



Season 1, Episode 1: “Stirred Up”

Here we go with Season 2 of the Life on Life podcast! This whole season, in every episode, we are focusing on what it means to do womanhood well as a woman who knows Jesus, loves Jesus and follows Jesus.

What we’re diving into over these next several weeks comes from a bible study I wrote called: STIR: Doing Womanhood Well. I taught it 3 years ago to my group in Dallas because I was seeing so many women- in and out of the church, struggle in cultivating authentic relationships or pulling back and isolating because they’d been hurt, wounded or felt excluded, or because of their own insecurities they felt they couldn’t measure up in some way.

As I was studying the book of Hebrews a portion of the Scriptures exploded off the page as I thought of in regard to the struggle I was seeing among women. It’s from Hebrews 10:23-25 and I’m going to read it to you first in the English Standard Version.

“Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who promised is faithful. And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.” Hebrews 10:23-25

That word “stir” in the (G) can be interpreted in 3 different ways:

- *a sharp disagreement; spurring on; encouraging.*

It’s only used twice in the Bible. Once in Acts 15:39 where it means a sharp disagreement, such as the one between Paul and Barnabas when they decided to part ways. The other time in here in Hebrews where it means to spur on and encourage.



Let me take you back for a quick minute to my childhood. I am the oldest of 5 kids– 4 sisters and one brother. And with that much estrogen dominance in the family you can imagine

that we were not at a loss for drama. *High drama*. It would make for great reality tv today. My sister next in line to me and I were closest in age—16 months apart. We were natural best friends and shared everything—although not always willingly. We loved hard but we'd get scratchy too, too. There was a lot of, "Stop fighting with your sister. Tell your sister you're sorry" and "Go to your room and stay there until you can both get along." We were in there for a really long time, but eventually we'd kiss and make up and be laughing and singing and dancing together and cheering each other on again.

But there's one thing my daddy would say and I can still hear his voice in my head, "***You girls, quit stirring one another up and aggravating each other!***"

What is it about we girls... we women, that we just have to make a jab here and there and stir one another up? And it starts so early in life! From not wanting to share our Barbie doll clothes to getting cliquy in grade school, excluding one another, pointing out flaws...hurting one another in subtle and not so subtle ways... the whole 9 yards. You'd think we'd outgrow it, but no... it just looks different, but at the root of it it's all the same. And it's ago old...timeless.

But why is it that we get like this and where did it all start?

It started way back in the garden... with our sister Eve and the Devil... in Genesis 3. I'm going to read from The Message Bible:

"God told the serpent, because you've done this because you've tempted Eve, because you seduced her, you're cursed. Cursed beyond all cattle and wild animals, cursed to slink on your belly and eat dirt all your life. ***I am declaring war between you and the woman, between your offspring and hers.*** He'll wound your head and you'll wound his heel."

Of course, this is the messianic prophecy about Jesus, but as far as women and Satan are concerned—this is war. There is enmity between us and him. He's out to get us... ***but the curse also declared a promise for us women that we would wound his head...***

Wound isn't good enough for me when it comes to Satan. And that's where I think some translations are a little weak. We need to really have it hit home in the English. And so here's what the ESV says, "He will bruise your head." The Voice translation or paraphrase says, "the woman's child will stomp your head and you will strike his heel." And the Living Bible says, "you will strike his heel, but he will crush your head."

He is afraid of my heel! He is afraid of your heel. He is afraid of women because he knows that we have the power to crush him...every single time we put our foot down against him. ***so we've got to be the wiser ones here and get him under our feet where he belongs.***

In his book, ***Women, God's Secret Weapon*** author, teacher and evangelist Ed Silvano says, "One of Satan's greatest fears has to do with women. What women can do to him constantly torments him."

Silvano goes on to say, **"The fact that female anger aimed at the devil occupies such an integral part of God's threat must mean that women have a significant role in the plan of God."**

And we do. And there is more than the enemy wants you to know here. There's more here than the enemy wants us to know. He's afraid of women. He's afraid of you... BECAUSE—as John Piper stated so perfectly in his definition of biblical womanhood, we have **"a distinctive calling of God to display the glory of his Son in ways that would not be displayed if there were no womanhood."**

And the last thing he wants us to do is to come together as women who love God and love one another and who stand together and encourage one another.

