



HighQuest
Women of Distinction

III *Sharing Christ Naturally*
Equipping women to walk with God for a lifetime

*His
Heart*

HighQuest

Women of Distinction

His Heart

III *Sharing Christ Naturally*

Version 2.0 (2013)
www.highquest.info

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ email _____

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Navigators is an international Christian organization. Our mission is to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ into the nations through spiritual generations of laborers living and discipling among the lost.

HighQuest is sponsored by the Church Discipleship Ministry of The Navigators.

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HighQuest: Women of Distinction is a companion series to *HighQuest: Men on a Mission*. The basic skills and issues are the same in each series but the material is designed to be gender specific.

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ISBN-13: 978-0-9823829-8-1

ISBN-10: 0-9823829-8-7

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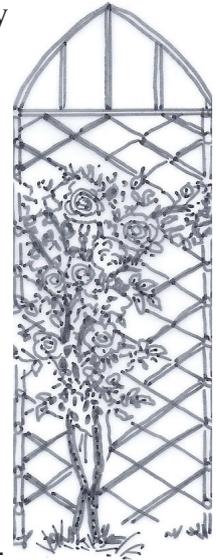
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INTRODUCTION

A garden is something very special to enjoy. The beauty and variety of shapes and colors and the fragrance captivates our senses. That is as it should be. It is part of our nature to love and appreciate the beauty God has created all around us.

But a garden does not just “happen”. It is the result of a process in which seeds are planted and watered to germinate and nurtured to grow into mature plants that bear seeds to produce future generations. This process is often used in Scripture as a metaphor to help us understand the process of coming to faith, growing to maturity, and bearing fruit.

In *His Heart* we also use this metaphor as a picture of how God loves and cares for people, nurturing them to maturity as one would care for a beloved garden. Amazingly, he uses us as “junior gardeners”: partners with the Holy Spirit in this process by sharing Christ naturally with others.



As women who have a personal relationship with Christ, we desire to tell others about him, but the idea of “sharing Christ naturally” may seem like a daunting task. We can barely even think about sharing the gospel message without experiencing a racing heart, sweaty palms, and a trembling voice. So how can we possibly learn to share Christ in a natural, unaffected, and genuine manner?

We need to begin by growing in our understanding of God’s love and our relationship with him. We know intellectually that God demonstrated that love by sending Jesus to die for our sins. But in reality God’s love is far beyond our comprehension and we must continually be reminded of it and grow in our understanding of it. God’s love for us is the foundational motivation for sharing the Good News. Paul understood this as he said it was Christ’s love that compelled him to minister to others. It was his ultimate motivation to endure and persevere (2 Corinthians 5:14-15). For us as well, the more we understand the love of God the more we will be motivated to set aside our fears and self-centered concerns and learn to see

others through the eyes of God's love.

We also need a few simple skills for sharing the Good News of the gospel in a loving, clear, and compelling manner. As we use those skills we are intentionally relying on the Holy Spirit to do the ministry. We are like junior gardeners serving as his hands and feet, but he is the One who changes the hearts of people.

As you meet with God over the next few months, consider these questions:

- How deep is my understanding of God's love for people?
- If I adopted his heart of love for others, how would my life be different?
- Am I equipped to share the gospel message in a clear and compelling manner?

As *Women of Distinction* our desire is to be distinctively like Christ. As you meet with God in the coming weeks, allow his Spirit to open your eyes and heart to see people as God sees them: with a heart of love. Expect to never be the same!

Welcome to *HighQuest: Women of Distinction: His Heart!*

SESSION ONE

LEADER'S GUIDE

Step 1 Begin by getting acquainted. Each woman should fill out her Contact Information form and Personal Profile form (pages 4-6) and then share her information with the group. Remember that the *HighQuest* series is most effective with 2-5 women. If you have more than that, we recommend dividing the group.

Step 2 Refer to the Appendix (p. 144-145) and briefly summarize the content in the *HighQuest: Women of Distinction* series. Notice that this book is Track III *His Heart*. The theme is Sharing Christ Naturally by understanding God's love for people and learning how to share the gospel in a clear and concise way.

Step 3 Read and discuss the Introduction to *His Heart* (pages 1-2).

Step 4 Read through Getting Started (pages 7-10) Do not skip this step as it provides information regarding the Broadening Our Understanding pages on Day 6 of each session.

Step 5 Review how to do Scripture memory on page 9-10 and notice the six verse cards provided in the Appendix. Also review Developing an Encouraging Group Experience on page 10.

