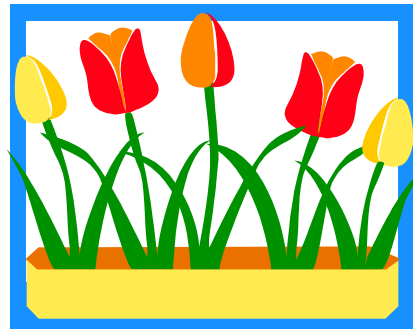




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Many of us struggle with how to react to our husbands when they make us angry. God has really challenged me in this area. When I'm mad I want to yell and say "not-so-nice" things. When praying about this, God brought me to Ephesians 4. The whole book spoke to me, but there were a few verses that stood out. Eph. 4:29 says, "When you talk, do not say harmful things, but say what people need—words that will help others be stronger. Then what you say will do good to those who listen to you."

Then, in verses 31-32, it says, "Do not be bitter or angry or mad.

Never shout angrily or say things to hurt others. Never do anything evil. Be kind and loving to each other, and forgive each other just as God forgave you in Christ." (New Century Version) Wow! That really made me think. If I yell or say harsh things it's not going to make my husband change. I don't have that power. It is only God that can change him. So instead of being angry, I need to pray more for my husband. I need to say words that will help him be stronger and encourage him. I know this is hard for some of us because of all of the things we have been through with our husbands. When they mess up, it's easy to be hurt and angry. As women we seem to use our tongues freely as weapons. God doesn't want us to do that. We are sinning when we "shout angrily or say things to hurt others." I know I want to hurt my husband when he's done something that is wrong. God is working in me and showing me there is a better way. I pray we all can remember these verses in Ephesians when we are angry at anyone. Lets not say harmful things but say words that "will help others be stronger."

With Christ's Love- Dawn Scheneman

Wives' Weekend is quickly
 approaching—did you R.S.V.P.?



"...I will make a way in the desert, and streams in the wasteland..." Isaiah 43:19



A Publication of the
Teen Challenge Wives' Ministry

April, 2004

Instilling Hope

In January, many of the Teen Challenge couples were blessed as they participated in Wives' Weekend. Warren Hunsberger, Executive Director of Teen Challenge, shared with us that his vision for Wives' Weekend is that it would be a time when hope is instilled in the hearts of those attending. He and his wife, Gay, encouraged the couples by sharing their own personal testimony. About 26 years ago, their marriage was deemed "hopeless" by many around them. Alcoholism, infidelity, and selfishness had badly damaged their marriage and only a miracle of God saved it. They told the couples not to look at the circumstances around them, but to allow God to continue to do work in their hearts and remember that He can move mountains.



Executive Director, Warren Hunsberger

The couples were also encouraged by the testimony of Bob and Diane Larson. The Lord has set them free from the grips of pornography and bulimia, and He has healed and restored their marriage. They shared with the group and then prayed for each couple individually.

We encourage all of the wives of students to attend Wives' Weekends whenever possible. The next one will be held April 30th-May 2nd. Please call Jennifer Ridgway with any questions (515) 674-3713 ext. 207.



Wives' Weekend

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My Child...

You may not know me, but I know everything about you ...**Psalm 139:1**

I know when you sit down and when you rise up ...**Psalm 139:2**

I am familiar with all your ways ...**Psalm 139:3**

Even the very hairs on your head are numbered ...**Matthew 10:29-31**

For you were made in my image ...**Genesis 1:27**

In me you live and move and have your being ...**Acts 17:28**

For you are my offspring ...**Acts 17:28**

I knew you even before you were conceived ...**Jeremiah 1:4-5**

I chose you when I planned creation ...**Ephesians 1:11-12**

You were not a mistake, for all your days are written in my book ...**Psalm 139:15-16**

I determined the exact time of your birth and where you would live ...**Acts 17:26**

You are fearfully and wonderfully made ...**Psalm 139:14**

I knit you together in your mother's womb ...**Psalm 139:13**

And brought you forth on the day you were born ...**Psalm 71:6**

I have been misrepresented by those who don't know me ...**John 8:41-44**

I am not distant and angry, but am the complete expression of love ...**1 John 4:16**

And it is my desire to lavish my love on you ...**1 John 3:1**

Simply because you are my child and I am your father ...**1 John 3:1**

I offer you more than your earthly father ever could ...**Matthew 7:11**

For I am the perfect father ...**Matthew 5:48**

Every good gift that you receive comes from my hand ...**James 1:17**

For I am your provider and I meet all your needs ...**Matthew 6:31-33**

My plan for your future has always been filled with hope ...**Jeremiah 29:11**

Because I love you with an everlasting love ...**Jeremiah 31:3**

My thoughts toward you are countless as the sand on the seashore ...**Psalms 139:17-18**

And I rejoice over you with singing ...**Zephaniah 3:17**

I will never stop doing good to you ...**Jeremiah 32:40**

For you are my treasured possession ...**Exodus 19:5**

I desire to establish you with all my heart and all my soul ...**Jeremiah 32:41**

And I want to show you great and marvelous things ...**Jeremiah 33:3**

If you seek me with all your heart, you will find me ...**Deuteronomy 4:29**

Delight in me and I will give you the desires of your heart ...**Psalm 37:4**

For it is I who gave you those desires ...**Philippians 2:13**

I am able to do more for you than you could possibly imagine ...**Ephesians 3:20**

