

The Power of Your Testimony

“Movements of God fly on the wings of testimonies—and your testimony is the life you live as a child of God in front of a lost and hurting world.”


(Cultivating Holy Beauty, Book 2: Letting the Healer Heal, Lesson 9, page 160;
by Jessica Sky North)

Did you know?...
There is POWER in your testimony!

Philemon verse 6 NKJV

“that the sharing of your faith may become effective by the acknowledgment of every good thing which is in you in Christ Jesus.”

List below the first things that come to mind when asked about every good thing about you or any good thing in your life:



Ministry of Reconciliation

Tuesday, Dec. 14th, 2021

“And God has made all things new, and reconciled us to Himself, and given us the ministry of reconciling others to God. In other words, it was through the Anointed One that God was shepherding the world, not even keeping records of their transgressions, and He has entrusted to us the ministry of opening the door of reconciliation to God. We are ambassadors of the Anointed One who carry the message of Christ to the world, as though God were tenderly pleading with them directly through our lips. So we tenderly plead with you on Christ’s behalf, “Turn back to God and be reconciled to Him.” For God made the only one who did not know sin to become sin for us, so that we might become the righteousness of God through our union with Him.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-21 TPT

We have the ministry of reconciliation.

Reconcile-restore, make (one account) consistent with another, especially by allowing for transactions begun but not yet completed → foolish virgins

when we disciple another person we are opening the door to reconciliation with God

Christians that are not hearing / seeing. Still on milk.

- Who in my life needs the door opened for them?
- Do I pray for them?
- Am I willing to put in the time to disciple them?

The role of ambassador should not be taken lightly or a non-priority.

Isaiah 64:6 NIV

“All of us have become like one who is unclean and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags; we all shrivel up like a leaf, and like the wind our sins sweep us away.”

Romans 3:23-24 KJV

“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;
Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ
Jesus.”

Romans 3:10 NKJV

“There is none righteous, no, not one”

My Weakness Reflects His Strength

We share our filthy rags, pitfalls, sins, and struggles to create a mirror that reflects God's perfect strength so that others can see Him!

2 Corinthians 12:9 NKJV

My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness.

Is there a weakness in my life where God's strength could be reflected better by acknowledging it to others?

Psalm 16:2 NKJV

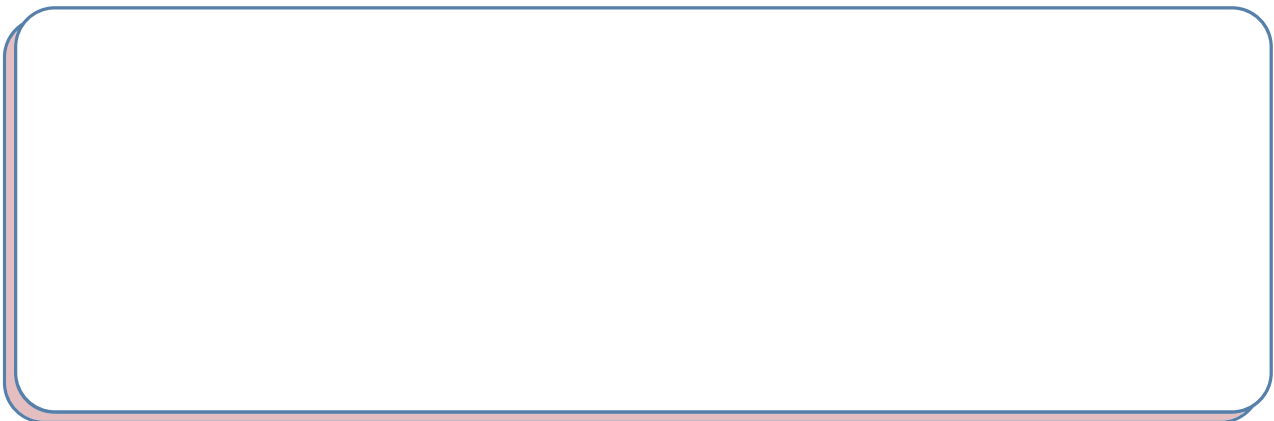
“You are my LORD, My goodness is nothing apart from You.”

Romans 1:22-23 NKJV

“Professing to be wise, they became fools and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man...”