Step 6 If women in the group have not done a unit in *HighQuest* I or II, they may need extra help using the Meeting with God pages. Refer to this material in any of the units in Tracks I and II.

Step 7 Give the following assignments for Session Two:

- a. Each woman should prepare her Spiritual Journey Timeline (page 11). Over the next few weeks, give each woman the opportunity to briefly share it.
- b. Read the introduction to Session Two and notice the "Focus Question" at the end of each introduction. The purpose of this question is not to limit your process of reflecting on the passage but to be a guide as to what to look for. Feel free to ask many additional questions as well.
- c. Complete the Meeting with God pages for the first 5 days and complete the Day 6 assignment including the Broadening Our Understanding section.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____

Name _____
Address _____

Phone _____
Email _____

PERSONAL PROFILE

Name _____

Family _____

Birth date _____ Anniversary _____

Places lived _____

Hobbies, interests, employment _____

PERSONAL PROFILE

Name _____

Family _____

Birth date _____ Anniversary _____

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Places lived _____

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PERSONAL PROFILE

Name _____

Family _____

Birth date _____ Anniversary _____

Places lived _____

Hobbies, interests, employment _____

GETTING STARTED

What is the purpose of the HighQuest:
Women of Distinction series?

Our purpose is to develop a transforming, life-long relationship with Christ. It is not simply to gain more knowledge but to deepen our relationship by spending time with Christ in his Word.

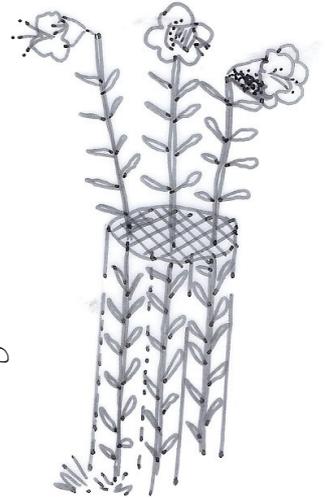
How do we develop this kind of relationship with Christ?

Our spiritual relationship with Jesus deepens as we sit at his feet and listen to what he says. Mary of Bethany did that and Jesus not only welcomed her, but he commended her for it. He also welcomes us because it pleases him when we seek to grow in our personal relationship with him.

Daily meeting with Jesus is also foundational for life-change. It is a spiritual habit that develops our trust in God and sensitivity to his leading. The better I know him (not just know about him) the more I am able to trust him.

Sitting at the feet of Jesus is also important because it teaches us to take responsibility to feed our souls the spiritual food necessary for maturity. As *Women of Distinction* we don't want to neglect our souls and remain spiritual babies who must rely on others to "spoon feed" us. Rather we want to be able to pick up a spiritual fork and knife and "feast" on the Word of God for the rest of our lives.

In *HighQuest* Track III we are also adding another significant purpose and that is to equip ourselves to share Christ naturally with others. This added focus means that we will be learning specific skills that will equip us to be a witness for Christ and mentor on a spiritual level.



How do we sit at the feet of Jesus?

As you may remember from *HighQuest* Tracks I and II, we need to first prepare our hearts by approaching the Scripture with an attitude of prayer, asking the Spirit to be our Teacher and Counselor.

Second, we need to use our minds in the process of reflection. We do this by utilizing some simple methods for sitting at the feet of Jesus. We call these simple methods spiritual disciplines, practices, or habits. These spiritual disciplines enable us to cooperate with God in the transformation process. We do what we can do so God can do what we cannot do. Cooperation with God is the key to spiritual growth because with all that God promises to do, there are still actions required of us. We have a responsibility to do our part while waiting on God for him to do his.

Daily Meeting with God is the foundational spiritual discipline for the Christian life and it is used throughout the *HighQuest Women of Distinction* series. As you recall from Tracks I and II, each day you will meet with the Lord by **READING** a specific passage to discover what it says, **REVIEWING** or summarizing what it says, **REFLECTING** what it means, and **RESPONDING** by writing a prayer expressing what you learned.

COMPLETING DAY 6 ASSIGNMENT

After doing 5 days of Meeting with God on the 6th day of the week, you will complete the Summary and Application page plus the Broadening Our Understanding section.

The summary page provides an opportunity for you to collect your thoughts regarding the topic for that session. You may find it helpful to begin by recording one key thought from each day and then write a summary statement of what you want to remember from that week.

