



# BECOMING STRONG LEADERS

3 - DAY DEVOTIONAL

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# DAY ONE

## TEACHING THE WORD OF GOD AND PRAYER

Susanna Wesley, the mother of the Wesley brothers, could often be found at various times pulling her apron over her head and praying. Her children would be studying, reading, or maybe even playing. She made it a habit to read the Word and pray for two hours each day. You may consider your schedule and wonder how someone could carve out that much valuable time. It may even seem impossible, but Susanna was often home alone while her husband was away, acting as a single mother to ten children. She didn't just teach what to do; she lived it. She found it too valuable to live without!

As women leading in our homes, volunteer roles, and businesses, we can allow the demands of the day to rule our lives and schedules. Though many of our tasks are vital, none are more important than our daily spiritual disciplines. We find it nearly impossible at times to say no to the never-ending lists so that we can say yes to God, but God promises rest.

Today, consider a possible schedule where you place God and a spiritual discipline, such as reading the Bible, prayer time, worship, and/or solitude, as the most important tasks of the day. As you lead today, choose to lead from a full soul. We produce what is within us and want to be a model to those around us.

An important note: As women, we can often compare ourselves to others and feel inadequate. Susanna Wesley is an example of someone who modeled a life of discipline to her children. You may be able to model this, but it may seem a daunting task. However, you can start by taking a smaller step and grow from there. What is your next step in modeling a life of discipline to those you have influence over?

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**1 TIMOTHY 4:8**  
**1 CORINTHIANS 9:26-27**

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# DAY TWO

## LOVING OTHERS AND OURSELVES WELL PART ONE

Esther loved even to possible death, and Amy Carmichael loved others more than herself.

Amy Carmichael was, to some, childless, but to anyone who knew her or has read about her life, she was a mother to the motherless, the forgotten, the abused, and the abandoned. Many quotes are attributed to her, but the one we will focus on today is, “If the praise of others elates me and their blame depresses me; if I cannot rest under misunderstanding without defending myself; if I love to be loved more than to love, to be served more than to serve, then I know nothing of Calvary love.”

Today, we are bombarded with ways in which our self-worth is diminished, and we long for acceptance. We can easily become lost when comparing our image with the perfect image and seemingly perfect life of the latest influencer. Amy was a regular girl like us who, before writing this quote, experienced similar comparisons in her life. One day, as she walked with a beggar in need of help, she bowed her head so that no one from church would notice her. It was then that she committed to love others for Jesus, despite what other people may think or assume about her.

Today, we, too, can commit to loving others and not be embarrassed by who God made us and whom God has compelled us to love. Esther, while living with King Darius as the Queen of Persia, hid who she really was, but at the risk of her own life, she exposed her true self to save the entire Jewish race.

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# DAY TWO

## LOVING OTHERS AND OURSELVES WELL PART TWO

Scripture tells us how precious we are to God. Psalm 139 states, “He fearfully and wonderfully made us.” The psalmist continues, saying, “Your workmanship is marvelous; how well I know it.” Let us commit today to a life of love: love for ourselves as we “know well” that the works of God are marvelous and a life to love and serve others well.

Consider today how the lives of Amy, compelled to a life of celibacy and utter abandon for the less fortunate, and Esther, a queen willing to risk her life by exposing her true self, can help us reflect on these questions:

1. Do I love to be loved more than to love?
2. Do I love to be served more than to serve?
3. Do I know full well that I am a marvelous workmanship?

Take time to bring your answers to God and use this opportunity to grow and embrace God’s love for you and others.

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**EPHESIANS 2:10**  
**ESTHER 4: 16**  
**PSALM 139: 13-14**



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# DAY THREE

## LEADING OTHERS TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD PART ONE

Women are powerful leaders! As we navigate our daily lives, we lead in various roles—mothers, mentors, businesswomen, and more. Do you doubt your leadership? Think of those you influence; your impact shapes their choices. Regardless of how we lead or what our role as a leader is, let's contemplate the 'place' we are leading people to.

One of the more popular stories in scripture is of a woman washing the feet of Jesus. She poured expensive oil on Jesus' feet and began to wash them with her hair. The disciples were furious and considered such an elaborate display of worship a "waste." Yet, the aroma of the fragrance filled the room, and Jesus praised the woman's worship and display of affection, so much so that he said, "Truly I tell you, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her." An act of worship so powerful that Christ wanted it remembered wherever the Gospel is preached!

Mary's act of worship was displayed using expensive oil to prepare Christ for burial. Our worship may not be so extravagant, but it's still just as important. Worship is not just singing hymns or praise songs on a Sunday morning or singing songs in the car. Worship is giving our life to God as a sacrifice to Him so that He can be honored and glorified in the way we live.

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# DAY THREE

## LEADING OTHERS TO THE PRESENCE OF GOD PART TWO

As leaders, we can choose to lead others to the presence of God through our acts of faith. Our actions and words will be a fragrance that pleases God and is used to lead others into His presence. You may question what it means to lead others into God's presence. Acts such as sitting in prayer, honoring God by our actions, and loving others for His glory and praise, not our own, all of these bring us closer to God and His presence. You are leading those you have influence over, and our hope is that they follow your example into the presence of Christ and experience His fragrance in your life. Do what you can, just as Mary did. In what ways can you live your life to lead others to grow in their relationship with God?

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**EPHESIANS 5: 1-2 NIV**

**JOHN 12:3 NIV**

**MARK 14: 6-9 NIV**

