

THE WORK OF THE DEACONESS

AGENDA

Open with prayer – 2 minutes

One Woman Standing – 5 minutes

Are you Surprise – 5 minutes

Attitude for Servitude Test – 5 minutes

Are You Ready To Serve – 10 minutes

Scenario Table Chat – 10 minutes

Scenario Discussion – 20 minutes

Closing Thoughts – 3 minutes

Closing Prayer

THE WORK OF THE DEACONESS

Open with prayer

One Woman Standing

Ladies please stand, and for those who may find it difficult to stand please just raise your hand.

Okay, if you been a deaconess for less than one yr. please be seated, less than 10 yrs. please be seated, continue until you get to the last lady standing. Now have the newest deaconess and the oldest deaconess to stand and give their name, church affiliation and number of years of service.

How many of you are SURPRISED to see yourself here today in the position as a deaconess?

I know I am. As a young girl I remember our deaconess in their beautiful white suits and dresses with their hats and gloves. Those ladies were so beautiful but they forgot the one accent, who can guess what it was? A SMILE! Of course all I could think was they can't laugh and have fun. So of course we are being watch by the congregation and community.

But It's NO SURPRISE TO GOD! You have been chosen first by God and then the pastor and leaders of your church.

Jeremiah 1:5, “Before I formed you in the womb I knew^[a] you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations.”

The Lord who formed us, knows what particular services and purpose he intended us.

Let's take about 5 minutes to complete the Attitude for Servitude Test. This is a personal assessment for your eyes only.

ATTITUDE OF SERVITUDE TEST

* If strangers were watching me at church, would they catch me serving?

* When I notice something needing attention at church, do I complain about it or help to solve it?"

* Do I intentionally seek ways to help my pastor's wife in ministry? Does my church staff know they can call on me to help with ministry needs?

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Were you surprised by your answer to any of these questions?

Is there anything you would do differently in the future?

Closing Thought:

I hope this test will help keep us mindful that we are here to serve and we should look for ways to serve and help others in the church and community. We are to be faithful in the little things and purpose in our hearts to serve. SO ARE YOU READY TO SERVE?

Your husband has been elected to serve as a deacon of the church because the Pastor and leadership saw in him the qualifications mentioned in **I Timothy 3:8-10,** "In the same way, deacons are to be worthy of respect, sincere, not indulging in much wine, and not pursuing dishonest gain.⁹ They must keep hold of the deep truths of the faith with a clear conscience.¹⁰ They must first be tested; and then if there is nothing against them, let them serve as deacons."

Some of you may say, what does or did that have to do with me? Well, I'm glad you ask! While the Pastor and leaders were checking out your husband, they were checking you out to and guess what?

They saw the 4 requirements in **1 Timothy 3:11** in you (someone please read) **I Timothy 3:11** In the same way, the women^[b] are to be worthy of respect, not malicious talkers but temperate and trustworthy in everything.

1. **Worthy of respect** – a women who carries herself in high esteem not arrogant (Titus 2:3 Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good.)
2. **Not malicious** – a women not using her tongue to destroy others (Psalms 141:3 Set a guard over my mouth, LORD; keep watch over the door of my lips.)
3. **Temperate (self-control)** – a women who can maintain her actions and feelings (Titus 2:12 It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age
4. **Trustworthy in everything (faithful)** – a women who is dependable, one in whom you can confide (Luke 19:17a ""Whoever can be trusted with very little can also be trusted with much,)

The word Deaconess is described in the dictionary as: – a woman belonging to an order or sisterhood dedicated to the care of the sick or poor or who is engaging in other social-service duties, as teaching or missionary work.

Depending on the way you carry yourself in character and integrity can either help your husband's ministry or minimize his effectiveness.

