

Mother/Daughter Bible Study

Discuss the perfect woman – the woman you/your daughter someday hopes to be:

Most qualities of the “perfect woman” will fall into one of these 4 categories:

*Godly

*Emotionally self-controlled

*Joyful Servant

*Feminine

1. Godly: What are some ideas for growing in godliness? How can you hold each other accountable?

2. Emotionally self controlled – all people (male or female) are called to self-control, which means to not be controlled by emotions (which are fickle) nor lusts/wants/desires. What are some of the ways, emotionally, we are to be different than the world?

Here are some ideas we’ll be discussing: content, joyful, patient, unselfish, loving, kind, gentle –

I truly believe that there is a special responsibility on the shoulders of every woman – a responsibility that we need to pass on to our daughters – which is to know that to a large degree, we woman create and maintain the emotional atmosphere of our homes. “If mama ain’t happy, ain’t nobody happy.” This idea is supported by scripture directly addressed to women. Discuss each emotional quality:

- Enthusiastic, eager, vigorous (Prov 31:13, 17)
- Confident rather than worried (Prov 31:21)

- Not gossiping/slandering, especially concerning husband/daddy (Prov 31:12,23; Tit 2:3) (Why is the fact that the virtuous woman's hubby is respected in the gate part of what makes her virtuous? Perhaps because SHE is the one that guards his reputation!)
- She is given to joy and laughter, even when times are tough (Prov 31:25)
- Loves (Titus 2:4)
- Kind (Titus 2:4)
- Submissive (Titus 2:5, 1 Pet 3:1)
- Gentle (1 Pet 3:4)
- Not nagging or quarrelsome (Prov 21:19, 25:24, 27:15-16)

Any other qualities you want to discuss that are found in these, or other, passages directed to women?

Being emotionally self-controlled is supported also by scripture directed to all of us, regardless of gender. We are all:

Called to Love:

- Love in deed/action/attitude (1 Cor 13:4-8). Discuss specific examples based on this passage of what real love looks like when you are annoyed, disappointed, or hurt.

Ideas: What ideas could you add to this list that would help you or those around you to grow in love as defined in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8. Be specific! Here are just a few ideas:

- Model it ...and teach THEM how to
- Encourage, not flatter, when 'love' is done right, like when you are annoyed
- Older siblings can help with younger's school work; count as school. Must be done cheerfully, kindly, patiently
- Serve dad and siblings

Called to Contentment:

- Hebrews 13:5
- 1 Timothy 6:6
- Phil 2:14
- Philippians 4:11b-13

Ideas: What ideas could you add to this list that would help you or those around you to grow in contentment as defined in the above passages. Be specific! Here are just a few ideas:

- Model it
- Create a thankful chart
- Not allowed to say, "That's not fair!"
- Be thankful when others are blessed and you are not.

Called to Patience

- Ecclesiastes 7:9
- James 1:19
- Proverbs 15:18
- Colossians 3:12

Ideas: What ideas could you add to this list that would help you or those around you to grow in patience as defined in the above passages. Be specific! Here are just a few ideas:

- Model it
- Recognize when your kids are evidencing growth – in small degrees!
- Anticipate difficulties and set mini-goals.

Called to Encourage

- 1 Thessalonians 5:11

- Hebrews 3:13
- Ephesians 4:29
- Proverbs 25:11
- Romans 12:10
- How do you learn to grow as an encourager? Philippians 4:8
(What you feed grows. What you starve doesn't grow. Discuss this idea in the context of Philippians 4:8...)

Ideas: What ideas could you add to this list that would help you or those around you to grow as an encourager as defined in the above passages. Be specific! Here are just a few ideas:

- Always be polite (based on Romans 12:10)
- Think on good things (Based on Phil 4:8)
- Be a grace finder. What does this mean?
- Be affectionate during school. Girls are relational.

Called to Gentleness

- Proverbs 15:1
- Proverbs 15:4
- Ephesians 4:1-3
- Galatians 6:1
- 1 Timothy 6:11-12a
- Titus 3:2
- James 3:17

Ideas: What ideas could you add to this list that would help you or those around you to grow in gentleness as defined in the above passages. Be specific! Here are just a few ideas:

- Model Proverbs 15:1

- Restore gently; you too were tempted. (Courtship example? Mom, how were you tempted during dating, courtship?)
- Always be polite
- Smile
- Affection

Called to Joy

- Deut 28:47-48
- 1 Chronicles 16:27
- Neh 8:10,
- Psalm 94:19
- Rom 15:13
- Ps 100:2 (How? What is true worship? See Rom 12:1. Discuss how we offer our bodies as living sacrifices. If this IS our spiritual worship, then this is what we must do with gladness. See Ps 100:2 again.)

