

Home Study Material – Session Six

Unmending the Veil Companion Study

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Session Six – Stones of Remembrance

Having completed numerous Bible studies over the years, I have found one thing to be common at the end of each: I forget much of the journey. Things that are significant to me as I am reading through the early weeks of homework get tucked away in the back of my mind and lose their impact. Maybe it's just me. But if you have ever felt that way, then this week should help you to take a few stones of remembrance along with you now that the main study sessions are finished.

I love that the term *stones of remembrance* came to mind when I was just writing the sentence above. It proves that the Lord is indeed part of this journey. During Session One, we determined that we would set ourselves apart based on a verse in Joshua 3. It says, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you." (v.5) I hope over the course of weeks, you have begun to see an amazing thing happening in your life and in your relationship with God. *Complete the verse in the margin.*

The connection between the term *stones of remembrance* and our earlier verse is this: These stones were set up to remember the crossing of the Jordan into the Promised Land. That is what you are doing now, crossing over into God's presence, your earthly Promised Land. Just as they were instructed to set up stones of remembrance, you would be wise to remember the key points of this journey you are on. These stones of remembrance we are looking at this week are the things you've learned that you can hold onto and even share with others. Some of the principles we have covered are concepts that are lifetime disciplines, such as: meeting with God daily – reading His Word – continually monitoring your life to make sure you are not seeking fulfillment from the world rather than God – ensuring that you do not allow anything, sin, attitudes, or doubt to weave its way into your life and create a self-imposed barrier between yourself and your Savior. So take this time to run back through our lessons with fresh eyes. Answer the questions openly and honestly. This should give you a gauge of where you are now and a reference point as to which direction you are to head in next. For each session, I have listed the focal Scripture for each day. Remember, if it is a verse that seems to tug at your heart, open your own Bible and underline it. Years from now when you run across a verse that you have underlined in this season, it will be a reminder to you of just how far you have come.

"And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, 'In the future when your descendants ask their fathers, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'"

' _____

_____'"

Joshua 4:20-22

"Who am I, O Sovereign LORD, and what is my family, that you have brought me this far?" 2 Samuel 7:18

Robin thinks, "If there was a possibility of being near to God, it was here."

Day One - Loving God

Based on this one sentence from the first page of the book, we discovered that many Christian women do not feel close to God. From this one thought, we looked deep into our own hearts to probe and ask, "Do I love God with all my heart, soul, and mind?"

This is not ordinary, human love; rather, this is the heart-stopping, giddy kind of love. To love the Lord with all your heart demonstrates a passionate, crazy love. The kind people make fun of because they simply don't "get it."

For some, when they asked themselves this question, the answer was no. If that was the case with you, then you were warned to not allow this to become a point of condemnation, but instead the beginning point of a new journey. You may have been lovesick all along, out of which your symptoms sins/stitches/weeds flow. This discovery will prompt us to sit with the Lord and admit our need to love Him more. We have to get real. From there, the journey begins.



The most critical stone we carry is this:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all our soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment." Matthew 22: 37-38

Has this stone settled into your hand? Do you now possess a deeper, more passionate love for Jesus at the conclusion of this study than you did at the beginning? Explain your answer. What do you see/feel that helps you to know this love?

The true journey, however, is that of His pursuit to shower you with His love, because ultimately, that was the actual disconnect. It wasn't simply that you did not love Him. Your true lovesickness was that you had not fully received His love for you. Once that happens, once you truly see and feel and experience His love for you, you will love Him in return. You just can't help yourself. Your heart will fall helplessly in love with Jesus. If you still do not feel that kind of passionate love toward God, keep meeting with Him. Don't give up. Once you get to know Him more intimately, the love will come.

Think back over the past few weeks of study. How might you see God differently than when you began? Do you feel as if you know His love for you a little better? If so, in what ways have you felt Him pour out His love upon you?

Day Two – Set Apart

I suggested that His presence is our Promised Land. It will and does require faith to cross over into it. It will require us to consecrate ourselves (to set ourselves apart) for this season as we seek Him. Maintaining care with what we allow into our minds during this time is critical. We want less of what the world offers and more of His Word – more of Him.

