



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 #4 Discovering Deeper Levels of Prayer

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Prayer: Communication with God in the form of confession, request, intercession, meditation, praise, thanksgiving, adoration and worship.

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: Proverbs 18:22 He who finds a wife finds a good thing. And obtains favor from the Lord.

Handmaiden: Acts 12:11-12 Then Peter came to himself and said, "Now I know for certain that the Lord has sent His angel and rescued me..." When he realized this, he went to the house of Mary, the mother of John Mark, where many had assembled and were praying.

Harlot: Jeremiah 44:19 The women also said, “And when we burned incense to the queen of heaven and poured out drink offerings to her, did we make cakes for her, to worship her and pour out drink offerings to her without our husbands’ permission?”

OPENING STATEMENT:

The Helpmate’s Story: 1 Samuel 25:12-35 tells the story of Abigail. She was married to a foolish man named Nabal who offended David (the one who killed Goliath). David was on his way to kill Nabal and the men of his house, but Abigail was wise enough to intercept him with a gourmet feast. When David saw the meal she prepared and listened to her plead for her husband’s life, he changed his mind about killing Nabal. *Proverbs 18:22 says that a man who finds a wife finds a good thing and obtains favor from the Lord.* A praying wife is a great deal like Abigail. In the realm of the spirit, she intercedes for her husband with a sweet offering of praise and deeply persuasive words of prayer. Whatever the enemy is planning can be interrupted by the prayers of a faithful wife. Whether your husband is wise or foolish, I encourage you to always pray for him. Have faith and *call things that are not (concerning your husband) as though they were.* (Romans 4:17b)

The Handmaiden’s Story: *And when he came to himself, he went to the house of Mary (Acts 12:12).* Peter was rescued from jail by an angel. When the chains fell off and he walked through the prison gate, he went straight to Mary’s house. He knew that believers would be gathered there in deep prayer. I’m sure that Peter also knew that it was the prayers that went on in Mary’s

house that caused an angel to be dispatched from heaven to rescue him. I can only imagine the miracles that would take place in our communities if women would be like Mary and turn their homes and apartments into a place where people gather for prayer. It's time for handmaidens to cover our leaders and family members with deeper levels of prayer. We must pray against the strongholds of addiction, violence, troubled children, families and much more. It is my prayer that you would gather a few friends together in prayer and make your house like Mary's house.

The Harlot's Story: Jeremiah 44:19 speaks of worship and prayers being offered to the "Queen of Heaven," or what we now call goddess worship. A harlot can be very spiritual. She will come to church and offer prayers in the name of Jesus, then in another setting, pray to Allah, Buddha or the goddess of her choice. Did I hear someone say, "I don't see anything wrong with praying to Jesus as well as Allah, Buddha or my favorite goddess?" Taking that approach is like saying, "I don't see anything wrong with sleeping with Tom, Denzel or Harry because all men are the same." *Isaiah 45:20 says: Ignorant are those who carry about idols of wood, who pray to gods that cannot save.* I know it may sound harsh, but a spiritual harlot is one who prays to Jesus as well as other gods. *And the Lord said to Moses: "Behold, you will rest with your fathers; and this people will rise and play the harlot with gods of the foreigners of the land. Deuteronomy 31:16.*

YOUR STORY:

I smile when I hear people say: "I don't have time to pray like I should...I can't seem to concentrate when I pray... my mind wanders and I run out of things to say." I have learned that our daily prayers are partially, a dress rehearsal for the times when prayer will become a matter of our survival and the survival of our loved ones. What events have taken place in your life that caused you to pray more deeply than you ever did before?

OBSERVATIONS – PERSONALIZATION:

Helpmate: Read 1 Samuel 25:17-28. Abigail did several things in the natural realm that can be compared to deeper levels of prayer in the spiritual realm. Make 3 comparisons and write down the scriptures.

Example: Abigail took a stand against her husband's enemies. (1 Samuel 25:23-24)

A wife can plead with God in prayer to deliver her husband from his enemies.

What is your prayer need concerning your husband?

Handmaiden: Read Acts 12:12-17. It appears that people were gathered in deep prayer at Mary's house. However, when the Lord answered their prayer, they could hardly believe it. What 3 things did the people in Mary's house say and do when Rhoda reported that Peter was at the door?

Has the Lord ever answered a deep prayer for you that blew your mind? Explain.

Harlot: Read Jeremiah 44:15-19. In this passage the women disobeyed God and insisted on burning incense (a form of prayer) to the Queen of Heaven. What did the women have to say about their commitment to the goddess and where did they learn goddess worship?

One of the most famous Christian women of the bible is often referred to in this day and age as the Queen of Heaven. Who is she?

Have you ever tried to worship the Lord and a person, different religion or job at the same time? If so, what was the result?