

SEPTEMBER 11TH

# Character

**MEMORY VERSE:**

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

John 14:23

1. This year in LIGHT, we want to focus on having Godly character. Find 3 verses in the Bible that you think have to do with Godly character. Highlight them in your Bible and write the Bible references here:

2. Who is a person that you admire? Share some of the traits you admire in that person.

These traits describe the person's character. A good overall definition of character is: Character is the inner quality (or qualities) of an individual which determine whether a person will behave in an honorable way or a dishonorable way.

3. Considering that definition of character, do you think character matters to God? Why or why not?

4. Read Micah 6:8. Does this passage affirm or change your answer to the question above? What three character traits does God describe in this passage? Can you name other character traits that God might also describe?

SEPTEMBER 14TH

# Character

OBEDIENCE PT 1

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

John 14:23

1. Part of having Godly character revolves around obeying God. Read John 14:15–31. What do these verses teach us about obedience? Also, who should we rely on when we try to obey God?

2. What do you think it means to rely on the Holy Spirit?

3. What areas of your life do you obey God well in? What areas do you need to obey God better in?

4. Read 1 John 3:4-6. Every time we go back to the same sin, we are telling Jesus that He is not enough. We may believe it in our hearts and say it with our lips that He is, but He wants our obedience to accompany our belief!

5. What do you find when you obey Jesus? Read 1 John 2:4-6.

*We love Him by obeying Him, and in return we become more like Him!*

SEPTEMBER 18TH

# Character

OBEDIENCE PT 2

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

John 14:23

## “Obedience” Article

Read the attached article, “How to Run from Sin.” As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you.

--continue after reading the article--

## Obedience Wrap Up

After you have completed the 2 sections on “obedience” (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:

One thing I learned this about obedience was...

One question I still have about obedience is...

# LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

Today, she's explaining how to walk in obedience. Check it out.

## **A Path to Obedience**

If you're stuck in sin you might be thinking:

- Where do I even begin?
- My sin seems so overwhelming.
- I don't know if I could ever get out.

If that's you, take courage. Obedience happens one step at a time. Here are some steps for walking a path of obedience:

- Confess your sin to the Lord right now. Stop what you are doing, and get on your knees. Ask Him for His forgiveness and His mercy ([Ps. 139:23-24](#)).
- Ask Him to help you fight your sin. Know that He will do it! He delights in you, and He wants to bring you into closer fellowship with Him. The Lord loves when we are broken in our sin and want nothing more than to obey Him ([Ps. 51:7](#); [2 Sam. 22:7, 20](#)).
- Confess your sin to another person. This step is a hard one, but it is necessary. This is how it no longer becomes hidden. We confess it to the Lord, and then we confess it to someone else who will hold us accountable and encourage us as we fight temptation ([James 5:16](#)). I would encourage you to confess to your parents.
- Make active steps to walk away from your sin. Leave an unhealthy relationship. Give up books, TV shows, or movies that cause your mind to wander. Take time with the Lord, and ask Him how He desires for you to walk in obedience to Him. He will lead you. It is your task to follow Him.

Following will not be easy, sweet sister. Your heart will protest, and it may be painful.

Remember, the Lord disciplines the one He loves ([Heb. 12:6](#)). He wants the very best for you. Refinement from hidden and repeated sin is difficult, but He will never leave you in the middle of the fight for righteousness. In fact, He will fight for you ([Ex. 14:14](#)).

- Take the next few weeks to replenish your heart with things of the Lord. Take walks outside and talk to Him. Sit in your room and put on worship songs. Journal about how He has been faithful to you. Engage with other girls who love Him and want to see you love Him more! Most importantly, fill your mind with Scripture and ask the Lord to allow a love for His Word to overwhelm you.

An important truth to remember is that sheer willpower will never be enough to keep us away from our sin. We cannot simply say, “I am going to be really strong and avoid temptation from now on.” We don’t have the power to resist sin within ourselves. That’s why we need Jesus so much. We will face temptation for the rest of our lives. We will always be faced with the decision to choose sin over Christ. It is an opportunity to say to the Lord, “I love you more!”

