



PREPARE YOUR HEART



PRAYER:

As a Christian woman, a wife, a mother, and a teacher, please help my attitude to be pleasing to You.

ROLE # 1: CHRISTIAN WOMAN

An Attitude of Reverence

ROLE #2: WIFE

A "Willing to Help" Attitude

ROLE #3: MOTHER

A Persistent Attitude

ROLE #4: TEACHER

Attitude Is a Choice

CONTEMPORARY MUSIC CONNECTION:

"Let It Rain"

The Lord reigns, and even the earth trembles at His command. The Lord's Creation reveals His glory, and your attitude toward Him for even the gift of your life should be reverent and joyful.

TRADITIONAL MUSIC CONNECTION:

"I Need You"

You need God in your life. Your attitude should reflect total dependence on Him.



Enjoy the little things,
for one day
you may look back
and realize
they were the big things.

- Robert Brault





CHAPTER 1: DAY 1



AN ATTITUDE OF REVERENCE

Wonder is the attitude of reverence for the infinite values and meaning of life, and of marveling over God's purpose and patience in it all.
- George W. Fiske

One Sunday each month, our church has a special tradition. A large plastic jug is set out on the stage in the front of the church. As young children flock to the stage for the children's sermon, they bring pennies to place in the jug. Over time, hundreds of dollars have been collected from the pennies children have placed in the jug. Many church programs have benefited from the seemingly small offerings of pennies that children have given over the years.

I love to hear the clinking of pennies as they are dropped in the jug, and the angelic looks on the children's faces remind me of how we should also feel it is a privilege and an honor to give to the Lord. A feeling of wonder and reverence for the Lord washes over me as I remember how God's already worked in many of these children's lives.

I remember how God healed a child with clubfeet so perfectly that you'd never know he once struggled to walk. I recollect how God stretched His hand halfway across the world to bring two beautiful children here to be adopted by a loving couple. I recall how God stopped children from being born prematurely time and time again to create strong and healthy children, rather than weak and underdeveloped ones. As I see a child who once struggled to take each breath bounding up the steps of the stage to drop her pennies in the jar, I'm reminded we don't have to look far

to see how much respect God deserves. If we all had the attitude children have as they give their pennies, we'd be closer to showing God a portion of the reverence He is due.

BIBLE CONNECTION:

A POOR WIDOW HAS A REVERENT ATTITUDE

A poor widow came to the place where offerings were given and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth; but she, out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on." (Mark 12:42-44)

PERSONAL CONNECTION

ROLE # 1: CHRISTIAN WOMAN

This woman was poverty-stricken. By giving away the last of her coins, she showed a complete attitude of reverence toward the Lord. Even though her gift was meager, Jesus found it noteworthy enough to tell His disciples about it. As Christian women, let's be like this woman and have an unwavering attitude of reverence toward God. Even when things go wrong, we can choose an attitude that is right.



A WELCOME RETREAT



Prayer to Share: *Lord, I'm in awe of You! Please help me to have an unwavering reverent attitude toward You.*

Question: Do you remember to have an attitude of reverence toward the Lord, even when life is hard?

Contemporary Music – *Worship CD:*

Song Title: *"Let It Rain"* – Track 8

Traditional Music – *Ryman Gospel Reunion CD:*

Song Title: *"I Need You"* – Track 15



CHAPTER 1: DAY 2



A “WILLING TO HELP” ATTITUDE

I know some good marriages – marriages where both people are just trying to get through their days by helping each other, being good to each other.

- Erica Jong

I was in my flannel pajamas and fuzzy slippers when something swooped down and grazed the top of my head. I screamed a blood-curdling shriek, and Rich stumbled out of the bathtub to see what was wrong. He was dripping water everywhere. We both hit the floor as the creature made another swoop. It landed in a corner, and we both shuddered as we realized we had a bat in the house.

I grabbed the nearest weapon, which happened to be a fish net. On the next swoop, I wildly waved the net at the bat as Rich yelled, “Net him, Julie!” My aim was pretty shaky, since I was lying facedown and not looking at the target. After several failed attempts, Rich and I made a new plan to turn on all of the lights except in the bathroom.