I think the way Satan gets at us best is through misplaced anger...at one another. We forget that our enemy is *not flesh and blood*. And because we have a calling as women to display the glory of God by reflecting the Son of God to a lost and broken world, the enemy of my soul and yours will pit us against one another.



We do womanhood well, when we love God, love ourselves and love one another.

We do womanhood well when we stand together and encourage one another, support, love and esteem one another and cheer one another on toward the goal of becoming the woman he created us to be... women who so strongly resemble Jesus and bring his hope to this broken world.

Satan knows that we are better together. And that we will become who God created us to be and to do what God has created us to do only by His Spirit in us, and *with one another*.

Because woman-to-woman, life-on-life relationships are critical to the Kingdom plan of God— and God's enemy, Satan, knows that.

PS: God's enemy, Satan, is your enemy. And he's got a plan to bring your forward momentum in Christ to a screeching halt—

- He plays to our weaknesses and insecurities;
- He makes us forget who we are and Whose we are.
- He causes us to look at one another and judge one another and measure ourselves against one another so that we see ourselves as less than, or better than, or inadequate, always coming up short.
- And then when things are totally twisted around in our mind, we begin to see others, our sisters, as our enemy.

So, how does he do this?

He plays to our insecurities and vulnerabilities and causes us to become suspicious and cynical of one another; to take offense over everything; to compare and compete and exclude... to become self-focused instead of other-focused. To live for our own glory instead of displaying God's glory through our lives and relationships.

I said in the trailer for Season 2 that womanhood is both wonderful and hard. And what makes it even harder is when we try to go it alone. But the Christian life is not and never was meant to be lived alone. It doesn't work that way.

Yet too many of us feel alone or have chosen to isolate and go it alone. Why? Why do we end up isolating ourselves and going it alone?

We need one another... we've got to get back in the game...together. Back in the fight for one another, because the only way we will fulfill our calling and achieve the profound purpose God intended for us is by the power of the Holy Spirit working through us in authentic relationships with one another... together.



SPIRITUAL LIFE HACK

When reading your bible, studying a passage of Scripture- use a bible app to look up the verse or passage in a few other translations or paraphrased bibles—like The Message that take the original Hebrew or Greek or Aramaic language and restate it in more modern English.



Let's read Hebrews 10:24-25 again, but now in The Passion Translation:

²³ So now we must **cling tightly to the hope that lives within us**, knowing that **God always keeps his promises!**

²⁴ Discover creative ways to encourage others and to motivate them toward acts of compassion, doing beautiful works as expressions of love.

²⁵ **This is not the time to pull away and neglect meeting together**, as some have formed the habit of doing, because we need each other! In fact, we should come together even more frequently, eager **to encourage and urge each other onward** as we anticipate that day dawning.



So... we've got work to do. We've got work to do on ourselves and in our relationships with one another... and we've gotta get after it because we have work to do for the Kingdom. Let's be on to the enemy... and the fact that he's threatened by us because—

- He knows that women are better together.
- He knows that women are more powerful together.
- He knows that women are more useful together.
- He knows that women are a critical part of God's plan.
- He knows that he cannot take our salvation from us—but he also knows that he can put us at enmity with one another so that we remain stuck and ineffective for the Kingdom.

Our goal is to become women who do womanhood well, stirring one another up to love and good works and encouraging one another!

SOMETHING TO DO:

Who are some of the people that have stirred you up with faith, who've encouraged you to run hard after Jesus, and who've disciplined you in truth? Make a list of 3 or 4 of them... thank God for them and for the ways they motivated and encouraged you; pray for them this week and then write them each a note of thanks and encouragement.

SOMETHING TO PASS ALONG:

- What are you stirring up in others? How are you stirring them up?

- There's no stirring up without coming together.
- Consider—think of ways to come alongside and encourage another woman who is younger in her faith, or maybe one who is stepping out into her calling or using her gifts to serve.

SOMETHING TO PRAY:

Lord, help me to be a woman who does womanhood really well... to become the woman You have created me to be and to become equipped to do what You have created me to do. To use what you've given me to stir up other women to love and good works and to encourage them to be every bit the women you've created them to be.



OK... gang... We're going to make an effort, we're going to make some advancement, we're going to move forward and we're going to become women who do womanhood really well... for the glory of God!

OK, that's that for that. And don't forget that you are greatly and dearly loved by The King!

xo -P