Ideas: What ideas could you add to this list that would help you or those around you to grow in joy as defined in the above passages. Be specific! Here are just a few ideas:

- Pray that your walk with God is marked by joy. (Ps 90:14 – “Satisfy us in the morning with your unfailing love, that we may sing for joy and be glad all our days.”)
- Don’t use scripture as a threat. Don’t use scripture as a punishment. (Psalm 107:22 ...Let them tell of His works with songs of joy”)
- Fill your home with music.
- Serve someone – assign your kids to do this (make a meal, do a load of laundry for a new mom, be a mother’s helper, play with a younger sibling).

- Practice smiling.

Called to Joyfully Serve – We GET to!

Work was instituted BEFORE the fall. It is part of the “God saw it was good” in the garden. (Genesis 2:15) So, is work good? Is the toil of work good?

- ³ Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. ⁴ Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. ⁵ Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,⁶ who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, ⁷ but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. ⁸ And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross.
Philippians 2:3-8
- 2 Cor 4:5
- Matt 20:25-28

You need to model a good work ethic [2 Thes 3:8-9]. Do you have a good work ethic? Ask yourself these 4 questions:

*Do I have a servant’s heart – Jesus is my model (Phil. 2:5-9)

*Do I serve joyfully – we’re commanded to serve God cheerfully, which means serving as Jesus served (Deut 28:47)

*Do I take pleasure in my work? (Ecc 5:19)

*Do I work heartily as if I’m working for God? Smile at your husband and kids when you serve them, etc. (Col 3:23)

Ideas: What ideas could you add to this list that would help you or those around you to grow in serving joyfully as defined in the above passages. Be specific! Here are just a few ideas:

- Model it
- “What can I do to help?” – Mom model it. Also teach kids to ask this question. Assign it to them.
- Discuss: I may not agree with what ‘the authority’ says, but I’ll do all in my power to make sure it is a success, joyfully.
- Discuss: serving is an honor.

Called to Femininity

God created male and female.

Part of the curse means we want to lord it over our men (Gen 3:16). It is redemptive to submit with joy. Being feminine means:

- We are the weaker vessel (1 Pet 3:7), but God chose what is weak (1 Cor 1:27-28) and weakness is the stage on which He does His greatest work (2 Cor 12:9-10).
- Serving with joy (John 6:38 ³⁸ For I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will but the will of him who sent me.) How can we be like Jesus in this idea? Be specific...
- Utilizing all our gifts of creativity, empathy, intuition, compassion, intelligence to serve (Prov 31).
- Embracing our physical differences (1 Peter 3:7 – weaker vessel, Deut 22:5, 1 Tim 2:9-10, 1 Pet 3:3-4, 1 Cor 6:19-20,). Is it possible to be modest AND stylish? How? Look on line to find examples of clothing that is stylish and modest. Remember, modesty is a heart issue. It is possible to be totally covered up and still not be modest. Men are also called to be modest. Modesty is more than just how you dress. It is how you act, talk, spend, use your free

time, and so on. Discuss what modesty looks like in each of these areas.

- Courtship

Books my girls have loved (Please note that the books/series marked with <3 do contain romance):

- Elsie Dinsmore books by Martha Finley
- Growing Up Super Average by Bob Smiley
- Walking in Peace (Notgrass)
- A Young Woman After God's Own Heart (developing the fruit of the Spirit) by Elizabeth George
- 1,000 Gifts by Ann Voskamp
- Mark of the Lion series by Francine Rivers <3
- Love Walked Among Us by Paul Miller
- Love Comes Softly series by Janette Oke
- Lauren Holbrook series by Erynn Mangum <3
- Andrea Carter books by Susan Marlow
- Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder
- Frank Peretti stories (This Present Darkness, Piercing the Darkness, Cooper Kids)
- Gatlin Fields series by Sandra Waggoner
- Zion Covenant series by Brock and Bodie Thoene <3