



Called to Prophecy

Lesson Overview

Week of January 31

1 Life Need:

Understand the proper role of women in your church.

2 Bible Learning:

Study how the Lord blessed women in the New Testament.

Suggested Material:

■ *Adult Teacher's Resource Kit*: Poster and Reproducible Sheet—Women in the New Testament

3 Bible Application:

Examine the impact of godly women.

Suggested Material:

■ *Adult Teacher's Resource Kit*: Reproducible handout—Her Voice, God's Wisdom

4 Life Response:

Affirm those women's voices that are from God.

Church/Home Theme:
Christ Jesus Is Our Savior

Lesson Focus:
Value women's voices like God does.

Lesson Scripture:
Luke 2:36-38; Acts 2:16-21; 21:8-9

Prophetess is the biblical title given to female prophets in Scripture. The prophetess foretold future events or communicated as God's messenger to encourage or exhort (1 Cor. 14:3). Sadly, women were often devalued in the eyes of Jewish men—but this was never God's heart.

One Woman in the Temple—Early in Luke's Gospel, he introduced an older widow named Anna, calling her a prophetess. Anna's husband died after only seven years of marriage. Anna never married again. Instead, she surrendered the rest of her life to God's service in the temple. There she fasted, prayed, and taught those who visited the temple about the coming Messiah, Jesus Christ. When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus into the temple for His dedication, Anna had the privilege of beholding the precious Savior, the Expected One.

Women on the Day of Pentecost—On the Day of Pentecost, Peter delivered a powerful sermon. He clarified the fact and purpose of Jesus' death and resurrection. He also explained the strange events (tongues of fire, people speaking in a language they had not learned) which were presently occurring.

Peter quoted the prophet Joel concerning the coming of the Holy Spirit. This Old Testament passage foretold what would happen when Jesus ascended back to heaven: God's Spirit would be poured out on God's people. Before Pentecost, the Holy Spirit operated periodically on special designated occasions. But from this day forward, all those who accepted the truth about Christ and became a Christian, housed the Holy Spirit in their bodies and became His temple. God's Spirit now dwelt in a variety of individuals: old, young, male, female, servants, even Gentiles—anyone who accepted the truth about the Savior.

Four Prophetesses—Paul visited Philip, an evangelist, in Caesarea who had four daughters. Scripture says all four daughters had the gift of prophecy. Scripture gives no further details about the daughters or concerning their ministry involvement, but tradition says they helped their father as he traveled to several cities in what is now Turkey preaching the Gospel.

These women and many more are examples of God having no problem calling women to fulfill an assignment for Him. God continues to speak to—and through—women today.

As Your Students Arrive

As students enter the classroom, ask them to mention women from the Old Testament who spoke for God and why their

words were spiritually significant. Examples might include Deborah, who told Barak to attack God's enemies (see Judg. 4:6-7); Huldah, who related God's message of doom to Hilkiah the priest (see 2 Kings 22); and Esther, who exposed Haman's plot against the Jews to King Ahasuerus (see Esther 7:1-6). Introduce the lesson by letting the class know that this week's lesson focuses on why righteous women have an important voice among God's people.

Link to Last Week

Encourage some volunteers to share about unity and love they have seen lately in your church.

1 Life Need

Understand the proper role of women in your church.

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Shantel squeezed her hands tighter together as they lay clasped in her lap. She was sitting in her church small group, which was led by Lamont, a six-year member of the church.

For the most part, 10 people came. However, a new man had been coming for the past month. Montez was a friend of one of the men in the group. He seemed to respond negatively whenever she shared something. Or was it just when women shared? Was she possibly being overly sensitive?

"So what is Paul trying to tell us about kindness in Ephesians 4:20-32, especially verse 32?" asked Lamont. "Shantel, you always have good insight. What is the Lord saying to your heart?"

Shantel cleared her throat. She glanced over to see Montez roll his eyes. Lamont must have caught it too, because he added. "We are here as a group to fellowship and grow. Everyone is important, because God values each of us and every voice. Shantel, please tell us what is on your heart."

