# Introduction to Good Lessons from Bad Girls

It’s not necessary to learn everything the hard way. We can glean lots of wisdom by learning from other people’s mistakes.

The life stories of many women of ancient times have been recorded in the pages of the Bible. Some of these women overcame tremendous obstacles and hardships to serve God wholeheartedly, and they received His blessings, and left a wonderful legacy for their children and grandchildren. Others ignored God and His word and sinned blatantly, hurting themselves and others in the process.

Good Lessons from Bad Girls is a study of five bad girls from the Old Testament, who made terrible choices. Their mistakes are recorded in the Bible. From them we can learn good lessons about what ***not*** to do.

Whether you relate to some of their feelings and mistakes, or you relate to the people they hurt, we can all gain wisdom by studying their lives. I pray that this Bible study helps you navigate the choices you make.

With Aloha, Susie Lam

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**Small Group Guidelines**

Sharing with others and praying together can be an enriching experience as long as each member of the group feels safe and is respected and valued by the others. Here are some guidelines to help make your small group sharing time effective and uplifting to all.

***Prioritize:*** Prioritize your small group meetings and fellowship times. Let your shepherd/co-shepherd know in advance if you must miss a meeting or will be late. Come prepared with your homework done. Attend small group fellowship meetings to strengthen the bonds of friendship and love within your group.

***Participate:*** Everyone should contribute to the group discussion but no one should dominate. If you have “the gift of gab”, monitor yourself to make sure you are not talking too much. If you are shy or unsure of your answers, share anyway. The vitality of the group depends upon each member participating, and learning from each other.

***Respect:*** Respect those from other backgrounds who think differently than you do. Refrain from arguing theology, correcting others, or giving unsolicited advice. All questions are encouraged and respected.

***Keep Confidences:*** Anything of a sensitive or personal nature that is shared in your group should not be repeated outside of the group. No gossip please!

***Support:*** Avoid “cliquishness”. Be welcoming to new people who join your group. Pray for each other throughout the week and call upon each other in time of need. Be affectionate and encouraging.

***Share:*** Share your gifts with others by serving. Volunteer to help in your area of interest or giftedness, or areas of need. Spread the word

about Bible study and invite your friends to join us.

***Enjoy!*** This Bible study is designed to build you up, enrich your life, and help you grow in your relationship with God.

# Bible Study & Journaling Instructions

This Bible study is suitable for those who have never studied the Bible before as well as those who have been studying God’s Word for years. The method of study is simple:

Begin by praying that God will speak to your heart as you get into His Word, and read the passage. Be open to encouragement, direction or correction from the Lord as you read. Underline key phrases or make notations in the margins of your Bible as the Lord brings to mind people or situations you should pray for, promises to stand upon, or lessons you need to apply to your life.

After reading the passage, answer the questions.

Then select a verse or paragraph that particularly spoke to you or caught your attention. If nothing “jumps off the page”, select a sentence or two that you think might have some spiritual significance to your life.

Copy that verse or passage word for word. Writing out the verse or verses will help you remember what God is saying to you.

Then, in your own words, write what you observed in that verse or paragraph. (Consider: What is the context? What or who is it about? How would I have felt or reacted had I been there? What is really being said? What does it mean? Why is it important?)

Next, and most importantly, write out how this passage applies to your life. Is there something you need to change? A promise to stand on? An order to follow? Write out how you will be different because of what you have just read.

Finally, write a brief prayer to God, based on this passage. Thank Him for speaking to you. Tell Him what’s on your heart. Ask Him to help you change based on what you have just read.

A simple acrostic to help you remember these steps is “SOAP” S = Scripture

O = Observation A = Application P = Prayer Example:

S: Genesis 3:13: “Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

O: God called Eve to account for her sin. Before she sinned, she didn’t realize Satan, disguised as a serpent, was deceiving her, but afterwards she realized she’d been duped. Nevertheless, she was responsible for disobeying God and she took responsibility.

A: My best safeguard against being deceived and led into sin is to stay in God’s word, remember what He’s said, and simply obey. Once I start allowing others to talk me out of what God’s said and get me to question Him, I’m susceptible to being deceived like Eve was.

P: Dear Lord, please help me to learn from Eve’s mistake to not allow others to talk me out of simply obeying You, because I know You have my good at heart and I don’t want my relationship with You messed up by sin.

# Lesson 1 Eve - Deceived and Daring

**Genesis 2:19 – 3:24**

***2:19*** *Now the Lord God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds* in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name. ***20*** *So the man gave names to all the* livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals.

