



Say to wisdom, “you are my sister,” And make understanding your closest friend. For they will keep you from the immoral woman.
Proverbs 7:4-5a

Women’s Discipleship Group – 2006
HELPMATES, HANDMAIDENS & HARLOTS ON-LINE BIBLE STUDY
SPIRITUAL LIFE SERIES
LESSON #3 Spiritual Discernment vs. Spiritual Deception
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Definitions: *Helpmate – Handmaiden – Harlot*

Helpmate: A married woman who is committed to the well being of her husband.

Handmaiden: An unmarried or married woman who is committed to serving the Lord.

Harlot: An unmarried or married woman who sells her soul or body for personal gain.

Scripture Focus:

Helpmate: 2 Kings 4:9-10 And she said to her husband, “Look now, **I know that this is a holy man of God**, who passes by us regularly. Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lamp stand so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there.”

Handmaiden: John 4:19 The woman said to Him, “**Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.**”

Harlot: 2 Timothy 3:6-7 For of this sort are those who creep into houses and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always **learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.**

Discernment – the ability to determine the true nature of a person or circumstance.

Deception – the state of believing and accepting false information about a person or circumstance.

OPENING STATEMENT:

The Helpmate’s Story: The unnamed woman in 2nd Kings not only had the gift of hospitality, she had the gift of discernment – in other words, she could determine what was real and what was fake. Her plan was to add a room to her house to accommodate the prophet Elisha. *2 Kings 4:9 states, “I know that this is a holy man of God.”* Clearly, this woman discerned that Elisha was not a false prophet. Perhaps she met a lot of preachers who knew how to talk the talk, but their walk was another matter. When she was led to invite Elisha into her home, her husband confirmed her good judgment by standing in agreement with her desire to build a room onto the house. If you’re a married lady, or plan to get married, it is a blessing to have a husband who can confirm what the Spirit reveals to you. I want to encourage you to always pray with your husband and search the scriptures before making important decisions. Make sure you and your husband are in agreement in all of your undertakings. Some of you might ask: “But what if my husband isn’t saved? What if we just don’t agree on something?” Answer: 1. Submit to your husband’s authority and ask the Lord to deal with him and if its God will, change his mind. 2. I know this might be a long

shot, but just because your husband is not saved, does not mean that he can't make the right decisions. Pray and ask the Lord to show you the truth about the matter you are pursuing. Perhaps your vision is right, but your timing is wrong. Pray and ask the Lord to give you a discerning spirit.

The Handmaiden's Story: John 4:6 opens with Jesus sitting by a well talking to a woman. He knew from the beginning that the "woman at the well" was a real drama queen. She had been married to five different men and was currently living with a man who wasn't her legal husband. Even with all the confusion in her life, after talking with Jesus she discerned that she was face to face with her Redeemer. Even at our lowest point, we can still recognize when God is talking to us. I am sure you can look back and think about the times when the Lord spoke to you in a still voice: "Run. Leave now. Don't do that!" Of course when you didn't listen, you lived to regret it. The woman at the well had a godly handmaiden dwelling inside of her who was waiting to spread the gospel, but sin was holding her hostage. Thank God she recognized that it was Jesus, the Savior who was talking to her and His words set her free. Once the woman at the well was delivered from living a life of deception, she instantly came alive to her true purpose and calling. *John 4:28 – The woman left her water pot, went her way into the city, and said to the men, "Come see a Man who told me all things that I ever did. Could this be the Christ?"*

The Harlot's story: A harlot is a woman who is consumed with the desires of her flesh. Her desires may include an appetite for sex, money, wild parties and other vices. She may even seek to become knowledgeable in occult practices, goddess worship or New Age religions. She may even call herself a Christian and attend church on a regular basis. Her soul is an open door that allows anything or anybody to enter. *She is always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. (2 Timothy 3:7)* Many of us have tried strange religions, lifestyles and even stranger men only to discover that ungodly practices can leave us feeling empty, frustrated and depressed. *2 Timothy 3:6-7 says that silly, gullible, believe-anything-women, are loaded down with sins and led away by their lust.* How many of you can look back over your life and admit that you were once a silly woman? You let people misuse you. You got pregnant by someone who betrayed you. Or, you had a boyfriend who was gay and everybody knew it but you. I confess that I've made some very silly and serious mistakes that I've lived to regret. For the woman who has been down that road, I want you to know that Jesus has a special place in His heart for you. Some of the greatest women in the Bible were once silly and lived the life of a harlot. Whatever your condition, you can become a godly and wise woman by starting with a simple prayer: "Lord Jesus, come into my heart and save me from my silly ways." He will hear your cry, forgive you and start you on a new path. As you continue to study and obey God's Word a marvelous transformation will take place in your life.

You're Story:

Have you ever made a silly decision because you were a victim of deception? Tell me your story.

The conversation that Jesus had with the woman at the well changed her life, how did Jesus change your life? Tell me your story.

OBSERVATIONS/PERSONALIZATION:

Helpmates: 2 Kings 4:9-10 And she said to her husband, “Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.

Search the scriptures and find 2 scriptures that will help you discern that a person is truly of God. Also find 2 scripture that help you identify a false prophet. How will this keep you from being deceived?

Handmaidens: John 4:19 – The woman said to Him, “**Sir, I perceive that You are a prophet.**”
Read John 4:7-30. Write down at least 3 things that you “perceive” about the woman at the well?

Harlots: 2Timothy 3:6 For of this sort are those who creep into houses and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts.

Search the scriptures and identify 2 types of **sins** and 2 types of **lusts** that can lead women astray and make them captives. Can you identify your own weaknesses?