

The Privilege

A study for Women in Leadership

LESSON TWO

Helpmate & Handmaiden

This lesson focusses on two very important aspects of our calling. We are called to be our husband's helpmate, and first and foremost, we are called to be the Lord's handmaiden. Both these callings are a calling to submission. Both call us to lay down our own will and agenda and submit, instead, to the will of another. They call us to put someone or Someone (with a capital "S") before ourselves. As difficult as that so often is, it is at the heart of our call to Christ and is His requirement to be a disciple.

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 the third chapter 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 will be looking back at those things at the end of the lesson.
2. Look up the word "SUBMIT" in the dictionary and write the definitions below.
3. One of the reasons we struggle with submission so much is because of how difficult it is for us to give up control. I think this is especially hard for women. By nature, we want to control things. It's been that way since the beginning of creation, when Eve clearly wanted to take control of her and Adam's situation in the garden of Eden and find a way to improve things in their perfect world. Yep, it's true! Being in a perfect environment, with

perfect conditions, with all their need met, she still wasn't completely satisfied. If that were not the case, she wouldn't have been so easily deceived and tempted. Look up James 1:14-15 and write down the verses below.

4. How does James tell us we are tempted? When does that temptation occur?

5. We all have those areas in our marriage where we struggle with submission. The first step to changing our behavior is to **acknowledge it**. We need to see what we're doing that is displeasing to the Lord, **acknowledge** it and **confess** it as sin in order to **repent** from it. Eve, even in her perfect surroundings was already struggling with discontentment; she was already desiring more. Sin had not yet entered the world, but the gift of free choice God had give her and Adam had already stirred desires in her heart that the enemy was able to use to entice her. As wives, we need to recognize those areas in our heart where discontentment leads us to fixate on our desires, which leads us to want to take control to have those desires met. The desire, in and of itself, isn't sin, but if we don't stop right there and submit those desires to God, they will easily lead us into sin. Look up Luke 9:23 and write down the verse below.

6. As Jesus states in the Book of Luke, denying ourselves and taking up our cross, is a daily practice. Taking up our cross is a picture of crucifixion. Look back at your definitions of the word "SUBMIT." What is it that the Lord is asking us to daily crucify? Share your thoughts.

7. On page 61 of our book, in the second to the last paragraph, Kay shares how we are all on a pilgrimage. What does she tell us in the last sentence of that paragraph that our mind-set ought to be as we walk through life with our husband?
 - a. How does this mind-set change the way we live? How does it effect our priorities?

8. Share what her “good advice” is for us at the top of page 62.

9. Do you agree with this advice? Are there things in your marriage that you are struggling with “just letting go?” Is there something you’re holding onto that the Lord is asking you to release and place in His hand? Take a moment and ask the Lord to help you to loosen your grip, open your hand and give those things to Him. You can write those things down on a piece of paper and symbolically lay them at Jesus’ feet by running them through the shredder or putting them into your trash can as a sign of release.

10. On that same page (Pg. 62) Kay shares two main Scriptures the Lord has given her as the best advice on marriage. The first is from Proverbs 14:1, the second from Proverbs 24:3-4. Write those two Scriptures down below.

- a. Have you been building up or tearing down “your house?” Share how these verses speak to your heart.

11. In the last two sentences of the second paragraph on page 63 of our book, Kay shares something she never wants to stop doing. Write out that sentence below, inserting your husband’s name. Take a few minutes to meditate on that, making it your prayer.

12. As Christians, we are ALL called to a life of submission. We are called, as wives, to submit to the leadership authority God has given to our husbands in marriage. Husbands are called to “lay down their lives,” loving their wives as Christ loved the church. God created us differently on purpose, to fulfill different roles. He created us with different needs as well. We know there will be times when that command to submit will be difficult. There will be times when we don’t agree with a decision our husband have made. There are some very important questions Kay shares in this chapter that we need to ask ourselves when we’re facing those times.

The first question is found at the top of page 67. Write it down below.

The second is a series of questions (3 to be exact) found on page 69. Write out those 3 questions below.

- a. Which of these questions made the greatest impact on your heart as you were doing this lesson? Can you share what the Lord was speaking to you personally?

13. There is so much in this chapter, we could do a ten-week study on this subject alone and not cover it all. Look over your notes or the places you highlighted in this chapter and share your greatest take-away with the group, or write it down below or in your journal.

Prayerfully read through chapter four of *The Privilege*. As we did with chapter three, underline, take notes on a separate sheet of paper or use a highlighter to mark important things in your reading that you feel the Lord is speaking to you.

14. We are our husband's wife, but Kay reminds us that, in reality, we are **first and foremost** the "**handmaidens of the Lord.**" This truth should center our focus on God's sovereignty in our lives. As Kay puts it so well, He is sovereign over our detours, our disappointments and the difficult people He allows in our lives. 1 Corinthians 6:19 states this in an even clearer way. Write the verse below.

15. What exhortation does Kay give us at the top of page 81 regarding the plans we make?

- a. And what does she tell us we should do when “detours” come along in life (found in the third paragraph on page 81)? What reason does she give us?

16. In the last paragraph on page 81, share what Kay tells us the disappointments in our lives do for us.

- a. Kay shared some Scriptures on being “steadfast” from the Book of Psalms. What is the promise found in Psalm 112:7-8 for a heart that is steadfast?

- b. Look up Isaiah 26:3. What promise do we find there in this familiar verse?

17. Part of our “detours” and “disappointments” will involve **difficult people**. That is just a fact of life, and often even more so in the ministry. What great advice did Gayle Irwin give to Kay to help deal with those difficult people (see top of page 83). Kay shared how this helped turn her thoughts away from her own irritation to a heavenly perspective. Does this help your way of looking at those difficult people in your life? Share your thoughts.

18. What is the stern warning given to us in the last paragraph on page 83?

19. As women in leadership, there will, no doubt, be times when we are forced to confront someone about a situation or correct their bad behavior. Most of us don't like having to do that, but there are times, especially when it involves the sake of others, that we are called to do just that. What does Kay share with us on page 84 that her **first reaction** is when she is forced to do that? Why is this so vitally important?

a. In the second to the last paragraph on page 84, write out each instruction given to us when we face times of confrontation.

20. Later in this chapter, our attention is focused on the "work" of the ministry. We get some great insights throughout the rest of this chapter about what **our calling is**, as a handmaiden of the Lord, about **the motivation of our hearts**, and about **what our attitudes should be**. At the bottom of page 87, record what the **requirements** are, as Christ's handmaidens.

a. What is our labor outside of the Lord considered to be?

b. What is our labor done in the Lord described as?

21. As women in leadership, it is vital to check ourselves often and to make sure that our labor is “in the Lord.” Prayerfully re-read pages 88 through the end of the chapter (page 95). Look over the things you took note of or highlighted and share with the group the greatest insights about our labor and the motivation of our hearts that made an impact on you. Use a separate sheet of paper, if needed.