

Where to from here?

Leaders copy



*Strength +
dignity*

WOMEN
WITH PURPOSE

LESSON NINE: Rachael Lock

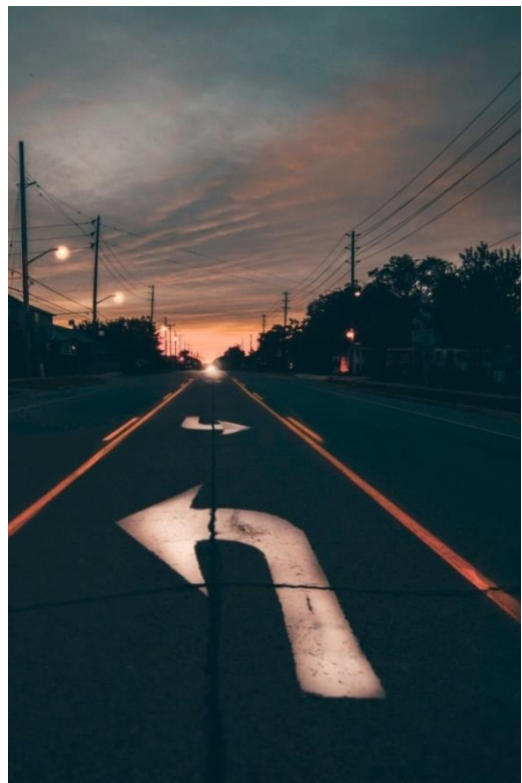
Where to from here?

(Intro and welcome – Introduce today’s topic).

(Read aloud) Over the course of this curriculum we have covered the following topics:

1. Leaving a Legacy
2. Comparison is the thief of Joy
3. Mindsets
4. Reaching Out
5. Expectations
6. Hearing from God
7. Overcoming
8. Spiritual Growth

and now we have come to the final lesson “Where to from here?”



Often when we have been involved in a conference or a curriculum, when it comes to the end it can leave us feeling a little bit flat. We don’t want the momentum to end. This is where the “where to from here” question comes in.

Strength and dignity – Women with Purpose wants to encourage you to keep the fire burning, keep the excitement for God’s Word and Truth at the forefront of your lives. Don’t slip back into old routines but encourage one another to continue studying Gods Word. We want to challenge you to keep charging after God, to keep seeking Him in your daily life.

We have asked some ladies in leadership to give you some advice on how to do that.

(Introduce the ladies on the AV Clip:

Jan Rodgers - Jan Rodgers is married to Sheridyn, and together they lead Activate Church Hamilton along with overseeing 6 other Activate Churches in NZ. Jan also serves on the Acts Churches National Council. She has 2 grown sons who are leaders at Activate. Jan is passionate about seeing people rise to be all they’re created to be in God.

Christine Graham - Christine and her husband Steve served as missionaries in the Philippines for 7 years. Christine is currently working as a Family support Coordinator for the Child Cancer Foundation as well as serving as the Care Team Co-Leader at Equippers Church Auckland City. Mother of 3 young adults and grandmother, Christine also is a keen gardener, loves crafts and is a keen runner.

Ruth Swift - Ruth and her husband Wayne are the senior Pastors at ‘the church @1330’ in Melbourne Australia. Wayne and Ruth have a passion for reaching lost people with the gospel of Jesus and seeing people become all that God intended them to be. They have been in ministry together for 30 years. Ruth is a Network Leader overseeing and supporting many churches and pastors across the denomination.

Watch AV clip and discuss as a group what stood out from what was shared).