"Nothing repels people faster than an unkind, mean-spirited person," said Shantel. "How can we win people to Christ with such a spirit? The kindness of God draws people. A kind word turns away anger and deflates an argument. Kindness also speaks volumes about you as a representative of Christ."

"Amen," Lamont said.

1. What does your congregation or denomination say about the role of women within your church?
2. How does your church value women's voices? Explain your answer.
3. When could having both men's and women's perspectives bring spiritual wisdom to a difficult situation?

LESSON FOCUS: Value women's voices like God does.

Throughout the Bible and Christian history, righteous women have been a blessing to God's kingdom. Take a moment to read the anecdote in the student book. Then form small groups to talk about how women spiritually enrich your church. During their discussion, students should answer **Questions 1, 2, and 3**.

Question 1 gives students the opportunity to comprehend and briefly discuss the policies of the church on the spiritual role of women and the biblical teachings that support these policies. Some Scriptures are interpreted differently by different groups. The purpose of this discussion is not to cause debate but rather to understand the issue further.

The answers to Question 2 will certainly vary from one church to another. There are answers, however, that will be common to all churches. For example, in most churches during Sunday morning classes, women have a vital and influential role in training children in their understanding of the Bible.

Finally, for Question 3, students may recall personal experiences in which both viewpoints helped resolve a situation, offered perceptive guidance to a complex decision, or added further comprehension to a biblical teaching.

2 Bible Learning

Study how the Lord blessed women in the New Testament.



Through His promises and His actions, God indicated how He would use women to serve Him in the building of His kingdom. In God's active participation in the life of the church, He honors righteous

women and gives them profound voices, as He did with Anna, the four daughters of Philip, and all who obey His will and call.

Before you teach this step, put up the poster "Women in the New Testament: Their Testimony, Service, and Mission" from the Resource Kit and make copies of the handout that goes with it. Read the first paragraph on the handout, and

on the poster, point out the painting by Rembrandt that shows Anna and Simeon with the baby Jesus in the temple and the illustration of Mary and the disciples receiving the Holy Spirit at Pentecost.

A PROPHETESS ACKNOWLEDGES JESUS

Read Luke 2:36-38, and highlight these key points as you discuss the Scripture:

- When Jesus was a child, His earthly parents brought Him to the temple in Jerusalem to

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A Prophetess Acknowledges Jesus

Luke 2:36-38, KJV

36 And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity;

37 And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day.

38 And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem.

Luke 2:36-38, NIV

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage,³⁷ and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying.³⁸ Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem.

After the birth of Jesus, Mary and Joseph stayed for a while in Bethlehem. During that time, they traveled to the temple in nearby Jerusalem to fulfill their religious duties such as presenting Him to the Lord as required by the Law (vss. 22-24; see Exod. 13:12-15).

It was then that two elderly people—Simeon and Anna—recognized Jesus' special nature and made pronouncements concerning Him. In a sense, they served as two credible Jewish witnesses who affirmed the truthfulness of Jesus' status as the Messiah (Deut. 19:15).

Verse 36 relates that Anna was a "prophetess" (KJV). In other words, she had the gift of prophecy and was recognized for having that special God-given ability. She was also an exceptionally committed elderly woman. She worshiped God so constantly with "fasting and praying" (vs. 37, NIV) that she never left the temple. Anna may have lodged in one of the outer rooms of the sanctuary complex, or at least she spent most of her waking hours at the temple.

BIBLE EXTRA

The Divine Intent Behind Prophesying

Luke 2:36 refers to Anna as a "prophet" (NIV). Prophesying is one of many of the Spirit's gifts to the Body of Christ (1 Cor. 12:10, 29; 13:2, 8; 14:1). The purpose of this gift is to have the special ability to spontaneously proclaim fully inspired and authoritative revelations from God, whether the foretelling of future events, the heralding of apostolic truths, or the denouncing of social injustices.

In 1 Corinthians 14:22, Paul contrasted the gifts of tongues and prophesying. He explained that tongues-speaking was a miraculous "sign" that the Spirit used to authenticate His spokespersons to the unsaved. In contrast, the Lord primarily intended prophesying for the benefit of Jesus' followers. Verses 23-25 further disclose that prophesying functions as a sign from God in a positive sense. It causes unbelieving visitors to a church to recognize the Father's presence and turn their lives over to the Son in repentance and faith.