*But for Adam no suitable helper was found.* ***21*** *So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a* deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man’s ribs[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2B2%3A19-%2B3%3A24&version=NIV&fen-NIV-52b)*] and then closed up* the place with flesh. ***22*** *Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib*[*[*c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2B2%3A19-%2B3%3A24&version=NIV&fen-NIV-53c)*] he had taken out of* the man, and he brought her to the man.

***23*** *The man said,*

*“This is now bone of my bones* and flesh of my flesh;

*she shall be called ‘woman,’*

*for she was taken out of man.”*

***24*** *That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become* one flesh.

***25*** *Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.*

## *The Fall*

***3*** *Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He* said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden’?”

***2*** *The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,* ***3*** *but God* did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’”

***4*** *“You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.****5*** *“For God knows that when* you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

***6*** *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye,* and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. ***7*** *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and* they realized they were naked ;so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

***8*** *Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the Lord God as he was walking in the* garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ***9*** *But the Lord God called to the man, “Where are you?”*

***10*** *He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”*

***11*** *And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I* commanded you not to eat from?”

***12*** *The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree,* and I ate it.”

***13*** *Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”* The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

***14*** *So the Lord God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this,*

*“Cursed are you above all livestock* and all wild animals!

*You will crawl on your belly* and you will eat dust

*all the days of your life.*

***15*** *And I will put enmity* between you and the woman,

*and between your offspring[*[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2B2%3A19-%2B3%3A24&version=NIV&fen-NIV-71d)*] and hers;* he will crush[[e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2B2%3A19-%2B3%3A24&version=NIV&fen-NIV-71e)*] your head,*

*and you will strike his heel.”*

***16*** *To the woman he said,*

*“I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;* with painful labor you will give birth to children.

*Your desire will be for your husband,* and he will rule over you.”

***17*** *To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about* which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’

*“Cursed is the ground because of you;* through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

***18*** *It will produce thorns and thistles for you,* and you will eat the plants of the field.

***19*** *By the sweat of your brow* you will eat your food

*until you return to the ground,* since from it you were taken;

*for dust you are*

*and to dust you will return.”*

***20*** *Adam[*[f](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2B2%3A19-%2B3%3A24&version=NIV&fen-NIV-76f)*] named his wife Eve,[*[g*]*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2B2%3A19-%2B3%3A24&version=NIV&fen-NIV-76g) *because she would become the mother of all the living.*

***21*** *The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.* ***22*** *And* the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He

*must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live* forever.” ***23*** *So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from* which he had been taken. ***24*** *After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side*[*[*h](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2B2%3A19-%2B3%3A24&version=NIV&fen-NIV-80h)*] of the* Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

***Luke 4:1-13***

*1Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the*

*wilderness,* ***2*** *where for forty days he was tempted[*[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2B4%3A1-13&version=NIV&fen-NIV-25066a)*] by the devil. He ate nothing during those* days, and at the end of them he was hungry.

***3*** *The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, tell this stone to become bread.”*

***4*** *Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone.’”*

***5*** *The devil led him up to a high place and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the* world. ***6*** *And he said to him, “I will give you all their authority and splendor; it has been* given to me, and I can give it to anyone I want to. ***7*** *If you worship me, it will all be yours.”*

***8*** *Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.’”*

***9*** *The devil led him to Jerusalem and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. “If you* are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down from here. ***10*** *For it is written:*

*“‘He will command his angels concerning you* to guard you carefully;

***11*** *they will lift you up in their hands,*

*so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’”*

***12*** *Jesus answered, “It is said: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’*[*[*e](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke%2B4%3A1-13&version=NIV&fen-NIV-25076e)*]”*

***13*** *When the devil had finished all this tempting, he left him until an opportune time.*

1. According to Genesis 2:20, why did God create Eve? What important role of hers is mentioned, in relationship to her husband, Adam? Do you think of a wife’s role as being that of a helper, or not? Explain.
2. Which portions of the serpent’s statements (3:1, 4 & 5) are true and which are false? Why do you think the serpent mixed truth with lies?

Vs 1:

Vs 4:

Vs 5:

1. How does Eve fixate upon and amplify God’s commands in verse 3? How does that play into Satan’s schemes?
2. How might you or someone today fall prey to the question: “Did God really say ?”
3. Read Luke 4:1-13. How was Jesus’ temptation similar to Eve’s? How were his responses different?
4. Why do you think Adam ate the fruit? What should he have done? Do you think he was more or less responsible than Eve? Explain.
5. Eve probably helped Adam in many ways but she hindered him in the most important way by influencing him to sin along with her. Consider ways in which you influence your spouse or those around you. In what ways could you be a better “influencer”? Pray for God’s help.
6. Put yourself in Eve’s sandals after “The Fall”, and write in the first person, as if you were Eve, writing in her diary, how you feel and what you wish you had done differently.
7. What did you learn not to do from Eve?
8. Journal this passage “SOAP style” as explained in the introduction of this workbook.

