**HIDDEN FIGURES | Abigail | Week 4 | July 27/28, 2019**

1 Samuel 25; Colossians 3:13-14; Romans 12:16

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

Opening: The Bible is full of stories women who used their influence and took great personal risks to confront the injustices of their time. They knew the dangers of doing what they did yet their love for God propelled them to a different way of life that ran counter to cultural and societal norms. This series explores these hidden figures of the scriptures allowing them to lead, teach and challenge us to become who God is calling us to become by the grace and love of Jesus.

Read: [1 Samuel 25](#) (Using this link will take you to [BibleGateway.com](#) where you can explore this passage through three preselected translations of the scripture.)

- *Journal or share what especially intrigued, challenged, encouraged, warmed, helped, or surprised you from this story?*
- *Which character do you admire? Why?*
- *Which character do you identify with? Why?*

The Request: Read vs. 4-9. From the wilderness, David sends a request.

What do you notice about this request? Pastor Tracey Bianchi comments "They waited for the custom of hospitality to kick in." What would hospitality "expect" for this request?

The Reply: Read vs. 10-11. We see the heart of Nabal, rationalizing and defensive. This story is a request for hospitality and a response of rationalization and self-focus.

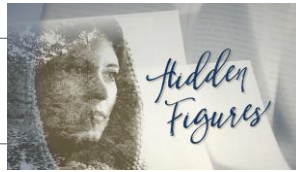
- *Journal or share how have you been Nabal-like in your life this past week? Be honest we're among friends.*

David Reacts: Read vs.13 and 21-22. David is enraged at the lack of respect for him and his men. His reaction is severe and we learn in vs. 21-22 just how severe his rage is—justified anger with enraged action. Pastor Tracy describes the scene as, "An enraged man off to kill a fool." What a picture of a world focused on differences! Pastor Tracey and Pastor Lisa both speak to tribalism in our culture—the need to disagree and be right.

- *Journal or share where you experience this in the normal flow of your life? Is it external or internal to you?*
- *How does it influence on your interactions with your friends, co-workers, family?*
- *How do you handle people who always seem to have need to be right?*

Abigail Learns: Read vs. 14-17. Remembering Abigail's position in the household...

- *What was her risk in over-ruling her husband?*
- *What was her motivation?*



Abigail Acts: Read vs. 18-25. Abigail provided a rich feast to David and his men. The availability speaks to the surplus Nabal had and did not offer. More importantly, Abigail provided reason for David to abandon his mission.

- *How did she change the conversation?*
- *Journal or share how Abigail's actions would look today? At your office? With your neighbor?*

An Eternal Perspective: Read vs. 26-31. Abigail brought wisdom to a conversation of pride.

- *Journal or share about "avenging yourself with your own hands."*
- *How would you rephrase Perhaps restate in your own words for modern ears.*
- *What is the significance of that for David?*
- *Journal or share what this passage teaches us about our encounters with tribalism and one another.*

Church as Community: Read [Colossians 3:13-14](#). Pastor Tracey asks about the role of the church in our culture today. Can we bridge the divides? Can we broker peace? Can we move the conversation from "prideful rightness" to a bigger perspective?

- *Journal or share what stirs in your heart or mind when you read these questions.*
- *Where do they play into your encounters this coming week?*

Church as People: Read [Romans 12:16](#). Just as Abigail was a quick study, we need to be ready to act. The road to community is made of people and encounters.

- *Journal or share about the kind of person you imagine when you read Romans 12:16?*
- *Where have you been like that in the past week? Where have you been unlike that?*
- *Based upon what you just journaled or shared, how do you need to pray heading into this coming week?*

Practice of the Week: Our stories about Hidden Figures have been about risk and action. This week meditate on Romans 12. From the familiar opening to the closing "overcome evil with good" use the question from the practice of [*Lectio Divina](#), "What verse(s) stands out to me?" Narrow down to those verses and upon further reflection ask, "What is God saying to me?" What does God want to transform (to "un-conform") in me as a result of this series? Journal on that each day as you open yourself to God's care. (Clicking on Lectio Divina above, will take you to an article expanding on this formational practice.)

We'd love to hear from you!

We also enjoy hearing how God is using these study guides in your lives.
Roger Peer: contact through Eric * Eric Haskins: ehaskins@christchurch.us