Change—cause one thing to cease and another to take its place
Glory—the opinion, judgment, or view.

Is there something in your life where you choose to remain righteous in someone else's eyes by not sharing your testimony? Ask the Lord to help you...



Paul Shares His Testimony

Acts 26 Paul shares the gripping retelling of his early life and his conversion to King Agrippa.

He shares:

1. His life before Jesus.
2. The story of his conversion.
3. His current life of how he lives now.

Its noteworthy to see how Paul remained factual and not dramatic, nor did he underplay his actions.

Saved By GRACE!

Ephesians 2:1-9 CEB

At one time you were like a dead person because of the things you did wrong and your offenses against God. You used to live like people of this world. You followed the rule of a destructive spiritual power. This is the spirit of disobedience to God's will that is now at work in people whose lives are characterized by disobedience. At one time, you were like those people. All of you used to do whatever felt good and whatever you thought you wanted so that you were children headed for punishment just like everyone else.

However, God is rich in mercy. He brought us to life with Christ while we were dead as a result of those things that we did wrong. He did this because of the great love that He has for us. You are saved by God's grace! And God raised us up and seated us in the heavens with Christ Jesus.

**God did this to show future generations
the greatness of His grace by the goodness
that God has shown us in Christ Jesus.**

You are saved by God's grace because of your faith. This salvation is God's gift.

It's not something you possessed.

It's not something you did that you can be proud of.

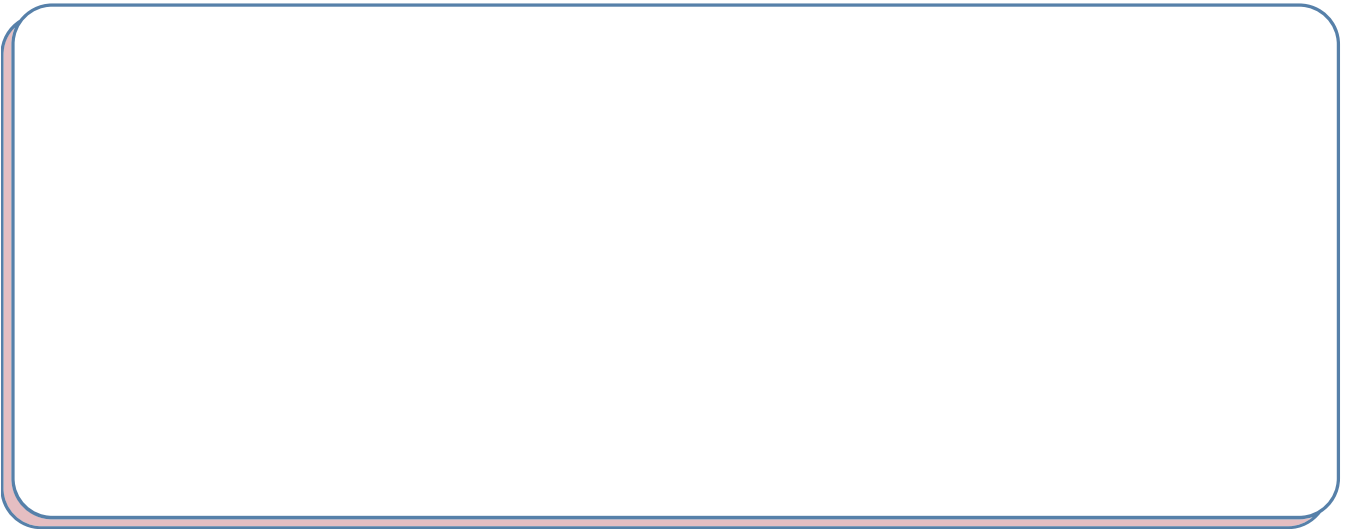
Instead, we are God's accomplishment, created in Christ Jesus to do good things.

God planned for these good things to be the way that we live our lives.

Job 40:8 NKJV

“Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?”


What things or ways am I holding back,
exchanging my own righteousness in place of
His Glory?



Revelation 12:11 NKJV

“And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death.”

What is holding me back from sharing my
testimony with others? Isn't it worth it knowing it's
a weapon against the enemy?





