What does Proverbs 3:5-7 say about being wise?
6. What does God want you to do according to Ephesians 5:22?

Keep in mind the rest of the verse in Ephesians 5:22 says, as to the Lord. This means if your guy is in sin, you don’t submit to him.

7. Any woman can be contentious since it’s in our nature, but God wants you to shine! So, how can you shine in the midst of your generation, according to Philippians 2:14-15?

8. Galatians 5:16 gives us the ability to control our emotions and our tendencies. Write the verse below and commit it to memory.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

Sarai changed the world when she influenced Abram to not wait on God and His promises. How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to wait on the Lord and your husband today? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #3**

Strive to control your emotions rather than your man.

A quick note: God does not endorse an abusive marriage. If you’re in one, separate from your man and seek help.
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#4 Job’s Wife– The Discouraging Wife

1. According to Job 1:6–12 who allows trials to touch our lives? And why did God allow the trials to take place in Job’s life?

2. How did Job respond when he went through his trials? (Job 1:21)

3. In Job 1:22, who did Job blame for all that happened to him? And who did Job’s wife blame? (Job 2:9)

4. What does Jesus say to us in John 16:33 about tribulations?

5. What does James 1:2-4 say about how we should view trials? What do trials produce in our lives?
6. According to Psalm 40:2, who is it that lifts us out of our pit of despair?

7. What do you learn about God’s Word regarding despair according to 2 Corinthians 4:8-9?

8. According to 1 Peter 5:8, who is seeking to attack and devour you?

9. In Ecclesiastes 4:12, how has God intended for you and your husband to conquer your enemies?

10. What warning is given in Galatians 5:15 when we quarrel with one another?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

When facing trials, what are some ways you be an encouraging wife towards your husband rather than a discouraging one? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #4

Fight the battles of life with him, rather than fight against him.
#5 Michal– The Wife Who Despised Her Husband

Early in Michal and David’s love story, we see how Michal’s father, King Saul, tried to bring division amongst the two young lovers when he sought to kill David. Michal could have chosen to align herself and give allegiance to her father but she chose to give her loyalty to her husband instead.

1. Based on King Saul’s own pride and insecurities, he sought to separate Michal and David by seeking David’s death. According to Mark 10:7-9, what does the Lord desire of a husband and wife?

Michal fought to remain one flesh with David when she chose David’s side rather than her father’s. Being that she was a new bride who was in love, her allegiance towards David was a no-brainer. But as the years of marriage roll on by for every couple, please be mindful of the fact that it’s common for the loyalty between a husband and wife to diminish. A wife’s loyalty towards her husband (and vice versa) is something that needs to be fought for and maintained on a regular basis.

2. What does Matthew 10:34-37 say about division?

3. Every day of your marriage you will be faced with a choice to make. Will your allegiance be to the Lord first and your husband second? Or will you seek to please your extended family, friends, coworkers, and/or the ways of the world rather than your Lord and your man?
4. David certainly dropped the ball when he sought to take Michal back as his wife because his reason for doing so was based on pride. Many times our husbands will make decisions in life that are not God-honoring. They too may do something based on their own selfish motives. When this takes place in your marriage, what type of action should you take based on Proverbs 10:12? And what type of attitude should you avoid so you don’t cause strife?

5. Write out what Proverbs 28:25 says about being prosperous in a relationship.

6. What does the Bible say we should avoid according to 2 Tim. 2:23? And what is the reason why?

7. How many times should you forgive your husband according to Matthew 18:22?

8. The scriptures don't say whether or not Michal confronted David in love regarding his prideful reasons of taking her back as his wife. But what the Bible does say is that Michal despised David in her heart. (2 Samuel 6:16) The Bible gives us women a directive of how to act out love towards those who have hurt us because they've fallen short, (Romans 3:23). Write out below 1 Corinthians 13:4-7.
9. No matter the trial we’re living in, God wants us to conduct ourselves in a manner that pleases Him. Fill in the chart below to record The Do’s and Don’ts of Ephesians 4:31-32.

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<th>DO according to Ephesians 4:31-32</th>
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Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a forgiving wife towards your husband today? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #5**

Be willing to forgive him.
#6 Lot’s Wife– The Worldly Wife

1. Like Lot’s wife, it’s so easy to get caught up with the ways of the world. The money, possessions, luxurious living, etc. To fight off disappointment and discontentment from growing in your heart, where should you set your mind according to Colossians 3:2?

2. Many times we think a fulfilling life comes from the status and possessions that we already have or those we are pursuing. But what should we be seeking based on Matthew 6:33?

3. Lot’s wife didn’t want to lose all that she had and known. I get that. In all honesty, I’m right there with her shaking my head in agreement. When you’re faced with uncertainty, as well as a sense of loss, life can feel unbearable. In fact, it’s downright painful to our flesh. What does 1 Timothy 6:17 say about trusting in riches? And who should we trust in?

4. What perspective do you need to hold on to when life does not go according to your plans?

5. When the storms of life take place, sometimes God is using that trial to refine us and take us to a better place, whether it’s spiritually, emotionally, or physically. But in order for Him to do so, sometimes He needs to prune us so we can bear more fruit in our lives. What does John 15:2 say about bearing fruit?
6. Lot’s wife chose her way instead of the Lord’s way. When she did this, was she abiding in the Lord? Did she bear fruit based on her choice? We already know the answer. She got left behind as a pillar of salt! Based on John 15:4, what do you need to do in order to bear fruit?

7. How can you prevail against the ways of the world and the desires of your flesh? Read John 15:5 and answer below. Based on the scripture given, are you capable of prevailing in your own strength or not?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to trust in His plans for your life? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #6**

Find your joy in Christ and not in the things of this world.
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#7 Herodias– The Manipulative Wife

1. Herodias was a wife of the flesh. She sought out her ways and her desires all the time and as she did, she was deceitful and manipulative about it. In Proverbs 31:11, what kind of attribute does the Lord desire a wife to be towards her husband?

