

Looking Ahead

1. Psalm 78:1–8 lays a good foundation for Fern Nichols’ chapter on leaving a lasting legacy through prayer. As you read this chapter, consider how God wants to use your life to have an impact on the next generation.
2. Read through the next five “We Will” statements (#6–10) of the True Woman Manifesto with the supporting Scriptures.

CHAPTER 8: Leaving a Lasting Legacy through Prayer (Fern Nichols)

Getting Started

Invite each woman to share about someone whose prayers have played a significant role in their spiritual journey.

Fern issues a challenge for women to “leave behind a legacy of prayer.” Although this chapter highlights the responsibility of mothers to intercede for their children, this call is for all women—not just mothers.

Read aloud together the following statements from the True Woman Manifesto:

Mature Christian Women have a responsibility to leave a legacy of faith, by discipling younger women in the Word and ways of God and modeling for the next generation lives of fruitful femininity.

We will nurture our fellowship and communion with God through prayer—in praise, thanksgiving, confession, intercession, and supplication.

We will pray for a movement of revival and reformation among God’s people that will result in the advancement of the Kingdom and gospel of Christ among all nations.

Have individuals read Scripture reading: Jeremiah 33:3; John 15:7; 16:24; James 4:2; 5:16; 1 John 5:14–15. Follow the Scripture reading with a time of prayer. Thank the Lord for the privilege of communicating with Him through prayer. Ask Him to increase your heart for prayer and your vision for passing the baton of faith on to the next generation.

Talking It Over

1. Have you been inspired by a woman who has been faithful in prayer? If so, what have you learned from her example? How has this affected your view of intercession?
2. How would you answer Fern's question: "What do you want your children and friends to remember about you when you've gone to be with Jesus?"
3. What does Fern recommend as ways to counteract the tendency toward "faintheartedness" in prayer? What things have you found helpful for your prayer life?
4. Discuss the importance and benefits of "united prayer."
5. Fern talks about prayers of praise, confession, thanksgiving, and intercession. How balanced is your prayer life in these four areas? Where do you need to grow?
6. Fern mentions using a prayer journal. Invite any women who have used this tool to share how it has been beneficial to them.
7. Why is it important to use Scripture in your prayer time? Share some ways you can do that.
8. Encourage one another by sharing a few brief testimonies of answered prayers.
9. What do you think E. M. Bounds meant by this statement?

Prayers outlive the lives of those who uttered them, outlive a generation, outlive an age, and outlive a world.

Can you think of an illustration of this principle in Scripture, in history, or in your own experience? If you really believed this statement, what difference might it make in your prayer life? How could this concept be an encouragement to someone who is grappling with the disappointment of (apparently) unanswered prayers?

10. Discuss various prayer strategies you've found effective.

11. Close today's session by spending some extended time in prayer. You may want to break up into pairs, triplets, or small groups. Focus your prayers on the next generation—whether your own sons, daughters, and grandchildren, or others.

Making It Personal

1. What place does prayer hold in your list of daily priorities? Did God put anything on your heart in relation to the need for growth or change in your prayer life as you read this chapter?
2. If the spiritual legacy you leave behind for those who will outlive you and for future generations were no greater than the faithfulness, frequency, and fervency of your prayers, what would that legacy look like?

Living It Out

1. Has this chapter challenged you to become more intentional in your praying? What are some steps you will take to develop a more effective prayer life? If you've never kept a prayer journal, consider using one for the next month.
2. If prayer is something you've struggled with, use a topical Bible or a concordance to study this topic. You may also want to read a good book on prayer, or a biography of someone like George Mueller who was known for his faith and his prayer life.

3. If you don't have a friend or group of women to pray with regularly, ask the Lord if He might want you to invite others to join you in regular times of concentrated prayer for spiritual needs within your family, community, church, or nation.

Looking Ahead

1. Read chapter nine, "A Call to the Counter-Revolution" (pp. 153–63), as well as the final statements in the "We Will" section of the True Woman Manifesto (#11–15), with the supporting Scriptures.

2. Next week's session will include an invitation to sign the True Woman Manifesto. This is an opportunity to express your commitment to the principles you've been studying and your desire to be a part of a spiritual counter-cultural revolution among Christian women. By way of review and preparation, take time to read the True Woman Manifesto through in its entirety (pp. 165–69).

3. If you have time, read Mary Kassian's piece called "The Need for a Creed" (appendix A). You may also want to go to www.TrueWoman.com to read posts pertaining to specific statements in the "We Will" section of the True Woman Manifesto.

CHAPTER 9: A Call to the Counter-Revolution (Nancy Leigh DeMoss)

Getting Started

Discuss how God has used this study in your life. What particular chapters or insights have proven to be most helpful and challenging to you? What have you learned (or been reminded of) about the ways of God and His calling on our lives as Christian women? What changes have you made as a result of what He has shown you?