The PARABLES of Jesus
Life Changing Stories
Lessons 6, 7 & 8
Tough Questions Biblical Answers with Allen Parr
We want Biblical answers but we don’t always like what the Bible has to say.
session #1
SEPTEMBER 24-25, 2019

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

Presented by Lisa Laizure/Allen Parr Ministries
fear
Fear not, for I have redeemed you;
I have called you by your name;
You are Mine.”

Isaiah 43:1
Fear

For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

2 Tim. 1:7
Fear

The king’s heart is in the hand of the Lord;
like the rivers of water;
He turns it wherever He wishes.

Proverbs 21:1
• Stop playing the “what if” game. Much of what we fear never comes to pass.

• Don’t allow being afraid to hinder you from moving forward in doing the things God has called you to do.
anxiety
And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb. So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.

1 Samuel 1:6-7
DEALING WITH ANXIETY

• Stop comparing yourself to others around us
• Learn how to say NO
• Take control of your own schedule
• Get some help (delegate)
• Schedule your rest
• Know your capacity
depression
Depression

Why did I not perish at birth, and die as I came from the womb?

Job 3:11
Depression

“Cursed be the day I was born...why did I ever come out of the womb to see trouble and sorrow and to end my days in shame?”

Jeremiah 20:14, 18
SOURCES OF DEPRESSION

1. Physically Drained
2. Emotionally Depleted
3. Spiritually Disconnected
waiting on God
• Prepare yourself for the next season you believe God is taking you to.
• Be obedient in the season you are in so you don't prolong being in that season.
• Don’t give up hope that God can promote you to another season.
Waiting

For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through the endurance taught in the Scriptures and the encouragement they provide we might have hope.

Romans 15:4
why pray?
• We don’t fully understand how man's free will and God’s sovereignty work together.
• Jesus prays and commands us to pray (Luke 18:1-8).
• The scriptures demonstrate that God responds to our prayers (Ex. 32; 2 Kings 20:1-6; Acts 12:5-11).
session #2
legalism
Legalism

Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God.’ For you ignore God’s law and substitute your own tradition.”

Matthew 7:7-8
Legalism

Then he said, “You skillfully sidestep God’s law in order to hold on to your own tradition.

Mark 7:9
They crush people with unbearable religious demands and never lift a finger to ease the burden.

Matthew 23:4
“Everything they do is for show. On their arms they wear extra wide prayer boxes with Scripture verses inside, and they wear robes with extra long tassels.

Matthew 23:5
Religious

And they love to sit at the head table at banquets and in the seats of honor in the synagogues.

Matthew 23:6
They love to receive respectful greetings as they walk in the marketplaces, and to be called ‘Rabbi.

Matthew 23:7
Religious

Hypocrites! For you are so careful to clean the outside of the cup and the dish, but inside you are filthy—full of greed and self-indulgence!

Matthew 23:25
Religious

You blind Pharisee! First wash the inside of the cup and the dish, and then the outside will become clean, too.

Matthew 23:25
how does God speak to me?
HOW GOD SPEAKS TO US THROUGH...

- Human WISDOM (James 1:5)
- His WORD (Ps. 119:105)
- His SPIRIT (John 14:26)
- PEOPLE (1 Cor. 12:8)
- PRAYER (Acts 10:9)
- CONFIRMATION
other religions
Other Religions

We need to know what other religions believe so we can speak intelligently to them about what they believe and clearly communicate how Christianity is different.
denominations
Denominations

We need to know what other religions believe so we can speak intelligently to them about what they believe and clearly communicate how Christianity is different.
Denominations began to emerge from 1517 A.D. after Martin Luther incited the protestant reformation.
Lutherans

Started by Martin Luther in the 1500s. They believed the scriptures should be elevated above the papacy and tradition. Salvation is by grace through faith and NOT by works.
Presbyterians

Founded by a man named John Knox somewhere in the 1500s. One of the big differences with the Presbyterian church was their belief that the church should be governed by elders or “presbyters.” Also heavily Calvinistic in thought.
Baptists

Separated from the church of England in 1609 by a man named John Smyth. They did NOT agree with baptism of infants. They believed in full immersion for baptism rather than sprinkling.
Methodists

Founded in 1738 by a man named John Wesley. They became known as the “Methodists” because of the methodical way in which they carried out and lived out their faith. They hold a much more Arminian view of salvation.
Pentecostals

Founded in 1896 by Charles Harrison Mason. They believe in the full expression of spiritual gifts, prophecy, healing, miracles, etc. They tend to elevate personal experience over the written word.
baptism
• Jesus got baptized.
• Jesus commands us to be baptized.
• Baptism is an outward expression of an inward reality symbolizing the death, burial and resurrection of our old self.
Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be **baptized** in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:38
Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea,

1 Cor. 10:2
Principle

Always let the CLEAR interpret the UNCLEAR.