The Quiet Time Worksheet

DATE: 9/12/2022

SCRIPTURE I READ:

Nahum 3:12

KEY POINT:

My hang-ups are nowishment to the enemy.

FAVORITE VERSE:

"All your strongholds are fig trees with ripened figs; If they are shaken, They fall into the mouth of the eater."

REWRITE THE VERSE:

In your own words and without changing the meaning

When I hold on to my past sins they are vulnerable and be used to give the enemy strength.

APPLICATION & PRAYER

HOW might this verse change the way you live? WHY does practicing this truth in your daily walk with God matter? Write a PRAYER to the Lord sharing what you learned and what the verse means to you.

Father thank you that you are the only stronghold I need. Forgive me for holding on to the things you have forgiven. Help me Lord to share my past struggles and your saving grace with others.
In Jesus Name, AMEN

EMPHASIZE:

Focus on different words to better understand their context and meaning.

Eater - the enemy

Stronghold - mibsar
= a fortified city (man-made)

ASK QUESTIONS:

IS THERE...

A PROMISE TO CLAIM?

If I don't live in the freedom of my forgiveness it will fuel the enemy.

A SIN TO AVOID?

Holding on to forgiven sin.
Holding on to sin.

A COMMAND TO OBEY?

SOMETHING NEW YOU LEARNED ABOUT GOD?

Your Living Testimony

Luke 1:37 NIV84

“For nothing is impossible with God.”

Philippians 4:13 NLT

“For I can do everything through Christ, who gives me strength.”

Pray First:

Before beginning to put your testimony out on paper take time to pray and ask the Father for His guidance, help and strength.

Father God, thank you for your sovereign Grace. Thank you for loving me and forgiving me of my sins. Forgive me, Lord, for holding on to past sins. Forgive me for any time I've ignored the prompting of the Holy Spirit to share the story of how YOU saved me! Help me to be sensitive to the Holy Spirit, knowing when and what to share. Lord, as I put down on paper this testimony, this collection of challenges and triumphs, I ask that you give me the courage to boldly share the Good News with others. I know it's not just unbelievers that need to hear my story but believers as well.

In Jesus Name, Amen.

Your Prayer

Details about your early life:

List any demographics or details about your early life that may have made you more susceptible to a challenging life.

Philippians 1:6 NIV

“being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Nothing is ever wasted with God; who you were born to, where you were born, and when you were born were not accidents or unplanned.

Psalms 139: 13-17 NIV

“For you created my inmost being;
you knit me together in my mother’s womb.
I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made;
your works are wonderful,
I know that full well.
My frame was not hidden from you
when I was made in the secret place,
when I was woven together in the depths of the earth.
Your eyes saw my unformed body;
all the days ordained for me were written in your book
before one of them came to be.
How precious to me are your thoughts, God!
How vast is the sum of them!”

