Lesson Topic: The Power of a Consecrated Life – Grow in Your Faith

Lesson Scripture: Romans 12:1,2; I Thessalonians 4:7; II Corinthians 7:1; I Peter 1:13-16; Luke 2:36-38, Eph. 4:22-23, Col. 3:1-2

Lesson Focus: Women dedicating our lives in the service of the Lord – Like Anna

God is calling us from . . . searching for significance, looking for a place to belong, wandering aimlessly, and desperately seeking security . . . To developing a deep desire to know . . . His voice, His will, His ways, and His call & destiny for our lives.

Although an evil spirit is at work in our society (and even in the church) defying God's ways and His standards, we can face adversity like Prophetess Anna by putting our shoulders to the plow. Dedicating our lives to holiness, drawing closer to the Lord – worshipping, fasting, praying, and telling others about Jesus. Removing the scares of discouragement, defeat, pain, and devastation, and pursue God and His Word. Learning to view our world and to operate from God's perspective, His point of view, a Christian worldview grounded in the Word of God. Anna was a prophetess, an intercessor, and evangelist. Widowed at a young age, in the book of Luke, we find a sketch of her character and devotion to God. She overcame great loss, found hope, and made her abode in the presence of God for over 60 years, becoming the first true evangelist. We too must become yoked to the purpose of Christ. We can do this by preparing our minds for action, being under the control of the Holy Spirit, and fixing our hope completely on Jesus Christ. An undivided devotion means presenting, surrendering, offering, and deliberately submitting our will to the will of the Lord, intentionally placing ourselves under the mighty hand of God. It requires more than a one time action – continual consecration, surrender, and submitting to God's purposes.

Lesson Commentary:

We can walk in obedience to God's Word and live a life of holiness. Holiness is not only expected; it is a promised birthright of every Christian. Holiness is the conduct of those separated from sin and consecrated to God. Holiness is in contrast to immorality and impurity. Holiness is in contrast to living according to the evil desires we had when we lived outside of Christ. Holiness is to live a life in conformity to the moral precepts of the Bible – putting off your old life and putting on a new life in Christ (Eph. 4:22-24). People should be able to see a difference between Christians and non Christians because of the way Christians live. This is a process – even though we have a new nature, we don't automatically have all good thoughts, attitudes, and actions when we become new in Christ. But as we keep listening to God, change will happen. It may be a slow progression, but it will happen as we trust and obey God's Word. Our concentration should be on living an intentionally holy, obedient life, in which we will experience the joy of victory over sin. Holiness is conformity to the character of God. Right actions may involve sacrifice, result in a blow to our ego, but should not be vacillated from. Growing in holiness means developing consistency in truthfulness, purity, and humility. It also involves learning to abhor sin and learning to love the ways of God. We must make every effort (Do our part!) to be holy . . . "holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14b). It is true that God accepts us solely through the merit of Christ, but He has a standard by which we are to live, our character, our attitude, our affections, our actions – holiness. So we must set ourselves to it!

Lesson Scripture: Memory Verse Challenge – Match each WORD to the Memory Verse it describes.

CALLED	**Colossians 3:1-2** If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.
DISCIPLINED	**II Corinthians 7:1** Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.
SEEKING	**Romans 12:1,2** I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
CHANGED	**I Thessalonians 4:7** For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness.
TRANSFORMED	**Ephesians 4:22-23** That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; And be renewed in the spirit of your mind;
CLEANSING	**I Peter 1:13-16** Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance: But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation; Because it is written, Be ye holy; for I am holy.

Lesson Questions: Peter offers many instructions in I Peter, ch. 1-3. Which instructions for holy living can you add from ch. 3?

Chapter 1	**Chapter 2**		**Chapter 3**
1. Be prepared	1. Be honest	13. Endure suffering patiently	
2. Be sober	2. Lay aside: malice, deceit, guile, hypocrisies	14. Live a life that silences negative voices	
3. Grow up, mature	3. Lay aside: envying, evil speaking	15. Live as servants of God	
4. Hope	4. Crave the word	16. Follow in His steps	
5. Obey	5. Take on a new identity		
6. Leave off the past	6. Let go of wrong desires		
7. Live holy	7. Abstain from sin		
8. Reverently fear & trust God	8. Submit to authority		
9. Purify yourself & obey the truth	9. Live spiritually informed		
10. Love with a pure heart, fervently	10. Honor everyone		
	11.Love others		
	12. Fear God		