Further commentary on this Scripture passage can be found on pp. 825-827 in *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary: New Testament*.

dedicate Him to the Lord God.

- During this solemn visit, an elderly woman approached Joseph, Mary, and Jesus and indicated through vocal praise to God that Jesus would be the redemption of the Jewish people.

- This woman was Anna, a prophetess from the tribe of Asher, who had been married for seven years and then was a widow for many years.

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 4

On a personal level, Anna was the daughter of a man named “Penuel” (Luke 2:36, NIV), along with

being the wife to an unnamed husband. After seven years of marriage, Anna’s husband died. For the rest of her adult life, Anna lived as a “widow” (vs. 37), who spiritually devoted her life to “fasting and praying,” as well as prophesying (vs. 36).

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 5

According to Luke 2:37, Anna was immersed in her daily routine of “fastings and prayers” (KJV) when she saw Joseph, Mary, and their newborn son in the Jerusalem temple. Anna was among those who were waiting expectantly for the Lord to redeem “Jerusalem.” Anna evidently sensed that the Christ child would play an important role in this regard, and for this reason “gave thanks to God” (NIV).

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During Anna’s lifetime, she had undoubtedly witnessed her share of war and national oppression. It’s no wonder she had an intense longing for the “redemption” (vs. 38) promised through the Messiah. The Father honored Anna’s faith by allowing her to see His Son at the same time as Simeon. Consequently, Anna became a grateful and continual witness to others who had been waiting for the promised King.

4. Who was Anna?

5. What did Anna do when she encountered the infant Jesus?

Sons and Daughters Will Prophecy

Acts 2:16-21, KJV

16 But this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel;
17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams:

18 And on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy:

19 And I will shew wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke:

20 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and notable day of the Lord come:

21 And it shall come to pass,

Acts 2:16-21, NIV

¹⁶“No, this is what was spoken by the prophet Joel:

¹⁷ “In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people.

Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams.

¹⁸Even on my servants, both men and women,

I will pour out my Spirit in those days, and they will prophesy.

¹⁹I will show wonders in the heavens above and signs on the earth below, blood and fire and billows of smoke.

²⁰The sun will be turned to darkness and the moon to blood before the coming of the great

BIBLE EXTRA

The Work of the Holy Spirit

Joel’s prophecy, as rehearsed in Acts 2:16-21, makes several references to the work of the Holy Spirit among God’s people. The Spirit is referred to by many names in Scripture—Advocate, Counselor, Comforter, Spirit of Truth, and Eternal Spirit, to name a few. The Spirit’s names reveal aspects of His character and work in the lives of believers.

Although mentioned frequently in the Old Testament, the Spirit’s direct personal ministry began in the early days of the Church, specifically on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-41). Among the ministries that the Spirit performs in the lives of believers are the following: regenerating their spirit and reassuring them that they are spiritually reborn (John 3:5-6; Rom. 8:16); teaching them (John 14:26); testifying to them about the Son (John 15:26); convicting them of sin and setting them apart for salvation (John 16:8-11; 1 Pet. 1:1-2); guiding them (John 16:13-14); praying for them (Rom. 8:26-27); and equipping them for ministry (1 Cor. 12:4-7).

SONS AND DAUGHTERS WILL PROPHECY

While reading Acts 2:16-21, note these important points in your class discussion:

- Soon after Jesus ascended into heaven and the Holy Spirit descended upon His disciples, the apostles Peter and John commenced their evangelistic ministry with Peter's historic sermon on the day of Pentecost.

- Part of Peter's message was a quote from the Hebrew prophet Joel, who had foretold that God would pour out His Spirit upon the sons and daughters of Israel, who would prophesy for the Lord God.

- Moreover, Israel's youth would see visions and Israel's seniors would dream dreams.

- Joel specifically noted that the

Lord will bless Israel's handmaidens with the Holy Spirit and endow them with the power to prophesy.

- God promised to display heavenly wonders and earthly signs when the glorious day of the Lord comes, bringing fire and smoke and darkness.

