

# VIEWER GUIDE

## DVD session 1

Today's group: Anna Jenkins, Carrie Betzen, Natalie Bibler, Tami Overhauser

**QUESTION:** Think of a time when the memory and the fairy tale did not match.

A fairy-tale pursuit is really a worldly \_\_\_\_\_ pursuit \_\_\_\_\_ .

### 1 John 2:15-17

A fairy tale puts us at the center of the story.

Love of the world squeezes \_\_\_\_\_ out \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_ for the Father (The Message).

Three predominant inclinations \_\_\_\_\_ of our nature:

- Desire of the flesh \_\_\_\_\_
- Desire of the eyes \_\_\_\_\_
- Pride in possessions \_\_\_\_\_

Desire of the flesh = **epithumia** (*ep-ee-thoo-mee'-ah*): a *longing*, esp. for what is forbidden—lust (after)

Desire of the eyes = **ophthalmos** (*of-thal-mos'*): *vision; envy*; (from the jealous side glance) basis of our word *ophthalmology*

### Ecclesiastes 6:9

**QUESTION:** What is your biggest area of struggle?

God has wired us for a bigger, better story than any fairy tale—a story that never \_\_\_\_\_ ends \_\_\_\_\_ .



Every girl wants the fairy tale. And by fairy tale, I mean the works: the prince, the castle, and, eventually, the little royal subjects running down the castle corridors in matching smocked rompers.

And let's not forget the personal attendants who come as part of Cinderella's dream package.

### *Discuss together*

Throughout this study you will meet eight women who are part of the Bible study group Vicki and her husband, Keith, teach at their church. She asks her small group for their responses to certain questions. You may want to stop the video and answer these questions too.

Other questions to consider include:

In what ways have you gotten comfortable with life as it is now?

As a believer, how do you juggle living in the world yet not pursuing things of the world?

Downloads of this session are available at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

## DVD session 2

Today's group: Carrie Betzen, Shelly Gleason, Kati Smith, Tami Overhauser

The pride \_\_\_\_\_ of busyness

**Psalm 37:7:** "Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him."

"Be still" = **dâmam**; to *be astonished* \_\_\_\_\_, *to stop*; hold peace, quiet self, rest, be silent

When was the last time you were astonished by God?

We need to build a God \_\_\_\_\_ margin \_\_\_\_\_ into our day, a time when we reflect on His goodness, love, and mercy. We are to be mindful of Him throughout the day.

**QUESTION:** Is it hard for you to be still before God? If so, what hinders you?

## Psalm 23

"shepherd" = **râ'âh**: to *associate* with (as a friend); keep company with.

You cannot \_\_\_\_\_ afford \_\_\_\_\_ not \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ come \_\_\_\_\_ to God and be still.

We suffer from TMC \_\_\_\_\_ = too \_\_\_\_\_ many \_\_\_\_\_ choices \_\_\_\_\_.

**QUESTION:** In what areas of your life do you find yourself commonly distracted and overwhelmed with too much information or too many choices?

We have to ask ourselves, has this possession or choice mastered \_\_\_\_\_ us?



**Psalm 23:2:** “Still” or “quiet waters” is a sharp contrast to the noise of the world.

Did David trade still waters for the busyness of life? It happens over time, and we are weakened and susceptible \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ down-  
falls \_\_\_\_\_ .

Busyness is a sin \_\_\_\_\_ .

Hebrew meaning of “restores” = **shûwb** (*shoob*); bring (again, back, home again), carry again (back), continually, convert, deliver (again), draw back, fetch home again, go again (back, home), recover, refresh, relieve, render (again), rescue, restore, retrieve, (cause or make to) return.

Many of us are tired, weary, and in need of restoration. We want to walk with Him beside the still waters, but it requires action to reorder \_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_  
priorities \_\_\_\_\_ and eliminate things that are just not necessary.

### *Discuss together*

How do you know when you need to get alone with the Lord?

Which meaning of “restores” most addresses your need right now?