You were challenged to set yourself apart, to take in less of the world and more of the things of God. Is that something you have continued to do, and if so, in what practical ways have you chosen to do those things?

Less of the world:

More of God:

Joshua 3:5

“Joshua told the people, ‘Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.’”

Day Three – God Plus

We considered how we often want God plus – God plus our husbands, families, careers, possessions...the list goes on and on. Basically, for many of us, God Himself is not enough. Although no one would ever admit it, many feel as if the things of the world are what leads to fulfillment. In this session, you were asked to do some serious soul searching. Be prepared, this will be a lifetime effort. In our media driven society, counterfeits to what matters most will continually be offered to us. Truly, your deepest and least understood desire is that you need Jesus and only Jesus. All other things are icing on the cake of your life with God. But ultimately, Jesus is enough. If these three words, *Jesus is enough*, still do not ring true to you, you simply must have faith and keep pressing in to Him. He will prove to you that He is indeed enough. Give this process time.

*“They have turned their backs to me and not their faces;
yet when they are in trouble, they say,
‘Come and save us!’” Jeremiah 2:27*

Are you continually watching where you are watching? Are you giving constant care to where you are directing your face? Since learning this, has it been something you try to keep at the forefront of your mind?

Day Four – Symptomatic

We discussed symptoms of lovesickness. These are outward behaviors and attitudes that may indicate you need to draw nearer to God. While we all demonstrate some of the behaviors and attitudes at times, you were challenged to determine if this is more of a pattern of typical behavior, or is it something that arises only on occasion? You were instructed to review the list of symptoms and consider the following questions: Does it prevent me from knowing the freedom that Christ offers? Does it hinder my walk with the Lord? Does it keep me from God? Do I hurt others with this behavior?

Our Scripture reference is in the margin. Many if not most of the behaviors/attitudes on the list contradict what God’s Word says love is (toward others and Him).

As plain un-Christian as it may have sounded, we are choosing to overlook those areas where we might not be measuring up. I call it un-Christian because, let’s face it, aren’t we as Christians known as people who expect everyone to clean up their act?

Get saved, act good, and get to work is basically what we say to new believers. What happens though, when we miss a first step called *loving God* is that, the acting “good” just might not come along so quickly or so easily. Sure, maybe on the outside we dust ourselves off and look a little better, but deep down on the inside, we feel very similar to what we felt as unsaved, which often leaves us turning to those old patterns and ways of meeting our needs, or can even lead to questioning our salvation.

Day Five – Suppression

Although symptoms were not the focus of the study, we did consider some suppression strategies to help us out while we are in pursuit of nearness to God. We looked at some of the symptoms that plague us and tried to come up with ways to lessen the grip of some of these sins/attitudes while we wait for help from God.

*“Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.”
1 Corinthians 13:4-7*

John 16:13

“However, when He, the Spirit of truth has come, He will guide you into all truth, for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.”

A quick overview of the list below may be exactly what you need. You will likely find that some of the things that once gave you (and others around you) fits no longer have such a strong hold on you.

Can you see progress in any of the area below? Either by our suppression strategy or because your new nearness to God has begun to change how you feel the need to operate in this world, has anything changed? Write the symptom and the noted change.

Overly Insecure	Fearful/Anxious	Judgmental of Others
Harsh with Words	Craving Romantic Love	Work and Strive
Addictions of Any Kind	A Gossip	Discontentment
Obsessed w/Children	Shame	Proud/Boastful
Unkindness	Greedy	Selfish
Lack of Faith	Gluttony	Low Integrity
Stealing	Envy	Dishonesty
Idleness	Holding on to Guilt	Ingratitude
Impure Thoughts	Easily Offended	Slow to Forgive

Final Take-Away – The first commandment kind of love God requires of you involves passion, surrender, and your total focus. It is the kind of love He offers you even before you chose to love Him in return.