# Lesson 2 Potiphar’s Wife - Aggressive and Angry

**Genesis 39**

*1Now Joseph had been taken down to Egypt. Potiphar, an Egyptian who was one of*

*Pharaoh’s officials, the captain of the guard, bought him from the Ishmaelites who had taken* him there.

***2*** *The Lord was with Joseph so that he prospered, and he lived in the house of his Egyptian* master. ***3*** *When his master saw that the Lord was with him and that the Lord gave him* success in everything he did, ***4*** *Joseph found favor in his eyes and became his attendant.*

*Potiphar put him in charge of his household, and he entrusted to his care everything he* owned. ***5*** *From the time he put him in charge of his household and of all that he owned,* the Lord blessed the household of the Egyptian because of Joseph. The blessing of

*the Lord was on everything Potiphar had, both in the house and in the field.* ***6*** *So Potiphar left* everything he had in Joseph’s care; with Joseph in charge, he did not concern himself with anything except the food he ate.

*Now Joseph was well-built and handsome,* ***7*** *and after a while his master’s wife took notice of* Joseph and said, “Come to bed with me!”

***8*** *But he refused. “With me in charge,” he told her, “my master does not concern himself with* anything in the house; everything he owns he has entrusted to my care. ***9*** *No one is greater in* this house than I am. My master has withheld nothing from me except you, because you are his wife. How then could I do such a wicked thing and sin against God?” ***10*** *And though she* spoke to Joseph day after day, he refused to go to bed with her or even be with her.

***11*** *One day he went into the house to attend to his duties, and none of the household*

*servants was inside.* ***12*** *She caught him by his cloak and said, “Come to bed with me!” But he* left his cloak in her hand and ran out of the house.

***13*** *When she saw that he had left his cloak in her hand and had run out of the house,* ***14*** *she* called her household servants.“Look,” she said to them, “this Hebrew has been brought to us to make sport of us! He came in here to sleep with me, but I screamed. ***15*** *When he heard* me scream for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

***16*** *She kept his cloak beside her until his master came home.****17*** *Then she told him this*

*story: “That Hebrew slave you brought us came to me to make sport of me.* ***18*** *But as soon as* I screamed for help, he left his cloak beside me and ran out of the house.”

***19*** *When his master heard the story his wife told him, saying, “This is how your slave treated* me,” he burned with anger.***20*** *Joseph’s master took him and put him in prison, the place* where the king’s prisoners were confined.

*But while Joseph was there in the prison,* ***21*** *the Lord was with him; he showed him*

*kindness and granted him favor in the eyes of the prison warden.* ***22*** *So the warden put Joseph* in charge of all those held in the prison, and he was made responsible for all that was done there. ***23*** *The warden paid no attention to anything under Joseph’s care, because*

*the Lord was with Joseph and gave him success in whatever he did.*

1. What tactics did Potiphar’s wife use to tempt Joseph in vs 7, 10 and 12?

Verse 7:

Verse 10:

Verse 12:

1. In normal life situations, (not seduction) do you use any of these tactics with your husband or significant people in your life to get what you want? What should you do instead? Which tactic would be hardest for you to resist?
2. What did Joseph say and do to resist temptation?

Verses 8-9:

Verse 10:

Verse 12:

1. How could Joseph’s example help you resist temptation?
2. Do you think it is significant that Potiphar’s wife’s name is never given? How could her identity as “Potiphar’s wife” have set her up to sin as she did? Explain.
3. From what or whom do you primarily get your sense of identity? (Do you think of yourself mainly as someone’s wife or ex-wife, a mother, sister, employee, boss, or what?)
4. According to vs 8-9, where did Joseph mainly get his sense of identity? How did his strong sense of responsibility to his boss and to God help keep him from sinning?
5. What have you learned not to do, from Potiphar’s wife?
6. Journal this passage “SOAP style” as explained in the introduction of this workbook.

# Lesson 3 Delilah – Delicious and Dangerous

**Judges 16:1-31**

*1One day Samson went to Gaza, where he saw a prostitute. He went in to spend the night* with her. ***2*** *The people of Gaza were told, “Samson is here!” So they surrounded the place* and lay in wait for him all night at the city gate. They made no move during the night, saying, “At dawn we’ll kill him.”

***3*** *But Samson lay there only until the middle of the night. Then he got up and took hold of the* doors of the city gate, together with the two posts, and tore them loose, bar and all. He lifted them to his shoulders and carried them to the top of the hill that faces Hebron.

