

LESSON 5: WOMEN ARE VALUABLE

Part 1

Experiment

Place a stack of yellow and green cards on a table. Ask everyone to randomly take one.

Each person has a yellow or green card.

Tell all those with green cards to go to the back of the room and sit quietly and do not disturb the rest of the class. Say something like 'We are doing an important lesson and we just want the opinions of a few key people. Please be quiet, do not interrupt, and do not disturb the rest of us.'

Give everyone in the yellow group a piece of candy. Check if there is anything else that they would like. Ask them if they feel comfortable and ready to start the lesson. Treat them as if they are honored guests. If anyone from the green group moves or speaks, look up and remind them of the instructions.

For each of these statements do you think people in the areas where you live would generally agree or disagree with it and why.

1. "Girls are a burden to their family."
2. "Women should not own land or receive an inheritance."
3. "It is ok to beat a wife who is not being obedient."
4. "Women should be seen and not heard."

Are there other statements that are common in your area about women? What are some examples?

Debrief of Activity

Facilitator Instructions: Ask the green group to come back to join the yellow group. Debrief by asking questions to each group and then draw out conclusions from the group based on this experience.

For the last 10 minutes, the green group was excluded from the discussion.

- **Green group:**
 - What did it feel like to not be included in the discussions and to not be allowed to talk?
 - Did you want to participate and share your ideas?
 - How did you feel when you saw the yellow group receiving snacks and you didn't receive any?

- Do you think this ever happens in society? Who are excluded?
- **Yellow group:**
 - What did it feel like to not include part of the group in the small groups and discussions?
 - Did you notice that the other group did not get any water or snacks? What do you think about that?
 - Did you feel uncomfortable? Why or why not?
- **Everyone:**
 - What didn't seem right about this?
 - What opportunities were lost by not including the green group in the activity?

Part 2

Read Genesis 3:6-19

Adam and Eve sinned by disobeying God and they suffered the consequences of their sin. Their perfect relationship was broken.

- What changed in Adam and Eve's relationship after they sinned by disobeying God?
- How has sin and brokenness in our world influenced the way people see women in our culture?

Read Galatians 3:26-29.

- Who are considered children of God through Christ Jesus?
- This verse says there is no more Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male or female. What does this mean?

Through Christ both males and females can become children of God, heirs of eternal life, and both are fully restored into relationship with God.

Read Acts 2:17-18, 21 and 1 Peter 4:10-11.

- What does this verse say will happen when God's Spirit is poured out on all people?
- Does it surprise you that daughters and women are included in receiving the gifts of prophecy to be used in the church?
- When everyone uses the gifts God gives them, what is the result?
- What would happen if women and daughters did not use the gifts God gives them?

God gives gifts to both men and women to be used to build the Kingdom of God and bring honor and glory to God.

- How can you help your wife use all the gifts God has given her?
- How can you help your daughter develop and use the gifts God has given her?
- How can you encourage women in your church and your community to use the gifts God has given them?

Part 3: Personal reflection on Jesus' attitude toward women

1. How would you describe the way women were treated in the culture in the time of Jesus?
2. Did Jesus treat women the same or differently than His culture?
3. Are there any similarities between how your culture treats women and how Jesus' culture treated women?
4. What are some differences between how Jesus treated women and how His culture treated women?
5. How do you think women felt when Jesus treated them this way?
6. What are some examples that our churches are reflecting our culture more than the way Jesus treated women?

Brainstorm chart

Area	Mistreatment & Inequalities in Our Community	What we Can Do (1-2 ideas for each area)
Family	<i>Give an example specific to your community (e.g., special gifts are given when boys are born; boys get to eat first and are encouraged to go to school).</i>	<i>Celebrate when both boys and girls are born. Encourage equal treatment of boys and girls – eating, education, inheritance, etc.</i>
Church		
School		
Community		

- What are two things you could do differently in your home to honor your wife, daughters?
- What are two things you could do differently in your community to honor women and girls in the community?