Day One – The Mended Veil

While the true Temple veil can never be mended, the use of this term more accurately describes the self-imposed veil or wall that we erect between ourselves and God – stitch by stitch. Stitches may take many forms: unbelief, childhood wounds, an unhealthy relationship with our earthly father, pride, self, our children, disappointment, grief, unforgiveness, and so on. Our stitches prevent us from seeing God for who He really is. Without seeing Him in truth, we will never trust Him, love Him in return, or obey His Word. Until we are walking closely with the Lord, we can never be truly free.

“It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery.” Galatians 5:1

Draw
Near

Our second stone of remembrance is that we must draw near to God. In order to do that, all things that prevent us from doing so must be removed. Being honest about those things that hinder us is the first step toward their removal.

The items on the following list are what we are calling “stitches in the veil.” These are the hurts/sins/idols from our past and present that can prevent us from seeing God for Who He really is.

Discontentment	Unworthiness	Self-Pity	Divorce
Sexual Abuse	Judgmental	Shame	Idols
Great Daddy	Bad Daddy	Spouse	Children
Health Issues	Painful Childhood	Apathy	Loss
Self-Reliance	Unforgiveness	Abortion	Grief
Bitterness	Addiction	Pride	Self
Perfect Life	Disappointment	Unbelief	Work

On this day, we learned what stitches are and why they are so detrimental in our walk with God.

For any of the areas above, do you now see them in a different light?

Have you found that you struggle in areas where you once thought you were in “control”?

Have you come to recognize things in your life which seem like “good” things that are actually hindrances in your nearness to God?

Day Two – Real Deal People

Chris said he could not reconcile what he saw of the God of the Bible with what he was experiencing in his life. That is the same for many Christians. When God does not seem active in a person’s everyday life, it is easy to expect very little of Him. When we expect little of Him, mostly we see little, if anything, of Him. That is where religious routines begin. This is where the concept of “real deal” people came into focus. It is vital that you find, surround yourself with, and ultimately become a real deal person.

Do you feel as if you are becoming any more “real” in your conversations with the Lord?

At this point in your journey, do you feel as if you are becoming a “real deal” person?

“Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.” Matthew 7:20

Day Three – Stitches in Review

In this session we looked at how stitches can hinder your closeness with God. Based on the stitch (sin/wound/attitude) you were to determine how the stitches in your life can keep you from drawing near to God.

*“...let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.”
Hebrews 12:1*

Do you feel as if you have identified how your particular stitches have kept you from God in the past? Is this an area where you feel as if you are making progress?

“The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while everyone was sleeping his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away.”

Matthew 13:24-25

Day Four – Pullin’ Weeds

On this day, though we totally mixed our metaphors, you finally began to seek God as to where you were to begin. Because He knows you better than you know yourself, only He can determine the course of your healing. Only He knows which weed (stitch) to begin with. I suggested you pray about where to begin and then wait for Him to show you. As cryptic as it may have sounded, I tried to help you get some idea of what His answer may look and sound like. Finally, I boiled it down to this, “He will plaster it on the billboard of your life,” meaning, He will show you the answer through the normal ins and outs of your day and your Bible reading. Friends or preachers may say something that resonates with what you are reading or currently learning about in a Bible study. It will

often come in multiples. For me, I often get His answers in three’s. The same verse or concept will arise at least three times and from various sources. This is simply a place where you will have to get your ears acclimated to how God deals with and speaks to you.

Since beginning with that first stitch, have you felt God guiding you toward the next place to begin working with Him?

Day Five – Intimate Prayer

“Come with me by yourselves to a quiet place and get some rest.” Mark 6:31

Unless you get into the habit of meeting with God in a quiet place and doing so regularly, you are not likely to hear from Him or ever feel close to Him. In that case, the likelihood of you ever truly knowing Him well enough to love Him in return seems more than unlikely, more like impossible. How can you love the One you do not know? How can you get to know the One you refuse to spend time with? Our world is busy, and the devil likes it that way. Your kids have crazy schedules. You may have to work outside of the home. When you are home, demands of your family cause you to prioritize your day based on who screams loudest. Know what I mean? If you have crying babies, demanding teens, needy husbands, of course you will overlook the *gentle whisper* of the Lover who wants to spend quiet time alone with you.