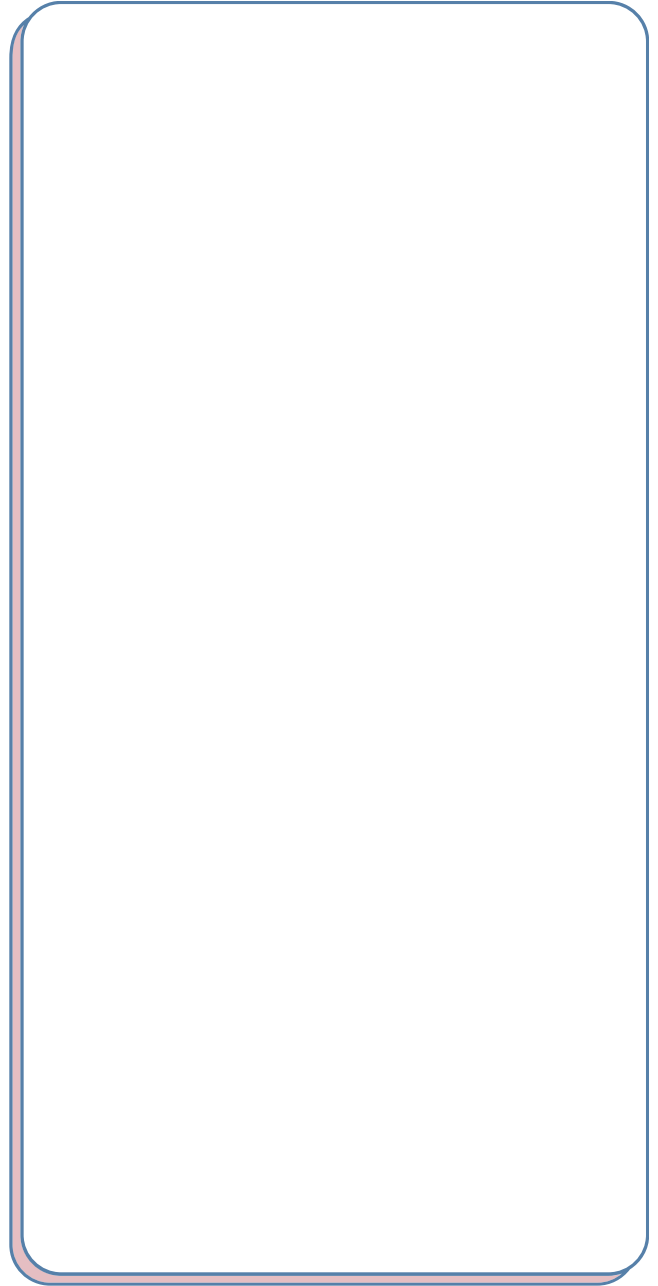
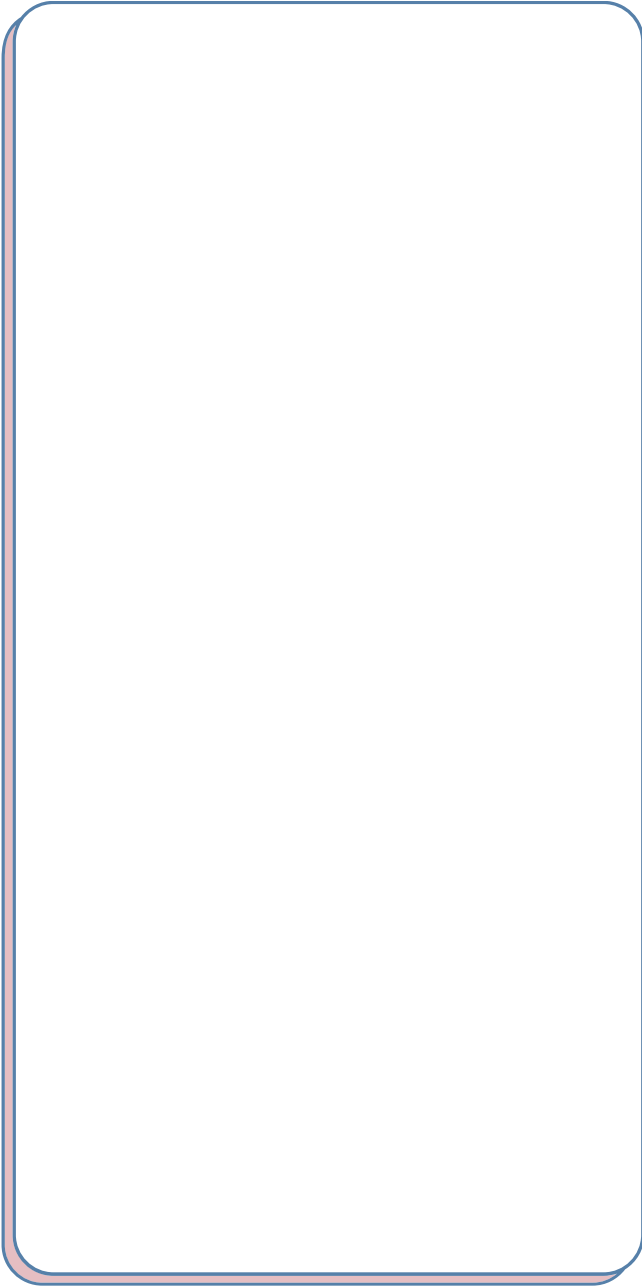
Connecting Challenges and Triumphs

Jeremiah 29:11 NIV

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”

Challenges

Triumphs



Now draw lines between boxes connecting your challenges (hardships, etc.) with areas of triumph (blessings) in your life.