For I am your greatest encourager ...**2 Thessalonians 2:16-17**

I am also the Father who comforts you in all your troubles ...**2 Corinthians 1:3-4**

When you are brokenhearted, I am close to you ...**Psalm 34:18**

As a shepherd carries a lamb, I have carried you close to my heart ...**Isaiah 40:11**

One day I will wipe away every tear from your eyes ...**Revelation 21:3-4**

And I'll take away all the pain you have suffered on this earth ...**Revelation 21:3-4**

I am your Father, and I love you even as I love my son, Jesus ...**John 17:23**

For in Jesus, my love for you is revealed ...**John 17:26**

He is the exact representation of my being ...**Hebrews 1:3**

He came to demonstrate that I am for you, not against you ...**Romans 8:31**

And to tell you that I am not counting your sins ...**2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

Jesus died so that you and I could be reconciled ...**2 Corinthians 5:18-19**

His death was the ultimate expression of my love for you ...**1 John 4:10**

I gave up everything I loved that I might gain your love ...**Romans 8:31-32**

If you receive the gift of my son Jesus, you receive me ...**1 John 2:23**

And nothing will ever separate you from my love again ...**Romans 8:38-39**

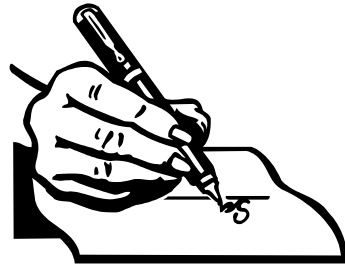
Come home and I'll throw the biggest party heaven has ever seen ...**Luke 15:7**

I have always been Father, and will always be Father ...**Ephesians 3:14-15**

My question is... Will you be my child? ...**John 1:12-13**

I am waiting for you ...**Luke 15:11-32**

Love, Your Dad. Almighty God



Where Is Your Joy?

"I just want to be happy!" How often have we had this thought or said this to ourselves or others? Somehow we feel like when we reach this elusive goal that we strive for, everything will be alright. Often, as we look around, especially in difficult or painful circumstances, this voice grows even louder. We want our knight in shining armor to come, sweep us off of our feet, and take us into the sunset. Isn't that the way things are supposed to end up? I remember as a little girl dreaming about growing up and what my life would be like. Of course my thoughts were always idyllic. I would someday have the perfect job, perfect children, and of course the perfect man!

As I have gotten older, and gone through intense marital difficulties and other things that "real life" sometimes includes, I have realized my focus back then was way off base. First, my thoughts were about how I could make "my life" what I thought was great. The problem is that the Lord calls us to lay down our lives for the advancement of His kingdom—not to try to make them something that turns into a grandiose idol. Surrendering our lives to Him literally means surrendering our lives to Him. However, He does not leave us without hope. He promises us in Matthew 10:39 that, "If

you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give it up for me, you will save it." Therefore, if we wish to save anything that has real value in our lives, we must surrender to His will.

As trials have come my way, the Lord keeps asking me, "Jennifer, where is your joy?" If I think things or another person will finally give me the fulfillment that I desire in life, I am sorely mistaken and misguided. He has been showing me and allowing me to experience the joy that only comes from His presence. He has begun to give me an eternal perspective when things don't look so good in the present. I still struggle at times, but He is increasingly penetrating my heart with these truths. As I experience His love, I know that I can trust His intentions with my life. Psalm 16:8-11 says, "I am always thinking of the Lord, and because He is so near, I never need to stumble or fall. Heart, body and soul are filled with joy. For You will not leave me among the dead; You will not allow your beloved one to rot in the grave. You have let me experience the joys of life and the exquisite pleasures of your own eternal presence." It's this realization which finally allows us to understand how the joy of the Lord can be our strength. As we know Him more and more inti-

mately, He begins to show us how He really is enough to meet every desire.

So why do many of us have a nagging feeling that there has to be more to life than our current situation? Why did our hearts soar as little girls when we watched fairytale movies that ended "happily ever after?" It's because we were created with such an ending in mind. As believers, this world is not our home. The good news is that we have our own "happily ever after." As believers, we get a taste of this in the Lord's presence. Our Prince came, brought us new life, and will return. Someday there will be no more weeping. He will take us into His perfect kingdom for ever and ever. Now that's joy! Hannah Hurnard says it well in her book, "Walking Among the Unseen".

"Someday a wonderful thing is going to happen to me, something like that described in the Song of Songs. I shall find myself saying, 'I sleep, but my heart waketh; it is the voice of my Beloved that knocketh, saying, Open to me.' No, it will not be death knocking on the door of my heart, for there is no death; it has been swallowed up in victory. It will be the Eternal Life himself, my Lord, my heart's beloved. Into his arms I shall fling myself and go with him into our Father's world."

There is the real reason for joy and courage as we live in an imperfect world. —**Jennifer Ridgway**

Mark Your Calendars!

These are special events at Teen Challenge and wives are invited—if you have any questions, call Jennifer.

Spiritual Emphasis Week—April 21st-23rd
Wives' Weekend—April 30th-May 2nd
Teen Challenge Celebration Weekend—June 11th-12th