While attending past Bible studies, besides my pattern of forgetfulness, here is another pattern that I have noticed. We begin the class with many more than we end with. Never fails. We may begin with 18-20 ladies, but by the last class, we may have 6. And to add to the pattern, it is usually the same 6. Here is another fact; those 6 are almost always *real deal* women. That could tell us many things, but for our

purpose in this section, I can conclude, most women just get carried off by the business of life. Often, they get behind on their homework, if they ever do it at all. I believe it all becomes overwhelming. What they don't know is the airplane analogy. Know how when you fly, the flight attendant tells you that if you are traveling with a small child or someone else who may need your assistance that you should put *your* oxygen mask on first? Not theirs. Yours! Why? Because if you pass out you'll be of no help to the one who needs you. Same in the spiritual realm. If you do not attend to your spiritual needs, you will be less than the wife, mom, daughter, and disciple that you need to be. Unless you are filled with Living Water, you can only pour a polluted, self-kind of water into the lives of others.

This quiet time with Jesus is *the* most critical element of your life. There is no extra half-hour of sleep, clean house, ballgame, or pile of laundry that trumps your need for it. It is where He will speak to you, where He will saturate you with Living Water, and where you will fall in love with Him. This is where your life will begin to make sense.

I know this is a summary, but I could make this one topic another day's worth of study. I will summarize the summary by saying, YOU NEED THIS. Don't neglect it.

While things can and do arise to prevent us from our time in God's Word, will you take a firm stand that your quiet time with Him is not something that you will give up? Would you be willing to make a life-long commitment to meeting with God in the quiet place?

Final Take-Away – Uncover your stitches and where He leads you to begin. Because of the world we live in, this will be a lifelong process. You must always be on guard against “stitches” that try to hinder your view of God.



Our third stone of remembrance is that we must get to know God. Not about Him, but know Him.

Day One – Circular Reasoning

Once you have discovered stitches that keep you from knowing God, it is time to begin the process of removing them. In Session Two, you were to seek His guidance as to which stitch to begin with. It is

“...to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3:18

important to understand, He does not rip the veil apart, as it would cause further damage to you. He gently unstitches one at a time. At times, the removal of one will naturally cause another to unravel effortlessly. An example would be: as He removes the stitch of self-sufficiency, creating within you a greater level of trust in His care for you, naturally your need to control others will lessen. (And they will all be so happy with you and the Lord.)

There is a natural order to your relationship with God. You must first get to know Him and His love for you before you will ever be able to love and trust Him.

Do you feel as if you are getting to know the Lord better? Have you begun to get to know Him more experientially over the past weeks? If yes, give some details. How has He shown up? What new traits have you discovered about Him?

Day Two – Getting to Know God

We began this day by looking at our own desire to be known. Just as we long to be known, God does too. He does not hide Himself, rather He is open about Who He is in His letter to us, the Bible. Next, you were to begin to listen for the gentle whisper that is the voice of God. He speaks to you through His Word, His Spirit, circumstances, other believers, and through nature. In my case, and in the case of the godliest people I know, God speaks primarily through His Word. This is the channel through which you can expect Him to speak most clearly and consistently to you. The other ways we hear from God typically confirm what you are already

1 Corinthians 13:12

“Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.”

hearing through His Word. There are no shortcuts. You must read God's Word for yourself.

Your goal through this session was to begin a regular pattern of reading and study of His Word. Never underestimate the power contained in the Word of God. That is the greatest deterrent to reading His Word, unbelief. If you really believe He will speak to you, you will read your Bible daily with excitement and enthusiasm. If you have no desire to read, somewhere you are struggling with belief. The Word of God is His exhale. You need only to inhale.

*In getting to know
God, there are no
shortcuts!*

What have you learned through the consistent reading of God's Word? I don't mean specifics; I mean what have you concluded about God talking to you through His Word? Have you begun to "hear" Him speak directly to you through His Word during this study?