There are many women helpers in the bible: Phoebe, Euodia (U-ordia) and Syntyche, and Tabitha also known as Dorcas

Someone please read - **Romans 16:1-2; Phil 4:1-3, Acts 9:36**

Phoebe (*New International Version* **calls her a deacon**, *King James* **calls her sister**, *New King James* **calls her a servant** and the *Revised Standard Version* **call her a deaconess**)

SOME DUTIES OF THE DEACONESS

1. Support husband/deacon in home and hospital visitation
2. Assist in the preparation of females for baptism
3. Prepare the table for the Lord's Supper
4. Minister to the need of women in the congregation and community
5. Praying for others
6. Be an example for the women in the congregation

There may be other ways you serve your community and congregation

Closing Thoughts: It's not about us and how pretty we look sitting in our white but it's about service. We serve God when we serve others. (Luke 22:27 For who is greater, the one who is at the table or the one who serves? Is it not the one who is at the table? But I am among you as one who serves.)

As we continue on with the session, I have a couple of scenarios for us to discuss. Please take about 10 minutes to review and then we will discuss.

***Has this happened to you in the past? If so, what did you do?**

***What are some learning opportunities if you would have handled the situation differently?**

***What are some best practices in how to handle this situation?**

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Scenario I

After attending Sunday's service and then accompanying your husband to serve communion to the sick and shut-in members, you are exhausted. You have dinner with the family, then prepare for work on Monday. You finally get to bed around 11:30 PM just to have the telephone ring at 2:00 AM. When you answer the call, the voice on the other end is a new female convert assigned to your husband's ward. She is requesting her Deacon to come to the hospital to pray with her. **What Would You Do?**

Scenario II

An usher seats a young woman on the front row who is wearing a very short, form-fitting dress. Deaconess Work notices the young woman constantly pulling on her dress and shifting in her seat. Deaconess Work politely whispers to the young woman to offer her a lap cloth; however, the young woman refuses to accept the lap cloth. **What Would You Do?**

Scenario III

A female church member approaches Deaconess Worthy and informs her of a young woman in the restroom crying uncontrollably. The church member said a couple of ladies asked her what was wrong but she just shook her head and say, "God Why?" **What would you do?**

Scenario IV

Deaconess Mercy receives a call from a new female convert. The young lady expresses that she lives with her male partner; they are not married and have a 3 year old child together. She lost her job 1 year ago and her unemployment benefits have run out. As a result, she is no longer able to financially contribute to the household. This has caused a strain on their relationship, to the point of arguing in front of the child. **What Would You Do?**

*Has this happened to you in the past? If so, what did you do?

*What are some learning opportunities if you would have handled the situation differently?

*What are some best practices in how to handle this situation?

Closing Thoughts:

These are real life scenarios that have happen or can happen. How we respond can either have a positive or a negative impact. God has used and continues to use women in the Body of Christ. So let's carry out our servant duties with High Esteem. Remember it's not about us, it's about Kingdom Building and our service to God, assisting the Pastor, our husband's, the church and community.

Let us pray.

Thank you ladies for being a part of "The Work of the Deaconess" Workshop

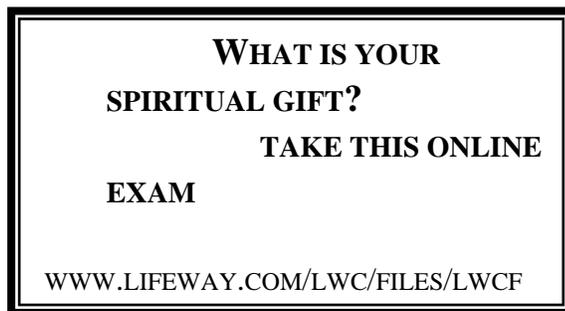
THE TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR BEING A SPIRIT-FILLED DEACONESS

1. THOU SHALT BE A SPIRIT-FILLED CHRISTIAN
Gal 5:22-26; Eph 5:8-21; Matt 5:16
2. THOU SHALT BE PRAYERFUL AND DEVOUT
I Thes 5:17-23; Prov 3:6; Deut 10:12-13; Eph 5:15-16
3. THOU SHALT BE STUDIOUS
Rom 12:1; Ph 2:5; Prov 9:9, II Tim 2:14-17
4. THOU SHALT KNOW, GROW AND BE YOURSELF
Matt 10:16; I King 3:9; II Cor 13:5-6, James 4:6-8, 10
5. THOU SHALT NOT BE A GOSSIPER
I Tim 3:8-13; James 3:7; Lev 19:16; Prov 11:13, 16:28, 20:19
6. THOU SHALT LIVE AND ACT WORTHY OF YOUR CALLING
Eph 4:1-7; I John 2:6; II Thes 1:11-12
7. THOU SHALT BE MODEST
I Tim 2:8-10; I Peter 3:3-4; Gal5:22-23
8. THOU SHALT BE DILIGENT IN YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE YOUNGER WOMEN
I Thes 4:18; Prov 31:10-31
9. THOU SHALT BE UNSELFISH
Prov 21:9; Phil 2:1-4
10. THOU SHALT BE CONCERNED ABOUT NEW CONVERTS
Heb 5:13-14; I Peter 2:1-4