(Read aloud) Proverbs 13:20 – *“Walk with the wise and become wise; associate with fools and get in trouble.”*

Proverbs 27:17 – *“As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend.”*

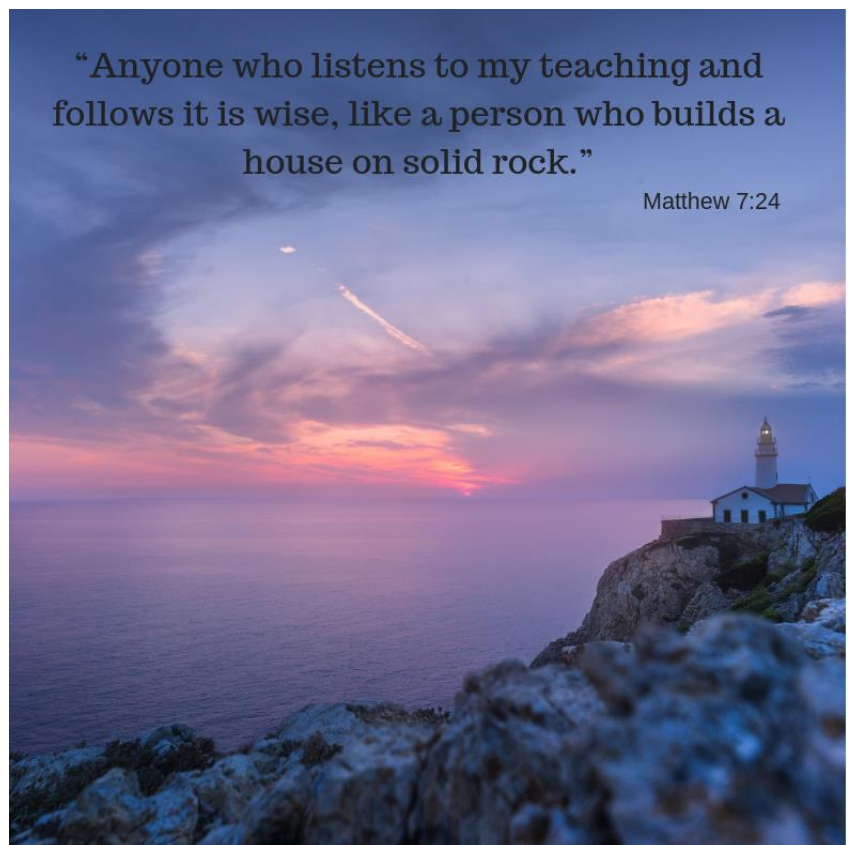
(Read and discuss the following question).

Q What do these two scriptures reveal to you about the importance of the character of the people we spend time with?

(Continue reading). This question is answered for us in **Ecclesiastes 12:11** (MSG) – *“The words of the wise prod us to live well. They’re like nails hammered home, holding life together. They are given by God, the one Shepherd.”*

Or again in **Matthew 7:24** – *“Anyone who listens to my teaching and follows it is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock.”*

We need to be careful who we let speak into our lives, who we hang around, what we are reading, watching and giving our attention to. We need to have a solid foundation built on Jesus. Listen for the wisdom from God, read Jesus teaching in the bible and follow the path He has set before you.



Proverbs 4:25-26 – *“Look straight ahead, and fix your eyes on what lies before you. Mark out a straight path for your feet; stay on the safe path.”*

The Lord says, "I will guide you along the best pathway for your life. I will advise you and watch over you."

Psalm 32: 8



I love this scripture; God will guide you along the best pathway for your life. It says, He will advise us and watch over us. He is such a loving Father.

The words that jump out at me from this scripture are *guide* and *advise*. How often do we think we are doing it all alone, how often do we take the entire burden on ourselves? God never intended us to live this way. He has been there right from the start to guide us and to advise us. The way He can do this is for us to ask, to listen, and to have a personal relationship with God where we are spending time with Him and hearing His voice. He wants to be there, we just need to humble ourselves and take the time to listen.

Read God's word with intention. Ask God for revelation as you read His Word. What is God teaching you, what is He revealing to you from His word.

Instead of racing through the scriptures, take time to meditate on what you are reading. Underline passages that stand out to you, highlight key scriptures, take notes and take your time in God's word.

It is not about how much we read, it is about how much is revealed.

Then share it with others. Share what God has taught you and shown you and share those times when He has been there for you. Share it all with others and tell them about God's great love.

(Continue reading, pause and discuss along the way if necessary).