- Most importantly, everyone who calls on His name will be redeemed.

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 6

Peter said that God's outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost was a sign that Joel's prophecy of the Spirit coming in the "last days" had begun. The "last days" began with the Resurrection of

BIBLE EXTRA

Discerning God's Spirit in a World of 'Prophets'

In New Testament times, there were many pagan "prophets" from Asia Minor and numerous Jewish mystics, all of whom claimed to receive special revelations from the gods, especially from Apollo, the chief god of music and prophecy. People would travel hundreds of miles to places such as Delphi, Greece, or in Asia Minor (what is now Turkey) to Didyma to hear a priestess deliver an oracle, a special message. These non-Christian messages were either of human origin or, worse, of demonic origin.

During the Old Testament era, young prophets usually had mentors over them, such as Samuel and Elijah, to help them distinguish a message from the Lord and mere impressions arising from their own minds. Meanwhile, demonic forces misled false prophets who claimed to speak for God.

First John 4:1 seems to indicate that every Christian has some ability to critically examine and determine the genuineness of the "spirits." Yet, as with other gifts, the Spirit has bestowed on some believers a unique, special ability in this area (1 Cor 12:10).

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KJV
that whosoever shall call on
the name of the Lord shall be
saved.

NIV
and glorious day of the Lord.
²¹And everyone who calls on the
name of the Lord will be saved.' "

On the day of Pentecost, the Spirit empowered Peter to stand before an assembled crowd. He was "with the Eleven" (Acts 2:14), suggesting that while Peter was the primary speaker, the others affirmed what he said. Peter began by asking his fellow Jews, as well as all who lived in Jerusalem, to listen carefully to the explanation he was giving of the wonderful things God was doing in their presence.

Peter declared that his fellow disciples were not drunk, as some mistakenly thought, for it was too early in the morning for drunkenness (vs. 13-15). Instead, something far more extraordinary was occurring. To clarify further, Peter quoted from Joel 2:28-32 (Acts 2:16-21). Through these Scriptures, others could see that Jesus is indeed the long-awaited Messiah.

Peter noted that the outpouring of the Holy Spirit on Jesus' followers (being evidenced by speaking in other languages) was evidence of what Joel had said would occur at the advent of the Messiah. In the old covenant, the manifestations of the Spirit among God's people were limited to prophets and occasionally kings like David.

Joel's prophecy concerned the dramatic change in the way God's Spirit would work among people. Now, "sons and daughters" (vs. 17) would "prophesy." Similarly, while "young men" would "see visions," their older counterparts would "dream dreams." Moreover, both men and women would experience the Spirit's outpouring (vs. 18).

The above was just one evidence that the long-promised "last days" (vs. 17) were beginning. The "heavens" (vs. 19) would also be filled with "wonders," while the "earth" would be overcome with such "signs" as the presence of "blood," "fire," and clouds of "smoke." In a glimpse of the "great and glorious day" (vs. 20) of the Savior's return, the sun would be darkened and the moon red-hued. But now, all who call out to the Lord Jesus in faith will be "saved" (vs. 21).

Christ, and “all people,” not just a select few, would now experience this outpouring.

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 7

Unlike the times under the old covenant when the Spirit came to only a few people, in the new covenant the Holy Spirit would empower “sons and daughters” (NIV) to “prophesy.” Also, while those who were younger would “see visions,” those who were older would experience “dreams,” and the Lord’s “servants, both men and women,” would “prophesy.”

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 8

According to Joel’s prophecy, these events would

include “wonders” (vs. 19) to take place in the “heavens.” At the same time, people will witness various “signs.” Some of those are the presence of “blood and fire,” along with “billows of smoke.” Additionally, the “sun” (vs. 20) would be shrouded in “darkness,” while the “moon” would become blood-red in color.

PHILIP’S FOUR DAUGHTERS PROPHECY

Next read Acts 21:8-9, and assess these following statements:

- During Paul’s third missionary journey, Paul and his missionary team visited the major seaport of Caesarea, lodging with Philip and his household.
- In Jerusalem, the apostles had chosen Philip and six others to care for widows and perform other church duties.
- When the Jewish authorities in Jerusalem persecuted the Christians, Philip and his family fled to Caesarea, where he and his four unmarried daughters were all blessed with the gift of prophecy.