Definition of trust:
- assured reliance on the character, ability, strength, or truth of someone or something
- one in which confidence is placed

2. Trust is one of the main components needed for a Godly marriage and if this virtue is lacking, marital issues will ensue and your one flesh union will be hindered, like Herodias’. Ultimately, if you are known to your husband as one who twists or exaggerates the truth or manipulates to get your way, you will lose his trust and you’ll diminish the influence you have on his life. Based on 1 Timothy 3:11, how would the Lord like you to conduct yourself as a wife?

3. According to Philippians 2:3, how should we treat others?

4. It’s easy to look out for our own interests, but who else should we look out for based on Philippians 2:4?
5. Are your actions more trustworthy and honorable towards your closest girlfriends and family members than they are with your husband?

6. What perspective can you take in life when you want things to go your way? Read John 3:30 and write the verse below.

Below I’ve listed 4 benefits to being a trustworthy wife. My hope in sharing these 4 things with you is so you don’t miss out on having this blessing in your marriage!

**4 Benefits of a Trustworthy Wife**

1. Your man will feel like he matters to you.

2. He’ll feel like you respect him when you’re looking out for his best interests rather than just your own interests.

3. His heart will soften towards you because your integrity will show him you’re a wife who is there to enrich his life, rather than harm his life.

4. He’ll open up to you more because his heart will feel safe within your care.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a wife of integrity today? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #7**

Be a wife of integrity.
Malachi 2:15 (NLT) says, “Didn’t the LORD make you one with your wife? In body and spirit you are his. And what does he want? Godly children from your union. So guard your heart; remain loyal to the wife of your youth.”

This verse states Godly offspring, not spoiled offspring. A wife can’t effectively model the type of marriage God intended for her children if she is constantly serving her kids while neglecting her husband and putting her marriage on the backburner. This kind of example will hinder her children’s future marriages. Her kids won’t know how to have a thriving marital relationship if one wasn’t modeled for them.

1. The role of motherhood is such a demanding role that we never feel like we’re getting it right. Guilt and fear can devour our thought process and make us feel like we’re not doing enough in the life of our child. Based on Philippians 1:6, what promise can you rest in for you and the life of your child?

2. Being a mom can leave you breathless and exhausted at the end of the day, leaving nothing left of you to give to your husband. To combat the feelings of fear all moms live with so you’re able to prioritize your life better, write out Isaiah 41:10 below.

3. In the world we live in today, marriages are crumbling left and right, thus causing children to grow up in divorced homes. In order to prevent a broken home, you need to prevent a broken marriage. Be proactive in your marriage by not letting your flame for your husband extinguish as you’re training up your children. If you keep your marriage strong, strong...
parenting will naturally follow. Philippians 4:6-7 gives us a solution for our mothering concerns. Write the out the verses below and commit them to memory.

4. If you’re already a wife and mom, which role are you better at? Which one do you put forth more effort in? Why? What changes do you feel you should make in either of these roles?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to put your husband’s needs before your children’s needs today? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #8

Model the kind of marriage you want your kids to have.
1. Sapphira’s story is a sad one in my eyes. Unfortunately, she wasn’t strong enough to stand up to her husband who wanted her to follow in his sin. As a wife, who should you place your trust in according to Psalm 118:8?

2. Your life as a believer in Jesus Christ is a witness to those around you. As you live out the Gospel message according to the Scriptures, who should you seek to please, first and foremost? Read 1 Thessalonians 2:4 and write the verse below.

3. In Proverbs 29:25, what happens to us when we fear man? What is the opposite response when we trust God?

4. What biblical principle in Acts 5:29 should you embrace for your marriage?

Ananais lacked integrity, and as a result, he led his wife to sin against God. A wife is never to follow her husband when he is in sin. When a wife seeks to please her husband by following in his sin-filled ways, she is ultimately misaligning the Word of God. Whether your man is a man of integrity or not, seek to be a woman who is.

**Definition of Integrity:**
- conduct that conforms to an accepted standard of right and wrong
- devotion to telling the truth
- faithfulness to high moral standards
5. There will be times in every wife’s life when her husband will want her to do something that isn’t honoring to the Lord, and vice versa. Based on Psalm 73:28, what are the actions you should take when your husband wants you to live in such a way that is contrary to the Scriptures? And where should you put your trust? Write out the entire verse below.

6. In Proverbs 12:22, how does the Lord view lying? And how does He view those who speak the truth?

7. Every believer will have the tendency to lie since it’s in our sinful nature. In order to prevail against this fleshy desire, how does the Lord want us to conduct ourselves according to Colossians 3:9-10?

Make a note of it: We saw in Sapphira’s life that she went along with her husband’s plan to deceive others. As a wife, please know it is biblically appropriate to confront your husband when he’s in sin. I’ll be addressing this topic later in the study.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a woman who places her trust in Christ rather than man? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #9

Choose humility over pride.
1. It is not uncommon for a wife’s love towards her husband to wane; after all, it’s in our nature to become discontent with all that the Lord has given to us. When you’re faced with temptations, whether they’re physical or emotional ones, what guidance and direction does the Word give to you in James 4:7?

2. In 1 John 2:15-16 God gives us a strong warning and admonition regarding our flesh. Write the verses below.

3. Write out Romans 8:5 to remind you of the war between your flesh and spirit.

4. How can you protect your heart from giving it to another man, whether it’s in an emotional or physical way? Read and write Hebrews 13:5 below.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to have a grateful heart for your husband today? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #10**

Feeding your flesh breeds discontentment, but feeding your Spirit brings contentment.
1. Just like Naomi, it’s quite common for us women to experience trepidation and fear when loss seems to be an ongoing theme in our lives; whether it’s the loss of a loved one, loss of job, loss of a relationship, loss of health, etc. What does God’s Word say we should do with our worries and concerns according to 1 Peter 5:7?

