

The Privilege

A study for Women in Leadership

LESSON FIVE

For the Sake of Love & A Faith that Withstands

Our lesson this week is from chapters nine and ten of our book, *The Privilege*. These chapters focus on the things we are called to do for the sake of love, and how we respond to the “**although’s**” in our lives. Just as God calls us to expressions and sacrifices for love’s sake, He also calls us to worship Him and love others in the midst of our disappointments and detours.

Before you begin your lesson, take a few minutes to pray and ask the Lord to open your eyes to all He wants you to see, and to open your ears to hear His voice.

1. With that attitude in mind, prayerfully read through chapter nine of “*The Privilege*.” As you read, underline, take notes on a separate sheet of paper, or use a highlighter to mark the things that stand out to you. We’ll look back at those things later in this lesson.

Chapter nine starts out with a look at the kind of love the Lord calls us to in our relationships with others, especially with our husbands. When we are willing to see others through God’s eyes, we find we are able to overlook little annoyances and frustrations, and God’s love can even help us to find those things that once irritated us, as something endearing to us.

2. This love God calls us to is AGAPE love. It is different from romantic love, friendship love and the love we have for family, yet it should permeate into all those other types of love. Use a Bible dictionary or other resource that gives a definition of the word “Agape” and record it below.
3. At the bottom of page 168 we are told that we need this kind of love flowing through our marriages and flowing through our lives. What are we told in that paragraph that agape love does?

a. What do we read here that will be the result if we aren't operating in this kind of love?

4. On page 169, in the second to the last paragraph, what is the first thing we need to do if we're to love people with agape love?

a. What does the last sentence in the paragraph at the top of page 170 tell us that our love for Jesus should compel us to do?

5. In the second paragraph on that page, what do we read that the word "agape" refers to in the Greek language? What kind of love is it?

a. What did Christ's love for us compel Him to do? Read what is written in the third paragraph on page 170.

6. Paul's heart was filled with agape love for God's people, and especially for his fellow Israelites. Look up Romans 9:1-4. Record below what Paul's love for them compelled him to say concerning them in these verses.

7. Although it is impossible for us to make the kind of sacrifice for another that Christ made for us, Paul's willingness to sacrifice even his own salvation for their sakes is so amazing that it makes us stop and consider what kind of sacrifices does our love for others compel us to make? This kind of love isn't something that originates with us. It can't be produced by us. We can't acquire it on our own. It is only as we are filled with His Spirit and allow Him to empower us with Christ's love that we are able to "agape" others. Stop and pray, asking the Lord to give you a fresh filling of His Spirit, to empower you to love sacrificially, in a way that represents His heart for others.

8. In the second paragraph on page 173, what does it say about our role as women in leadership? What is it that the Lord has asked you and I to do?
 - a. What does Kay say happens, found in the third paragraph on that page, when agape love is in action?

9. At the bottom of page 173, we are given some examples of how our life and ministry will change when we decide to speak and act for love's sake. Write down the first of these examples below.

a. In this example, what is the main topic Kay centers on regarding what love makes us “think twice about?”

b. Why is this so important? Share some of the reasons given.

c. In the third paragraph on page 174, write down what Kay shares with us in the last sentence.

10. At the bottom of page 174, write down the second example given to us.

11. What does Jesus tell us in Luke 9:23, is the cost of following Him?

a. What does Kay say in the second paragraph on page 175, is the secret to acting “for love’s sake?”

12. Write down the third example she gives to us on page 176.

a. In the paragraph directly below this example, what does it say we must do when we just don't feel agape love for someone?

b. In the second to the last paragraph, what is the reason given for why God allows difficult people into our lives? What do they give to us? (Look at the top of page 177 for insight).

13. At the bottom of page 178, Kay shares our need to bring our hurt feelings to the foot of the cross. Write out her prayer below.

14. What is your greatest take-away from chapter nine? Use an extra sheet of paper if needed.

15. Prayerfully read chapter ten, again jotting down or highlighting those things that speak most to your heart.

This chapter talks a lot about how the book of Habakkuk ministered to Kay's heart through a very difficult time. Take a few minutes to read Habakkuk, chapter three. Kay will refer back to this portion of Scripture throughout this chapter of "The Privilege."

16. Write out the verses from Habakkuk 3:17-19 below.

- a. What "although" do you have in your life right now? What does Habakkuk say to us, "although" many bad things happen?

17. In the second paragraph on page 187, what does Kay encourage us to do in times of crisis?

18. Look up and record some of God's promises that have most ministered to your heart in difficult times. Share with the group a promise that keeps you anchored to Christ in the midst of your most painful "although's."

19. At the bottom of page 187 Kay shares her discovery that it's not the joyful circumstances that produce trust in God-----it's the journey through the valleys and the impossible places. What are her other insights given in that paragraph?

20. Kay shares in the second to the last paragraph on page 188 that when we are fully trusting God, we'll be able to rejoice. We won't rejoice in the problem we're facing, but what will we be able to rejoice in?

21. On page 189, what did Habakkuk do when his heart was perplexed and he needed to hear from God?
 - a. How does this minister to your heart? Share your thoughts.

22. Inspired by verses 6 and 9-11 of Habakkuk chapter three, Kay shares on page 190 that we serve a sovereign, mighty, majestic God, big enough and powerful enough to create the stars, the moon, the earth, and everything upon it and above it----yet we don't trust Him to help us with our problems. Considering this, what does she encourage us to do when we read His Word?

23. Habakkuk 3:19 speaks of God making our feet like hind's feet. What insights does Kay give us about "hinds," and about the promise the Lord gives to us of hind's feet in those hard places?

24. What was your greatest take-away from chapter ten of "The Privilege?"