

**Heart to Heart Sisters
Bible Study**



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**LWML 2013 CONVENTION
HEART TO HEART SISTERS
BIBLE STUDY**

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THEME: “Quenched by the W-A-T-E-R”

Bible Study Part 1

Walk, Attitude, Talk, Effective, Renew

Walk:

What does it mean to “walk with the Lord”? It means to follow Him, to be shepherded by Him, to abide in Him and to know Him as the goal of our journey of faith through this life and on into eternal life.

Walking with God requires obedience, which can only be done through faith in the One who has won for us forgiveness of sins and eternal life and blesses us with countless physical and spiritual blessings, not because of our obedience, but because of His great love and concern for us.

Deuteronomy 10:12-15: *“And now, Israel, what does the Lord your God require of you, but to fear the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to love him, to serve the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, and to keep the commandments and statutes of the Lord, which I am commanding you today for your good? Behold, to the Lord your God belong heaven and the heaven of heavens, the earth with all that is in it. Yet the Lord set his heart in love on your fathers and chose their offspring after them, you above all peoples, as you are this day.*

Psalm 85:8: *Let me hear what God the Lord will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.”*

Talking Points:

Our Baptism has given us a new identity and a new purpose: ... *just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the father, we too might walk in newness of life* (Romans 6:4). Walking means movement; we don't just sit on this *good news of great joy that is for all people* (Luke 2:10). God calls us to take this Good News out into the world around us. That is our response to this *good news of great joy that is for all people*

Dear sisters in Christ, this is our joy and our strength as we go out to our neighbors with the Good News of Jesus: we do not go alone. The Lord Himself who loves us and gave Himself for us goes with us, beside us, before and behind us, above us and beneath us. And so let us continue with renewed passion and hope to walk in that newness of life.

Stand in the Word, and Walk with the Lord!

Attitude:

Phil. 2: 5-8: *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness... He humbled Himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!”*

Talking Points:

We have been called to serve others, as mothers, sisters, friends, mentors, and teachers. What then should, our attitude toward others be? How do we show our loving humility? What are some ways in which we can serve our “neighbor”, thereby giving witness to our “servant-Savior”, Jesus Christ? When we serve others, we don’t use our position of authority as a weapon. Our attitude, our loving care has impact on others through His loving grace.

Talk:

Eph. 4: 29: *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

Col. 3:1-10: *If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory. Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. On account of these the wrath of God is coming. In these you too once walked, when you were living in them. But now you must put them all away: anger, wrath, malice, slander, and obscene talk from your mouth. Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.*

Col. 3:12-17: *Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience, bearing with one another and, if one has a complaint against another, forgiving each other; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. And above all these put on love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

Col. 4:6: *Let your talk (conversation) be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone [so that you may be able to give an answer].*

Talking Points:

First we need to look at the talk that comes out of our mouths. This is the constant challenge we face as the Old Adam always wants to rise up within us and form those words that come from our mouths.

Thankfully, we who have been raised through faith with Christ are the New Creation that St. Paul talks about in our second Bible verse above. Through the power and working of the Holy Spirit, we have put on the new self, and that new self doesn't include a lying or slandering tongue, instead according to verses 12-17 of Colossians 3, we put on compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness, patience, and love. When these have been put on, they also guide our tongues and out our mouths come the Word of Christ, wisdom, psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness to God.

You may hear all sorts of excuses; you may become discouraged along the way because you don't see things changing! Wait for God's time, be patient and let your conversation be always full of God's grace, confident and comforted by the fact that we are not called to produce results. We are rather called to be faithful.

Effective (Being Effective):

Proverbs 3:7: *Be not wise in your own eyes: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.*

1 Cor. 3:6: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth."

Isaiah 55:10-11: *"As the rain and the snow come down from the heaven, and do not return to it without watering the earth and making it bud and flourish, so that it yields seed for the sower and bread for the eater, so is my word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it."*

Talking Points:

Effectiveness in Christian witness is rooted in the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is our wisdom, thus the beginning of all knowledge and "being effective" does not come from us. It is the fruit of our faith, which is the gift of God. As we learned above, we are called to be faithful witnesses regardless of the results that may or may not see. That is what our Heavenly Father reminds us of through St. Paul in the second passage of above as we are well aware that we may never see the results of the seeds that we were blessed to plant or water or fertilize, but as our Father assures us in Isaiah 55, His Word will *accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.*" And, when we do see the fruit of our witness, we are blessed to be able to rejoice with the angels in heaven "over one sinner who repents" (Luke 15:10).

Renew:

Romans 7:15-20: *For I do not understand my own actions. For I do not do what I want, but I do the very thing I hate. Now if I do what I do not want, I agree with the law, that it*

is good. So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing. Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Romans 12: 1-2: *Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is – His good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

Titus 3:5: *He saved us not because of works done by us in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit.*

Talking Points:

In Romans 7, Paul reveals to us his struggles with his weak flesh. His spirit wanted to do what God wills, but his flesh was weak and does just the opposite. Paul finally finds his strength and hope in Christ. That too is our hope and our strength. Offering our bodies as living sacrifices and the transformation of our lives is possible only because of what Christ has done for us.