***4*** *Some time later, he fell in love with a woman in the Valley of Sorek whose name was* Delilah. ***5*** *The rulers of the Philistines went to her and said, “See if you can lure him into* showing you the secret of his great strength and how we can overpower him so we may tie him up and subdue him. Each one of us will give you eleven hundred shekels[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges%2B16%3A1-31&version=NIV&fen-NIV-6955a)*] of silver.”*

***6*** *So Delilah said to Samson, “Tell me the secret of your great strength and how you can be* tied up and subdued.”

***7*** *Samson answered her, “If anyone ties me with seven fresh bowstrings that have not been* dried, I’ll become as weak as any other man.”

***8*** *Then the rulers of the Philistines brought her seven fresh bowstrings that had not been* dried, and she tied him with them. ***9*** *With men hidden in the room, she called to him,* “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” But he snapped the bowstrings as easily as a piece of string snaps when it comes close to a flame. So the secret of his strength was not discovered.

***10*** *Then Delilah said to Samson, “You have made a fool of me; you lied to me. Come now, tell* me how you can be tied.”

***11*** *He said, “If anyone ties me securely with new ropes that have never been used, I’ll become* as weak as any other man.”

***12*** *So Delilah took new ropes and tied him with them. Then, with men hidden in the room, she* called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!” But he snapped the ropes off his arms as if they were threads.

***13*** *Delilah then said to Samson, “All this time you have been making a fool of me and lying to* me. Tell me how you can be tied.”

*He replied, “If you weave the seven braids of my head into the fabric on the loom and tighten* it with the pin, I’ll become as weak as any other man.” So while he was sleeping, Delilah took the seven braids of his head, wove them into the fabric ***14*** *and*[*[*b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges%2B16%3A1-31&version=NIV&fen-NIV-6964b)*]tightened it with the pin.*

*Again she called to him, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you! ”He awoke from his sleep* and pulled up the pin and the loom, with the fabric.

***15*** *Then she said to him, “How can you say, ‘I love you,’ when you won’t confide in me? This* is the third time you have made a fool of me and haven’t told me the secret of your great strength.” ***16*** *With such nagging she prodded him day after day until he was sick to death of* it.

***17*** *So he told her everything. “No razor has ever been used on my head,” he said, “because I* have been a Nazirite dedicated to God from my mother’s womb. If my head were shaved, my strength would leave me, and I would become as weak as any other man.”

***18*** *When Delilah saw that he had told her everything, she sent word to the rulers of the* Philistines, “Come back once more; he has told me everything.” So the rulers of the

*Philistines returned with the silver in their hands.* ***19*** *After putting him to sleep on her lap, she* called for someone to shave off the seven braids of his hair, and so began to subdue

*him.[*[c](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges%2B16%3A1-31&version=NIV&fen-NIV-6969c)*] And his strength left him.*

***20*** *Then she called, “Samson, the Philistines are upon you!”*

*He awoke from his sleep and thought, “I’ll go out as before and shake myself free.” But he* did not know that the Lord had left him.

***21*** *Then the Philistines seized him, gouged out his eyes and took him down to Gaza. Binding* him with bronze shackles, they set him to grinding grain in the prison. ***22*** *But the hair on his* head began to grow again after it had been shaved.

## *The Death of Samson*

***23*** *Now the rulers of the Philistines assembled to offer a great sacrifice to Dagon their god* and to celebrate, saying, “Our god has delivered Samson, our enemy, into our hands.”

***24*** *When the people saw him, they praised their god, saying,* “Our god has delivered our enemy

*into our hands,*

*the one who laid waste our land* and multiplied our slain.”

***25*** *While they were in high spirits, they shouted, “Bring out Samson to entertain us.” So they* called Samson out of the prison, and he performed for them.

*When they stood him among the pillars,* ***26*** *Samson said to the servant who held his hand,* “Put me where I can feel the pillars that support the temple, so that I may lean against

*them.”****27*** *Now the temple was crowded with men and women; all the rulers of the Philistines* were there, and on the roof were about three thousand men and women watching Samson perform.***28*** *Then Samson prayed to the Lord, “Sovereign Lord, remember me. Please, God,* strengthen me just once more, and let me with one blow get revenge on the Philistines for my two eyes.” ***29*** *Then Samson reached toward the two central pillars on which the temple stood.*

*Bracing himself against them, his right hand on the one and his left hand on the*

*other,* ***30*** *Samson said, “Let me die with the Philistines!” Then he pushed with all his might,* and down came the temple on the rulers and all the people in it. Thus he killed many more when he died than while he lived.