Is this something new, or have you often heard from God in this way over the years?

In the past, have you tried to hear from God through other avenues than reading His Word? Like through pastors, teachers, and friends?

Why do some (maybe even you) doubt they will hear directly from God through the Bible? Has your opinion changed?

Day Three – Wonderful Counselor

As Robin needed Him, you may have found that you too need God to step into your life as your Wonderful Counselor. That was exactly what I needed when I began my journey.

This is another area that will be a lifelong process. You will always need Him to guide you and teach you. For each and every one of us, we need Him in this way. This world is plain crazy and to negotiate through it requires wise Counsel.

Psalm 32:8

*"I will instruct you
and teach you in the
way you should go: I
will counsel you and
watch over you."*

Rather than seeking others to help you learn, grow, and heal, have you come to know the Lord as your Wonderful Counselor? If so, in what ways?

Have you learned to ask childlike questions and then simply wait for His response? If so, in what areas have you felt Him guide you and lead you toward healing?

Day Four - Seasons

He will become to you what you need in various seasons. From Counselor to Beloved, Father to Best Friend, He will be all of these to you at different times. As you get to know Him, He will reveal Himself to you in these and many more ways. He will be your Protector, your Provider, your Rock, your First Love, until eventually, you discover that He has become your Everything.

During this process of unminging, He will show you who you are to Him. Often, what keeps us from His presence is that we believe lies about ourselves. Shame from past mistakes, or even believing what others have said about you, can keep you from hearing that He calls you Beloved, Daughter, and Friend.

“You have searched me, Lord, and you know me.” Psalm 139:1

Day Five - Anticipation

Sadly, most Christians do not approach reading the Word of God with excitement and anticipation. As discussed in a previous section, the reason for this is that they do not expect to actually hear from Him. But the truth is, once you learn to distinguish the voice of God through His Word, it will become more than an addiction. All it takes is that first time. After that, you will anxiously await the next word. Before you know it, His words to you come more frequently, until finally, you realize that you are hearing from Him each and every day. It is a rare day indeed when I do not hear from God in some way.

Those who are receptive, the ones who want and expect to hear, do hear.

“Whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear a voice behind you saying, this is the way; walk in it.” Isaiah 30:21

As you have been working through this study, have you come to hear the voice of God through Scripture? If so, what specifically have you heard Him say?

If not, please do not become frustrated and give up. If you do, then you will never hear. That is a certainty. You simply must keep pressing on until you do hear. If you have never heard the voice of God then you may be missing it even when He does speak. While you are reading your Bible, if you have a sense that you cannot move on from a particular place you are reading, then stop and pray it through. He very well may be speaking to you. As you read familiar stories, remain open to something new He might be trying to show you. I said earlier and it bears repeating – you must acclimate your ears to how He speaks uniquely to you.

Take-Away – Your healing and closeness will come as you seek to know God through daily reading and study of His Word.

Day One – Called to Forgive

This entire session was based on forgiveness, others and ourselves. This is a lifelong process. Always, we will have the opportunity to forgive. We will make mistakes, and others will hurt us. It is the result of living in a fallen world. Forgiveness is so critical as to require a stand-alone session because it is a topic near and dear to our Savior's heart. His mission was the cross. He paid the penalty and suffered God's wrath so that we might be forgiven. How then might we dare *not* to forgive?

Since this entire week covered one topic, we will not look at each day quite as in-depth in review.

Forgive

Stone of
Remembrance

"Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you."
Colossians 3:13

On this day, we considered what Chris said to Robin. He told her, "*Hold nothing back. Ask the tough questions.*" As we are to approach the Lord as a child, we determined that it is okay to ask such a question as, "Why should we forgive?" On Day One, we discovered the first and best answer. Because He calls us to forgive. If you remember nothing from this session, remember this. In 1 Corinthians 6:19-20 we are reminded, "You are not your own, you were bought with a price." We are His. He gets to be God of our lives. If He says forgive, then we must forgive.