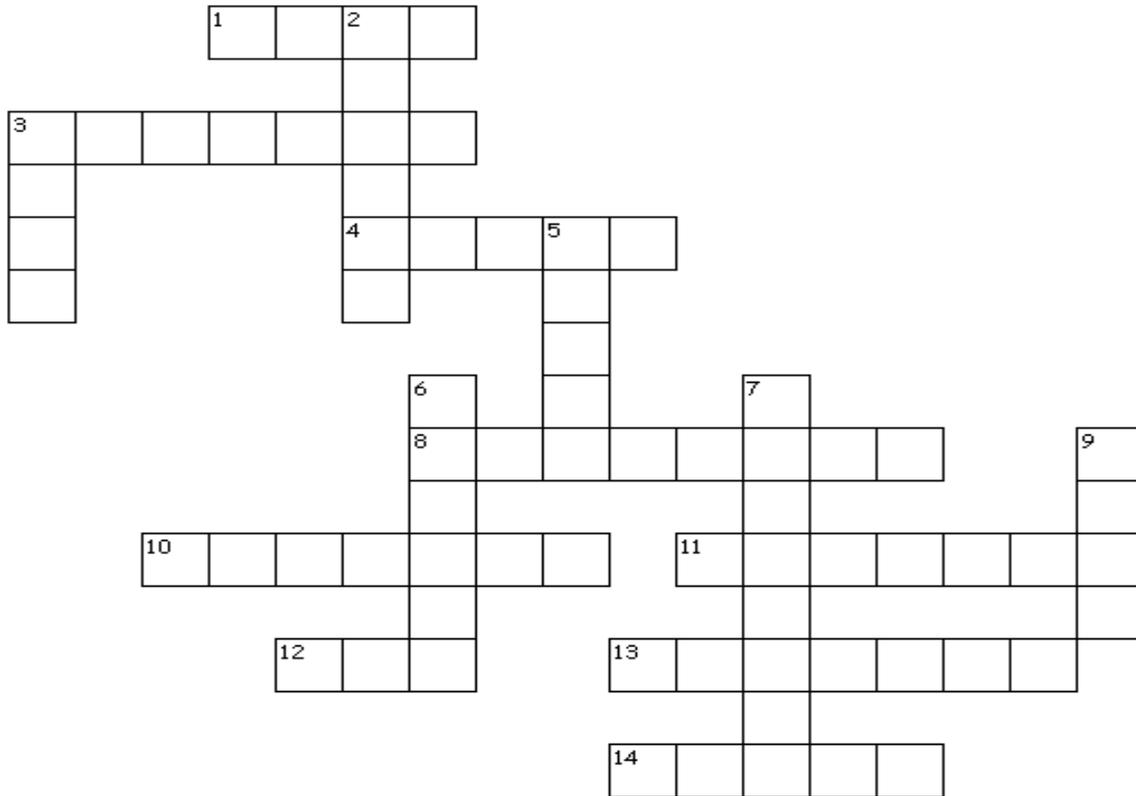
QUICK REFERENCE SCRIPTURES FOR MINISTRY VISITS

God's Protection In Danger
Comfort
God's Mercy
Love
What We Suffer Now
God Is For Us
I Will Comfort You
All Things Work Together
Do Not Be Anxious
Trust God
Renew Day By Day
Do Not Be Afraid
Cast Your Care On Him
Lord's Prayer
His Grace Is Sufficient
Trusting His Power
Focusing Of His Love
Handle Spiritual Trails
Confront Serious Illness
Wisdom For Daily Living
Power To Defeat Fear
Rejoicing In The Lord

