

SESSION 5 | *February 4, 2025*

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

On the Potter's Wheel



with PATTY STUMP

The following pages contain information provided
by our speaker for your study and enrichment.

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On the Potter's Wheel

WEEK 5: *Set Apart* Session Guide

“Does not the potter have the right to make out of the same lump of clay some pottery for special purposes and some for common use?” – Romans 9:21, NIV

1. An Interrupted Life

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord.” – Jeremiah 29:11, NIV

2. A Yielded Will

*“Then he said to them all: ‘Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross **daily** and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.’” – Luke 9:23-24, NIV*

3. A Surrendered Heart

“Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end.” – Psalm 119:33, NIV

On the Potter's Wheel

WEEK 5: *Set Apart* Growth Opportunity

*“Does not **the potter** have **the** right to make out of **the** same lump of clay some **pottery** for special purposes and some for common use?” – Romans 9:21, NIV*

Day 1: This week we're looking at God's divine assignments for us; He created us to be "*set apart*" for His purposes. Write out Ephesians 2:10. _____

_____.

What are three things declared in this passage? _____

_____.

This verse applied to Mary, the mother of Jesus, as well. What do we learn about her in Matthew 1:16 and 18?

God knows the plans He has for each of us, and He will be faithful to bring them to pass. Read Luke 1:26-45, and then pause before reading it a second time. As you read it again, note things that stand out to you regarding Mary: _____

In verses 29 and 34, what were Mary's initial responses to the news Gabriel brought her?

In verse 37, Gabriel makes a stunning declaration. Write it here: _____

This declaration fell upon Mary's heart. What was her response in verse 38? _____

We'll pause our time here for today, with emphasis once again upon verse 37. Sisters, this truth applies to God's Word today, *for you and for me*. Write out Hebrews 10:23. _____

God promises He is with you (Matthew 28:20, Hebrews 13:5), that He will strengthen you (Isaiah 41:10), guide you (Psalm 32:8, Psalm 23), provide for you (Philippians 4:19, Psalm 111:9), never fail you (Lamentations 3:22-23), and that He'll work all things together for the good (Romans 8:28). What have you gleaned today about God's timeless Word?

Conclude your time in prayer reflecting upon God's timeless and true declarations that are indeed true for you, dear sister! _____

Day 2:

"Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" – Luke 1:45, NIV

What a wonderful promise to revisit as you start today's Growth Opportunity. According to this verse, how is one "*blessed*" as they believe God will be faithful to fulfill what He has promised?

Is there an area of your life where you struggle to believe God will fulfill His promises? For example: That He forgives you as you walk out 1 John 1:9? That you are no longer condemned (Romans 8:1)? That you are a new creation, redeemed (2 Corinthians 5:17)? That He will work all things together for the good (Romans 8:28)? That He can take "*hearts of stone*" and tender them (Ezekiel 36:26)? That He has a plan for your life (Jeremiah 29:11)? Other?

If unbelief, doubt, shame, or condemnation seek to hold your heart hostage, fix your focus on Jesus (Hebrews 12:1-2) and resist Satan's demonic scheme to undermine your walk of faith. God's Word is Truth; and He declares that all who draw near to Him are forgiven, cleansed, and dearly loved (Colossians 3:12, Jeremiah 31:3). **Take God at His Word**; as you do, like Mary, wonder, awe, and praise will pour forth as you step out in faith!

Luke 1:46-55 is known as the "Magnificat," from the Latin for "Magnify." Mary magnified the Lord, proclaiming God's greatness. What are things she acknowledges about God in these verses?

Let's look closer at Mary's "Magnificat," noting alongside it additional passages Mary may have grown up hearing.

Mary's Song – Luke 1:46-55 (NIV)

And Mary said: "My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has been mindful of the humble state of his servant.

Psalm 8:4 _____

Deuteronomy 8:2 _____

"From now on all generations will call me blessed,

Psalm 145:4 _____

"for the Mighty One has done great things for me—holy is his name.

Psalm 50:1 _____

Psalm 111:9 _____

"His mercy extends to those who fear him, from generation to generation.

Psalm 28:6 _____

"He has performed mighty deeds with his arm; he has scattered those who are proud in their inmost thoughts.