Is this concept something you have difficulty with? Is the mere idea of forgiving simply because He tells you to something you struggle with? Be honest. Remember, God can handle anything you throw His way.

*"She came up behind him and touched the edge of his cloak, and immediately her bleeding stopped."
Luke 8:44*

Day Two – Forgiveness Frees Us

If we would have stopped with Day One's conclusion, that we forgive because God calls us to forgive, that would have been enough. But the more you get to know God, the more you realize that He says to do and don't based on His love for you. If He tells you to forgive, it is in your best interest that you do. Holding on to unforgiveness is like hemorrhaging within. You are the one who is hurt, much more so than the one

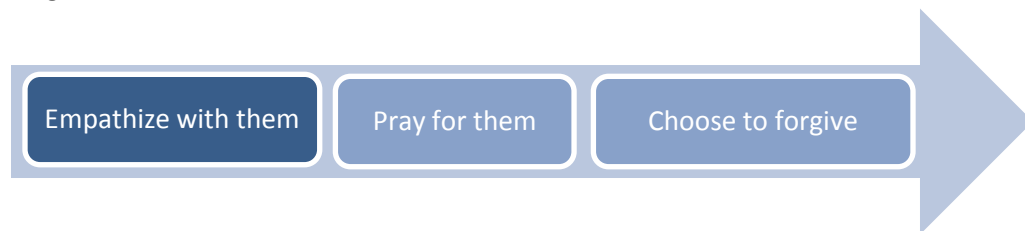
you think you are punishing. Our final conclusion on this day was that when you hand your bitterness and unforgiveness over to the Lord, He will carry the burden for you, freeing you of the cumbersome load.

As you have had more time to process the concept of forgiveness, are you making progress? List the person(s) you listed originally during this day's study. (Initials are fine.) How are you doing so far? Do you feel as if you are making process. If so, explain. If not, why do think you are struggling?

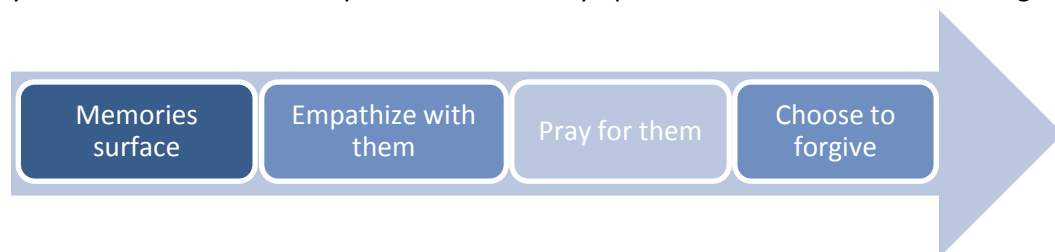
Day Three – The Process

Once you accept the first two concepts into your belief system (we are called to forgive – forgiveness frees us) what then? Forgiveness is easier said than done, right? As you walk out your journey with God and others, the processes contained in this session may help you as you choose to forgive. Empathize with them, pray for them, and choose to forgive. Rinse and repeat as often as necessary until your heart catches up with the choice your mind has made. Because without question, memories of what they did will come against you. Eventually though, as you work through this process for some time, the memory will come, but you will immediately remember you chose to forgive. It will no longer have any hold over you. You will be free from the bitterness associated with the memory, as your heart has forgiven. This is a supernatural process, one that only the Holy Spirit can enable you to do.

The flow chart below is a simplistic way of looking at the process Chris used when working through forgiveness toward his mom.



Remember, forgiving someone for any offense does not mean that what they did was okay. It means that you are choosing to allow God to handle it. You are placing their actions in His hands. Also, forgiveness does mean you will forget. We all know, the memories come, but what matters most is what you do with them when they do come. Your only option is to continue to work through the process.



Since you will likely be hurt, offended, wounded, and overlooked at least a hundred or more times before you die, you might as well get used to the idea of forgiveness, no matter the offense. Just do what God calls you to do and walk in freedom. He's God for a reason. He really does know what He is talking about.