Psalm 91
Psalm 23
Psalm 103
I Cor 13
Romans 8:18
Romans 8:31
Isiah 66:13
Romans 8:28
Philippians 4:6-7
Proverbs 3:5-6
II Corinthians 4:16
Isaiah 41:10, 13
I Peter 5:7
Matthew 6:9-13
II Corinthians 12:7-10
Isaiah 26:3-4
Isaiah 41:10
Psalm 69:16-18
Jeremiah 17:14
Proverbs 4:5-11
Psalm 27:1-7
Nehemiah 8:10



THE WORK OF THE DEACONESS



ACROSS

1. The ___ woman builds her house, (Prov 14:1)
3. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he ___ her (Prov 31:28)
4. A wife of noble character is her husband's _____, (Prov 12:4)
8. Assist her husband in home and _____ visits
10. ...For I have learned to be _____ in whatever circumstances. (Phil 4:11)
11. Assist the Deacons in carrying out _____
12. Therefore encourage ___ another and build each other up, 1 Thess 5:11)
13. Do everything without grumbling and _____, (Phil 2:14)
14. ___ Wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not people, (Eph 6:7)

DOWN

2. Let your _____ always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one. (Col 4:6)
3. _____ constantly (1 Thess 5:17)
5. Likewise, their _____ must be reverent, not slanderers, temperate, faithful in all things. (1 Tim 3:11)
6. I commend to you our sister _____, a servant of the church which is at Cenchrea. (Rom 16:1)
7. ...I was a _____ and you invited me in (Matt 25:35)
9. Before I formed you in the _____ I knew you; (Jer 1:5)

Answers

Across

1. Wise
3. Praises
4. Crown
8. Hospital
10. Content
11. Baptism
12. One
13. Arguing
14. Serve

Down

2. Speech
3. Pray
5. Wives
6. Phoebe
7. Stranger
9. Womb

1:1-10 Jeremiah's early call to the work and office of a prophet is stated. He was to be a prophet, not to the Jews only, but to the neighboring nations. He is still a prophet to the whole world, and it would be well if they would attend to these warnings. The Lord who formed us, knows for what particular services and purposes he intended us. But unless he sanctify us by his new-creating Spirit, we shall neither be fit for his holy service on earth, nor his holy happiness in heaven. It becomes us to have low thoughts of ourselves. Those who are young, should consider that they are so, and not venture beyond their powers. But though a sense of our own weakness and insufficiency should make us go humbly about our work, it should not make us draw back when God calls us. Those who have messages to deliver from God, must not fear the face of man. The Lord, by a sign, gave Jeremiah such a gift as was necessary. God's message should be delivered in his own words. Whatever worldly wise men or politicians may think, the safety of kingdoms is decided according to the purpose and word of God.

[Pulpit Commentary](#)

Verse 5. - Knew thee; i.e. took notice of thee; virtually equivalent to selected thee (comp. [Genesis 39:6](#); [Amos 3:2](#); [Isaiah 58:3](#); [Psalm 144:3](#)). Observe, the predestination of individuals is a familiar idea in the Old Testament (comp. [Isaiah 45:4](#); [Isaiah 49:1](#); [Psalm 139:16](#)). It was also familiar to the Assyrians: King Assurba-nipal declares at the opening of his ' Annals ' that the gods "in the body of his mother have made (him) to rule Assyria." Familiar, too, to the great family of religious reformers. For, as Dean Milman has truly observed, "No Pelagian ever has or ever will work a religious revolution. He who is destined for such a work must have a full conviction that God is acting directly, immediately, consciously, and therefore with irresistible power, upon him and through him. He who is not predestined, who does not declare, who does not believe himself predestined as the author of a great religions movement, he in whom God is not manifestly, sensibly, avowedly working out his pre-established designs, will never be saint or reformer" ('Latin Christianity,' 1:111, 112). Sanctified thee; i.e. set thee apart for holy uses. Ordained; rather, appointed. Unto the nations. Jeremiah's prophecies, in fact, have reference not only to Israel, but to the peoples in relation to Israel (ver. 10; [Jeremiah 25:15, 16](#); [Jeremiah 46-49](#); [Jeremiah 50](#) and Jeremiah 51.?).