2. In order to have peace in our lives, where do we need to position our minds based on Isaiah 26:3?

3. When the torrential storms of life take place, it is so simple and natural for our hearts to become engrossed in bitterness. Share the biblical solution for warding off and/or overcoming a bitter heart according to 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18.

4. When provisions are uncertain in our lives, who should we turn to in our time of need according to Philippians 4:19?

5. John 10:10a says, “The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy,” but in the following verses of 10b and 11 what kind of life does the Word say we will have with Christ?
6. Every marriage, in some way, will experience a form of loss because God’s Word says we will go through trials and tribulations. (John 16:33) Losing heart in the midst of adversity is a common emotion every woman will experience. Write out 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 to help you keep an eternal perspective when your life is filled with heartache.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be others minded? How can you live beyond your painful circumstances and minister to your husband and/or others today? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #11

Live outside your circumstances so you can glorify the Lord with your life.
No wife ever wants to feel unloved by her husband. If she knew this would take place in her marriage, then most likely she would've never walked down the aisle. But every husband is prone to not giving his wife the affection she desires, so please don’t think if your man doesn’t love you enough that you’ve married the wrong guy. All husbands, at some point in their marriage, will fall into this category. It’s why God commands them in Ephesians 5:25 to love their wives. The Creator of marriage knew the heart of a husband would eventually wander from his bride at times.

1. What does 1 Corinthians 7:3 say about how husbands and wives should treat one another?

2. When you feel unloved by your guy, who should you look to according to Psalm 34:5? And how will you look?

3. Sometimes a marriage will experience wilderness moments, moments when the emotional intimacy seems to run dry or is lifeless. Regardless of the state of your marriage, how does the Lord view you according to Deuteronomy 32:10?

Since its common for us wives to go through periods in our marriages when we experience some form of loneliness, the above verse can give you the strength and confidence needed when you feel emotionally abandoned by your man.

In my own life, I have sought greater emotional intimacy with my Heavenly Father, than with my husband. I learned a long time ago that my husband could never meet all of my emotional needs because that role is designed solely for my Savior. Therefore, I have intentionally pursued a deeper relationship with Christ so I’m not so emotionally fragile in my earthly relationships. Pursuing this God-centered intimacy should encourage you to have the strength to draw closer to your husband, in spite of, his natural tendencies of placing his attention
elsewhere. Yes, this will require vulnerability on your part, but you are a wife of influence! Moving beyond your emotions will require you to cling to Christ and to His Word. Jeremiah 17:7-8 states,

"But blessed are those who trust in the LORD and have made the LORD their hope and confidence. They are like trees planted along a riverbank, with roots that reach deep into the water. Such trees are not bothered by the heat or worried by long months of drought. Their leaves stay green, and they never stop producing fruit.

4. According to these verses, when you place your hope and confidence in the Lord, what type of wife will you be?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to draw closer to Christ and to your husband today? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #12**

Surrender your plan for marriage for God’s plan.
Brokenhearted. It’s probably safe to say that most, if not all, women have experienced this emotion at least once in their life. We have our ‘Hannah’ moments when we cry out to God with our crushed spirits and nothing can satisfy us, not even a great and godly husband.

1. A broken heart doesn’t have to come from just being infertile; it can be any desire in the heart of a woman that has yet to come to fruition. Read Psalm 34:18 and write what it says about our sufferings.

2. When our courage is gone and our hearts are yearning for strength, what counsel does the Psalmist give to us in Psalm 27:14?

3. When I read 2 Corinthians 12:9 with my flesh-filled heart, it’s difficult for my emotions to come to terms with God’s response. What, according to 2 Corinthians 12:9, is sufficient for us? Note: A different translation says, ‘all we need’. Write the verse in its entirety and commit it to memory.

4. In times of distress, what does the Lord say He does when we cry out to Him according to Psalm 120:1?
5. When faced with trials, what action should we pursue and why should we pursue it, based on 1 Peter 4:12-13?

6. When anguish is growing in our hearts and when the suffering seems unbearable, who should we commit our souls to and how should we commit them according to 1 Peter 4:19?

7. Contentment is a choice and a hard one at that! We can learn well from the Apostle Paul who, in my opinion, is the poster child for being content in all circumstances. Read Philippians 4:11-12 and write the verses below.

8. Since contentment is a virtue that needs to be developed in the heart of every wife, what was the source of Paul’s strength based on Philippians 4:13?

9. When the afflictions in our life are too much for us to bear, sometimes we are tempted to wander from God’s path. To help us from wandering, what admonition is given to us in Psalm 37:34?
Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to develop the virtue of being content with your circumstances today? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #13

Choose to be an exceptional wife in spite of life’s circumstances.
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#14 The Woman at the Well– The Redeemed Wife

A past filled with sin is the story of this woman’s life, and every other woman’s since no one is perfect. We all have baggage of some sorts. Yet, Christ came and redeemed this woman, and you and me. Girlfriend, we are covered by His grace- a free gift that we can’t earn!

While we can certainly appreciate the beauty of God’s grace, sometimes we can’t move beyond some of the poor choices we’ve made. Our minds won’t allow us to overcome and live a victorious life which has been covered by His blood.

1. If Jesus Christ is your Lord and Savior, then guess what? You’re a redeemed wife and woman! What does the Word tell us in 2 Corinthians 5:17 about our past sins?

Every day we sin and every time we repent, Christ forgives us. But Satan wants to condemn us for our wrong actions, attitudes, and the ungracious words we speak. There’s a big difference between being convicted by the Holy Spirit and being condemned by the Enemy. Check out the box below for a better understanding.