*We don't have the power to resist sin within ourselves. That's why we need Jesus so much.*

Once you decide to begin walking down a path of obedience, temptation will still remain. In fact, it could grow stronger. The enemy of your soul does not want you to realize that you are no longer under a “spirit of slavery” (Rom. 8:15). He will try even harder to discourage you and pull you away from sweeter and truer intimacy with Jesus. Even after I decided to confess my sin and choose Jesus over my temptation, I failed again. It left me feeling even more defeated. How could Jesus love such a mess?

He gently reminded me through that season that I need Him every second. That His love for me is not dependent on how many successes I have in obeying Him. I can call out to Him, and He will rescue me. He will provide a way of escape in the midst of every treacherous lure Satan sends my way. In fact, Jesus will use temptation to build me into a woman of faith who knows that her Savior will come to her aid when the enemy strikes.

*The Lord loves when we are broken in our sin and want nothing more than to obey Him.*

When we see Jesus as infinitely more worthy than the temptations that so easily swayed us before, nothing will be able to compare to the love we share with our Savior. Every time Satan tries to trick us with old sins and past mistakes, we will shake our heads, and say Jesus is worth so much more. Jesus rewards obedience. The life surrendered to Christ is not easy, but it is beyond worth it.

*Jesus rewards obedience. The life surrendered to Christ is not easy, but it is beyond worth it.*

So how can you begin on the path to obedience today? What hidden sin needs to be thrust out into the light and given over to Jesus?

Jesus has been faithful to you before, and He will be faithful now! Write a comment below about how you can trust Him to be faithful as you begin to walk in obedience to Him.

SEPTEMBER 21ST

# Character

COURAGE PT 1

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

John 14:23

This week we are going to learn about **courage**. To be a Christian you must be courageous because God calls us to do difficult things sometimes. Courage is a character trait that each one of you will need if you want to do great things for Christ.

1. Read Acts 5:17-42. What stood out to you most in this story? Also, who do you think needs more courage: Christians in Jesus time or Christians today? Why?

2. Who are some people in the Bible you have heard of that were courageous?



3. What are some things that you could do as a Christian that would take courage? Give examples:

4. What are you scared to do in your walk with God, but you know God is asking you to do it? Write it down and try and do it this week!

SEPTEMBER 25TH

# Character

COURAGE PT 2

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

John 14:23

## “Courage” Article

Read the attached article, “Cinderella: “Have Courage, and Be Kind.”” As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you.

--continue after reading the article--

## Courage Wrap Up

After you have completed the 2 sections on “courage” (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:

One thing I learned this week about courage was...

One question I still have about courage is...

# LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

## Courage Article

I saw Disney's live action Cinderella movie this past weekend. (Have you seen it?) I loved it! Not only was it a much-needed break from my never-ending work; it also gave me a picture of the unparalleled beauty of courage and kindness in the face of humiliation, suffering, and shame.

*If God is your Father, and you are His adopted daughter, then you are a princess.*

It was a surprising picture, and a jarring one, as the previews before the movie—and everything our world seems to celebrate—is not letting anyone so much as step on our toes.

But Ella (the main character in Cinderella) shows us a shockingly different way of life. A beautiful way of life.

For some reason, Ella's mom waited until her deathbed to share with Ella "a great secret that will see you through all the trials life has to offer." Ella promised. She would:

**"Have courage and be kind."**

The movie doesn't explain how Ella is able to perform this feat in the face of such mistreatment, but she does. After her dear mother dies, Ella is courageous and kind when her stepmother and stepsisters:

- Relegate her to the attic to sleep
- Banish her from the table at mealtimes
- Change her name from Ella to Cinderella because she's dirty from the cinder in the fireplace
- Treat her like a servant instead of the sister and daughter that she is
- Tear her dress and forbid her from attending the ball

But thanks to the fairy godmother, Cinderella is able to attend the ball after all, and the Prince makes a beeline for her.

Sure, Cinderella looks stunning. But it's not her ball gown or glass slippers that first catch the Prince's eye. Weeks before, she turns his head when he happens upon her on a hunting trip in the forest—when her hair is knotted and her clothes plain. It's her inner beauty that captures his attention—her courage and her kindness.

Girls, this beauty isn't just the stuff of fairy tales. It's what you and I are to pursue as daughters of the King:

*"Your adornment must not be merely external—braiding the hair, and wearing gold jewelry, or putting on dresses [or shimmering, blue ball gowns!] but let it be the hidden person of the heart, with the imperishable quality of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is precious in the sight of God" (1 Peter 3:3-4).*

According to God's standards for beauty . . .

