

My Prayer for Today

Dear heavenly Father, thank You for providing examples for us so we are encouraged to follow the leadings of Your Holy Spirit to promote peace and understanding.

Sharing

Abigail was courageous, taking decisive action although it was dangerous to do so. One occasion when it may be very difficult to go against a spouse or person in authority is when one suspects, or is aware of, physical or psychological abuse. However, it is important to know how to respond to such a situation. Make it a goal to become educated on the various types of physical and psychological abuse that abound in homes today. Learn how to respond appropriately to provide safety and confidentiality. Be alert to the signs of abuse. Never believe it can't happen in Christian homes and institutions. Listen when a woman shares her concerns. Be willing to stand up for abused women and children and to wrap them in your arms of love. Help them to find the appropriate resources or agencies. Don't allow information about such situations to be withheld from the proper authorities when necessary.



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Women in the Bible:
Abigail
and me

Wisdom and Independence



4
LESSON

Abigail

Her Name Means "My Father is Joy"

Women in the Bible: Abigail and Me

Key Scripture: I Samuel 25

Introduction

In I Samuel 25 we read the story of Abigail, the wife of Nabal. She was "a woman of good understanding and of a beautiful countenance." This chapter tells the story of a woman who asserted her independence and wisdom to avert a potential disaster.

Abigail was a courageous woman who made the best of a difficult situation. Years of living with Nabal had not made her bitter or vengeful. The Lord honored Abigail for her consistency, her generosity, and her willingness to do right no matter how difficult.

Discover

- * Her Character
- * Her Sorrow
- * Her Joy

Going Deeper

1. As chapter 25 opens, what were Nabal and his servants doing? (Verse 2)
2. When David sent his men to Nabal to ask for food, what was Nabal's surly answer? (Verses 4-11)

3. David's servants returned to David and reported what had happened. What was David's reaction? (Verses 12-13)

4. One of Nabal's servants told Abigail what had happened. What did the servant call Nabal? (Verses 14-17)

Note: The name *Belial* means *son of wickedness* or *son of worthlessness*. These words by the servant give us a picture of the character of Nabal.

5. As a woman of understanding and a peacemaker, what did Abigail do? (Verses 18-20) List the supplies she took. What would this suggest about her?

6. Why do you think she did not tell Nabal?

7. As David approached Nabal's property, what did he plan to do? What do you think of his reaction? (Verses 21-22)

8. When Abigail saw David, what did she do? (Verses 23-24)

9. What did she say about Nabal? (Verse 25)

10. How did David react to her apology and gifts? (Verses 32-35)

11. What happened to Nabal when Abigail told him what she had done? (Verses 36-38)

12. Hearing of Nabal's death, David communed with Abigail and asked her what? (Verses 39-40)

13. How did Abigail respond? (Verses 41-42)

Words for Today

14. Is it ever proper and right for a wife to go against her husband's wishes as Abigail did? Are there circumstances where it is right, and even necessary? Explain.

15. Remembering the diplomatic way in which Abigail approached the problem, can you think of a specific way you might handle a situation in which you could serve as a peacemaker? What might you do to help resolve a conflict?

Questions for Discussion

1. How do you react when someone in authority makes a bad choice? If the choice affects you, what should you do?
2. Was Abigail right in going against what her husband would have wanted? How can one choose correctly about being sneaky, or even deceitful, if it's "for a good reason"?

Words of Wisdom

The ability to act independently to achieve peace is a mark of a wise woman. Promoting a peaceful atmosphere within our sphere of influence will demonstrate the depth of our wisdom. Jesus tells us, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God." Matthew 5:9. Peaceful outcomes can be found when we are humbly in tune with the promptings of the Holy Spirit as He guides us through tense and difficult relationships.