

LadyLike: Living Biblically

You will see that the questions this study poses do not offer the answers. They are designed so that you land in the right zone without being pushed there. There are plenty of wrong answers that the devil, the world, and your flesh would put forward, but there are also a lot of right answers, depending upon your station and situation. Move forward with a firmer eye on Scripture than any other word out there, and you'll be set!

Each week a number of questions will be posted online in this format along with the readings for the week. Since this book is written as short essays, you will be reading or referring to some essays multiple times throughout this study. You may participate in online discussions if you would like on the Immanuel Women's Ministry Facebook Group. You can also email me your questions or thoughts at pmiller@immanuelseymour.com. Blessings on your study.

Week Two

Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, You have wonderfully made each one of us to be your dear children. Thank you for the unique and wonderful gifts you have given us as women. Help us to use these gifts in service to those in our homes, our workplaces, and in our communities. Strengthen us by the power of your Holy Spirit. May the study and reading of Your Word, as well as this reading of *Lady Like*, strengthen and encourage us to live our lives as Christian women. Guide us and give us wisdom and faith as to serve you in the various ways you have called us to, and to love those who you have given to us. In Jesus' Name we pray. Amen.

Reading and Questions:

Reading: See the essays on pages 18, 27, 34, 38, 43, 50, 56, 61, 66, 128, 134, 138, 146, 152, 171, 186, and 211.

Questions:

Dr. Anthony Esolen says in his book *Out of the Ashes* that the industrial revolution took fathers out of the house and the sexual revolution took mothers out of the house. A house in which the inhabitants spend only a few of their waking hours together might have trouble feeling homey.

—How does our current social structure, born out of historical movements we didn't necessarily observe in action, keep family members away from one another?

—What are some of the problems with this?

—How might Christians examine this current norm more carefully and handle the damage done by it, even if they are stuck with it?

Reading: See the essays on pages 18, 21, 27, 38, 43, 44, 50, 56, 61, 85, 121, 128, 134, and 138

Questions:

Most people think of feminism as having done some good things and some bad things.

Feminism has certainly gotten its way on many subjects, including the way the past is characterized. The feminist perspective says that before the women's rights movements, women had unhappy lives of inescapable oppression.

—Can you think of some examples suggesting that the feminist version of "how women used to feel" isn't strictly accurate?

- How are we blind to the effects of feminism in our lives?
- How can we be careful recipients of the feminist version of history?

Reading: See the essays on pages 18, 21, 27, 38, 43, 44, 56, 61, 66, 72, 121, 128, 134, 138, 146, and 152.

Questions: “Anything you can do, I can do better!” Girl power is all about showing that women can do everything men can do.

- Why is it important for women that they not be expected to be interchangeable with men?
- What are some areas of life where women are expected or instructed to behave like men?
- How does the “girl power” approach to understanding life align with the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22–23) or Scripture’s description of love in 1 Corinthians 13?

Reading: See the essays on pages 18, 21, 27, 38, 44, 56, 61, 80, 89, 95, 100, 111, 121, and 134

Questions: We often describe having children and having a job as “having it all.”

- What influences have led us to this belief?
- What does this economic model do to the cost of living, and how does that affect the freedom of people of lesser means?
- If we value paid, public work so much more than unpaid, personal work, what are we really valuing?
- Where does this definition of “having it all” leave women who don’t have children, a job, or either of those things? Other prayers to consider as you begin or end your reading and study time:
- Did husbands get left off the requirements for “having it all” by accident or on purpose?

The Lord’s Prayer:

Our Father who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name,
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven;
give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For Thine is the kingdom
and the power and the glory
forever and ever. Amen.

Luther’s Morning Prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Luther's Evening Prayer:

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that You would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

A Hymn Verse to consider. This is one of my very favorites. I love how each verse calls upon the Lord. Verse one hints that the address is towards God the Father. Verse two addresses the power of our Lord as Jesus Christ, and verse three addresses the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, who supports us. As I study more and more, I see more and more the importance of staying connected to God's Word through all seasons and through all situations in life. As we rejoice, as we grieve, as we struggle or as we celebrate, God is so very present in His Word of life. Lutheran Hymns also are such a treasure that reinforce God's promises. I think we should work very hard to learn, share and teach them. I used to sing this one when ever I would fly on an airplane. (yes, I don't like flying) It was an easy one to memorize as I held on tight, put my earplugs in and closed my eyes on take offs. I haven't flown in a while but when I do, you can bet this will be singing in my head.

You may know the tune in your head but just the words themselves are incredible to know.

655 Lord, Keep Us Steadfast in Your Word

- 1 Lord, keep us steadfast in Your Word;
Curb those who by deceit or sword
Would wrest the kingdom from Your Son
And bring to naught all He has done.
- 2 Lord Jesus Christ, Your pow'r make known,
For You are Lord of lords alone;
Defend Your holy Church that we
May sing Your praise eternally.
- 3 O Comforter of priceless worth,
Send peace and unity on earth;
Support us in our final strife
And lead us out of death to life.