- Example: Challenge—raised by a single mother; Triumph—you lead a Bible study for single mothers



Participant's Guide

LESSON 9

Your Living Testimony

MEMORY VERSES

1 Peter 3:15-17 (Write your memory verse in the space below.)

QUIET TIME VERSES

1 Peter 3:15-17; Philippians 1:27-30; Revelation 12:10-11; Isaiah 55:10-13; Psalm 107:1-9; Ephesians 4:1-4; Galatians 6:1-6

Complete Lesson 9 and try to have four to seven Quiet Times before your next meeting. The verses provided above are for additional Quiet Times after you have completed this lesson. To ensure you are using the verse in the correct context, be sure to read several verses before and after the suggested Quiet Time passage(s).

KEY POINT

Movements of God fly on the wings of testimonies—and your testimony is the life you live as a child of God in front of a lost and hurting world.

WHY THIS MATTERS

The story of your redemption through Jesus Christ is just a story if you don't live in a way that proves your faith. Living out your testimony in front of others will open doors for you to share your journey with God and bring hope to the lost and hurting.

HOW TO APPLY

The more vulnerable you are with others—the more readily they will see Jesus in you. The fruit of your faith will speak for itself.

**HERE'S WHAT I DO KNOW: I WAS BLIND AND NOW I SEE.
—JOHN 9:25 NIV**

What Is a Testimony?

The word “testimony” means “evidence given” or “proof.” The story of your redemption through Jesus Christ is just a story if you don’t live in a way that proves your faith. Your testimony does not end when you receive salvation. On the contrary, it just begins!

While Evelyn has a powerful story with a lot of intense elements, it wasn’t her story that caught the older woman’s attention. It was the way Evelyn chose to live in hope and freedom that made the woman take notice and desire what Evelyn knew in her heart.

**MOVEMENTS
OF GOD FLY ON
THE WINGS OF
TESTIMONIES.**

It truly does not matter how amazing your story is if you don’t live a repentant and forgiven life, bearing the fruit of the Spirit. Evelyn feared she would face persecution and judgment from others for being so transparent about the choices she made in the past, but the truth is, **it was through the ugly parts of her story that God received the most glory!** When Evelyn spoke of these things freely in front of the other women with confidence in what her heavenly Father had done for her, there was no denying that she had truly received the gift of God’s forgiveness. The more transparent Evelyn was with her story, the more other women were able to relate to her.

**IT IS MY PLEASURE TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE MIRACULOUS
SIGNS AND WONDERS THAT THE MOST HIGH
GOD HAS PERFORMED FOR ME.
—DANIEL 4:2 NIV84**

As with Paul in the Book of Acts, your testimony doesn’t just tell of where you have been. It was clear to everyone the type of wretch Paul was before his conversion. But it wasn’t just the miraculous story of how Jesus spoke to him on the road to Damascus that made everyone take notice of Paul’s new identity. It was

the abrupt change in his behavior and the choices he made—his obvious heart change toward Christians.

In John 10:37-38, Jesus said, “Do not believe Me unless I do the works of my Father. But if I do them, even though you do not believe Me, believe the works, that you may know and understand that the Father is in Me, and I in the Father.” This illustrates clearly that it is not just your “story” that makes up your testimony. How you live day-to-day in the present—your thoughts, words, and actions—all testify that God is in you, that He is good! Jesus is your salvation, and what proves you genuinely believe that is the way you live your life from then on!

The evidence of holy fruit in your life completes your testimony as God gives you the privilege to live and show it daily. Paul reiterates this in Ephesians 4:1 when he says, “I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received.” It’s your life of holy beauty that speaks of God’s goodness and captivates those around you, giving you opportunity to share your story!

**BUT IN YOUR HEARTS REVERE CHRIST AS LORD. ALWAYS
BE PREPARED TO GIVE AN ANSWER TO EVERYONE WHO ASKS
YOU TO GIVE THE REASON FOR THE HOPE THAT YOU HAVE.
—1 PETER 3:15 NIV**

One of my favorite testimonials in Scripture is that of the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:1-42). The woman came to draw her water in the heat of the day when everyone else had gone. It appeared she would rather go in the hottest, sweatiest part of the day than have to be in the presence of the townspeople. However, when Jesus came along, there was no hierarchy between the Samaritan woman and Himself. The woman was shocked that a Jewish man would even ask her for a drink of water, which speaks of her own view of her worth.


