

September 2011

# THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

## The Upside Down School of Life

School's back in session, and students everywhere will press their noses into text books, listen (and hopefully not nap) to long lectures, and bemoan multiple-choice tests...all in pursuit of a good grade.

Of course, "A" is the best, and "C"...well, just average.

In Jesus' day it wasn't much different. In early adolescence the boys who were the "A" students would take an "entrance exam" to qualify to study with the rabbi. A large part of this consisted of repeating whole books of the Torah from memory! Those who did not pass returned to the trades of their fathers. Like fishing.

This was the accepted academic format—only the best and brightest were chosen to be disciples of the rabbi. But then Jesus went fishing with a bunch of "C" students, and the whole system was turned upside down!

Jesus was not impressed with intellectual gifts of knowledge. He was the first rabbi to do three things differently: First, *he went out* to find his followers instead of waiting for them to come to him. Second, *he showed them* instead of testing them. Who he was and what God could do. Third, *he chose them*, not based on their intellect, but on their hearts.

Jesus purposely chose those who had *failed* to meet the expectations of men to be his disciples. Simon Peter had a "C" on the report card of his life and admitted to an entire night of fishing without snagging one fish, yet Jesus knew he was destined to become "a fisher of people."

Yes, "C" may mean average to you and me but never to Jesus. He didn't pick the Ph.D.'s of his time to join his school of discipleship then, and he's still not impressed by how many Bible verses we can recite from memory now. He only asks three things of us: for us to let him into our boats when he shows up, to believe in the truth he reveals, and to follow where he leads. That's how we get an "A," like Simon Peter, in Jesus' upside down school of life.

LifeSpring  
Women



### THE WORD

**"Jesus replied to Simon, 'Don't be afraid! From now on you'll be fishing for people!' And as soon as they landed, they left everything and followed Jesus."**

—Luke 5:10-11

### THINK ABOUT IT

**How would you grade yourself on these?**

1. Letting Jesus into the boat of your life.
2. Believing in the truth he reveals.
3. Listening and following where he leads.

How can you improve this month?

## What Did She Say?

*“Did you hear that great speaker last week? What did she say?”*

How much could you tell your friend about what you heard? Chances are, not much. That’s because no matter how great the speaker is, our brains leak like a sieve when it comes to listening and learning. Here are the dismal statistics:

- Within 20 minutes, we forget 40%.
- After half a day, we’ve forgotten 60%.
- 90% of what we heard is lost after a week.

The good news is, an Indiana University study found there are better methods of learning than just listening to a speaker. They found that after a month, students remembered:

- 10% of what they heard
- 15% of what they saw
- 40% of what they discussed
- 80% of what they did
- 90% of what they taught.

Want to learn more about God? Faith? Scripture? The message in the numbers is clear: *Listen less, do more!*

## Learn By Doing: A Bible Study to Remember

Romans 8:38-39 says that nothing can separate you from God’s love. Read the whole Scripture passage, and then do the following activity alone or in a group to *learn it*. Journal or discuss your answers to the questions.

1. Take a whole strawberry, and cut it in half from top to bottom.
  - What shape do you see on the inside?
  - How can a wounded heart hinder you from receiving God’s love?
2. Put the two halves of the strawberry back together using toothpicks, so the toothpicks form a cross in the middle of the strawberry. Read Romans 8:38-39 again.
  - How is the strawberry like your own heart?
  - How does God want to love you and heal your heart today?

Enjoy the strawberry, and remember God’s amazing and sweet love for you!



## Do We Achieve What We Believe?

*“I just don’t think I’m smart enough...or good enough.”*

Is it possible for these types of negative beliefs to hinder what we can achieve? Psychologists think they can. In one study, two groups of equally smart students were asked to answer difficult questions from the game Trivial Pursuit. Before the test, one group was instructed to think about and write down what it would mean to be a college professor. The other group was asked to sit and think about soccer “hooligans.”

What happened? The “professor” group got over 55% of the questions right; the “soccer” group only 42%. More extreme versions of this test have also demonstrated that people who are primed to think negative thoughts about themselves before an activity perform at significantly lower levels compared to those who are not. And those who think positive thoughts do much better!

Is this knowledge that what we believe influences what we achieve new? Not to God! The next time you face a tough challenge, take your own test. Think about Jesus’ words from John 14:12 first: “I tell you the truth, anyone who believes in me will do the same works I have done, and even greater works...” Try believing first, then be amazed at what you achieve!

# Media Morsels

## Internet Resource Review

### Internet Café Devotions



Need a cup of delicious morning inspiration to start your day?

Go online and get in line with God's encouragement for your day by filling your cup with daily inspiration at the counter of Internet Café Devotions. At this friendly cyber café, the counter baristas serve up daily devotions seasoned with insight, humor, reflection, and caffeine-jolting wisdom from God's Word.

It's your daily cup of inspiration, poured for you by women just like you—women who seek to discover a deeper relationship with Jesus through their experience and sharing of God's Word.

So come on in! Pull up a chair, and hold up your empty cup. Read, listen, learn, and share your comments. The inspiration is flowing, and the baristas are eager to meet you at internetcafedevoations.com.

## What's NEW?

### Fall Bible Studies Begin



**Here and Now...There and Then** by **Beth Moore** is an 11-session lecture series on the book of Revelation. Beth presents many points of view, allowing women to decide for themselves when the interpretation varies among scholars. She teaches that God is as specific about what He does reveal as He is about what He does not reveal.

There are 4 different options to choose from to attend this study and we hope one of them will fit your schedule. Contact Linda Kalmes (970) 493-0381 for more information. Studies will begin after Labor Day.



*Women's Prayer Group.* Everyone is welcome. We meet on the 2nd & 4th Mondays of the month beginning in Sept. We'll gather in the prayer room at LifeSpring at 3:00 p.m. Contact Joan Antonelli (970) 290-9573 for more information.



*Girl Time* is a new element of women's ministry. They will be very small social gatherings of like-minded gals, with the sole purpose of personal friendship, fun, and encouragement. Keep your eyes open for more information about Girl Time groups. Questions? Contact Brenda Rundback at cell: (970) 215-4997 or email: [brundback@shadowplayfilms.com](mailto:brundback@shadowplayfilms.com).

# September

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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	<b>Labor Day</b>					<b>Beth Moore Living Proof Simulcast Call: (303) 652-6844</b>
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
<b>Women's Bible Study 8:45a</b>  <b>Grandparent's Day of Prayer</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study 9a</b> <b>Sew Together 11a-3p</b> <b>Women's Prayer Group 3p.m in the prayer room</b>		<b>Widows luncheon 12p</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study 9:15a</b>	<b>Women's Retreat in Estes Park</b>	<b>Women's Retreat in Estes Park</b>
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
<b>Women's Bible Study 8:45a</b>  <b>Bookclub 12:30p</b>  <b>Women's Retreat in Estes Park</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study 9a</b>			<b>Women's Bible Study 9:15a</b>  <b>Women's Bible Study 7p</b>		
25	26	27	28	29	30	OCT. 1
<b>Women's Bible Study 8:45a</b>	<b>Women's Bible Study 9a</b>  <b>Women's Prayer Group 3p.m in the prayer room</b>			<b>Women's Bible Study 9:15a</b>  <b>Women's Bible Study 7p</b>	<b>Paper Craft Bible Study 4p</b>  <b>Women of Faith Conf. Pepsi Center</b>	<b>Women of Faith Conf. Pepsi Center</b>

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