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THEME: “Quenched by the W-A-T-E-R”

Bible Study Part 2

Definition of Quench – To Satisfy:

If someone needs to be quenched, he or she must be very thirsty. Jesus said we ought to thirst for His righteousness. Someone who tries to fill his/her needs with bad things such as overeating, over shopping, over drinking alcohol, and things like these will always be thirsty and never satisfied. Jesus gives us living water that quenches, that satisfies our thirst for righteousness.

Quenched by the water:

Isaiah 55: 1, 2: *Come all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come buy and eat! Come; buy wine and milk without money and without cost.*

Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy listen, Listen to me, and what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare.”

John 4: 4 - 42

John 7: 37, 38: ... *If anyone thirsts, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, Out of his heart will Flow Rivers of living water.*

Talking Point:

Amazingly Jesus came and asked for a drink from an unclean vessel that belonged to an unclean woman. It sounded weird to such kind of a woman. She wasn't offended by what Jesus asked. Instead she asked, "How is it that you, being a Jew, ask a drink from me, a Samaritan woman?" (John 4: 9). Yet she had faith in the messianic hope, the hope that a Messiah who was to come and tell them all things. But Jesus came for her and He offered her the water of life that quenches, that satisfies so that we will never thirst again. That is being totally quenched!!

Quenched by the righteousness of Christ

Matthew 5: 6: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*

2 Corinthians 5: 20b, 21: ... *God making His appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake He made Him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in Him we might become the righteousness of God.*

Talking Points:

Sin is a total separation from God brought about by our ongoing rebellion and disobedience against Him and His will and commands for us. This constant rebellion and disobedience deserve nothing but God's anger and condemnation. When we sin against God and our neighbor, our relationships are broken. We are unable to mend them. We need the substitutionary work of Christ to please God, and His grace to be reconciled to Him and to one another.

Quenched by the love of God:

John 3:16: *For God so loved the world, that he gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.*

Romans 5: 8: *God shows His love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.*

Talking Points:

God's love is unconditional. God's love does not depend on what we do or say. It doesn't change by time or circumstances. His love for us is set from eternity to eternity. It is this message of unconditional love that St. Paul shares with us in Romans 5:8 that brings us such comfort and assurance.

Even though God is not only saddened, but also justly and righteously angry over our sins, He bestows on us His grace so that we return to His home. As is so clearly shared with us in the parable of the “Prodigal Son”, our Heavenly Fathers unconditional love is always waiting for us as a loving parent waits for the return of a lost or runaway child. (Luke 15:11-32)

As Jesus confronted the Samaritan woman about her husbands and current live in boyfriend; He also confronts us today about our sinful lives. The Samaritan woman confessed her sins, and received His forgiveness. She then left her water pot behind and boldly proclaimed the Good News of Jesus, who told her all that she ever did. Jesus has forgiven our sin and we are ready to leave our water pots behind like the Samaritan woman and proclaim this Good News, the forgiveness of our sins and our new life in Christ, not because water pots and our daily duties as a redeemed child of God are unimportant, but because one necessity of life, taking care of physical needs like thirst, has suddenly for her, and at times for us, been replaced with another matter of burning importance, the spiritual need, the quenching of our spiritual thirst and our desire to share this life giving water with those God has placed in our lives as we continue our daily tasks.

Bible Study Part 3

John 4: 4 - 42

Group discussion:

The Samaritan woman had faith. She was waiting for the Messiah to come. Faith is not an abstract; faith can be explained by action, otherwise it is dead faith. Faith comes from hearing the Word of God. She heard Jesus, received the gift of faith, and acted (went to testify) what she saw and what she heard.

- How do we hear and see the Word of God in our life?
- What other things are you looking for to quench your thirst instead of the Living Water, Jesus Christ your Lord? Why?

Repentance, turning away from sin that is made possible only through the power and working of the Holy Spirit in our live, is the main key to changing our minds, or deciding to give up a bad behavior and replace it with a better behavior. It is also a tool for changing or renewing our minds.

- How does the Holy Spirit operate in your heart and minds to bring the willingness to renew or change?
- How is your relationship with God?

Jesus Christ offered an invitation to those who were attending the Feast of Tabernacle to drink the Living Water. **John 7:37–39:** *On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, “If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him. Now this he said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in him were to receive, for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified.”*

- When you received the gift of faith through the working of the Holy Spirit through water and/or the Word, you received the call to carry the Good News into the world around you? How does God continue to equip you to share the Good news with those He places in your life and even to the ends of the earth?
- What prompted the Samaritan woman to boldly reach beyond her comfort zone?
- How can you share the Good News, which is the gift of life through His death and resurrection, with others?

Possible Skits:

By Nnette Loftsgarden: LWML #59162 4/95

- 1. Oh Lord! Where Can I Serve You?**
- 2. Invasion of Love**