Life-change happens in the application section in which you focus on the lesson

God has been speaking to you about during the past week. As you remember from Tracks I and II books, the acronym S.P.E.C.K. is used. Is there a/an...

Sin to avoid?

Promise to claim?

Example to follow?

Command to obey? or

Knowledge about God to believe?

Based on your reflections from the week and your answer to one of the above questions, write how you can integrate this truth into your daily life and thus be obedient to God's Word.

BROADENING OUR UNDERSTANDING

The section called Broadening Our Understanding is also included in Day 6. It gives further understanding and practical application in the area of sharing Christ naturally. The focus of this section in *His Heart* is to expand your understanding and equip you to be a more effective witness for Christ. It does include some assignments so allow enough time to complete this very important aspect of each session.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

HighQuest III has Scripture memory assignments to help you be more effective in sharing Christ naturally. Six verses are included in the Appendix for you to memorize.

There are many reasons to memorize Scripture, but its value when sharing Christ naturally is obvious. I Peter 3:15 (NIV) states, "Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have."

MEMORIZING PRINCIPLES

Look over the following suggestions for effective Scripture memory. Regardless of your natural ability to memorize, you may be able to get a verse into your short term memory in a matter of a few minutes, but it takes regular practice and review to retain it.

1. Select a good translation to memorize from:
 - NIV ----- New International Version
 - NLT ---- New Living Translation
 - NKJ ---- New King James
 - NASB--- New American Standard Bible
2. Before you start to memorize the verse, read it aloud several times.
3. In *HighQuest* III, the verses are printed (using the NIV) on business size cards in the back of the book. Use the reverse side, if you want to memorize in a different version.
4. Learn the topic, reference and the first phrase as a unit. Memorize the verse word for word.
5. Repeat #4 and add one phrase at a time until you have the entire verse. Always quote the reference before and after you quote the verse.
6. Repeat the verse out loud several times a day. The most important part of Scripture memory is REVIEW! REVIEW! REVIEW!

DEVELOPING AN ENCOURAGING GROUP EXPERIENCE

By way of review from Tracks I and II:

1. Take every opportunity to show appreciation and respect for one another.
2. Encourage everyone to participate in the discussion.
3. Try to avoid rambling and “rabbit trails”. Save them for the end of the group meeting as time permits.
4. Agree to keep information confidential to create a safe environment for sharing.
5. Everyone should attend the small group meeting as much as possible.

Your Spiritual Journey Timeline

Encouraging Events

Challenging Events

Childhood

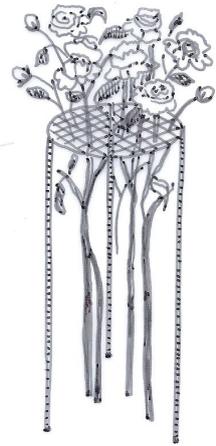
Teenage Years

Adult Years

SESSION TWO

Sharing the Heart of God

We need to embrace the heartbeat of God if we are going to partner with him in missions, evangelism, or outreach. God's heart for people is foreign to the way we think; we cannot begin to understand it without searching the biblical historical record. On the pages of Scripture, we see the boundless love of God dramatically demonstrated over and over. In contrast the Scripture also reveals how miniscule our own love is for people.



Why are men and women so valuable to God? The first answer is found in the creation of mankind. Contrary to modern thinking, we are not a speck of dust in a cosmic accident but rather the result of God's divine act of love. God uniquely made us in his own image and he intricately designed the earth to provide just the right conditions for human life. We are the crowning piece of creation and the only part God calls "very good". This is as it should be since men and women were created in the image of God with a moral, relational, and eternal nature. Although the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden defaced that image, it did not erase it. This fact gives people inherent personal nobility, worth, and dignity.

Second, people are also valuable to God because they reflect his relational nature. God is not only omnipotent (all powerful), omnipresent (everywhere present), and omniscient (all knowing); he is also essentially relational. The Trinity (Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) reflects the relational nature of God as three coexist as ONE in perfect unity. This relational quality of God is demonstrated in the relationships experienced by Adam and Eve: a perfect relationship with each other, with the creation, and with God.

The third evidence of the value God places on people is found in God's loving interaction with them throughout biblical history. This is particularly evident in the covenants (or promises) God made with people. Even in the Garden of Eden immediately after Adam and Eve chose to disobey, God gave hope by promising

a future Savior. That same promise was repeated frequently as God continually pursued reconciliation with mankind and was eventually fulfilled in Jesus Christ. Only the God of the Bible is described as “covenant making” or “promise keeping”, setting the Christian faith apart from other religions and revealing God’s great love and commitment to the humanity he created.