2 Timothy 2: - *“You have heard me teach things that have been confirmed by many reliable witnesses. Now teach these truths to other trustworthy people who will be able to pass them on to others.”*

Share God with those around you as you walk the path He has laid before you. Tell of His mighty works and His great love.

Isaiah 48:17 – *“This is what the Lord says – your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; I am the Lord your God who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow.”*

It is all there in scripture, in black and white, in plain text – *“I am the Lord your God who teaches you what is good for you and leads you along the paths you should follow.”*

It really can't get simpler than that. God teaches us what is good for us and leads us forward in the way we should go. Do we listen, are we learning? God has laid it all out for us. All He is asking us to do is follow.

Follow God, make Him your Lord and Saviour, your Redeemer. Listen for His instruction, read His word, follow His lead and walk in the path He has laid before you.

He has done it all for us, He has set it all out, we only need to follow.

Hebrews 12:1 ... *“And let us run with endurance the race God has set before us.”*

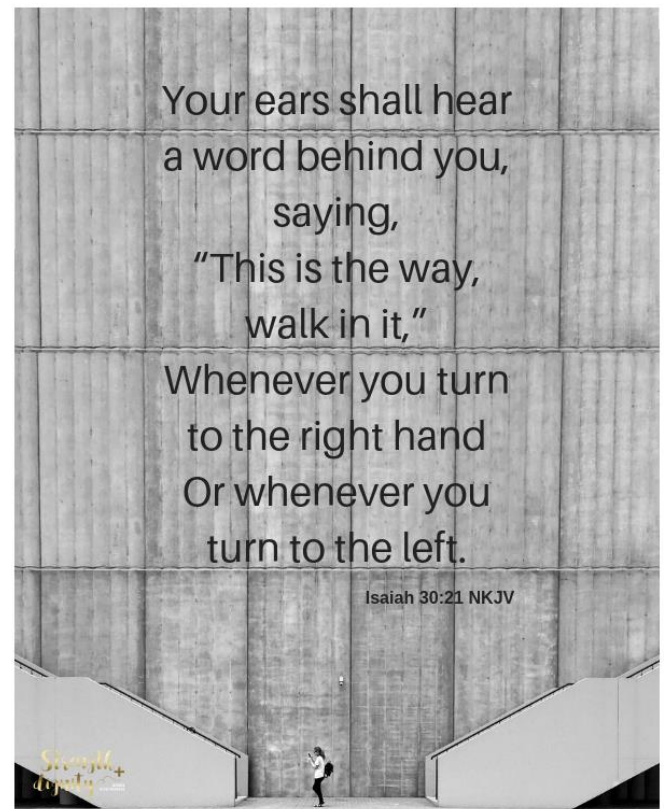
God has set a path before us; He has laid it all out in front of us. We all have our own personal race to run, our own personal lane to be in and it has been given to us by God. Listen for His instruction, hear that voice in your ear *“this is the way, walk in it”* (Isaiah 30:21) and follow the voice of your Father in Heaven.

Where to from here? Anywhere and everywhere the Lord would have you go!

Yes and Amen!

(Encourage the group to take a look at the extra study and website:

www.strengthanddignity.co.nz wrap up lesson nine and extend a big thank you to everyone for participating in Strength and dignity – Women with Purpose this year).



We look forward to what next year will bring.



Extra Study – Rachael Lock



Matthew 7:14 - *“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.”* NIV

This scripture can seem a little daunting, especially if you read it in another translation:

“You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it.” NLT

That’s a bit intimidating. However, it is also very true. Anything worth having is worth fighting for. If you are just a passenger in life and take the easy road, it will lead you down a path of destruction. If you choose the narrow road it may not be calm or easy but it is the ‘right’ path and it leads to life!

Even though this gateway to life is narrow it doesn’t mean that it is limited in anyway. God has wide open spaces for you to walk into, He has a plan and purpose for you, He has called you to “such a time as this” so we can walk this road with confidence.

www.strengthanddignity.co.nz for further reading and study.