

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY & FELLOWSHIP

"Being a Woman of Grace"

March 13, 2021 | 9:30AM – 11:00AM

I. **Convictions** – As women of grace we ought to possess:

❖ **A HIGH VIEW OF GOD** .

Examples of a high and holy view of God from the book of Daniel:

Daniel 2:20-23: "**Blessed be the name of God forever and ever, for wisdom and might are His.** And He changes the times and the seasons; He removes kings and raises up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding. He reveals deep and secret things; He knows what is in the darkness, and **light dwells with Him.** "I thank You and praise You, **O God of my fathers;** You have given me wisdom and might; and have now made known to me what we asked of You, for You have made known to us the king's demand."

Daniel 3:16-18: "O Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to give you an answer concerning this. If it be so, **our God whom we serve is able to deliver us** from the furnace of blazing fire; and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But even if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we are not going to serve your gods or worship the golden image that you have set up."

Daniel 4:34-37: "This is what happened. But at the end of that period, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven and my reason returned to me, and **I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever; For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, and His kingdom endures from generation to generation.** All the inhabitants of the earth are accounted as nothing, but **He does according to His will in the host of heaven** and no one can ward off His hand or say to Him, "What have you done?" At that time my reason returned to me. And my majesty and splendor were restored to me for the glory of my kingdom, and my counselors and my nobles began seeking me out; so I was reestablished in my sovereignty, and surpassing greatness was added to me. Now, I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise, exalt and honor **the King of Heaven, for all His works are true and His ways just, and He is able to humble those who walk in pride.**"

Hopefully these three accounts have stirred your heart to praise our high and holy God—the King of kings and Lord of lords—to a greater degree!

Self-examination

| | (-) | | | | (+) |
|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|
| I hold a high view of God as described in Daniel, as opposed to a view of a god who exists merely to make me feel worthy and special. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| How I think about and respond to life’s circumstances reflects a high view of God <i>in practice</i> . | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

✝ We will often falter and stumble as the Lord patiently conforms us to His image, but by and large ***what we truly believe bears out in how we live*** (trajectory/direction and patterns). When our beliefs and behaviors do not align correctly with God’s standard, we have a gracious and merciful God who is quick, ready, and faithful to forgive us when we repent of our sin.

I struggle the most to have a high view of God when (describe a pattern of thought or behavior or perhaps a specific situation that stands out in your mind):

❖ A HIGH VIEW OF SCRIPTURE .

A high view of God leads us to worship Him. We learn how to worship Him correctly from Scripture.

“Worship” is an expression of adoration , reverence , and praise to God.

God’s Word is inspired, authoritative, sufficient, inerrant, complete, clear and unchanging. These are referred to as the attributes of Scripture.

The Word is pure, like silver refined seven times in a furnace (Ps. 12:6)

We have a pure and true, perfect and precious, living and powerful Source—God’s Word—that provides all that we need to be faithful women of grace.

Self-examination

| | (-) | | | | (+) |
|---|-----|---|---|---|-----|
| I hold a high view of Scripture. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| I know the Bible better today than I did a year ago as evidenced by my growth in godliness. | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

✝ We will not master the Bible in a day, or a month, or a year, but with persistent intake, we will be sanctified more and more by the truth. As Jesus said in His High Priestly prayer in John 17, “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

One thing I can do to improve my intake of the Word is:

II. Cultivators – Our convictions are fed through:

- a) **Bible Study** (personal, small group, and corporate)
- b) **Prayer** (personal, small group, and corporate)
- c) **Fellowship with other believers** (at home, small groups and corporately)

Self-examination

The cultivator I could most improve upon is? _____

One way I could improve upon this is to: _____

III. Character and Conduct

Our lives will exhibit the **fruit** of the **spirit** (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control). – Galatians 5:22-23

| Spiritual Fruit | World's View | High and Holy View |
|--|--|---|
| Love | You have to first love yourself—"You take care of you." | We aren't told to be lovers of self (John 12:25; 2 Tim. 3:1-2; Job 42:6). We are to love God supremely and others well—even our enemies (Deut. 6:5; Matt. 5:44 & 22:37-39; Luke 6:27). |
| Joy | "Do what makes you happy." | The joy of the LORD is our strength (Ps. 28:7). Enduring trials is an opportunity to put God's glory on display <i>with joy</i> (James 1:2-3). We are <i>commanded</i> to rejoice always (1 Thess. 5:16; Phil. 4:4). |
| Peace | "What we need is world peace, tolerance, and reparation." | The only true peace is the peace of God through salvation in Jesus Christ, the Prince of Peace (Is. 9; Is. 53). We will endure periods of conflict in this life—but in them we can rest in the perfect peace of Christ who ever lives to intercede for us (Is. 26:3; John 14:27; John 16:33; Heb. 7:25). One day those who walked by faith will enjoy perfect peace and rest. |
| Patience Kindness Gentleness Goodness | A "me-first", "now" culture. Believes "Kindness is a Choice"—and so is killing a baby. Celebrates homosexual "marriage" as an act of goodness and kindness and love. | We put off our own desires in favor of deferring to others when it is for their good. We stand up for truth always and call sinners to repentance out of kindness and love and concern for their souls. Our patience, kindness, gentleness and goodness are products of our love for God and for others (1 Cor. 13:4-5; Eph. 4:2; Col. 3:12). |
| Faithfulness | Faithful to a cause, a political or social soundbite, self, or even to another person as long as it doesn't conflict with personal desires and "felt-needs". | We are created in God's image, and are all Adam's race. We hold fast to the Word of faith. We understand our chief need is reconciliation with God, not a political or social platform. We put our hands to the plow and we do not turn back. We walk by faith in the Word and the God of the Word (Romans 10:17; Hebrews 11:1) until our faith has been made sight when Christ returns again to take us Home to Glory. |
| Self-control | Control is powered by self. | Self-control is power under control because we have the indwelling Holy Spirit. We respond to Him—the Spirit of Christ—as He brings the truths of Scripture to bear on our hearts and minds amidst our circumstances (2 Peter 1:5-10; Ro. 8; Ro. 12) |

Our **convictions** are **cultivated**, shaping our **character** and **conduct**. All of this works together to present us as Women of Grace who are joyfully **accomplishing** our IDEALS.



I = Immersed in the WORD
D = Disciplined in our walk
E = Equipped for every good work
A = Awaiting Christ's return
L = Loving one another
S = Serving others for God's glory

Prayer Group Guide



Possible things to share:

One or two responses from the self-examinations above:

Something you learned or were reminded of today:

A specific prayer need:

Possible things to pray about:

Give thanks and praise to God for _____

Ask God to help you cultivate _____

Pray for the needs/accountability items of others in your group.