When Jesus told her everything she had ever done, the woman was convicted and believed in who He was. This was when He began to restore her identity. He tore away even the label that demeaned her race when He explained that her worship was enough for Him! The kind of worship the Father was seeking could not be found on a mountain top or in a hierarchy of race or religion. The Father desired a heart bowed low in reverential prayer—it was a matter of the heart—a balance of spirit and truth (John 4:23-24)!

The woman took off into town to tell the townspeople about the man who had convicted her. Jesus had restored her value and worth. We know this first because she felt confident enough to go and share her testimony with the townspeople, and second because they listened!

The whole town listened to her testimony and revival broke out in Samaria!
In one conversation, Jesus stripped this woman of anything that devalued her and gave back what the enemy had stolen—her identity. And as if that wasn't enough, revival broke out, and many people were saved!

**THEY OVERCAME BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB
AND THE WORD OF THEIR TESTIMONY.
—REVELATION 12:11 KJV**

 Is your life proving your faith in Jesus?

 What might the consequences be if you share your testimony without living in the commandments of God?

 Consider your testimony. What parts of your story will be the hardest to share?

Remember the more transparent you are with your failures and pain, the easier it will be for people you are sharing with to relate to you. Jesus is a master at loving imperfect people. As Christians, the more we can be vulnerable with our struggles, yet walk in the fruit of the Spirit, the more we will captivate those around us for the kingdom. These key points will be what you build your story around.

Your testimony may come out a little different each time you share it. It has been my experience that depending on who I am talking with, the Holy Spirit will specifically highlight certain parts the person needs to hear.

DO NOT BE AFRAID; KEEP ON SPEAKING, DO NOT BE SILENT.

**FOR I AM WITH YOU, AND NO ONE IS GOING TO ATTACK OR
HARM YOU, BECAUSE I HAVE MANY PEOPLE IN THIS CITY.**

—ACTS 18:9-10 NIV84



Besides the fact that the Bible tells us to be ready to give an explanation for the hope we have, why would you want someone to hear your story? What might someone gain?



What would you recommend as the next step for someone after they prayed to receive salvation?



Review

1. Living out your testimony in front of others will open doors for you to share your journey with God and bring hope to the lost and hurting.
2. The more transparent you are about your struggles, the greater impact you will have on those listening.
3. Your testimony may come out a little different each time you share it. Trust the Holy Spirit to reveal the parts of your story the person you are speaking with needs to hear.



Main Take-Away

What was your main take-away from this lesson?



Before Your Next Meeting

1. Come prepared having finished Lesson 1 of Book 3, “Walking in the New”. Try to have a Quiet Time at least four times this week using the verses listed for Lesson 1 of “Walking In the New.”
2. Memorize **2 Corinthians 5:17** this week.
3. Be sure the leader assigned the group members with the lessons they are to lead in Book 3, “Walking In the New.”
4. Before each group member leads their assigned lessons, you must read, “You Were Made for This! Participant Leader Notes” on page viii-ix of Book 3, “Walking in the New” followed by “Are You the Group Leader?”, “Guidelines for a Successful Group,” “Addressing Hard Topics,” and “I Want Jesus!”
5. Read “It’s Time to Lead!” on 176.

The unthinkable.....

Is there a part of my testimony that feels impossible to share....impossible to even write out on paper?

You can do this with His strength.

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Philippians 4:13 NKJV

Thank You!

Dear Fellow Homeschool Mom,

Thank you for coming today. You are doing a great job, and you are making a difference for your children and your children's children! I'm praying for your journey with God and homeschooling. Please don't hesitate to reach out with questions or prayer requests.

*Under His Wings,
Misty*

mbrown@cultivatinghollybeauty.com

**COME SEE US
AT BOOTH**



Website



The Quiet Time Worksheet

DATE: / /
SCRIPTURE I READ:

KEY POINT:

FAVORITE VERSE:

REWRITE THE VERSE:

In your own words and without changing the meaning

APPLICATION & PRAYER

HOW might this verse change the way you live? WHY does practicing this truth in your daily walk with God matter? Write a PRAYER to the Lord sharing what you learned and what the verse means to you.

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