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<th>Convicted by the Holy Spirit</th>
<th>Condemned by Satan</th>
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<td>Conviction is the Holy Spirit moving and prompting your heart to become more like Jesus Christ.</td>
<td>Condemnation is the Enemy lying to you.</td>
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<td>Conviction will motivate you to move towards righteousness.</td>
<td>Condemnation will spiritually paralyze you.</td>
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2. What does Romans 8:1 says about condemnation?
3. In order to have a thriving marriage, we need to check our hearts so God can transform our hearts. To learn how to do a heart check, we look to our wonderful example, David, the Psalmist. In Psalm 139:23-24, what does he ask God to do in his life and why?

4. Whether your man is a believer, barely believing, or a non-believer, do you allow the Holy Spirit to convict your husband of his words or actions, or do you have a tendency to fill that role? If you’ve taken up this role in your marriage then humbly ask the Lord to forgive you.

5. Since we now know what condemnation looks like and who does the condemning, in Revelation 12:10, the Bible gives us more insight into who Satan is—he’s called the accuser of the brethren. Do you have a tendency to align yourself with the Enemy by condemning your husband for his wrong doing? If this is an on-going tendency of yours, then ask the Lord to help you align your heart with His.

Earlier I shared with you how hard it is to feel redeemed and how easily it is for us to carry around our guilt and shame. Even though Christ bled out on that Cross for our sins, Satan doesn’t want us to walk in victory. Now I realize the two questions above could certainly ruffle your feathers, but let me remind you that I’m just the messenger! Remember, it’s the Holy Spirit who convicts. I put the those two questions right in the middle of this lesson because my heart for you is to see God’s grace toward you, so you can, in turn, pour out His grace on your husband.

6. Friend, did you know that we are at war? We battle Satan in our minds as we war against the forces of darkness, according to Ephesians 6:12. And we’re in a physical battle against our flesh. The spiritual giant, the Apostle Paul, talks about this war in Galatians 5:17. What does he say?
7. A redeemed wife will sit under grace, but she’ll walk in obedience because she’ll want to please the One who has given her grace. What does John 14:15 say about love?

8. Walking in love is no picnic for our flesh! Based on Galatians 5:25, how can we be victorious in this pursuit?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to sit under grace and walk in obedience today?

Marriage Principle #14

Receive God’s grace so you can give God’s grace.
Abigail was a woman of action, but before she moved forward in her decisions, she was discerning about her choices.

**Definition of Discerning:**

-Distinguishing; seeing; discovering; knowing; judging.
-Having power to discern; capable of seeing, discriminating, knowing and judging; sharp-sighted; penetrating; acute; as a discerning man or mind.

A discerning wife takes things in. She watches. She prays for guidance. She lines things up with the Scriptures. Then she processes all she’s learned before she reacts and responds to others. She’s the opposite of an impetus wife; a wife who responds on impulse. Early in my marriage I was an impetus wife, much like how the Apostle Peter was impetus when he cut off the Roman soldier’s ear back in the garden of Gethsemane. If you handed me a sword back in the day, most likely someone would have lost an ear!

1. Any wife can be an impetus wife, but a discerning wife takes effort. In order to know the difference between good and evil, we need to know God’s Word and then apply it to our lives. In James 3:17, what does God’s wisdom produce?

2. According to James 3:13, what type of conduct does a wise woman display towards others? And in what fashion does she display it?
3. A discerning wife will guard her heart and mind so she doesn’t become a spiritually naïve wife. According to Ephesians 6:12 what kind of battle are we living in?

4. Based on Ephesians 5:15-17 how should a wife walk in this life?

5. When, (not if), disagreements take place in your marriage, a discerning wife knows her husband is not her enemy, but rather, it’s Satan; he is the one seeking to devour and destroy your marital union. In Matthew 19:6, what is the will of the Lord for your marriage?

6. How can you prevail against the Enemy to keep your marriage strong based on Ephesians 6:13-18

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a more discerning wife today? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #15**

Seek discernment to avoid pitfalls.
I personally feel we are a generation of women who lack Godly role models. The idea of an older woman mentoring a younger one almost seems like a lost art. Women are relational and we want to connect. We desire fellowship, but at the same time, we’re fearful of it. We are fearful that we’ll get hurt, again, fearful that we’ll be rejected, and fearful that we’ll be judged. I fully understand all of these emotions because I’ve experienced all of the pains associated with them. Of course these wounds can cause me to never want to put myself out there again, but this response is not Biblical. As much as I’ve wanted to argue with God about this viewpoint, I couldn’t find anywhere in His Word where I could justify my emotional perspective.

God designed us to minister to one another. Not only did He design us this way, but He also emulated to us how to go about in ministry. His method was a simple one. He simply walked with His daughter. He acted like He cared about her life, because He did! This same premise is how you can minister to another woman. Simply go through life with her. Bring her to the Living Water so she’ll never thirst again.

1. No matter the age or the depths of your spiritual understanding, a humble spirit looks attractive on anyone. If you are a young woman today, read 1 Peter 5:5. How does the Lord want you to respond to older women and why?

Many times we feel like we don’t know enough of the Word of God or we’re fearful of stepping outside of our comfort zone to be used by God. I faced (and still face) these emotions on a regular basis as I pour out my life into the lives of countless women.

Over a decade ago, I was asked to lead a Bible study for my church. At the time I was saved for only about 5 years. My oldest son was less than 2 years old and I had just given birth to my second son. My hands were quite full with a newborn baby of only 2 weeks old when I was asked to lead a Bible study in the book of Revelation! I was filled with fear and to say my circumstances were less than perfect would be a gross understatement.

In my mind, I was the wrong woman for the job; however, my husband kept reminding me of the verse in 1 Timothy 4:12.

2. Whether you’re young in physical age or in spiritual age, write 1 Timothy 4:12 below and commit it to memory.
Don’t let your age keep you from being an example to other women!

