

Joyful Life Bible Studies

Women of the Word

Phebe

Lesson 15

FIRST DAY: Review and Overview

1. Review last week's lesson on Michal. Share something you learned from her life that you can apply to your life.
2. Our lesson this week will center on Phebe. *Although her biography consists of only two verses, they provide an example of a woman who is a role model for each of us.* Affirm this statement by finding three one-word descriptions of her from Romans 16:1,2 that begin with the letter “s.”
3. Begin your study with prayer. Ask the Lord to minister to you those things from this lesson that will help you be a *succourer* (helper) of many.

*Make me a servant, humble and meek.
Lord, help me lift up those who are weak
and may the prayer of my heart always be:
Make me a servant like Thee.*

-selected

SECOND DAY: Read Romans 16:1,2

1. Remember Romans is a letter from Paul to the Christians in Rome. Many Bible expositors believe it was Phebe who made the journey to Rome carrying this letter. How does Paul introduce Phebe to them?
Romans 16:1

2. Today our focus is on the first description of Phebe: *our sister*. What would this phrase reveal to the believers at Rome about her?
 - a. In what way would this motivate the Christians in Rome to welcome her?

 - b. What effect do you think this might have had on Phebe?

3. What does the word *sister* imply in our relationships today as believers?
 - a. How does this bless you today?

*I'm so glad to be a part of the family of God.
Joint heirs with Jesus, washed in His blood.
-selected*

THIRD DAY:

1. Romans 16:1b records the second description Paul gave of Phebe. Print it here in all caps.
 - a. What does the phrase *a servant of the church* reveal about her?

- (1.) The word for *servant* has sometimes been translated deaconess. The root word in Greek literally means *one who ministers or serves*. There are many opportunities in the church for women to serve. List a few of these.

Challenge: Research the city of *Cenchrea*. Give a brief report of your findings.

2. To be known as a servant of the church requires personal dedication and commitment. With this in mind how is Phebe an example for you?

3. What can we learn from Jesus' example in Matthew 20:28?

4. How does the song below help you understand Phebe's motive for being *a servant of the church*?
 - a. How does this motivate you?

*I will serve You because I love You.
You have given life to me.
I was nothing until You found me.
You have given life to me.
-selected*

FOURTH DAY: Read Romans 16:2

1. Along with his introduction of Phebe, Paul gave the church at Rome an exhortation concerning her. Record from Romans 16:2a what he told them to do:

_____ that _____ .

- a. Write the phrase from verse 2a that describes how they are to *receive* (welcome) *her*.

(1.) Define the phrase as becometh saints.

b. What does Philippians 2:29 add to the instruction given here?

Challenge: Explain the meaning of the phrase *in the Lord*?

2. What was Paul's second instruction to them concerning Phebe? Romans 16:2b.

3. How would adherence to Paul's instruction in Romans 16:2 be a help to the helper (*succourer*)?

a. What example is there in this for you?

*Receive ye one another,
as Christ also received us to the glory of God.
Romans 15:7*

FIFTH DAY: Read Romans 16:2

1. Why did Paul instruct these believers to receive and assist Phebe? Romans 16:2c.

a. What do you think that must have meant to her?

2. The word *succourer* means *helper*. This Greek word literally means: *one who stands by in case of need*. Pause and think about this. How does this speak to you today?

a. Share a brief personal example of this.

3. What do you learn about Phebe from Romans 16:2d?
 - a. Phebe unselfishly served all; she was not a respecter of persons. How is this an example for you?

4. Phebe's name means radiant or bright. In what way did her life reflect the meaning of her name?

5. The Lord desires each of His children to shine as bright lights. Consider what Jesus said about this in Matthew 5:16 as you print this verse here. Selah.
 - a. What is your response to this?

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Reflect on what you have studied about Phebe. What impressed you most about her life?

2. From this week's lesson write something you learned about the following:
 - a. *sister*

 - b. *servant*

 - c. *succourer*

3. How do you feel you have profited from your study this week?

4. Phebe's life reflected the radiance of Jesus. How does her example stir you to let your *light so shine*?

- a. Read the words to the following song as a prayer of commitment to be a radiant example of a faithful servant of the Lord.

*Let the beauty of Jesus be seen in me,
All His wonderful passion and purity!
O Thou Spirit divine, all my nature refine,
'til the beauty of Jesus be seen in me.*
-selected