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 9

Philip was a prominent believer among Jesus’ initial followers. According to Acts 21:8, Philip was known for his evangelistic outreach. Also, verse 9 reveals that Philip was the proud father of four “daughters” who were “unmarried” (NIV) and “prophesied.”

SUGGESTED ANSWER TO QUESTION 10

Paul and his colleagues were on the third missionary journey recorded in Acts. After they arrived at Caesarea, they needed a place to stay. Luke noted in Acts 21:8 that Philip opened up his home to provide food and lodging for the itinerant missionaries.

6. What did the Lord promise to do in the “last days” (Acts 2:17)?

7. What was unusual about this outpouring of the Spirit?

8. What other events would accompany the “last days?”

Philip’s Four Daughters Prophecy

Acts 21:8-9, KJV

8 And the next day we that were of Paul’s company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.

9 And the same man had four daughters, virgins, which did prophesy.

Acts 21:8-9, NIV

⁸Leaving the next day, we reached Caesarea and stayed at the house of Philip the evangelist, one of the Seven. ⁹He had four unmarried daughters who prophesied.

Acts 18:23—21:16 records Paul’s third missionary journey, which extended from about A.D. 52–57. During this time, the apostle made Ephesus the center of his gospel operations.

Chapter 21 focuses on Paul’s return trip to Jerusalem. Along the way, he met believers in Tyre and Ptolemais (vs. 7). The apostle and his colleagues remained in Ptolemais for one day before reboarding their ship to sail to Caesarea.

Once the missionary team arrived in Caesarea, they remained there for several days. During this time, Philip the evangelist lodged the group in his home (vs. 8).

Philip’s evangelistic activities recorded in chapter 8 were only the beginning of a long, fruitful span of ministry (21:8). He and his “four daughters” (vs. 9) eventually settled in Caesarea. The reference to them as “virgins” (KJV) indicates they were unmarried and young. The tense of the Greek participle rendered “prophesy” indicates that they did so on a recurring basis. This is one indication that the Spirit gave this gift to female believers in the early church (1 Cor. 11:5).

9. Who was Philip?

10. In what way did Philip show hospitality?

3 Bible Application

Examine the impact of godly women.

This step encourages class members to discuss how righteous women affect others. Allow students to select the activity they would like to do. If possible, photocopy this page and give instructions to each group. Provide paper and pencils to the Cartoon group. Make copies of the handout from the Resource Kit for the group using it.

Handout: 'Her Voice, God's Wisdom'



Read through the handout and answer the questions on it. Note that this exercise is private, and only those who wish to share their account with others in this group will do so. Take time to praise God for how the Lord blessed your group members either by speaking through them or by listening to the wise counsel of a sister in Christ.

GROUP ACTIVITIES

Discussion Group

Read "Notable Christian Women" and answer **Questions 11, 12, 13, and 14** in the student book. Those three women each had a deep faith in Jesus, and because of that faith, they were compelled to serve the Lord with the spiritual gift God gave them, which we all can aspire to as well. Each person may have a mother, grandmother, another family member, a teacher, a partner in a mission's program, or some other godly woman who has touched his or her life in an impactful way. The question about a personal view of women's role in the church is not meant to challenge your church's policy but to see creative ways that the Christian community can become more spiritually fruitful.

Three-Panel Cartoons

On a sheet of paper, draw a simple three-panel cartoon in which the first panel portrays the prophetess Anna's declaring Jesus' role as Israel's redeemer. The second panel shows the apostle Peter proclaiming God's promise to bestow the Holy Spirit upon His people. The last panel pictures Paul with Philip and his four daughters. After you finish, display the drawings on a class wall and discuss why the women are prominent in each of these panels.

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Notable Christian Women

For two millennia, Christian women have made substantial contributions to church history. Many have gone unnoticed, but some have left indelible marks that are still recognized to this day. The following three women are representatives of a vast number of Christian women whose words and deeds have inspired generations of Christians.

