

# *A Woman of Decision*

## SESSION NOTES

God has made me His \_\_\_\_\_; its my choice to \_\_\_\_\_ like it or not.

Salvation according to Romans 10:9

- Declare \_\_\_\_\_
- Believe \_\_\_\_\_

The Spirit you received does not make you \_\_\_\_\_, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15

As a Woman of Decision, I can:

1. Adjust my \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:1-4)
2. Step out of my \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:12-14)
3. Drop my \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:15)
4. Get back to the \_\_\_\_\_ (Romans 8:16-17)

## *Discussion Questions:*

1. What is your favorite Fairy Tale?
2. What is most unappealing about Cinderella's sneaking out of the castle to sweep her stepmother's floors again?
3. What opportunities does a woman have that a girl does not have? Which one are you looking forward to most?

# *A Woman of Decision*

*"THE MOST DIFFICULT THING IS THE DECISION TO ACT, THE REST IS MERELY TENACITY." AMELIA EARHART*

## STUDY GUIDE

My sisters and I used to play dress-up. We would often argue over who would wear the "cupcake dress," so named because of the shape it made when we twirled around in it. I suppose this memory is one of the reasons why the Cinderella story is so meaningful to me. The transformation from her torn-up hand-me-downs into her luxurious ruffles thrills me every time. As she dances with the prince, her joy seems blossom in same way her gown does. As we talked about in the teaching session, the thought of her trading such joy for the comforting routine and rags of her old life is heartbreaking.

*What childhood memories come to mind as you read this?*

The Holy Spirit brings this mental picture to my mind often as a reminder to stop running from, or trying to earn, God's lavish grace. Regardless of my actions, because I placed my faith in Jesus, I am a child of God, a princess of the King of kings. My identity is secure, but it is up to me to decide to live it out.

As we learn to live as women of godly character, God first shapes our backbone. The decision to join God's family and live as His *Delight* is a one-time event. However, the decision to act like it is a day-by-day choice.

A *Woman of Decision* is rare. Our world tends to prefer its ladies directionless. A woman without a firm grasp on her identity is an easy target: buy this product, try that lifestyle, follow this new trend.

Jesus has a different destiny in mind for His people. The Bible says,

“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

Making the decision to be a *Delight* probably makes sense for your life right now. Perhaps you are involved in a church with your family, or your friends are all doing this Bible study together. I realize this doesn't apply to everyone, but maybe, for right now, it is easy to identify as a Christian.

How might a girl's identity shift when she graduates from high school? What will define her when her group of friends changes? As she gets older, she may get married and have children. A career journey, for success or failure, could monopolize the next 40 years of her life. Eventually, every young woman will become an old woman. Will the foundation of our identities as children of God be affected by each new season?

Voices and opinions and changes in life will not stop grabbing for our attention. The noise of our surroundings has one goal: to take our concentration away from Jesus. Anything could knock us off of our firm foundational identity in Christ and cause us to act like slaves again—if we let it.

A change in relationship could convince us to return to the rags of our old life. A disapproving comment or failed exam begs us to reach for our mops again. We become desperate to fill our résumé with accomplishments. Even the doubts in our own hearts threaten our sense of identity.

What we pay attention to could cost us. In fact, it already cost every woman on Earth when Eve's identity was shattered by a serpent.

Read Genesis 2:15-25

15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.  
16 And the Lord God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; 17 but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die." 18 The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." 19 Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.  
20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.  
22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib

he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man. 23 The man said, “This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called ‘woman,’ for she was taken out of man.”

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

God created humanity to walk with Him in relationship. Adam was the only creature God made in God’s own image. In the perfection of Eden, Adam enjoyed beautiful fellowship with God and the animals. Then God decided to WOW Adam. He created Eve, a human like Adam, but beautifully different. The two had perfect relationship with God and one another. With their identities secure in God’s love for them, life was good in the garden.

*What was required from Adam and Eve to maintain their perfect relationship with God?*

Then the serpent caught Eve’s attention. With a crafty slither, Satan deconstructed the foundation of Eve’s identity: her belief about God.

Read Genesis 3:

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?” 2 The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the

garden, 3 but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” 4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. 5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves. Genesis 3:1-7

*What specific message did Eve listen to instead of God's?*

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. 9 But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?” 10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.” 11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” 12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the

tree, and I ate it.” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”  
Genesis 3:8-13

Adam and Eve listened to the serpent and ate the fruit. By disobeying God’s command, they invited sin to take control of their lives, and our world. This event is called The Fall. The consequences of the Fall—separation from God, loneliness, disease, conflict, and death—affect us all. Though God had made mankind to reflect His image, Adam and Eve’s decision sabotaged our ability to portray His image accurately.

14 So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.  
15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”  
16 To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” 17 To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your

brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” 20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. 21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. 22 And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Just as God had a unique plan when He created Eve, God would also give her unique consequences, which have been passed to all womankind. Eve was created as the only being who could fulfill the needs and desires God created Adam with. Now, a woman’s complementary abilities in marriage are easily muted by her sin nature’s competitive tendencies for headship in the home. Also, God chose Eve’s body for child-bearing—a powerful reflection of God’s creative abilities; that privilege would now be burdened by pain and difficulty.

*In your opinion, what is the most frustrating part of being a woman?*

Eve's decision is crucial to our study of living as godly women. If Adam and Eve had not questioned their identity as beloved image-bearers, they would have continued living in close physical proximity to God. Eve would have kept flourishing as God's *Delight*. God's love would have daily defined her sense of security and joy and well-being. Without the Fall, we all could be living our Joyfully Ever After, right now.

But sin *did* enter the world. And it is *our* fault as much as it is Eve's. We all would have questioned God's authority and love, as we often do day by day.

Thankfully, Jesus volunteered to take the punishment for our sin. We get to live *Joyfully Ever After* in the presence of our Creator when we choose to accept Jesus as our Lord and Savior. The decision to become God's *Delight* makes us stand resolute against the messages of the world, the temptations from the enemy, and the very real doubts of our own hearts.

We remember our one-time decision to become a child of God by making day by day (sometimes hour by hour) decisions to *live out* our identity in Christ. It is easy to keep royalty in the front of our minds when we remember the crown that awaits us:

I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing. 2 Timothy 4:7-8

## *Memory Verse:*

The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship. And by him we cry, "Abba, Father." Romans 8:15

(Other suggestions: Joshua 24:15, Galatians 5:1, Matthew 26:41)

## *Activity:*

Host a flower crown-making party with your friends or small group. Research ideas on Pinterest, grab an assortment of faux flowers at a hobby supply store, and heat up your glue gun. Have a photo shoot and post something you learned about your identity as the King's daughter this week.

Use #joyfullyeverafterbiblestudy to connect on social media.