On the final page for this session, I am including some of the blanks for your use in the future. You can make copies of it or many copies if you happen to have an inordinate amount of annoying people in your life. (Kidding) But please feel free to use it or share it if you'd like.

Day Four – Receiving Forgiveness

We get it wrong! For many of us, we often get it wrong, and because we do, we are faced at times with the need to simply receive His forgiveness and forgive ourselves. Again, another thing that is easier said than done.

As you originally worked through this day's study, was the concept of receiving forgiveness something you struggled with?

If so, are you making progress in this area? Are you meeting with God, reading His Word, and allowing His truth, such as the verse included in the margin, to penetrate your belief system?

“...as far as the east is from the west so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him; for he knows how we are formed, he remembers that we are dust.
Psalm 103:12-14

“Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord.” Acts 3:19

Day Five – Admitting the Need

For me, writing this day's study came as most difficult. While the words flowed easily, I felt concerned about trying to cover such difficult topics as sexual sin and abortion in such a small amount of space. Plus, getting into people's basket of business is not what I enjoy, especially when it is

in writing and my tone might be missed. I hope that I in no way seemed judgmental or as if I know it all. I so don't know it all! When I discuss these topics in person with wounded women, my greatest concern is for their healing and restoration with God. I know from personal experience that the order I laid out, you must admit the sin, repent of it (turn away from it), receive forgiveness, and then healing comes, is the path to restoration. As long as sin is defended, restoration and healing never come. This holds true for all sin, not just the ones we know are so devastating for the heart of a woman.

Besides the two above, toward the end of the day's study, I dropped some other “lesser” sins on you. The greedy, the unkind, cheaters, liars, hypocrites, the unwilling, gossips, haters, the selfish, those who lust, thieves, etc... Did I miss you on this list? Probably not. We all have sin in our lives. Even when we walk with the Lord daily, sin still rears its ugly head. Just this week, I have been unkind, greedy, and

1 John 1:8-10

“If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives.”

selfish. Oh, and I’m sure unwilling at times too. But the difference in me now and from that mess of a woman that I used to be is that I more quickly recognize these sins and choose to turn from them.

After looking at the list again, what most describes you?

Have you decided to acknowledge some of your lesser sins, or are you still trying justifying them?

Refresh your memory of our final verse (in the margin) from Session Four. Once we confess our sins, we are assured that He is faithful and just and will forgive. Why then, when we know forgiveness is so freely available, do we hold on to what is searing our hearts?

Session Take-Away – Forgive as you have been forgiven. The forgiveness you need to extend might just be for yourself. Empathize. Pray. Choose to forgive. Rinse and repeat.

Note to self: Forgiveness frees me.

Name

How you might empathize

_____	_____

Write out a few prayers for this person. _____

Name

How you might empathize

_____	_____

Write out a few prayers for this person. _____

Name

How you might empathize

_____	_____

Write out a few prayers for this person. _____

Since you so recently completed this session study, there seems to be little need for an entire re-cap. So instead, I will touch quickly on a few of the main points for each day.

Stone of Remembrance 

Day One – Your New Normal

The absence of peace means you have somehow stepped away from God’s intimate presence. As you have drawn nearer to God, as you have begun to love Him, peace becomes your new normal. When you begin to feel chaotic emotions and tormenting thoughts, this should serve as a warning. Begin to ask the Lord questions. Have you inadvertently taken a step away? Have you ignored His leading? Have you developed an attitude unbecoming your station? (as daughter of the King) Based on fear, are you saying no or never in an area where He is clearly leading?



“If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching.”
John 14:23

Day Two – Obedience (Obey – that four-letter word!)

When you don’t love God, disobedience comes rather easily. When you do love God, you develop a much more sensitive spirit, so disobedience brings with it immediate conflict within.

Our *nevers* are things we say we will never do, and often, they are the exact things God is calling us to do. In ministry or in other areas, typically it is fear that keeps us from obeying. Remember, disobedience leads us to that place of feeling far away from God.



Day Three – Acknowledge His Call

“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.”