***31*** *Then his brothers and his father’s whole family went down to get him. They brought him* back and buried him between Zorah and Eshtaol in the tomb of Manoah his father. He had led[[d](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Judges%2B16%3A1-31&version=NIV&fen-NIV-6981d)*]Israel twenty years.*

1. Write some descriptive words or phrases about Delilah from these verses: 5-6, 9-10, 15-16, 18-19.

Verses 5-6:

Verses 9-10:

Verses 15-16:

Verses 18-19:

1. Do you see yourself in Delilah at all? Do you struggle with any of the same types of sins Delilah struggled with? Explain.
2. What, if anything, did Samson and Delilah have going for them as a couple? What was working against them?
3. Why didn’t Samson answer Delilah truthfully until well after her fourth query? Why did he finally give in?
4. Do you think Samson knew what would happen if he told Delilah the truth?
5. There’s an old saying “Everyone has their price”. How rich was Delilah after this deal?
6. Write, in the first person, as if you were Delilah writing in her diary, how you felt after watching the Philistines gouge out Samson’s eyes, and bind him with shackles, and set him to grinding in the prison.
7. What has been nagging at you lately and wearing you down? What should you watch out for?
8. What do you learn not to do from Delilah?
9. Journal this passage “SOAP style” as explained in the introduction of this workbook.

# Lesson 4 Michal - Proud and Petulant

**1 Samuel 18:17-30, 2 Sam 6:16-23**

## *1 Samuel 18:17-30*

***17*** *Saul said to David, “Here is my older daughter Merab. I will give her to you in* marriage; only serve me bravely and fight the battles of the Lord.” For Saul said to himself, “I will not raise a hand against him. Let the Philistines do that!”

***18*** *But David said to Saul, “Who am I, and what is my family or my clan in Israel, that I* should become the king’s son-in-law?”***19*** *So*[*[a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%2BSamuel%2B18%3A17-30%2C%2B2%2BSam%2B6%3A16-23&version=NIV&fen-NIV-7696a)*] when the time came for Merab, Saul’s* daughter, to be given to David, she was given in marriage to Adriel of Meholah.

***20*** *Now Saul’s daughter Michal was in love with David, and when they told Saul about it, he* was pleased. ***21*** *“I will give her to him,” he thought, “so that she may be a snare to him and* so that the hand of the Philistines may be against him.” So Saul said to David, “Now you have a second opportunity to become my son-in-law.”

***22*** *Then Saul ordered his attendants: “Speak to David privately and say, ‘Look, the king likes* you, and his attendants all love you; now become his son-in-law.’”

***23*** *They repeated these words to David. But David said, “Do you think it is a small matter to* become the king’s son-in-law? I’m only a poor man and little known.”

***24*** *When Saul’s servants told him what David had said,* ***25*** *Saul replied, “Say to David, ‘The* king wants no other price for the bride than a hundred Philistine foreskins, to take

*revenge on his enemies.’” Saul’s plan was to have David fall by the hands of the Philistines.*

***26*** *When the attendants told David these things, he was pleased to become the king’s son-in-* law. So before the allotted time elapsed, ***27*** *David took his men with him and went out and* killed two hundred Philistines and brought back their foreskins. They counted out the full number to the king so that David might become the king’s son-in-law. Then Saul gave him his daughter Michal in marriage.

***28*** *When Saul realized that the Lord was with David and that his daughter Michal loved* David, ***29*** *Saul became still more afraid of him, and he remained his enemy the rest of his* days.

***30*** *The Philistine commanders continued to go out to battle, and as often as they did, David* met with more success than the rest of Saul’s officers, and his name became well known.

## *2 Sam 6:16-23*

***16*** *As the ark of the Lord was entering the City of David, Michal daughter of Saul watched* from a window. And when she saw King David leaping and dancing before the Lord, she despised him in her heart.

***17*** *They brought the ark of the Lord and set it in its place inside the tent that David had* pitched for it, and David sacrificed burnt offerings and fellowship offerings before

*the Lord.* ***18*** *After he had finished sacrificing the burnt offerings and fellowship offerings, he* blessed the people in the name of the Lord Almighty. ***19*** *Then he gave a loaf of bread, a cake* of dates and a cake of raisins to each person in the whole crowd of Israelites, both men and women. And all the people went to their homes.

***20*** *When David returned home to bless his household, Michal daughter of Saul came out to* meet him and said, “How the king of Israel has distinguished himself today, going around half-naked in full view of the slave girls of his servants as any vulgar fellow would!”

***21*** *David said to Michal, “It was before the Lord, who chose me rather than your father or* anyone from his house when he appointed me ruler over the Lord’s people Israel—I will celebrate before the Lord. ***22*** *I will become even more undignified than this, and I will be* humiliated in my own eyes. But by these slave girls you spoke of, I will be held in honor.”