The point of a Titus 2 Wife is to be an example to the younger wives so we don’t blaspheme the Word of God, based on how we conduct ourselves, the way we live out our marriages, and how we raise up our children. It’s not how much of the Word of God you know, but it’s the example you are to those around you.

3. Based on what you’ve read about Naomi, The Bitter Wife, would you say her circumstances were perfect or less than perfect when she poured into Ruth’s life?

4. What are your reasons for holding back and not reaching out to minister to other women? Are they Biblically-based reasons or are they emotionally-based reasons?

5. Have you been faithful in the little things? Growing in Christ takes time; therefore, God wants you to be faithful in all that He’s given to you. You may have a heart to jump right in and minister to others, but perhaps the Lord hasn’t put you in a position to do so. Read and write out Matthew 25:23 to see what God requires of his servant.

A Titus 2 Wife is faithful in the little things. She seeks to make her marriage Christ-centered rather than self-centered. She diligently disciples her children, and she works at making her home a haven. Be faithful in the little things, friend, and in due time, the Lord will reward you with more.

6. What woman in your life has been an example to you of a Titus 2 woman?
7. What woman in your life can you be an example to?

**Something for you to discern:** In my own life, I’ve come across older women who are lukewarm in their faith and contentious towards their husbands, yet they’ve been a Christian for several decades. Just because these women are older than me in physical years and married longer than me, doesn’t mean I would look to them for Godly counsel. **A woman’s age and life experience does not supersede Godly wisdom,** so make sure you’re discerning about who you allow to speak into your life regarding your relationships.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to reach out and minister to another woman today? Write your thoughts below.

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**Marriage Principle #16**

Obey the Lord and your husband will be honored.
Wives of the Bible
Study Guide
By Jolene Engle

#17 Esther—The Wife Who Wasn’t a Doormat

Esther is one remarkable woman. She stepped forward to protect the lives of her family and friends even if it meant her own death. Confronting someone isn’t always easy, especially if it means your life is on the line. In marriage, confronting a husband about some of his actions that we don’t care for can certainly stir up a hornet’s nest in our relationship. However, sweeping concerns under the rug and pretending they’ll just go away is not a wise path to take because this path can often lead to resentment and bitterness in the heart of a wife.

1. When your husband sins against you, what is the proper biblical response based on Luke 17:3?

2. When a wife needs to confront her husband, how should she speak to him, according to Proverbs 31:26?

3. Based on 2 Timothy 2:24-26, in what manner should a wife conduct herself when she needs to confront her husband and why should she conduct herself in this way?

4. Not every disagreement in a marriage is centered on a spouse’s sin. Some arguments are based on differing perspectives or misunderstandings due to a lack of communication, such as with Esther’s husband. The King didn’t realize the decree he made would bring such dire circumstances to his wife and her loved ones. As you go through life with your husband, you may encounter a similar situation, one in which your husband doesn’t have all of the information of what’s going on inside of your heart. When this type of situation arises in your marriage, keep in mind that your husband can’t read your mind. He needs to know what’s going on in your heart, much like how King Ahasuerus needed to hear Esther’s heart. In 1 Peter 3:7, God commands a husband to be considerate towards his
wife, but in order for a husband to fulfill this command, what does your man need from you?

5. According to Colossians 3:12-14, how would the Lord desire you to share what’s taking place in your heart as you discuss your concerns with your husband?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to address the concerns of your heart with your husband today? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #17

When appropriate, confront your husband in love.
Mrs. P is one interesting duck. This wife definitely fascinates me. Without her knowing the Lord, her soul was sensitive enough to know something wasn’t quite right with the situation between her husband and Jesus. I wonder if she shoved her nagging ways into some overstuffed closet hoping they’d never seep out. Or perhaps her mama taught her it wasn’t becoming of a lady to be a nag? Or maybe she and Mr. P had a throw-down back at the palace once the whole ordeal with Jesus was over? It seemed like she let things go, but the Scriptures don’t tell us the rest of the story. If she was a wife who could let things go, then she was one self-controlled and wise woman!

I don’t know about you, but I’m a work-in-progress kind of wife. In fact, you can just throw a sign around my neck that says, “Caution: wife under construction. Proceed slowly.” For a good 10 years now, when there are issues at hand, I will take a deep breathe as I walk through my house saying out loud, “Let it go. Let it go.” I guess it’s not enough for me to just say this mantra quietly to myself that I have to actually hear those words in order for me to calm my anxious heart. Maybe Mrs. P developed this habit as well?

The tendency to nag is common amongst wives, though, I’m not quite sure why that is. However, I can’t help but speculate on the female gender’s tendencies. Perhaps we don’t feel heard when our men don’t respond to our requests? And when we don’t feel heard, we certainly don’t feel loved. Maybe if our men don’t respond to us we think they might drop the ball which could cause us more drama and/or work in our lives? Or perhaps we’re afraid to give up control because we’re governed by fear? It doesn’t really matter what the reasons are for nagging because this habit is unattractive on anyone. No man wants to be around a wife who is constantly nagging, but how does a wife overcome this habit? Answer: We turn to the Word to overcome all of our flesh-filled tendencies.

1. According to James 3:6, what is the tongue like?

2. In James 3:8, we are given a warning about our tongue. Read the scripture and write the verse below.
3. According to James 3:9-10 what two complete opposite things do we do with our tongues?

4. What admonition is given to us in Ephesians 4:29 about our words?

5. When reading the verses in Romans 12:10-12, do you find the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a kind, gracious, and self-controlled wife or one who nags?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a wife who is slow to speak and quick to hear your husband today? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #18

Captivate his heart by your loving and respectful attitude.
The sex chapter! We can’t have a marriage book without addressing physical intimacy, now can we? Since the act of marriage is what sets our marital relationship apart from all other relationships, this topic is vitally important for a thriving marriage. God designed sex solely for marriage; therefore it’s safe to say we married our men so we can have sex with them. Simple truth, isn’t it? Now I’m sure there were other reasons why you married your guy, just like there were others reasons why I married mine, but ultimately the obvious reason we got married was because we wanted to connect with our guy in a physically intimate way.