**Kindness isn't weakness; it's strength.**

**Submission isn't pitiful; it's beautiful and courageous.**

First Peter has a lot to say on the subject. Here's just a taste:

*"To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit; not returning evil for evil or insult for insult, but giving a blessing instead; for you were called for the very purpose that you might inherit a blessing. . .*

*"Who is there to harm you if you prove zealous for what is good? But even if you should suffer for the sake of righteousness, you are blessed. And do not fear their intimidation, and do not be troubled, but sanctify Christ as Lord in your hearts, always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you, yet with gentleness and reverence . . .*

*"It is better, if God should will it so, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong. For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God" (1 Peter 3:8–18).*

**But how can we have courage when others mistreat us?**

**Why should we be kind to those who are cruel?**

Cinderella acted this way because she was a princess—not a princess by blood, but a true princess in heart.

And if God is your Father, and you are His adopted daughter, then you are a princess too. Not the kind with a ball gown and a tiara, but a true princess. A princess because God brought you into His family at the exorbitant cost of His Son's life-blood. This honored position is not an excuse to act selfish but to be courageous and kind.

So when you encounter those bullies at school or at home or at work, remember this: You may not have a fairy godmother to rescue you, but you have the living God on your side. This God is pleased—not when you suffer for doing wrong—but for doing right. This same God suffered for you so you might become royalty:

*"You have been called for this purpose [to patiently endure suffering for doing what is right], since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps,*

*"who committed no sin, nor was any deceit found in his mouth; and while being reviled, He did not revile in return; while suffering, He uttered no threats, but kept entrusting Himself to Him who judges righteously; and He Himself bore our sins in His body on the cross, so that we might die to sin and live to righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed" (1 Peter 2:21–24).*

Are you acting like the princess you are?

Taken from Paula Mersteller's blog post [Cinderella: "Have Courage, and Be Kind."](http://www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com) Used with permission from [www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com](http://www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com).

Marsteller, P. (2015, March 19). How to Run from Sin [Blog Post]. Retrieved from <http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/cinderella-have-courage-and-be-kind/>

SEPTEMBER 28TH

# Character

HUMILITY PT 1

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

John 14:23

This week we will take a closer look at our attitudes. As leaders, God calls us to have attitude of **humility**. This week we are going to be reading about one of God’s most admired servants, Paul. One of Paul’s main concerns for the Philippian church was that they learn to be humble followers of God.

1. Find a dictionary and look up the word “Humility”. Write the definition you found at the top of this journal entry.

2. Read Philippians 2. Now that you have read about humility, how would you define it in your own words?

3. On a scale of 1-10, how humble do you think you are?

4. What are one or two areas of your life where you need to practice being more humble? Do it this week!

OCTOBER 2ND

# Character

HUMILITY PT 2

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

John 14:23

## “Humility” Article

Read the attached article, “The Deadly Sickness You May Already Have.” As you read, highlight anything that stands out to you.

--continue after reading the article--

## Humility Wrap Up

After you have completed the 2 sections on “humility” (homework and article), complete the following sentences in the space provided:

One thing I learned this week about humility was...

One question I still have about humility is...

# LIES *Young* WOMEN BELIEVE

## Humility Article

You've seen the movies. A deadly virus is spreading across the globe. Many have already died. Fear is palpable. But one team of doctors or scientists or brave average citizens decides to do what it takes to find a cure. They put on their hazmat suits, and they walk into the epicenter of the disease. They discover a cure. The world is saved.

It's a storyline ripped from real life.

Because the world is sick.

But I'm not talking about a virus. This isn't a post about what makes us physically ill. I'm interested in exploring a different kind of epidemic . . .

Pride.

Simply put, pride is me-centric thinking. Me-centric thinking always leads to me-centric living—making choices based on what's in it for you, what you need to do to get ahead, how to grab the most attention, awards, and appreciation possible. The Bible speaks out often against pride in verses like [Proverbs 16:18](#) and [Psalm 10:4](#). Here is part of what makes pride so sickening to God.

- Everyone is affected by it.
- One person's pride (remember that's me-centric thinking) infects another person's pride, so we make each other sicker and sicker.
- Ultimately, pride kills our relationships. It kills our potential to love and serve others. It kills our witness to the world. It kills our ability to be used by God because we are too focused on us to do things for Him.
- Pride misses the mark because instead of turning our focus toward God, it makes us turn our attention toward ourselves.