***23*** *And Michal daughter of Saul had no children to the day of her death.*

1. According to 1 Samuel 18:21, why did Saul want his daughter, Michal, to marry David?
2. If you knew the boss was out to get you, would you trust his daughter? Although Michal loved David, what were some of the challenges she probably faced in her marriage?
3. Michal was married to one of the most handsome, talented, famous and popular men in Israel. What kind of feelings might this have brought out in Michal, and how might those feelings have affected their relationship?
4. Have you ever felt insecure in an important relationship? What caused you to be insecure? What gives you a sense of security? (Please remember that anything of a personal nature that’s shared in our small groups is to remain confidential. No gossip please!)
5. In the 2 Samuel passage, David brought the ark, which represented God’s presence, back to Jerusalem, with dancing and great rejoicing. When he came home to bless his household, Michal unleashed words of scorn and criticism. What does this tell you about her? How did her reaction affect their relationship?
6. How might their story have ended differently if Michal had welcomed David home and rejoiced with him, instead of criticizing him?
7. Do you relate to Michal in any way? Is it difficult for you to praise a person and call out the good you see in their lives? Have you ever criticized when you should have praised? Explain.
8. Do you see a spiritual connection between Michal’s attitude and words and her barrenness?
9. What have you learned not to do from Michal?
10. Journal this passage “SOAP style” as explained in the introduction of this workbook.

# Lesson 5 Jezebel - Manipulative and Murderous

**1 Kings 18:1-19:7; 21:1-25**

***18*** *After a long time, in the third year, the word of the Lord came to Elijah: “Go and* present yourself to Ahab, and I will send rain on the land.” ***2*** *So Elijah went to present* himself to Ahab.

*Now the famine was severe in Samaria,* ***3*** *and Ahab had summoned Obadiah, his palace* administrator. (Obadiah was a devout believer in the Lord. ***4*** *While Jezebel was killing off* the Lord’s prophets, Obadiah had taken a hundred prophets and hidden them in two caves, fifty in each, and had supplied them with food and water.) ***5*** *Ahab had said to Obadiah, “Go* through the land to all the springs and valleys. Maybe we can find some grass to keep the horses and mules alive so we will not have to kill any of our animals.” ***6*** *So they divided the* land they were to cover, Ahab going in one direction and Obadiah in another.

***7*** *As Obadiah was walking along, Elijah met him. Obadiah recognized him, bowed down to* the ground, and said, “Is it really you, my lord Elijah?”

***8*** *“Yes,” he replied. “Go tell your master, ‘Elijah is here.’”*

***9*** *“What have I done wrong,” asked Obadiah, “that you are handing your servant over to* Ahab to be put to death? ***10*** *As surely as the Lord your God lives, there is not a nation or* kingdom where my master has not sent someone to look for you. And whenever a nation or kingdom claimed you were not there, he made them swear they could not find you. ***11*** *But now* you tell me to go to my master and say, ‘Elijah is here.’ ***12*** *I don’t know where the Spirit of* the Lord may carry you when I leave you. If I go and tell Ahab and he doesn’t find you, he will kill me. Yet I your servant have worshiped the Lord since my youth.***13*** *Haven’t you heard,* my lord, what I did while Jezebel was killing the prophets of the Lord? I hid a hundred of

*the Lord’s prophets in two caves, fifty in each, and supplied them with food and water.* ***14*** *And* now you tell me to go to my master and say, ‘Elijah is here.’ He will kill me!”

***15*** *Elijah said, “As the Lord Almighty lives, whom I serve, I will surely present myself to Ahab* today.”

## *Elijah on Mount Carmel*

***16*** *So Obadiah went to meet Ahab and told him, and Ahab went to meet Elijah.* ***17*** *When he* saw Elijah, he said to him, “Is that you, you troubler of Israel?”

***18*** *“I have not made trouble for Israel,” Elijah replied. “But you and your father’s family* have. You have abandoned the Lord’s commands and have followed the Baals. ***19*** *Now* summon the people from all over Israel to meet me on Mount Carmel. And bring the four hundred and fifty prophets of Baal and the four hundred prophets of Asherah, who eat at Jezebel’s table.”

***20*** *So Ahab sent word throughout all Israel and assembled the prophets on Mount*

*Carmel.* ***21*** *Elijah went before the people and said, “How long will you waver between two* opinions? If the Lord is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him.”

## *But the people said nothing.*

***22*** *Then Elijah said to them, “I am the only one of the Lord’s prophets left, but Baal has four* hundred and fifty prophets.***23*** *Get two bulls for us. Let Baal’s prophets choose one for* themselves, and let them cut it into pieces and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. I will prepare the other bull and put it on the wood but not set fire to it. ***24*** *Then you call on the* name of your god, and I will call on the name of the Lord. The god who answers by fire—he is God.”