**“I like Cinderella, I really do. She has a good work ethic. I appreciate a good, hard-working gal. And she likes shoes.”**

Giselle in *Enchanted*

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## DVD session 3

Today's group: Carrie Betzen, Tami Overhauser, Jaclyn Benson, Anna Jenkins

**QUESTION:** When did you experience Prince-Charming letdown?

Themes of romance films

First love—All ends well when heroine returns to first love

Obsessive love—Self-explanatory

Courage of love—Taking a risk

Downstairs Woman and Upstairs Man—Out of reach

**“We maintain the fantasy that if we find our one true soul mate, everything wrong with us will be healed. No lover, no human being, is qualified for that role. No one can live up to that. The inevitable result is bitter disillusionment.”**—Tim Keller, *Counterfeit Gods*

Our culture has made an idol \_\_\_\_\_ out of the wedding day and a mockery \_\_\_\_\_ out of marriage.

**QUESTION:** Was there a time you bought into the idea that one true soul mate would come along and heal your past, your hurts, and everything that's wrong with you?

What a man desires is unfailing \_\_\_\_\_ love \_\_\_\_\_ .

**Proverbs 19:22**

We have miscast \_\_\_\_\_ the part of the prince.

**Ephesians 3:14-19**

“filled” = plēroō (play-rō'-o): to cram, or level up a hollow



“God didn’t put a parent and a child in the Garden, but a husband and a wife.”

Tim Keller, *The Meaning of Marriage*

“(My husband and I) have a standing weekly date—Saturday morning breakfasts. Every Saturday my husband gets up and makes ME breakfast! As we eat together, we talk and get all caught up on each other’s week and dream about the future together. Our breakfasts often last two hours (or more) as we sit together just chatting and sipping coffee. It truly is my favorite ‘date.’”

Robin, married 29 years, in *Ever After*

### *Discuss together*

What shared adventure has God set forth for you and your husband?  
How is it going?

What kind of dates do you and your husband plan to keep your marriage strong and vibrant?

Downloads of this session are available at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com). Bonus: Check out segments from Carrie and Jaclyn related to their marriage struggles and joys.

## DVD session 4

Today's group: Lyndsey Testone, Kati Smith, Anna Jenkins, Shelly Gleason

**QUESTION:** As a mom, do you struggle with feeling like you're not good enough, not doing enough, not being enough for your children? If so, in what ways?

One way we buy into this mind-set is by believing culture's \_\_\_\_\_ lie that good mothers expose their children to every activity under the sun. I'm still apologizing to my adult children.

**QUESTION:** Can you think of a time when you felt pressure to get on the Mommy Fast Track?

The root of the problem is, as mothers we \_\_\_\_\_ feel \_\_\_\_\_ we \_\_\_\_\_ are \_\_\_\_\_ responsible \_\_\_\_\_ for our children living happily ever after.

At the end of the day, is more really less?

**Luke 10:38-42:** "one dish is sufficient"

**QUESTION:** In what ways might your current parenting philosophy change if you embraced the attitude that "one dish is sufficient"?

How can our kids "be still and know God" if we're running them all over town?

**Mark 8:1-8**

Takeaways for weary mothers:

1. Bring Jesus what you have.
2. Trust Him to make it enough.



If I could, I would tell my younger-mom self:

- to stand over the crib and watch that baby sleep just a few minutes longer
- to go on more weekend getaways with my husband and not worry so much about the kids when I do
- to let my children climb more trees and skin more knees
- to not nag my oldest son so much about getting a haircut, even though his bushy hair helmet could justify its own zip code

Most of all, I'd tell my younger-mom self that all those times that I felt I wasn't a good enough mother, God had my back.

### *Discuss together*

If you were granted a parenting do-over, what would you tell your younger-mom self to do differently?

What challenge are you facing that you could bring to Jesus and trust to His sufficiency?