The ultimate evidence of God’s love for people is found in the incarnation and crucifixion of Christ. It is difficult to imagine why the Creator and Sustainer of the cosmos would take on human form: to be forever identified with those he created. But that is exactly what Jesus Christ did. John 3:16 puts it succinctly, “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.” God’s love for those he created was (and continues to be) so strong that his Son was willing to take on human form, die in our place, and offer us eternal life. That is the ultimate proof that mankind has inestimable worth and dignity in the eyes of God.

RC Sproul summarizes God’s heart for people this way: “Man’s dignity rests in God who assigned an inestimable worth to every person. Man’s origin is not an accident, but a profoundly intelligent act by One who has eternal value; by One who stamps his own image on each person. God creates men and moves heaven and earth to redeem them when they fall. Our origin is in creation and our destiny is for redemption. Between these points every human heartbeat has value.”

As *Women of Distinction*, we need to grasp God’s heart of love for people. As you meet with God this week, ask him to expand and deepen your understanding of his heart of love. Pray for a heart to see people the way God sees them, to recognize their value and dignity, and to love people the way God loves them.

Scripture Memory

Matthew 9:36 “Gods Compassion”

The verses are printed on cards in the back of the book.

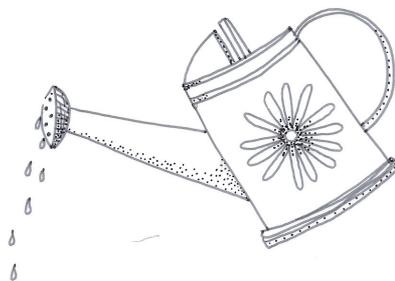
Use the instructions for memorizing found on page 10.



Focus Question: What evidence of God’s love for people do you find in the following passages and what would keep you from demonstrating that love to others?

BROADENING OUR UNDERSTANDING

In the following sessions we will use a gardening metaphor to reflect on what it means to share Christ naturally with others. Today we will consider the love a master gardener has for his garden. A woman who is a master gardener has a great passion for all kinds of plants and loves caring for them even though it is hard work. But her passion is nothing compared to the Lord who is the Master Gardener. His “spiritual garden” is made up of people from every tribe and nation. They are the crown of his creation and he loves them dearly.



Because we don't naturally love people the way he does, we need to grow in our passion for God's “spiritual garden” and overcome our selfish attitudes which block such a passion. For example, our focus is frequently on God's love for us personally: our family, our country, our nationality, and perhaps even our church. We create an understanding of God that is limited to our needs and is very self-serving making us shortsighted, complacent, and uncaring.

Another stumbling block is the misconception that only those who are pastors and full-time missionaries can effectively share the message of the gospel. Consequently, we respond with excuses such as: “I am not good enough to witness to others.” “I don't know enough.” “My contribution would be insignificant.” In reality, God's plan has always been to reach the world with the message of the gospel by starting with a few ordinary people who would multiply to become many. For example, God chose Abraham to be the father of spiritual generations beginning with his son, Isaac. The world would have discounted Abraham as an insignificant nomad with neither prestige nor a far reaching influence. Yet God used one man to father spiritual generations who would number as many as the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore.

Jesus used the same strategy when he commissioned a few ordinary people to go and make disciples who would in turn bring the gospel message to the world.

Paul's challenge to Timothy was to not only teach the gospel message but to also equip men and women to be disciples who would leave a spiritual legacy of even more disciples (2 Timothy 2:2). We call this spiritual multiplication. And what is the requirement to complete this monumental task? Only one – be a faithful follower of Christ. Most of us do not have special world-impacting abilities. We are ordinary people chosen by God to carry the treasure of God's message to the world. When we share Christ naturally there is no room for self sufficiency, or pride, or a pseudo humility which says, "I'm not good enough. God can't use me."

What misconceptions are you believing that keep you from sharing the gospel message with others?



Assignment: Read and reflect on Paul's attitude from the following verses.

2 Corinthians 3:5 (LB) *(It is) not because we think we can do anything of lasting value by ourselves. Our only power and success come from God.*

2 Corinthians 4:7 (LB) *But this precious treasure—this light and power that now shine within us—is held in perishable containers (clay pots), that is, in our weak bodies. So everyone can see that our glorious power is from God and is not our own.*