Proverbs 16:27 _____

Psalm 10:4 _____

"He has brought down rulers from their thrones but has lifted up the humble. He has filled the hungry with good things but has sent the rich away empty. He has helped his servant Israel, remembering to be merciful to Abraham and his descendants forever, just as he promised our ancestors."

Psalm 18:27 _____

Psalm 25:9 _____

Psalm 145:13 _____

Just as Mary treasured things in her heart, God's unfailing Word gives us *much to treasure* in our hearts—worthy of praise as we magnify His name. Enjoy reflecting upon these realities of God and of His faithfulness to *all* generations! Indeed, holy is His name!

Reflections: _____

Day 3: As we begin today's Growth Opportunity, consider afresh the woman God chose to bear His Son.

What does Mary declare in Luke 1:38? _____

What does it mean to be a "servant" or "bondservant" of the Lord's? _____

Psalm 34:22 _____

Psalm 86:4 _____

Psalm 103:21 _____

Psalm 116:16 _____

Psalm 119:25 _____

Acts 4:29 _____

Galatians 1:10 _____

We see from Luke 1 that Mary knew God's Word, and was humble and yielded. She declared herself to be His servant, fully yielded. A servant has no 'rights' of their own. As His workmanship and vessel, what do you think about being *His* servant? What stirs within as you contemplate this designation?

To be fully yielded, emptied of self, is an ongoing spiritual process. Write out Galatians 2:20.

Is there anything standing in the way of being His servant? Personal Reflections: _____

'Self' can be strong-willed, resistant, entitled, and skeptical. Yet in order for God to inhabit our hearts and use us fully, 'self' must surrender its will to God—to servitude. Will you surrender yourself to Him?

*"Then he said to them all: 'Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and **follow me.**'" – Luke 9:23, NIV*

Day 4: This week we've looked at God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises, at those He uses, and how faith is essential. Mary was pure and upright, humble, from a small town, with no particular 'skills' or 'education,' no riches or social status—seemingly unknown... **but God!!** Write out 1 Samuel 16:7.

God saw in Mary a heart that was fully devoted to taking Him at His Word; a faithful follower. What does Luke 10:27 state?

This is God's high calling for each of us: *all of Him, in all of us, for all of our days*. Philippians 1:6 gives us a wonderful word of Truth-filled encouragement: _____

God will be faithful, intentional, and personal as He shapes and fashions you as His vessel for the assignments He has appointed for you since before the beginning of time. Mary's love for God, obedience to God, and trust in God were essentials if she was to be used by God. For personal reflection, consider these three essentials: love for God, obedience to God, trust in God. Do you find one to be more challenging for you than the others? _____

What makes it challenging? _____

Is there a passage we've looked at in this week's Growth Opportunity that might offer you encouragement and perspective in this area of challenge? _____

Is there an 'assignment' God has given you that you have avoided, dismissed, or resisted? Maybe it's "to love your neighbor as yourself"? Before going any further, it is essential to address with God anything that's hindering your heart in walking in obedience with Him.

"Therefore, rid yourselves of all malice and all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and slander of every kind. Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." – 1 Peter 2:1-3, NIV

**May you find a fresh stirring to declare in faith Mary's declaration in Luke 1:38 (ESV) –
"Let it be to me according to your word."**

"Teach me, LORD, the way of your decrees, that I may follow it to the end." – Psalm 119:33, NIV

Day 5: We often overlook difficulties Mary may have faced. It is likely that she was shamed as she was pregnant before marriage. She may have been ridiculed amidst Jesus' ministry by religious leaders and skeptics. There may have been tensions with her other children, and as a mother, she would experience great agony—her soul pierced (Luke 2:35, John 19:25) as her son obediently walked out His assignment from God on earth. From our Growth Opportunity this week, what can you glean that enabled Mary to 'stay the course' in being a vessel set apart for God's use, 'chosen'? _____

Do not underestimate the plans God has for you: Jeremiah 29:11-13. You, like Mary, may feel unequipped, 'ordinary,' uneducated, inexperienced—**But God!** He takes what is yielded to Him and does *exceedingly abundantly more than* we could imagine! Seek Him with your whole heart, take Him at His Word, yield to Him in obedience, and trust Him. He is faithful!

Other reflections: _____

“I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord’s holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God. Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” – Ephesians 3:16-21, NIV