*Then all the people said, “What you say is good.”*

***25*** *Elijah said to the prophets of Baal, “Choose one of the bulls and prepare it first, since*

*there are so many of you. Call on the name of your god, but do not light the fire.”* ***26*** *So they* took the bull given them and prepared it.

*Then they called on the name of Baal from morning till noon. “Baal, answer us!” they* shouted. But there was no response; no one answered. And they danced around the altar they had made.

***27*** *At noon Elijah began to taunt them. “Shout louder!” he said. “Surely he is a god! Perhaps* he is deep in thought, or busy, or traveling. Maybe he is sleeping and must be

*awakened.”* ***28*** *So they shouted louder and slashed themselves with swords and spears, as was* their custom, until their blood flowed. ***29*** *Midday passed, and they continued their frantic* prophesying until the time for the evening sacrifice. But there was no response, no one answered, no one paid attention.

***30*** *Then Elijah said to all the people, “Come here to me.” They came to him, and he repaired* the altar of the Lord, which had been torn down. ***31*** *Elijah took twelve stones, one for each of* the tribes descended from Jacob, to whom the word of the Lord had come, saying, “Your name shall be Israel.” ***32*** *With the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord, and he dug* a trench around it large enough to hold two seahs[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%2BKings%2B18%3A1-19%3A7%3B%2B21%3A1-25&version=NIV&fen-NIV-9374a)] of seed.***33*** *He arranged the wood, cut the* bull into pieces and laid it on the wood. Then he said to them, “Fill four large jars with water and pour it on the offering and on the wood.”

***34*** *“Do it again,” he said, and they did it again.*

*“Do it a third time,” he ordered, and they did it the third time.****35*** *The water ran down around* the altar and even filled the trench.

***36*** *At the time of sacrifice, the prophet Elijah stepped forward and prayed: “Lord, the God of* Abraham, Isaac and Israel, let it be known today that you are God in Israel and that I am your servant and have done all these things at your command.***37*** *Answer me, Lord, answer*

*me, so these people will know that you, Lord, are God, and that you are turning their hearts* back again.”

***38*** *Then the fire of the Lord fell and burned up the sacrifice, the wood, the stones and the soil,* and also licked up the water in the trench.

***39*** *When all the people saw this, they fell prostrate and cried, “The Lord—he is God!* The Lord—he is God!”

***40*** *Then Elijah commanded them, “Seize the prophets of Baal. Don’t let anyone get away!”* They seized them, and Elijah had them brought down to the Kishon Valley and slaughtered there.

***41*** *And Elijah said to Ahab, “Go, eat and drink, for there is the sound of a heavy rain.”* ***42*** *So* Ahab went off to eat and drink, but Elijah climbed to the top of Carmel, bent down to the ground and put his face between his knees.

***43*** *“Go and look toward the sea,” he told his servant. And he went up and looked.* “There is nothing there,” he said.

*Seven times Elijah said, “Go back.”*

***44*** *The seventh time the servant reported, “A cloud as small as a man’s hand is rising from* the sea.”

*So Elijah said, “Go and tell Ahab, ‘Hitch up your chariot and go down before the rain stops* you.’”

***45*** *Meanwhile, the sky grew black with clouds, the wind rose, a heavy rain started falling and* Ahab rode off to Jezreel. ***46*** *The power of the Lord came on Elijah and, tucking his cloak into* his belt, he ran ahead of Ahab all the way to Jezreel.

## *Elijah Flees to Horeb*

***19*** *Now Ahab told Jezebel everything Elijah had done and how he had killed all the prophets* with the sword. ***2*** *So Jezebel sent a messenger to Elijah to say, “May the gods deal with me,* be it ever so severely, if by this time tomorrow I do not make your life like that of one of

*them.”*

***3*** *Elijah was afraid*[*[b*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%2BKings%2B18%3A1-19%3A7%3B%2B21%3A1-25&version=NIV&fen-NIV-9391b)*] and ran for his life. When he came to Beersheba in Judah, he left his* servant there, ***4*** *while he himself went a day’s journey into the wilderness. He came to a* broom bush, sat down under it and prayed that he might die. “I have had enough, Lord,” he said. “Take my life; I am no better than my ancestors.” ***5*** *Then he lay down under the bush* and fell asleep.

*All at once an angel touched him and said, “Get up and eat.”****6*** *He looked around, and there* by his head was some bread baked over hot coals, and a jar of water. He ate and drank and then lay down again.

***7*** *The angel of the Lord came back a second time and touched him and said, “Get up and eat,* for the journey is too much for you.”

