

Lesson Three – Week Four
The Tools We Use to Build Our House

*Through wisdom is an house builded;
and by understanding it is established:
And by knowledge shall the chambers be filled
with all precious and pleasant riches.
Proverbs 24:3-4*

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Dear Ladies: Begin each lesson with prayer. Ask God to open your heart and mind. Be honest with yourself and God.

Tools are important in building and tearing down, and we certainly have to use different tools in different situations, or the job will not get done correctly. Wikipedia says "A *tool* is a piece of equipment which typically provides a mechanical advantage in accomplishing a physical task, or provides an ability that is not naturally available to the user of a tool.

Many tools or groups of tools serve to perform one or more of a set of basic operations, such as:

Cutting (knife, scythe, sickle, etc...)

Concentrating force (hammer, maul, screwdriver, whip, writing implements, etc...)

Guiding (set square, straight-edge, etc...)

Protecting

Seizing and holding (pliers, glove, wrench, etc...)

Before you continue this lesson, think about the tools that are in use in your home. Do they build up or tear down? Write your thoughts below.

MEMORY VERSE FOR THIS WEEK:

But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD."--Joshua 24:15

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Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-12

1. What does this scripture mean to you?

Some Tools to Build a Godly Home (keep these handy--you never know when there will be a job to do!)

Read Job 28:28; Proverbs 24:3-4, 24:14, 28:26 and 31:26; Ecclesiastes 2:13 and 2:26; Jeremiah 8:9; Matthew 7:7-11, Mark 12:31; Luke 11:9-10; John 15:13; Acts 6:4; 1 John 4:7-12 and 16; and 1 Thess. 5:17

2. Why are the following tools so important?

Prayer (asking, seeking, knocking)

Love

Knowledge and Wisdom

Understanding

What's Expected of the Woman Holding the Tools?

Read Genesis 2:20, Deuteronomy 11:19, and Titus 2:3-5

3. What important responsibilities does God have in mind for women? What did Eve provide for Adam that nothing else could?

Read Genesis 2:18b

4. When God created Eve, He called her *ezer kenegdo* in the Hebrew text. Ezer Kenegdo is defined as a helpmeet. It's an empowering term for women; also defined as *equal and opposite of*. What do you think of the description? How does it apply to you?

Read Proverbs 31:10-31

5. Has today's woman "lost out" on some of her God-given roles as you see described here? Explain.

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Read Genesis 3:1-19

6. List some ways a woman might become vulnerable when she steps away from the leadership of the Lord or her husband.

Read the story of Hannah, especially 1 Samuel 1:24-28. Read Proverbs 31:1-9

7. Before a great man or woman of God can be raised, there must be a Godly woman loving and teaching. Hannah treasured her son and gave him to the Lord. Solomon gave his mother accolades for the wisdom she imparted on him (beginning of Proverbs 31). What do you admire most about these women? How do you think they built *their* homes?

Use the Tools: Be Doers of the Word

Read Matthew 7:21-24; Luke 6:46; Romans 2:13; James 1:22-25 and 2:14; and 1 John 3:18

8. We are instructed to learn the Word of God then be *doers* of it; to take *action*. What sort of action does the Lord desire from Christians?

Read Luke 10:38-42

9. What can we learn from the story of Mary and Martha?

Wise Choices Make a Godly Home

Read 1 Samuel 25:3

10. One of the classic examples of a wise woman in the Bible is Abigail. Abigail's response and actions *are an example to us* to guard our homes. Today, we have new threats to beware of that didn't exist in Abigail's generation, like internet predators, etc. What other threats can you think of? List them, then compare them to the dangers of Abigail's generation.

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10b. (*personal*) What do you regard as the biggest threat to YOUR home? How do you go about protecting it?

Read Deuteronomy 4:6; 1 Kings 3:28; 2 Kings 22:11-13; 2 Chronicles 9:2-4; Job 4:21, 28:11-13, 28:28, 33:33, and 38:37; Romans 12:3; Colossians 1:28, 2:2-4; and James 1:15, 3:13, and 3:17

11. Why are wisdom and humility so important in the Christian life? What do these verses suggest we can do to become wiser and more humble women?

Standing up for Righteousness

Read Esther 5:1-2

12. Describe what Esther must have been going through in the hours and minutes leading up to this. She faced her fears in a truly royal way, and decided to stand up for righteousness against all odds. Do you tackle your fears with such grace (praying and fasting)?

Read Genesis 15:6; 1 Samuel 26:23; Job 17:9 and 36:7; Psalm 1:6, 23:3, and 37:23; and Proverbs 14:34
12b: Why is it important that we seek righteousness?

As for Me and My House

Read Joshua 24:15

13. (*personal*) Is your household truly serving the Lord? Could there be improvements? List some.

DIGGING DEEPER:

Read 1 Samuel 25

1. We looked at Abigail earlier. After reading the whole chapter, list what things stand out to you about her actions? Why do you think she is so often referred to as a wise woman?

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