Downloads of this session are available at [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com). *Bonus: Check out the segment on Anna's journey with infertility.*

## DVD session 5

Today's group: Natalie Bibler, Carrie Betzen, Lyndsey Testone, Anna Jenkins, Tami Overhauser

Reflections in this mirror may be distorted \_\_\_\_\_ by socially constructed ideas of beauty.

**QUESTION:** In what ways do you feel pressure to measure up to the culture's narrow standard of beauty?

**Proverbs 31:30; Proverbs 20:29:** "the gray hair of experience is the splendor of the old" (Prov. 20:29, NLT).

**Isaiah 45:9-11, ESV:**

Woe to him who strives with him who formed him, a pot among earthen pots! Does the clay say to him who forms it, "What are you making?" or "Your work has no handles"? Woe to him who says to a father, "What are you begetting?" or to a woman, "With what are you in labor?" Thus says the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, and the one who formed him: "Ask me of things to come; will you command me concerning my children and the work of my hands?"

**QUESTION:** When was the last time you stood in front of the mirror and grumbled? What message did that send?

**Romans 9:20**

Stop, catch \_\_\_\_\_ yourself \_\_\_\_\_, and say out loud to God, "Why did You make me this way?" It puts things in perspective \_\_\_\_\_



Instead of complaining, smile and say: “I will praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful; I know it full well.”

“Can you imagine opening up your daughter’s diary and reading ‘Dear Diary, help me to be pretty on the inside?’”

Vicki Courtney in *Ever After*

“Inside every older person is a younger person wondering what happened.”

Jennifer Yane in *Ever After*

### *Discuss together*

Who represents the “gray hair of experience” in your life? Why?

Can you recall a time when you got caught up in the frenzy of daily life and lost the purpose behind it all? What was that like for you?

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## DVD session 6

### A Final Challenge: The Dash in Between

Today's group: Jaclyn Benson, Natalie Bibler, Tami Overhauser, Carrie Betzen

The Greek word for “abides” is *mēnō* (men'-o), which means to stay particularly in a state of expectancy. The expectancy this verse is speaking to is to live our lives with an eye \_\_\_\_\_ toward \_\_\_\_\_ heaven \_\_\_\_\_ .

#### John 15:1-11

“joy” = *chara* (khar-ah'): *cheerfulness*, calm *delight*

“full” = *plērōō* (play-rō'-o): to *make replete*, to *cram*, to *level* up (a hollow), to *satisfy*. The same word is used in Ephesians 3:19 on knowing the “love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (ESV).

“Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes \_\_\_\_\_ , that it may bear more fruit” (John 15:2).

**QUESTION:** Is there a time in your life where you felt God's clear presence as you walked through a difficult chapter?

“set” = *phrōnēō* (fron-eh'to): *exercise* the *mind*; set the affection on. Setting our mind on heavenly things is a habit \_\_\_\_\_ we develop. We make sure that Christ is our primary \_\_\_\_\_ pursuit \_\_\_\_\_ .

**QUESTION:** What are some practical steps you feel led to take to make Christ your primary pursuit?

#### John 10:10

“abundantly” = *pēriśśōs* (per-is-sos'): (in the sense of *beyond*); *superabundant* (in quantity) or *superior* (in quality); exceeding \_\_\_\_\_ abundantly \_\_\_\_\_ above \_\_\_\_\_ , beyond measure

“Life itself is the most wonderful fairy tale.”

Hans Christian Andersen

“You don’t always know the last-ever time your child will crawl into your bed when there’s a thunderstorm . . . Or the last-ever time your daughter will play with her dolls . . . or your son will play with his Hot Wheels. Mourn these things anyway, after the fact, as they come to mind. And celebrate the new chapter that follows.”

Vicki Courtney, *Ever After*

{Jesus said,} “I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.”

John 10:10, ESV

### *Discuss together*

How can you choose to “declare joy”?

What role is hope now playing in your nonfairy-tale life?

Vicki concludes this study at, of all places, a cemetery. The location is a good visual reminder that today’s life does not last—nor should it be our main focus. The choices we make during the dash in between—that time between the date of our birth and the date of our death—can make a difference forever after.

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