The minute the lights came on, the bat shot into the dark bathroom, and Rich slammed the door. Rich’s hunting instincts *finally* kicked in. He grabbed a BB gun and dashed outside of the house to the bathroom window. His aim was pretty unsteady, and he had a window screen to shoot through, but my man came through and shot the bat in two shots.

Our bathroom ceiling still has two little holes in it. They remind us of that time we were willing to help each other with a problem that neither one of us wanted to solve alone.

BIBLE CONNECTION: ACSAH AND HER HUSBAND WORK TOGETHER

Caleb gave his daughter Acsah in marriage to his younger brother as a reward for capturing his enemies. Although Acsah didn’t choose her mate, she chose a helpful attitude by working with him to acquire good land and water. Acsah urged her husband to ask Caleb for a field. Her husband did, and Caleb gave them a field, but it was very dry. So when Caleb asked what he could do for Acsah she said, “Please give us water to go with our land.” Then, Caleb gave them the upper and lower springs. (Judges 1:12-15)

PERSONAL CONNECTION ROLE #2: WIFE

Acsah’s “willing to help” attitude enabled her and her husband to acquire good land and water. As wives, choosing a helpful attitude toward our husbands goes a long way. Sometimes, all we really need to do to be able to reclaim a fresh attitude is to know we’re not “in it alone”. Let’s get through our days by helping each other, and by being good to each other. In doing so, we’ll have a set of memories with our husbands that are special enough to turn our *union* into a *marriage*.



A WELCOME RETREAT



Prayer to Share (with husband): *Help me work together with my husband, so we can depend on each other when we need help.*

Question: Would you say you and your husband have a helpful attitude toward one another?

Contemporary Music – Worship CD:

Song Title: “*Let It Rain*” – Track 8

Traditional Music – Ryman Gospel Reunion CD:

Song Title: “*I Need You*” – Track 15



CHAPTER 1: DAY 3



A PERSISTENT ATTITUDE

Whatever course you decide upon, there is always someone to tell you that you are wrong. There are always difficulties arising which tempt you to believe your critics are right. To map out a course of action and follow it to an end requires...courage.

- Ralph Waldo Emerson

It was only 9:30 AM, and I already had a migraine headache. Riley, our 8 month old, was crying nonstop. Wyatt, our 4 ½ year old, was talking nonstop. I packed the suburban to get out of the house, but when I turned the key, nothing happened. The battery was dead, and I dejectedly realized I was stranded. I began thinking *Why did I decide to stay home instead of having a career?*

At lunch, Riley threw his food on the floor and smeared the rest of it in his hair. Wyatt loudly sang songs that made no sense, and Ruby, our puppy, began barking very loudly. When I told her, *No, no!* she turned my full-length skirt into a mini-skirt with one big rip. I was standing in the kitchen half-dressed, trying to fix my skirt, when Rich called to say he'd be late, and that's when I smelled the cookies burning.

I won't torture you with any more "bad day, bad attitude" lamenting, especially since that day just kept getting worse. On bad days, I try to refocus on why God first led me to stay home instead of having a career. When God laid it on my heart to stay home, I knew there'd be bad days. I knew I'd need God's help to follow it through. With this kind of thinking, I can usually persist with the plan and send my bad attitude packing (but if not, a new day, a new skirt, a trip to

town, and a cookie – that's not burnt – go a long way too).

BIBLE CONNECTION:

A MOTHER'S PERSISTENCE SAVES HER SON

A woman made a room in her house for Elisha to stay in. In return, Elisha asked God to give her a son, since she'd been unable to have children. God blessed her with a son, but one terrible day he died in her arms at a very young age. The day just kept getting worse when she went to get Elisha, and he was going to send his servant instead of coming himself. But because of the woman's persistent attitude and faith in God, he was convinced to go to her son himself. Elisha prayed for her son and stretched his body next to his several times. The boy opened his eyes, and the woman fell at Elisha's feet in gratitude. (II Kings 4:8-37)

PERSONAL CONNECTION

ROLE #3: MOTHER

This woman's hospitable attitude earned Elisha's respect, and her persistence caused her son to be healed. As mothers, let's be persistent in seeking God's plan. Then, after God has led us to a certain course of action, let's follow it through, with faith that He will help us persevere.