Most marriages start off with a thriving intimate life but over time either our men stop romancing us, our schedules become too demanding, or our hearts become hardened towards our guy. When any one of these things takes place in our marriage, then the marriage is under attack by the Enemy!

1. The Lord, in His infinite wisdom, knows the hearts of His kids and the snares we encounter; therefore, He gives us some instructions to a thriving intimate life. Based on Proverbs 5:18-19, what should a husband do with his wife?

2. A wife’s body is the only naked body a husband is allowed to see and touch. Do you let your husband delight in you and be enraptured with your love? Or do you tend to shy away from his advances or discount what he says about your physical beauty?

3. The Creator of the Universe made you and He deems you as beautiful. When the insecurities rise up in your mind about your outer appearance, what can you meditate on according to Philippians 4:8?
4. What instruction does 1 Corinthians 7:5 give to you as a wife regarding physical intimacy? What is the reason for this admonition?

Physical intimacy for a wife starts in her mind. A wife generally connects with her husband by talking with him and a husband generally connects with his wife through physical intimacy, however, Satan doesn't want you to draw closer to your husband. If the Enemy can get the two of you to have very little sex, or stop you from having sex, or convince you that you despise having sex with your husband, then guess what? The Enemy has a foothold in your marriage!

**Tips to Plan and Protect Your Marriage from the Enemy**

- Be intentional about defeating the Enemy in regards to this aspect of your marriage.
- Plan your times of intimacy with your husband so you’re not so exhausted at the end of the day. Put the kids to bed earlier. Don’t over-commit yourself to outside activities. Take a nap if need be.
- Be a wife who actively pursues her husband.
- Be a wife who looks forward to being intimate with her husband.
- Be a wife who places a higher importance upon her marriage rather than on motherhood, a career, outside relationships, ministry, etc.
- Be a wife who embraces what God has ordained specifically for marriage, rather than a wife who rejects it, avoids it, or becomes complacent towards it.

Got unresolved issues in your marriage? These thorns will destroy your physical intimacy if you and your man don’t work at ridding them from your marriage. Your marriage will soon become platonic, which will eventually lead to a bitter and hardened heart. Don’t let Satan win this battle. Fight for your marriage.

Be a world-changing wife this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to physically pursue your husband? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #19**

Pursue your husband.
1. A natural by-product of a Christian’s life is that of serving the Lord by serving others. However, the service of others requires us to lay down our own lives, to give up our free time, to put aside our insecurities, and to overcome our fears. In Isaiah 6:8, the Lord was in need of a faithful servant to do His will. How did Isaiah respond to the Lord’s request?

2. Isaiah’s response was absolutely precious even though he didn’t know all that the Lord was going to require of him. He took a leap of faith anyways. But that leap isn’t always so simple and easy; many times we are faced with great fear when the Lord calls us to follow Him into ministry. But, as Believers, does the fear that we experience come from God based on 2 Timothy 1:7? What has God given us instead?

3. Sometimes women wait for those perfect conditions before they’re willing to step outside of their homes and serve others. However, they are missing a key component to their marriage when they take this self-centered perspective. Serving in ministry should cause you to grow spiritually. When you grow spiritually, then your marriage will reap those rewards. God doesn’t want you to be deceived thinking only those who are super spiritual are called to serve. We are all called to serve the Lord. Read James 1:22 and write what God wants you to do.

4. What charge is given to you in 2 Timothy 4:5?
Tips on Learning to Serve the Lord Together

♥ Always remain intentional about building a Christ-centered marriage.

♥ Ministries that aren’t gender-specific are the easiest place to start serving together. A few examples would be children’s ministry or missions. Ask your local church where they need help and pray as a couple to see where you can get involved.

♥ If the interest from one spouse is a gender-specific ministry, for example, the husband has a desire to serve in a men’s ministry. See if you can come alongside of your man so you can be together. Maybe you offer to open your home for Bible study and your man leads the group? Or he invites his buddies over and the wives are invited for a night of fellowship? Work on ways to connect within the ministry.

♥ Don’t be afraid to step outside of your comfort zone. Ministering with your spouse will bond you in an emotional, mental, and spiritual way.

Word of caution: If you are involved in outside ministry, keep in mind, your family relationships and home life should not be neglected as a result of this pursuit. Your man, your children, and your home come before outside ministry. As you face the changing stages and seasons of life, outside ministry should ebb and flow as a result. For example: I have more time today to give of myself towards outside ministry than I did when my boys were babes and toddlers. When my children become young adults and are no longing living with me, I’ll have even more time to devote to outside ministry than what I do today.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to serve Him by serving others? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #20

Make your marriage your first ministry.
Wow, what a Godly example Mary has been to women and wives throughout the ages! We learned back in the second lesson of this study while peeking into Vashti’s life about the importance of respect in marriage, more specifically, a wife respecting her husband, based on Ephesians 5:33. In Mary’s life we see this played out with excellence. However, there was much more to Mary’s story before we learned how respectful she was to Joseph. Let’s take a peek at this Godly woman’s life.

1. In Luke 1:31, we read the angel Gabriel announcing to Mary that the Holy Spirit was going to come upon her and she was going to conceive and give birth to the Messiah. After much dialogue between Mary and the angel, what was Mary’s final response to Gabriel in Luke 1:38?

Mary considered herself to be a maidservant of the Lord.

The Greek word for maidservant is doulos, meaning, a female slave, bondmaid, handmaid.

According to the world’s standards, this is a lowly and demeaning position for any woman, however, Mary is held in high esteem and honor. It was Mary who chose to give herself the title of maidservant because her desire was to humbly bow low so she could lift her Lord on high.

