

## WOMEN OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

### ABIGAIL

**Pray** and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

**Read** the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

**Begin** to answer the questions using your own words.

*Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.*

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#### Lesson 15 • February 6, 2013

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **Hannah and Peninnah** has been helpful to you?

#### SECTION I: Read 1 Samuel 25:1-13

For background: Although Samuel had already anointed David as Israel's next king, Saul was still reigning. David and his men were on the run from Saul who was obsessed with killing David. It is with this scene in mind that the story of Abigail takes place.

2. What takes place in **V1**?
3. Using **V2-3**, describe Nabal and Abigail.
4. a) According to **V4-6**, how are David's men to greet Nabal?  
  
b) What are they to tell him and ask of him in **V7-8**?
5. In **V9-11**, how did Nabal respond to David's men?
6. a) Reading **V12-13**, what was David's knee-jerk reaction when he received their report?  
  
b) Do you think David was justified in his reaction? Why or why not?

6. c) What situations trigger similar knee-jerk reactions in you?

**SECTION II: Read 1 Samuel 25:14-35**

7. a) In **V14-17**, contrast what we learn about David and his men versus Nabal through the words of Nabal's own servant.

b) In your opinion, what character traits must the servant have seen in Abigail that he would trust her with the crisis?

8. After reading **V18-19**, what else impresses you about Abigail?

9. As Abigail approaches David, what had he just finished saying in **V20-22**?

10. Read **V23-31**. In her encounter with David, why do you think Abigail repeatedly used the references:

a) the "Lord your God" and "the LORD"?

b) "my lord"?

c) What do these references, combined with other observations from these verses, tell you about Abigail?

11. David in **V13** and Abigail in **V18-19** responded quickly to news they received.

a) Why was one reaction rash and the other one wise?

b) Tell of a situation in your life where you need the LORD's leading for a wise, but quick, reaction.

**SECTION III: Read 1 Samuel 25:36-42**

12. In **V36**, what do we learn about Nabal?
13. In **V36-37**, how is Abigail's wisdom seen once again?
14. How does the story end for Nabal and Abigail in **V38-42** and **2 Samuel 3:2-3**?
15. Abigail demonstrated a lot of "the good" in a situation that had a lot of "the bad, and the ugly" (and could have had even more). Isolate one of her character traits that you would like for God to grow in you.
16. Form a prayer request from anything that struck you from this lesson.

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**DIGGING DEEPER**

Abigail was married to a man who did not acknowledge God. What does the Bible say to the believing wife about living with a non-believing husband?

1. According to **1 Corinthians 7:13**, what should a believing wife do if she is married to a non-believer?
2. Read **1 Corinthians 7:14**. What do you think it means and doesn't mean that a non-believing husband (and the couple's children) are "sanctified" through the believing wife?
3. According to **1 Corinthians 7:16**, what do we always need to bear in mind?
4. How does **1 Peter 3:1** coach and encourage a woman in her behaviors toward her not-yet-believing husband?
5. From **1 Peter 3:2**, what will the husband see in the woman described in **V1**?
6. Suggested Memory Verse: **Proverbs 31:10**

