

Month 18

Week 1

Abigail

Abigail's story is found in the Bible in 1 Samuel 25 and she is referenced in 2 Samuel 3:3. She is described as the "woman with beauty and brains". There is no information available on Abigail's genealogy. "Her religious witness and knowledge of Jewish history testify to an early training in a godly home, and acquaintance with the teachings of the prophets in Israel, Her plea before David also reveals her understanding of the events of her own world".

Abigail was married to Nabal. This man was described avaricious and selfish. Rich and increased obsessed with his possessions, a drunken wretch, unmanageable and stubborn and ill-tempered. Doubtless he was often "very drunken." He was likewise an unbeliever, who bowed his knee to the god of this world and not to the God of his fathers. Further, as a follower of Saul he shared the rejected king's jealousy of David.

At the time, David was an outlaw because of Saul's hatred, and lived in the strongholds of the hills with his loyal band. He had often helped Nabal's herdsmen out and being in need of food for his little army, David sent a kind request to Nabal for help. Nabal bluntly refused to give David a crumb for his hungry men. Angered, David threatened to plunder Nabal's possession and kill Nabal and all those who emulated his contempt.

Abigail, learned of David's request and her husband's rude refusal. Gathering together a quantity of food and wine, Abigail rode out on an ass and met David and his men. "With discreet tact Abigail averted David's just anger over Nabal's insult to his messengers, by placing at David's feet food for his hungry men". Abigail's intercession captivated the heart of David and he changed his mind about attacking Nabal and his men and household.

Abigail then returned to her wicked partner to take up her hard and bitter life again. She told him what had happened. As soon as Nabal heard the news, his heart failed. Ten days later he died.

When David heard the news of Nabal's death, he sent word to Abigail, asking her to be his wife. This time it was Abigail's choice whether or not to marry. She accepted, becoming David's third wife and eventually mother to his second son, Kileab.

Abigail was a courageous woman, who made the best out of a difficult situation. She knew the cultural principles at work here: Nabal should have given David's men what they asked for. Yet when David sought vengeance, Abigail interceded, realizing that vengeance wasn't something that was up to David—or her—to give. The Lord honored Abigail for her consistency, her generosity, and her willingness to continue on the right path, no matter how difficult.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/all-women-bible/Abigail>

<https://www.biblegateway.com/devotionals/women-of-the-bible/2014/05/12>

Month 18

Week 2

Abigail

Reflections

“The intervention of Abigail in the nick of time teaches us that when we have wisdom to impart, faith to share and help to offer, we must not hesitate to take any risk that may be involved. We can never gauge the effect of our words and actions upon others”.

<https://www.biblegateway.com/resources/all-women-bible/Abigail>

When did my words or actions or lack of them, make a difference?'

“Abigail challenges me to choose differently — to be humble, wise and courageous. Her example teaches me that I can choose how I will allow my circumstances to shape my character. While Nabal's life clearly shows that haughtiness goes before destruction, Abigail's shows that choosing humility and wisdom allows God to shape my character and my circumstances. And it makes room for God to be glorified in both.”

Do my words and actions typically reflect haughtiness or humility?

Who is my "Nabal"? A boss? A parent? Your own sin-nature that combats your spirit?

In what circumstance or relationship can I choose wisdom, humility and courage this week?

<https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2012/02/24/abigails-choice-2>

Abigail is a strong woman; the people in Nabal's household went to her when Nabal acted foolishly. She's wise and politically astute in that she acknowledged David's mistreatment by her husband to soften the personal affront that had angered David. (*Every Woman in the Bible* by Sue and Larry Richards)

When do people come to me upset by another's actions?

What is my response/how do I handle this?

Can I help others “soften” offenses they feel?

-Abigail likely endured much suffering and disappointment. How many times did Nabal get drunk and say or do something demeaning to her? Yet she chose not to let her spirit die. How many times did she wish for revenge, though not seek it? How many times did he berate her, yet she wasn't paralyzed by his insults? How many times did his foolishness cost her greatly, or those she cared about?

<https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2012/02/24/abigails-choice-2>

.How can I keep my spirit alive, even in a difficult/unfair/wrong situation caused by another person's words or actions?

Month 18

Week 3

Abigail

Devotions/Prayer

Power Verses:

Proverbs 31:26, "She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue." (NIV)

Proverbs 15:33, "The fear of the Lord teaches a man wisdom; and humility comes before honor." (NIV 1984)

"Dear Lord, today I humble myself before You. I confess my sins and ask You to help me develop and display the same wisdom and character as Abigail. In Jesus' Name, Amen."

<https://proverbs31.org/read/devotions/full-post/2012/02/24/abigails-choice-2>

5 Things We Can Learn from Abigail:

1. Don't let fear hold you back – move forward in God's courage and wisdom.
2. Our words and actions are powerful. Look to the bigger picture.
3. Be humble and kind, seek peace with those around you
4. Remember, God will fight for you. You are never alone
5. A true warrior is loyal and faithful, thinking of others before themselves.

Living the Big Picture: Fearless in Faith and Grace

"Often when we are faced with difficult battles or hard struggles, we may feel like we've been left on our own. But God is always with us, leading us with His Spirit of wisdom and discernment, pouring out His strength and grace, reminding us that He is the greatest power propelling us onward... We never have to stay stuck in fear or defeat, thinking that our situation will never change. As we are faithful to His word and His leadership, God can do in just a moment what may take years to work through by ourselves. Abigail's story reminds us again that God sees the heart, and He works powerfully on behalf of those who choose to follow Him... Keep following His lead, press in close to His presence. He is faithful to give you grace for each day, and power to walk through the most difficult of times. Your story is not over yet, He is bringing greater beauty and strength through every hard moment. God is able to carry you straight through. Keep pressing forward, there is good and blessing still in store."

Debbie McDaniel

<https://www.ibelieve.com/faith/things-women-learn-from-abigail-bible.html>

Month 18

Week 4

Abigail

Practical Applications

-Reflect and consider a situation or issue in your life that may require both wisdom and courage. Pray and journal about different ways you might go about pursuing both of these to impact or resolve the situation or issue.

Try some of these out. Reflect and journal on the results and what worked or what you may want to do differently.

-Think of someone in your life who plays the role of Nabal—someone who is difficult, who does things that appear disrespectful or uncaring of others, who

Identify how you might take on some of Abigail's characteristics with regard to this person. Give one or more of these a try? Discern how you feel about yourself and if you see or feel any difference with the person or situations related to the person.

-Abigail was wise, decisive yet sensitive. She clearly had great interpersonal skills, and was not only able to diffuse his (David's) anger, but also was able to help him think thru the consequences of his hastily conceived intentions. She enabled David to retain his self-respect and the respect of his men.

Think of a situation involving conflict and intense emotions. This might be a family, work or other situation. Identify interpersonal skills you might use to help diffuse the situation and help others become more rational and/or objective. Try these out, making sure you promote respect for all involved. Journal on your experience.

-Abigail took food which showed she agreed with David's request. She didn't rely on words alone but added actions to her words

Think of something significant in your life which you have verbally expressed or stated. This could be related to a belief, a boundary or limit, a "stand" you have taken on something. Decide upon a way you can add actions to your words. Do this! Note or journal the effects.