Matthew 28:19-20

In this session, we learned that there is a “big picture” call on the life of every believer. That call will be demonstrated by reaching the lost and/or teaching the found (or making their teaching possible). How that call translates in the life of the individual believer will be determined by what passions and gifts the Lord has uniquely given you. God’s goal is to make you a fruitful vineyard. (Isaiah 27:2-3) He chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit that will last. (John 15:16) We all have this innate

sense that we were created for something more...we are! To bring Him glory. To be a planting for His splendor. (Isaiah 61)

Another analogy we used during this session was the pouring out of Living Water into the lives of others. Without Him pouring into you, you will have little if anything to pour into others. Another thought, we are not called merely to sit and soak in the Living Water. He pours into us *so that* we can pour into others.

Day Four – Becoming Who You Are

Trying to cultivate gifts you do not possess leads only to frustration. Once you are near to God and living the life He always planned for you, expect your specific call or purpose to begin to surface. It will not likely be something from out of left field. It will more than likely be something that is already buried in your heart.

Note: There is no retirement plan from kingdom service. Have you ever heard a senior adult say, “I’ve done my time.”? No such thing. They may be tired, but not retired. And if they are tired, it is very likely they were serving in an area where they were not called. There is something supernatural about serving where you are gifted and called. Energy comes that never seems to be depleted. Sure, rest is needed from time to time, but passion for what you were created to do fills your reservoir again quickly. It is vital that you seek God without ceasing until you find your place. When you do, an existence that may have never made sense before will suddenly become so clear.

Once you draw near and He removes your stitches, allowing you to know Him, trust Him, and love Him, then your purpose will begin to unfold. All those things you have experienced in this life will suddenly have meaning.

Day Five – The Enemy of Purpose

When the whispers come...and boy do they ever come? What do you do? Are you armed with God’s truth to filter out the negative voices that hit you hard, intending to make you unfruitful?

The enemy uses the tactic of temptation, blatant ones and subtle ones. The only way to combat temptations, which are common to us all (1 Cor. 10:13), is by staying near to God and in His Word. When you are near to Him, you hear warning bells sounding in your spirit. He is your Good Shepard and will not leave you unprotected. However, when you stray from your Shepard by not walking closely with Him, you are much less likely to hear His gentle warning. Trust me, when you are far, you are likely to fall for anything. I know I did.

Take-Away – Peace will be your new normal. Chaos and torment are a warning to get back on the path. You have purpose that will be revealed when you draw near.

At-a-Glance Study Review Questions

1. Do you love Him with all your heart, soul, and mind?
2. If not, are you moving in that direction? Have you sat with Him and asked Him to lead you in that direction?
Have you set yourself apart? Are you giving up on the world's ability to satisfy you? Have you finally concluded that only nearness to God can fill that void you feel?
3. Have you begun to identify your stitches? Are you placing those things before God, asking that He remove them? Are you spending time with Him in the quiet place?
4. Are you seeking healing through His Word? It is only through His Word that the stitches will unravel.
5. Are you continuing on with the process of forgiveness – others and yourself?
6. If you love Him, you will obey His teaching. Use this as thermometer to gauge your love level. When you do love Him, obedience will come more naturally.
Seek your purpose. He created you to be His. Once you are fully submitted to Him, He will make you a fruitful vineyard. You will produce fruit that will last.

Once you journey with God and allow Him to remove your stitches, those things that hinder your ability to see Him for who He really is, you will discover that it becomes He who begins to stitch. He will mend every broken heart. He will weave within you the promise of joy and contentment that can never be stolen away by circumstance. You will never again be shaken. In a world where no self-imposed veil remains, you can indeed live contentedly-ever-after. Isn't that what we all want?

I thank you from the bottom of my heart for allowing me to share this study with you. This is a topic that I feel so passionately about that I am sure the fire will consume me if I don't pursue teaching it. I have prayed for you along the way, and I hope that you have found something in this material that has helped you draw nearer to God.

Much love to you,

Lisa

Contact me at www.unmendingtheveil.com