

SUNDAY  
SCHOOL *Superintendent*



Summer Quarter  
June | July | August 2024

# Sunday School Superintendent

SUMMER QUARTER

June, July, August 2024

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# Editorials

BY GLENN WEAVER

## Lessons from Women and Children

There are many powerful stories in the Bible about men who accomplished great things for God. Women and children are usually in the background, but that does not mean they are insignificant within God's plan. We should take notice when they appear as influential people in a Bible account. Our lessons this quarter feature several such accounts.

We begin with the creation of Eve. At first, Adam was alone. He had a void in his life that could not be filled by working alone in the perfect creation that God had made. God blessed Adam by creating Eve to fill that void.

God created humans to be social creatures. He designed us to have harmonious interactions with one another. One of the most challenging problems humans face is fulfilling the need for appropriate social interactions. Men and women of all ages need to work together. Each one has been created by God and designed to fill specific roles in His plan for humanity. The Scriptures give us insight into how God uses people in unexpected ways to accomplish His objectives.

One such account is that of Deborah and Barak. As a prophetess and a judge, Deborah held leadership roles usually filled by men in the Bible. When Barak balked at God's

command for him to attack Sisera's powerful Canaanite army, Deborah acted in faith to encourage Barak that God would provide victory, just as He promised. God gave Barak a great victory because of Deborah's contagious faith, even though Barak's own faith was weak.

The story of Naomi and Ruth shows how events outside our control can be opportunities God uses to accomplish His will. Naomi left Israel because of famine and traveled to Moab. In Moab, her husband died. Ruth married one of Naomi's sons, but he also died. When Naomi planned to return to Israel, Ruth decided to accompany her. Ruth's care for Naomi placed her in a position to marry Boaz and enter the lineage of David and, ultimately, that of Jesus Christ.

Hannah endured taunting because she was childless, but she demonstrated her faith in remarkable ways. She knew God could give her a son, and she promised to dedicate the child to the Lord's service. When her young son could be cared for by another, she took Samuel to Eli, the priest at the Lord's house. Samuel played an important role in Israel's history, and it all began with Hannah's faith in God.

The Bible account of Queen Esther shows how one person can alter the fortunes of a nation. The

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sessions, for her gratitude led her to willingly give up a very expensive possession. It would be worth taking time to evaluate our lives to see if we have the same contriteness about our own sin and the same gratitude for Christ's forgiveness.

A Christian disciple named Tabitha had a different reputation than the woman who anointed Jesus (Acts 9:36-43). Tabitha (Dorcas) had a reputation for doing good deeds and caring for others. Many widows she had helped arrived at her house when she died and told how she had cared for them. Her story provides an excellent example of the Christian responsibility to care for others in need.

In His choosing of David as king, God used different standards than what everyone expected. Even Samuel thought that one of David's seven older brothers would have been God's choice to be Israel's new king. David was smaller than the others. He was young, but he had something that others did not have to the same degree. David was a man after God's own heart (I Sam. 13:14). Though he was a young man, he was ready to serve God in a remarkable capacity. His faith enabled him to be a willing servant whom God would use.

God turned personal tragedy into an opportunity for faith in the case of Naaman of Syria (II Kgs. 5:1-14). A young girl who had been taken from her Jewish family during a Syrian raid was God's instrument to lead Naaman to faith in the one true God. He can mightily use even a young girl in a foreign land!

Josiah became king of Israel when he was eight years old. He instituted a religious reform after a scroll of the Old Testament law was found hidden in the temple wall. His father and grandfather were wicked kings, but Josiah obeyed God despite their evil influence.

king of Persia took her in marriage, but despite her exalted position as queen, powerful people put the lives of her and her people in peril. Esther had the support of Mordecai, her close relative and mentor, but in the end, she had to rely on God to protect her and the Jewish people from destruction at the hands of the ruthless Haman.

The woman who anointed Jesus' feet in Luke 7:36-50 provides us with a lesson of a different sort. Her reputation in the city was that of a sinner. The Pharisees despised her for violating the Old Testament law and thought Jesus should despise her too. Jesus, however, took a different approach. Rather than reject the woman, He offered her forgiveness. She approached Jesus with remorse for her actions. She washed His feet with her tears. The perfumed oil that she used on Jesus' feet may have cost as much as one year's wages for a day laborer.

The woman is for us a prime example of a repentant sinner. She knew her sin, and she knew where to find forgiveness. Her goal was not pos-



# The Creation of Woman

Lesson Text: Genesis 2:18-25

**GOLDEN TEXT**—“The Lord God said, It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him” (Genesis 2:18).

## OPENING MOMENTS

### Suggested Song (Adults)

“Praise to the Lord, the Almighty”  
(Neander)

### Suggested Song (Children)

“God Is So Good” (Traditional)

## Icebreaker

What ideas in our culture most influence newly married couples’ views of marriage?

## LESSON OUTLINE

1. **Good but not good**  
(Gen. 2:18a)
2. **Helpers but no help meet**  
(Gen. 2:18b-20)
3. **Not good becomes very good**  
(Gen. 2:21-25)

## KEY ISSUES

So many of the lies our culture tries to get us to believe revolve around the family. We must pay close attention to what God says in His Word about these matters, or we will quickly be blown off course by every wind of false doctrine (cf. Eph. 4:14). Genesis 2 is a great place to start.

In six days, God made the heavens and the earth and everything that fills them. He made the distant stars and the closer lights (sun, planets,

and moon). He made vegetation and the animal world (birds, fish, and land animals).

Finally, at the end of the sixth day, He turned His attention toward the pinnacle of His Creation. He crafted Adam out of the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. At various stages of Creation, God had pronounced His work “good.” It comes as a surprise, then, when after the creation of the first man, God says that something is “not good.” Why did He say this? Because the man was alone. He had no one who was compatible with him.

The animals God had created were different from Adam. He would rule over them, but none of them could provide the fellowship or love Adam needed. None of them could be his mate. In order to get Adam to recognize the depth of his need, God brought representatives of the animal world to him. God gave Adam the task of naming each of these animals, but He apparently also intended for this process to help Adam see how different he was from them.

Creation was good. Adam was good. But for Adam to be alone was not good, and God would promptly see to it that what was not good would be changed. Adam did not