### Get Vaccinated!

Pride is contagious. Pride is icky. Pride is deadly, but there is an antidote. See if you can pick up on it in this passage.

***Humility recognizes that the universe exists for Jesus, not for us.***

*Do nothing from selfish ambition or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men. And being found in human form, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross (Phil. 2:3–8).*



The cure for our pride is humility. Humility recognizes that the universe exists for Jesus, not for us. In response to that truth, instead of living me-centrally, we follow His example and put others first.

This is the only way to vaccinate ourselves against pride. In fact, this passage gives us a formula for all of our relationships. Do you want to know how to get along better with your parents? This is it! Do you want to stop fighting with your friends? This is it! Do you want to have a healthy dating relationship . . . that will one day lead to a healthy marriage? Yep. This passage applies there, too.

Let's break it down.

1. Do nothing out of selfish ambition.
2. Be humble.
3. Don't look out for your own interests.
4. Look out for the interests of others.
5. Have the same mindset as Jesus. He was supernaturally humble.

### **A Pride Check-Up**

Humility is the only way to vaccinate yourself against the sickening affects of pride, but that doesn't mean it's an easy pill to swallow. We need God's help to fight against the devastation that me-centric thinking can wreak in our lives.

Do you need a dose of humility? Is pride making you sick? Let me give you a few prompts to help you think that through. Go ahead and grab a piece of paper and a pen and write them down.

1. The way I spend my free time.
2. The way I talk to my parents.
3. The way I talk to my siblings.
4. The way I spend my money.
5. What I think about most often.
6. My involvement in my local church.
7. The kind of friends I spend the most time with.
8. Who I am online.
9. My expectations for dating relationships.
10. My plans for the future.

**For each one of these areas are you:**

1. Sick with pride (me-centric thinking)? If so, put a P beside it.
2. Vaccinated with humility (putting others first)? If so, put an H beside this prompt.
3. Somewhere in the middle? Put a star.

If you put a star or a P in an area, that's somewhere that you need God to vaccinate you against pride. Would you take a minute and ask for His help in this area right now?

We can be like those scientists who charge into the epicenter of an illness, simply by seeking to be more like Christ in the area of humility. We can refuse to let pride poison our hearts and relationships, by ditching me-centric thinking in favor of Jesus-centric thinking.

In what areas of your life do you need to be vaccinated against pride?

*Taken from Erin Davis' blog post [The Deadly Sickness You May Already Have](http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/deadly-sickness-may-already/). Used with permission from [www.LiesYoungWomenBelieve.com](http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com).*

*Davis, E. (2014, August 27). [The Deadly Sickness You May Already Have \[Blog Post\]](http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/deadly-sickness-may-already/). Retrieved from <http://www.liesyoungwomenbelieve.com/deadly-sickness-may-already/>*

OCTOBER 5TH

# Character

## RECAP

“Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them.”

John 14:23

This month we have learned about three aspects of character: *obedience, courage, and humility*. What you need to do now is this:

Write a prayer to God below asking him help you be more obedient, courageous, and humble. Also, thank him for giving us examples in the Bible. After you write the prayer down, pray it out loud to God. This will remind us to always be in prayer. Your prayer doesn't need to have perfect grammar or big words. Just write how you talk:

OCTOBER 9TH

# Character

EVALUATE

"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them."

John 14:23

Since we started this study, have you seen any changes in how you act?

Has anyone else noticed differences in you?

When it comes to having godly character, between the three attributes we have been working on: *obedience, courage humility* which do you think comes easiest to you?

What is the most difficult?

Why do you think that is?

*make sure to work on memorizing your verse!*

OCTOBER 12TH

# Character

## SCRIPTURE & PRAYER

"Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My father will love them,  
and we will come to them and make our home with them."

John 14:23

### Read Colossians 3:1-17

*It can seem hard on our own to live how God is calling us to especially when we forget that our kindness, humility, courage, obedience, compassion, etc. should be done THROUGH God not ourselves. When we remember the love that God has shown us then it makes it easier to actually live through the love of God.*

Write a prayer to God telling Him your frustrations and difficulties in following Him. Then thank Him for all that He has done for you and for the love and care He has shown you.