***21*** *Some time later there was an incident involving a vineyard belonging to Naboth the* Jezreelite. The vineyard was in Jezreel, close to the palace of Ahab king of Samaria. ***2*** *Ahab* said to Naboth, “Let me have your vineyard to use for a vegetable garden, since it is close to my palace. In exchange I will give you a better vineyard or, if you prefer, I will pay you whatever it is worth.”

***3*** *But Naboth replied, “The Lord forbid that I should give you the inheritance of my* ancestors.”

***4*** *So Ahab went home, sullen and angry because Naboth the Jezreelite had said, “I will not* give you the inheritance of my ancestors.” He lay on his bed sulking and refused to eat.

***5*** *His wife Jezebel came in and asked him, “Why are you so sullen? Why won’t you eat?”*

***6*** *He answered her, “Because I said to Naboth the Jezreelite, ‘Sell me your vineyard; or if* you prefer, I will give you another vineyard in its place.’ But he said, ‘I will not give you my vineyard.’”

***7*** *Jezebel his wife said, “Is this how you act as king over Israel? Get up and eat! Cheer up.* I’ll get you the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite.”

***8*** *So she wrote letters in Ahab’s name, placed his seal on them, and sent them to the elders* and nobles who lived in Naboth’s city with him. ***9*** *In those letters she wrote:*

*“Proclaim a day of fasting and seat Naboth in a prominent place among the people.* ***10*** *But* seat two scoundrels opposite him and have them bring charges that he has cursed both God and the king. Then take him out and stone him to death.”

***11*** *So the elders and nobles who lived in Naboth’s city did as Jezebel directed in the letters* she had written to them. ***12*** *They proclaimed a fast and seated Naboth in a prominent place* among the people. ***13*** *Then two scoundrels came and sat opposite him and brought charges* against Naboth before the people, saying, “Naboth has cursed both God and the king.” So they took him outside the city and stoned him to death. ***14*** *Then they sent word to Jezebel:* “Naboth has been stoned to death.”

***15*** *As soon as Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned to death, she said to Ahab, “Get up* and take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite that he refused to sell you. He is no longer alive, but dead.” ***16*** *When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he got up and went* down to take possession of Naboth’s vineyard.

***17*** *Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite:* ***18*** *“Go down to meet Ahab king of* Israel, who rules in Samaria. He is now in Naboth’s vineyard, where he has gone to take possession of it. ***19*** *Say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: Have you not murdered a man and* seized his property?’ Then say to him, ‘This is what the Lord says: In the place where dogs

*licked up Naboth’s blood, dogs will lick up your blood—yes, yours!’”*

***20*** *Ahab said to Elijah, “So you have found me, my enemy!”*

*“I have found you,” he answered, “because you have sold yourself to do evil in the eyes of* the Lord. ***21*** *He says, ‘I am going to bring disaster on you. I will wipe out your descendants* and cut off from Ahab every last male in Israel—slave or free.[[a](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%2BKings%2B18%3A1-19%3A7%3B%2B21%3A1-25&version=NIV&fen-NIV-9473a)]***22*** *I will make your house like* that of Jeroboam son of Nebat and that of Baasha son of Ahijah, because you have aroused my anger and have caused Israel to sin.’

***23*** *“And also concerning Jezebel the Lord says: ‘Dogs will devour Jezebel by the wall* of[[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=1%2BKings%2B18%3A1-19%3A7%3B%2B21%3A1-25&version=NIV&fen-NIV-9475b)] Jezreel.’

***24*** *“Dogs will eat those belonging to Ahab who die in the city, and the birds will feed on those* who die in the country.”

***25*** *(There was never anyone like Ahab, who sold himself to do evil in the eyes of the Lord,* urged on by Jezebel his wife.

1. After Elijah’s successful showdown on Mt. Carmel, why was he suddenly afraid?
2. What might tempt you to give up in your service to God and abandon your ministry?
3. Read 19:1-2, 21:7-8, and 21:15 and write down some words or phrases that describe Jezebel’s personality and character.
4. Do you identify with any of Jezebel’s traits? Explain
5. Read 19:1-2, 21:4-15. Pretend you are a maid in the palace, and write, in first person, as if in a secret diary, your observations and feelings about Queen Jezebel and her relationship with her husband, King Ahab.
6. Have you ever known a powerful, manipulative woman like Jezebel? How did she influence your thinking and your life? (Please don’t give any names, and please remember that anything of a personal nature that’s shared in your small group, is to be kept confidential and not repeated outside of your group.)
7. What does Ahab’s reaction to Naboth’s refusal to trade/sell his vineyard tell you about Ahab?
8. What does Jezebel’s solution tell you about her and her relationship with Ahab? Is she helping or hurting him in the long run? Explain.
9. What have you learned not to do from Jezebel?
10. Journal this passage “SOAP style” as explained in the introduction of this workbook.