Rom. 4:3, 5; 5:1, 9; Gal. 2:16; 3:11
interpretation
• People take verses out of context.
• People fail to use cross-references.
• People fail to consider the culture.
• People fail to consult outside sources.
Jude 1:3 Beloved, although I made every effort to write you about the salvation we share, I felt it necessary to write and urge you to contend earnestly for the faith entrusted once for all to the saints.
catholics
Agree

1. One God
2. Trinity
3. Jesus is the Son of God
4. Eternal punishment
5. The Bible is the inspired word of God
Sola Scriptura - The protestant churches believe the scriptures are the only (sola) and final authority on faith and practice. The Catholic church upholds the scriptures and the traditions and interpretations of the Catholic church (catechism) and rejects the concept of *sola scriptura.*
Sola Fide - The protestant churches believe in salvation by grace through FAITH ALONE. The Catholic church teaches salvation by grace through faith PLUS works. Although they will reject that they teach this, it is clearly spelled out in their catechism.
The Council of Trent teaches that the Ten Commandments are **obligatory** for Christians and that the justified man is still bound to keep them...so that all men may attain salvation through faith, Baptism and the observance of the Commandments."
"The specific precepts of the natural law, because their observance, demanded by the Creator, is necessary for salvation,"

CCC #2036
Transubstantiation - The protestant churches believe that the Lord’s Supper is a symbol of the body and blood of Jesus. The Catholic church believes the elements are transformed into the literal body and blood of Christ.
View of Mary - The protestant churches believe that Mary was the earthly mother of Jesus born through the virgin birth. Catholics believe in the perpetual virginity of Mary, the Immaculate Conception (born without original sin and therefore remained sinless), and co-redemptrix. They refer to her as the "Queen of Heaven."
Prayers to the Dead - The protestant churches believe the Bible condemns any further contact with the dead. The Catholic church encourages the practice of praying to dead saints who are able to intercede on your behalf.
Prayers for the Dead - The protestant churches believe that when an individual dies nothing can be done for them to change their eternal state. The Catholic church believes that the prayers of living believers can affect the eternal state of the dead.
Prayers for the Dead - The protestant churches believe that when an individual dies nothing can be done for them to change their eternal state. The Catholic church believes that the prayers of living believers can affect the eternal state of the dead.
The practice of tracing history back to the apostles to determine the truth of a church is not biblical.

The earliest Christian churches did not practice praying to Mary, infant baptism, submitting to a pope, having a select priesthood, venerating Mary, passing on apostolic authority to successors of the apostles.
apocrypha
Inconsistent with Biblical Doctrine - Doctrines such as purgatory, prayers for the dead, prayers to the dead, indulgences and others are inconsistent with what the 66 books protestants call "the Bible."
The Jews Rejected it as Doctrine - At the time of Christ, the Jews only accepted the 39 (22 in their Bible) books we have in the Old Testament. They did not regard the apocrypha as being inspired by God.
Jesus only recognized the Jewish Old Testament - Although these books were already written by the time of Christ’s ministry, Jesus never quoted from them, preached from their nor accepted them as inspired or part of the Old Testament.
The NT Writers never quoted from the Apocrypha - Although these books were already written by the time of Christ’s ministry, Jesus never quoted from them, preached from their nor accepted them as inspired or part of the Old Testament.
Many Roman Catholic scholars rejected the apocrypha until the late 16th century - Although the apocrypha was a part of their Bible, even RCC scholars did not view these books as being divinely inspired but rather, more historical in nature.
session #3
• Be clear on the differences between dating (recreational) and courtship (intentional).
• Discover your purpose so you can be sure it aligns with your mate’s.
• Address your baggage (emotional, physical and financial) to prepare yourself to be the best version of yourself for your mate.
I’m Single! Help!

• You can prolong your season of singleness by dating the wrong people.

• Sexual contact before marriage can either make a good relationship turn bad or a bad relationship seem good.

• Don't look for marriage to make you “happy.”

• Be sure you are mature enough for marriage.

• Enjoy your FREEDOM! (1 Cor. 7:32-35)
loneliness
You can be lonely in many different seasons of life outside of just being single.

- Lonely **SINGLE**
- Lonely **SPOUSE**
- Lonely **SENIOR**
- Lonely **SURVIVOR**
I’m Single! Help!

TIPS ON HOW TO HANDLE IT...

• Stay active (hobbies, meetups, vacations, exercise, etc.)
• Hang out in groups
• Understand the purpose of solitude (communication, examination, preparation)
online dating
• There is no shame in online dating.
• Let God lead you when you meet someone online or offline.
• Be totally honest in your profile.
• Avoid engaging several people at one time.
• Do your research on this person.
• Meet early rather than later.
• Use a reputable service.
unequally yoked
Do not be yoked together with unbelievers. For what do righteousness and wickedness have in common? Or what fellowship can light have with darkness?

2 Cor. 6:14
• Try to encourage your spouse to get counsel from other godly men who can pour into him.
• Remember your allegiance is always to Christ first in terms of issues of morality and faith.
• Submit to your husband’s leadership assuming he is not requesting something that is contrary to scripture.
• Pornography is not a biblical ground for divorce; only physical adultery (Matthew 19:9) and abandonment by an unbelieving spouse (1 Cor. 7:15-16).
• Don’t internalize it!
• Get accountability for both of you.
• Encourage him if he opens up to you.
• Prayer and patience.
1 Corinthians 7:10–11 Now to the married I command, yet not I but the Lord: A wife is not to depart from her husband. 11 But even if she does depart, let her remain unmarried or be reconciled to her husband. And a husband is not to divorce his wife.
divorce
Divorce

1. Abuse is not a biblical ground for divorce
2. Adultery (Matt. 19:9) and abandonment (1 Cor. 7:15-16) are the only two grounds for divorce.
1. Most scholars believe that biblical grounds for divorce allow for remarriage also.
2. If there is no biblical ground for divorce, we must remain unmarried or be reconciled back to our spouse (1 Cor. 7:10-11). If not, we can be guilty of adultery ourselves (Matt. 5:31-32).
homosexuality
• Be bold enough to take a biblical stand against homosexuality and same-sex marriages.
• Be sensitive to those who believe yet have same-sex attraction.
• Help them understand that God's standard of purity doesn’t change whether homosexual or heterosexual.
• Be careful not to look past your own sexual sin and point the finger at homosexual sin.