

The Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Study Program

A Leader's Guide for Group Discussion

Theme: Wisdom
Song: "Benediction"
CD 2, Track 11

Insert V-1 through V-4
Composer: Carol Browning
Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD

Materials Needed

Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible and Music CD, CD player, Participant's Worksheet.

Setting the Stage

Before this session, mail (or e-mail) any member of the group that may not have been present at the last session the Participant's Worksheet for this session. Also, send a reminder of the date and time of the session as well as directions to the meeting place (if different from the church). To enhance an atmosphere of **Wisdom**, have the song "*Benediction*" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD playing in the background when the participants arrive.

Warm Up - Optional (10 minutes)

Each of these 20 phrases is the first part of a well known saying, which could be from a movie, poem, speech, adage, or just about anything. Finish each statement on the back of your Participant's Worksheet. The Leader will read only the clues – the group will write only the answers.

Clues _____ Answers

1. If it's not broken....**don't fix it.**
2. It never rains....**it pours.**
3. Better late.... **than never**
4. It's not over until.... (problems 4 & 5 are interchangeable) . . . **it's over.**
5. It's not over until....**the fat lady sings.**
6. Whether you think that you can or that you can't....**you are usually right.**
7. The bigger they are....**the harder they fall.**
8. If it wasn't for bad luck....**I wouldn't have any luck at all.**
9. Never mix business....**with pleasure.**
10. Can't live with them....**can't live without them.**
11. Life is like a bowl....**of cherries.**
12. Go ahead, punk....**make my day.**
13. See no evil....**hear no evil.**
14. That which does not kill me....**only makes me stronger.**
15. To be or not to be....**that is the question.**
16. Four score and....**seven years ago.**
17. Don't count your chickens....**before they hatch.**
18. Jack and Jill went up the hill....**to fetch a pail of water.**
19. I think, therefore....**I am.**
20. Great spirits have always encountered violent opposition....**from mediocre minds.**

Test by William F. Bultas * Share your scores with each other.

Opening Discussion (15 minutes)

Four Quick Questions – In rapid succession, have each of the participants write their answers to the following questions:

1. What is the first thing that comes to mind when you think of the word wisdom?
2. Name a person from history who you consider to be wise?
3. Who is the wisest person you know?
4. If you could chose to be intelligent or wise, which would you choose?

Have the participants share their answers with each other.

Read the **Plan and Purpose** article on page V-1. Ask the participants: What does it mean to you that the Church teaches that Wisdom begins with "Fear of the Lord" and ends with "Love?"

Spiritual Awakening - Opening Prayer

Pray together the **Prayer** at the top of insert page V-2.

Spiritual Awakening - Recognizing (5 minutes)

Ask for volunteers to read aloud each of the Scripture passages in the **Recognizing** section of **Spiritual Awakening** on insert page V-2. Remind the participants that each reader will pause for a few seconds of silence after each passage to allow anyone to offer any spontaneous thought, prayer, praise or thanksgiving that this Scripture might inspire.

Spiritual Awakening - Reflecting (20 minutes)

Read **Chapter 9 of the Book of Wisdom (Page 768 OT)**. Ask the participants: How significant was it for Solomon to ask for Wisdom when God would have given him any other gift see **2 Chronicles 1:10 (Page 421 OT)**. When do you think Wisdom is most appreciated in life? Like wisdom, what other God-given gifts are valued in today's culture.

Profile in Faith - (15 minutes)

Read the **Profile In Faith** article on Deborah on insert page V-3. Then, as a group, prayerfully read **Chapter 5 of the Book of Judges, the "Song of Deborah" (Page 253 OT)**. Discuss the answers to the following questions: How has God asked you to be a leader in your family, your parish, your community? Are you responding to His call? Share a time when you needed wisdom to handle a situation in your role as a wife, mother, daughter or leader in your parish or community.

Group Prayer (5 minutes)

Leader: Heavenly Father, open our eyes to Your wonder and our minds to Your infinite wisdom as we seek Your will in our lives. With a renewed awareness of the importance and meaning of "Fear of the Lord" we offer these special prayers, praises and petitions: **enter aloud all individual intentions.** Give us the wisdom to make right choices always turning to You. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Closing Prayer (10 minutes)

Leader: As a closing today, let us recite the Litany of the Holy Spirit.

| <u>Leader</u> | <u>Group</u> |
|---|--------------------------|
| Lord have mercy on us. | Lord have mercy on us. |
| Christ have mercy on us. | Christ have mercy on us. |
| Lord have mercy on us. | Lord have mercy on us. |
| Father all-powerful, | Have mercy on us. |
| Jesus, eternal Son of the Father, | |
| Redeemer of the world, | Save us. |
| Spirit of the Father and the Son, | |
| boundless life of both, | Sanctify us. |
| Holy Trinity, | Hear Us. |
| Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father | |
| and The Son enter our hearts, | Enter our hearts. |
| Holy Spirit who art equal to the Father | |
| and the Son enter our hearts, | Enter our hearts. |
| Promise of God the Father, | Have mercy on us. |
| Ray of heavenly light, | Have mercy on us. |
| Author of all good, | Have mercy on us. |
| Source of heavenly water, | Have mercy on us. |
| Consuming fire, | Have mercy on us. |
| Ardent charity, | Have mercy on us. |
| Spiritual unction, | Have mercy on us. |
| Spirit of love and truth, | Have mercy on us. |
| Spirit of wisdom and understanding, | Have mercy on us. |
| Spirit of counsel and fortitude, | Have mercy on us. |
| Spirit of knowledge and piety, | Have mercy on us. |
| Spirit of the fear of the Lord, | Have mercy on us. |
| Spirit of grace and prayer, | Have mercy on us. |
| Spirit of peace and meekness, | Have mercy on us. |
| Spirit of modesty and innocence, | Have mercy on us. |
| Holy Spirit the Comforter, | Have mercy on us. |
| Holy Spirit the Sanctifier, | Have mercy on us. |
| Holy Spirit who governs the Church, | Have mercy on us. |

Gift of God the Most High,
Spirit Who fills the universe,
Spirit of the adoption of the children of God,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Holy Spirit,
Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of the world,
Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of the world.
Lamb of God who takes away
the sins of the world,
Come, Holy Spirit!
Fill the hearts of Thy faithful,

Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us.
Have mercy on us.
Inspire us with horror of sin.
Come and renew the face of the earth.
Shed the light in our souls.
Engrave Thy law in our hearts.
Open to us the treasures of Thy graces.
Teach us to pray well.
Enlighten us with Thy heavenly inspirations.
Lead us in the way of salvation.
Grant us the only necessary knowledge.
Inspire in us the practice of good.
Grant us the merits of all virtues.
Make us persevere in justice.
Be Thou our everlasting reward.

Send us Thy Holy Spirit.

Pour down into our soul the gifts of the Holy Spirit.

Grant us the spirit of wisdom and piety.

And enkindle in them the fire of Thy love.

Let Us Pray: *Grant, O merciful Father, that Thy Divine Spirit may enlighten inflame and purify us, that He may penetrate us with His heavenly dew and make us fruitful in good works, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who with Thee, in the unity of the same Spirit, lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.*

Fellowship (15 minutes)

After the session is completed and while refreshments are served, play softly in the background: "Benediction" from the Faith-Filled Catholic Women's Bible Music CD.

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