Susanna Wesley lived in 17th and 18th-century England, where she married an Anglican minister and became the mother of John and Charles Wesley, the founders of the Methodist movement. Charles composed such beloved hymns we still sing as "Christ, the Lord Is Risen Today" and "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing." Susanna Wesley nurtured the seeds of faith in her two sons, who would themselves inspire the faith of countless Christians.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Dorchester, Maryland, in 1822. She escaped from slavery and devoted her life both to Christ and guiding other slaves to freedom. Although she was whipped many times and suffered a permanent head injury as a slave, she never forsook her faith in Jesus nor silenced her declaration of the Gospel.

Lottie Moon stood only 4 feet, 3 inches tall, but she was a giant among missionaries. Beginning in 1873, she evangelized in China for nearly four decades. As a gifted teacher and prolific writer, she campaigned for women to have an equal voice among Baptist missionaries. Fluent in Chinese, she led hundreds of Chinese to commit their lives to Christ. For Christians today, she personifies the highest missionary spirit.

These three Christian women exemplify what it means to truly serve Christ.

- 11.** *What do these three women have in common?*
- 12.** *In what ways do you relate to these women?*
- 13.** *How have the words or actions of Christian women touched your faith in Jesus?*
- 14.** *Define the role of women in the church in your own words.*

4 Life Response

Affirm those women's voices that are from God.

The validation of women's contributions to the community of believers in service to the Lord God is certainly present throughout Scriptures. Their voices continue to instruct, edify, and heal to this day. Whether we're a Christian woman or a Christian man, we all can praise the Lord for manifesting His wisdom and His grace among faithful Christian women.

Ask your students to read "Praise Jesus for Using the Voices of Women!" in *Comprehensive Bible Study*

and do the activity there. Say that next week you will ask volunteers to relate the experience/observation that they described, noting how it affected them and how it helped them further comprehend the ways the Lord uses people for His work, particularly sisters in Christ.

Finally, give the class the opportunity to pray aloud or quietly to themselves, noting what they learned from this week's lesson.

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Praise Jesus for Using the Voices of Women!

The Lord endowed Anna and the four daughters of Philip with the spiritual gift of prophecy, as the prophet Joel had predicted, thus conveying God's message to His people according to His divine plan. Since that New Testament period, faithful women throughout Christian history have related God's message in their own distinctive ways, and today Christian women continue that sacred tradition.

► *During the coming week, briefly describe in your study book a situation in which you experienced or observed the words of a Christian woman providing spiritual insight. Examples might include sharing a biblical perspective with a child, offering counsel to a youth, or speaking calm words of wisdom in a tense situation. (Note that you may be the one speaking as that woman.) Moreover, praise the Lord Jesus for what occurred!*

KEY VERSE

And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams. —Acts 2:17, KJV

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

—Acts 2:17, NIV

DAILY BIBLE READINGS FOR NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

Week of February 1 through February 7

(See *The Quiet Hour* and *Cross* devotionals on these passages.)

Mon. Revelation 21:1-8—Receive the Water of Life.

Tues. John 8:21-30—Jesus Declares, "I Am from Above."

Wed. Romans 8:12-17—God's Children Led by the Spirit.

Thurs. John 1:37-42—Simon and Andrew First Disciples.

Fri. John 1:43-51—Galileans Philip and Nathanael Become Disciples.

Sat. John 4:43-54—Jesus Heals Son of Galilean Official.

Sun. John 4:25-42—Samaritans Come to Jesus.

End the lesson with a closing prayer. Praise the Lord for the voices of Christian women, who have helped make the church more compassionate, more joyful, and more knowledgeable of Christ's character and teachings. Pray for unity through the Spirit among sisters and brothers in the Lord Jesus. And ask that each member of the church will nurture and serve one another in humility and with grace.



As the class members are leaving, hand out copies of this week's *Power for Living*. Take or mail copies of *Lesson Leaflet* to those who couldn't be with you today, or send them to those you would like to join your class.

Before Teaching Next Week's Lesson

Before next week, read John 4:25-42. Have students think about how they can share Jesus with others.