A WELCOME RETREAT



Prayer to Share (with children): *Help us have a persistent attitude toward the course of action You've mapped out for us.*

Question: Do you have a persistent attitude toward the things the Lord has asked you to do?

Contemporary Music – Worship CD:

Song Title: "Let It Rain" – Track 8

Traditional Music – Ryman Gospel Reunion CD:

Song Title: "I Need You" – Track 15



CHAPTER 1: DAY 4



ATTITUDE IS A CHOICE

I discovered I always have choices
and sometimes it's only a choice of attitude.
- Judith M. Knowlton

Every summer, my whole family walked our bean fields together. We'd begin by getting up in the wee hours of the morning and dressing in our "bean walking clothes". When we got to the field, we'd count rows. My Dad took eight rows, and the rest of us took four. We'd trudge down the rows, and spray the weeds with Round-up. We would work all day, only breaking for lunch.

We got so dirty from the dust of the fields that our bath water would turn instantly brown when we got into it. We had a hard time getting the dirt off of our skin and out from underneath our fingernails. It really didn't matter though, because we would just get dirty again the next day anyway.

Walking beans sounds like an awful thing to do, doesn't it? But we actually thought it was kind of fun. We packed special lunches, drank pop, sang, and played games while we walked. My Dad taught us the names of weeds, and we had contests to see who could shout out the names the fastest. My parents also paid us by the hour, and when we finished all of the fields, we went on a family vacation to celebrate.

We thought walking beans was a family event, as well as an important job that had to be done. Looking back, I'm sure it wasn't something my parents loved to do, but we never knew it. They chose to think positively about it, and their attitude shaped the way we thought about it.

BIBLE CONNECTION: A HUMBLE SERVANT HAS A GOOD ATTITUDE

Jesus told this parable: When your servant comes in from plowing the field, would you tell the servant to sit down and eat? Or, as his master, would you not rather expect him to get your supper first, and wait on you while you eat and drink? After that, would you thank the servant because he did what he was told to do? So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, *I am an unworthy servant; I have only done my duty.* (Luke 17:7-10)

PERSONAL CONNECTION ROLE #4: TEACHER

Jesus used this parable to remind us that we were put on this earth to be servants of the Lord. As usual, Jesus doesn't just tell us what we should do, He shows us what we should do by doing it first Himself. Jesus' attitude as a servant of the Lord was humble and respectful. Even when He did tasks as menial as washing people's feet, He didn't complain, draw attention to Himself, or expect appreciation. As teachers of our children, we can model a "no thanks required", humble attitude, and in doing so, begin molding our children - and ourselves - into servants of the Lord.



A WELCOME RETREAT



Prayer to Share (with children): *Lord, please help us have a good attitude toward work, so we can become Your humble servants.*

Question: Do you model a good attitude toward work that you also expect your children to portray?

Contemporary Music – Worship CD:

Song Title: *"Let It Rain"* – Track 8

Traditional Music – Ryman Gospel Reunion CD:

Song Title: *"I Need You"* – Track 15



CHAPTER 1: DAY 5



REFLECTING ON ATTITUDE

ROLE #1: CHRISTIAN WOMAN

What is your attitude toward God when you are having a difficult time in life? When you need to reclaim a reverent attitude, spend some time in nature viewing God's Creation.

ROLE #2: WIFE

Why can it be so difficult to have a helpful attitude toward your husband? Take a moment to ask yourself how you can have a more "willing to help" attitude toward him.

ROLE #3: MOTHER

What things has the Lord called you to do in regard to your children? Be persistent in doing them.

ROLE #4: TEACHER

Train your children to respond with a humble and respectful attitude when you ask them to do something. Model this attitude toward work yourself.



A WELCOME RETREAT



Prayer to Share: *As a Christian woman, a wife, a mother, and a teacher, please help my attitude to be pleasing to You.*

Contemporary Music: "Let It Rain"

Music Connection: The Lord reigns, and even the earth trembles at His command. The Lord's Creation reveals His glory, and your attitude toward Him for even the gift of your life should be reverent and joyful.

Traditional Music: "I Need You"

Music Connection: You need God in your life. Your attitude should reflect total dependence on Him.