Mary went on further to say: “Let it be to me according to your word.” How often do we humbly say that to our Lord? As modern-day women, we have the Bible right at our fingertips. Everything is spelled out in God’s instruction manual on how to have a Godly marriage, yet, do we consider ourselves to be maidservants of the Lord? Do we respond, “Let it be to me according to your word,” when God commands us to respect and submit to our husbands as in the Lord?

When I was a young bride, I soon learned an important ingredient to a thriving marriage; it was simply giving respect to my man. It was a marital principle filled with Truth since God commanded me to do this. In my mind, I saw this whole ‘respecting your husband thing’ as a piece to the marital puzzle. Mary is an example of a woman who surrendered her plan for God’s plan. Are you willing to surrender your plan of marriage for God’s plan of marriage?

1. In Philippians 1:27, what does Paul say our conduct should be like?
2. Are you willing to lay down your life so your marriage can represent the gospel of Christ?

3. At some point in a wife’s marriage she will disrespect her husband. It’s a given. We do this because we’re sinful, and we also do it because we’re justifying our emotions; claiming that our husband no longer deserves our respect because we either don’t agree with him, or because we’ve lost respect for him because we didn’t like the choices he made. Of course there are times we’d like to argue with our Maker and the Creator of marriage when things like this happen in our marriage. We want to tell God He’s got the respect thing all wrong and He must not know our husband, because if He did, He wouldn’t command us to respect him! But check out what Isaiah 55:8-9 says about the Great I Am. Write the verses below.

4. Are you willing to trust the Creator of marriage with your marriage today? Will you fight the emotions of your flesh, as well as the Enemy, as you seek to respect your husband?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to embrace the perspective of being a maidservant of the Lord in your marriage? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #21**

Be a world-changing wife- one who respects her husband!
The word submission is such a controversial word, both inside and outside of the Church. When I was studying this very important Biblical command, I decided to look up the Greek meaning of it, and I learned it’s the word, hypotasso.

**Definition of hypotassō:**
A Greek military term meaning "to arrange in a military fashion under the command of a leader". In non-military use, it was "a voluntary attitude of giving in, cooperating, assuming responsibility, and carrying a burden".

The Greek word sheds a little light on this highly debatable word. It shows us submission is a voluntary attitude of giving in. No one can force you to submit to anyone, whether it’s you submitting to your God, your husband, your boss, etc. Submission is your choice, hence why it’s called, voluntary.

Since the biblical command is written to the wife, you get to make the decision in your marriage whether you will submit to your husband or not. Your husband doesn’t get to make this choice for you since the command is not written to him. If he coerces you or manipulates you, then biblical submission is no longer Biblical. In essence, if your man is forcing you to submit to him, then you married a spiritual bully and one who doesn’t fully understand the Scriptures. *If this is your situation, you’ll need to act like Esther as you respectfully address the Word of God to your man. If he is physically abusive, remove yourself from him and seek outside help.*

1. In Ephesians 5:22 and Colossians 3:18, what does God command us to do?

2. How does God want us to fulfill the commands in Ephesians 5:22 and Colossians 3:18?

When your husband makes requests of you that are contrary to the Word of God, this is when submission is no longer fitting to the Lord. Don’t heed your husband’s words or follow in his ways. Always seek to be a wife who pleases her Maker before all others.
3. Anytime we see the Lord repeating Himself in His Word, it’s because He wants us to pay attention to what He’s saying! He knows what a marriage needs in order to thrive, but He also knows the tendency of our flesh. According to Hebrews 11:6, how can we please the Lord with this unnatural pursuit of ours to submit to our husbands as to the Lord?

4. Biblical submission requires a wife to put great faith in her Lord. Notice I didn’t say your husband, but rather your God. You are ultimately submitting yourself to Jesus Christ as you’re surrendering your will to do His will. Did you know that Jesus had to surrender His will as well? Yep. Take a look at John 6:38 and write the verse below.

5. In today’s times, the word submission is viewed as an archaic word. Many people, including those who call themselves believers, feel like the word submission is no longer applicable to our lives today. They seem to think there are portions in the Scriptures that you can toss out because the times have changed. However, does God’s Word change based on what century we live in? Read Hebrews 13:8 and write what it says.

6. John 1:1 says that Jesus is the Word, and if the Word of God calls wives to submit to their own husbands, can the view of biblical submission be dismissed because we now live in a modern society rather than biblical times? Why? Why not?
More Insight into What Biblical Submission Is and Isn’t

❤️ A simple way of understanding the concept of biblical submission just means that you believe in your husband and you’ll follow him! Kind of like how you did when you were dating. In my own life, sometimes I view biblical submission as a form of respecting my husband as I act out my respect towards him when I follow his leading.

❤️ Biblical submission does not equate to silent submission. It does not mean a wife lives a life where she’s always stuffing her feelings and not sharing her thoughts and opinions with her husband.

❤️ Biblical submission does not mean you follow your husband when he is in sin!

❤️ One last thing, I had a Christian woman leave a comment on my blog one day basically saying that biblical submission leads to physical abuse in marriage. Unfortunately, she was the recipient of that abuse, but sadly, biblical submission wasn’t the cause of the abuse. This biblical principle didn’t create the abuse; it was her husband’s sin that created it. God is a God of love and He would never give a wife a command that is contrary to His character and nature.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to follow and believe in your husband today? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #22

Be a wife who is not of this world- the kind who submits to her husband.
I can almost hear your sigh of relief as you read about this wife in my book. Our Father in Heaven never intended for us to feel like we’re worthless women when we can’t manage everything on our to-do lists, yet many times when we read this passage in Proverbs, it’s exactly how we feel—defeated and overwhelmed.

My heart, probably like your heart, is to be like Mary; however, we do have to use our hands like Martha. Yet, what I couldn’t seem to manage in my life was how not to become bitter and overwhelmed like Martha. How could I have a Mary-like spirit while I used my hands to minister to my family? Something wasn’t adding up. No matter how much I tweaked my schedule or planned my days, the Christian wife’s life was too much for this gal to handle. As I sought to walk in the Scriptures, I felt like I was failing miserably.

Although my pursuits were God-honoring, my relationship with Jesus Christ was suffering, and I knew it. Even though I was still reading His Word, attending church every week, serving Him, praying, and listening to praise and worship music, I still felt distant from Him. I knew something was off in how I was going about my pursuit but I couldn’t put my finger on it. So with zero joy in my heart, one day I decided to just stop everything I was doing.

I made the decision to cut just about everything I could out of my life other than life’s basic necessities. I also lowered my standards and expectations of myself and others.

My number one goal at this time was to pursue my relationship with the Lord. I needed to be filled with Him and Him alone so I could hear Him speak to my heart. I became so intentional about practicing being in His presence; walking with Him, talking with Him, and just living life with Him. My aim has been to simply dwell with my Savior and to enjoy my relationship with Him. I knew the sources of peace, joy, love, and contentment came from Him, so if I wanted more of these in my life and in my marriage, I needed more of Christ in me.

So I stopped striving and I tweaked my perspective just slightly. This perspective is what I want you to learn so you can feel refreshed and renewed in your relationship with the Lord, in your marriage, and in your family life.

1. Read John 15:4 and write what Jesus wants you to do and why you should do it.

Some translations will use the word *remain* while others use *abide*. The Greek word for abide is menō. It means:
-not to depart
-to continue to be present
-to be held, kept, continually

We have a tendency to wander from staying close to our Lord. Our God-honoring activities can pull us away from having a deep abiding relationship with Christ, thus causing us to be stagnant and fruitless.

2. In Matthew 11:28-29, what does Jesus call us to do when we’re tired?

3. When you feel defeated and overwhelmed with every responsibility that is on your plate, how do you usually respond to your husband and family?

4. What area of responsibility do you need to release your control over? What is keeping you from letting it go?

5. Is there a standard or expectation of yours that needs to be lowered so you can experience a better marriage? What is it?

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!
How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to slow down and enjoy the relationship with Christ and your husband today? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #23**

Cease striving, and abide in Christ.
#24 Sarah– The Transformed Wife

A Christ-centered wife isn’t a perfect wife, but rather, a wife who is growing in grace and truth. She daily seeks to be a woman who is pursuing moral excellence and virtues as she lays down her life to emulate her Savior, Jesus Christ. As we attempt to pursue this noble endeavor, we won’t always be successful. We’ll fall short, as stated in Romans 3:23. This is part of our sanctification process. Yes, we are set apart for God’s holy purposes, but we haven’t arrived to perfect status, thus, why our marriages aren’t perfect!

It’s nice to see a transformed wife like Sarah, a wife who was once so controlling and contentious, to a wife who is an inspiring example to women around the world and throughout the ages.

1. As we continue to grow as Christ-centered women and wives, what should we flee and pursue based on 2 Timothy 2:22?

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2. There is no doubt that the road of transformation will be hard to walk since there is a change taking place within our hearts and minds. When the journey seems overwhelming and arduous, what does the Lord tells us in Psalm 4:3 when we call to Him?

3. Galatians 5:22-23 tells us what the fruit of the Spirit produces in a wife who seeks to live in the Spirit. What’s produced?
4. According to 2 Corinthians 3:16, what happens to us when we turn to the Lord?

When we seek to surrender our plans and ways of marriage and humbly exchange them for God’s plans and ways for marriage, the veil is taken away. We see things in a much different light! Our view is no longer clouded!

5. What does the Lord say about us in 2 Corinthians 3:18?

6. We can’t see the full picture of our lives played out, just like Sarai couldn’t see hers when she freaked out about not having a baby. When trials cloud your view and your heart seems faint, you can cling to the promise in Romans 8:28. Write the verse below and commit it to memory.

7. One of my favorite verses in the Bible is Zechariah 4:6. This verse reminds me that the Holy Spirit is with me and helping me through life. I don’t need to carry the weight of the world on my shoulders and I don’t need to do it all. Maybe this verse will become a favorite of yours, too! Write the verse below and commit it to memory.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to walk in the Spirit today? Write your thoughts below.

Marriage Principle #24

The more you draw near to Christ, the more you’ll reflect Christ in your marriage.
Wives of the Bible
Study Guide
By Jolene Engle

#25 The Bride of Christ

1. If there is one thing I’ve learned as a Christ-centered woman, wife, and mom, it’s that relationships matter. We saw this same premise played out in the 7 churches. It matters how we spend our time, who and what we invest in, and how we live our lives. What admonition does the Apostle Paul give to us in Galatians 6:7?

2. In Galatians 6:8, what happens to us when we sow to our flesh? What happens to us when we sow to the Spirit?

3. According to Hebrews 12:1-2, how can we run the marriage race well, and who do we need to look to for our strength?

4. The Apostle Paul is a beautiful example of one determined saint regardless of the persecutions he endured. What did he say in 2 Timothy 4:7 about how he lived for the Lord? Write the verse below and commit it to memory.
5. How do you want to live for the Lord? What is your race going to look like? When your time here on earth is over, how do you want to finish your race? What will your marriage look like? One that represents Christ and the Church or will it represent the world? Will you keep Christ as your first love and your husband as your second? Write your thoughts below.

Be a world-changing wife/woman this week!

How is the Holy Spirit prompting you to be a faithful bride to Christ and a faithful bride to your husband today? Write your thoughts below.

**Marriage Principle #25**

Keep Christ as your first love, and your husband as your second.
For more information about Jolene Engle and *The Alabaster Jar Ministries*, you can find it here:

www.JoleneEngle.com

If this book has made an impact on your life, would you kindly leave a review for us on Amazon.com so we can spread this message to other women and wives?