

Central Idea - What do you think is the central theme of chapter 11?

Developing Trust

1. What truth is being taught in the following verses?

KJV Job 10:8 Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; yet thou dost destroy me. 9 Remember, I beseech thee, that thou hast made me as the clay; and wilt thou bring me into dust again? 10 Hast thou not poured me out as milk, and curdled me like cheese? 11 Thou hast clothed me with skin and flesh, and hast fenced me with bones and sinews.

KJV Psalm 119:73 JOD. Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

KJV Psalm 139:13 For thou hast possessed my reins: thou hast covered me in my mother's womb. 14 I will praise thee; for I am fearfully *and* wonderfully made: marvellous *are* thy works; and *that* my soul knoweth right well.

2. a. Do you ever struggle with accepting the way God made you? Explain.

b. What is your attitude about your physical appearance?

c. What is your attitude about your personality and inner character?

d. Is your attitude pleasing to God? If it is not, how could you change your attitude?

3. a. What characteristics about yourself do you need to learn to accept?
- b. What characteristics should you try to change?
- c. To what extent is it all right to try to change your physical appearance?
4. In lesson 5, we looked at Exodus 4:11 and John 9:1-3. How can these verses help us to accept our imperfections?
5. How can 1 Corinthians 4:7 help us keep our good qualities in the proper perspective?

6. Restate in your own words the truths taught in these verses.

KJV Job 14:5 Seeing his days *are* determined, the number of his months *are* with thee, thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass;

KJV Psalm 31:15 My times *are* in thy hand: deliver me from the hand of mine enemies, and from them that persecute me.

KJV Psalm 139:16 Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all *my members* were written, *which* in continuance were fashioned, when *as yet there was* none of them.

KJV Acts 17:26 And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation;

7. How can Jeremiah 29:11 encourage you when life seems overwhelming?

8. a. What advice does Paul give to slaves in 1 Corinthians 7:21?

b. What general truth can we get from this verse?

9. a. According to Psalm 23:2-3, what does God do for us?

b. Describe a time when you felt God's guidance in your life?

c. List some ways God can guide us when we are making a difficult decision.

d. Reflect on the last major decision you made. What method did you use to seek God's guidance and to make the wisest decision?

10. Read Acts 16:6-10

a. What specific guidance did Paul and his companions receive?

b. We are not told how the Spirit prevented them from entering Bithynia and the province of Asia, but we know that He did. From these events what do we learn about God's guidance?

c. Does God regularly guide you in such an explicit way? Why do you suppose this is so?

11. a. Which of the current activities you are involved in do you feel God wants you to be doing?

b. Which, if any, current activities do you think God may not want you to be doing? What makes you think that?

12. If you are discontent with your present position, do you need to accept where you are with a thankful heart, or does God want you to pursue something new?

Trust in Action

1. Take some time, in addition to your regular devotions, to be alone with the Lord and thank Him for creating you just the way you are. If you are angry about the body, the mind, the skills, the inabilities, or the personality God has given you, confess your anger and ask God to give you gratitude even for the things you don't like.

2. Memorize Psalm 139:13-14

3. Make a list of the abilities God has given you. Think about how you are presently serving the Lord. Are you using your gifts and abilities? Can you identify new ways to serve that will better suit your abilities?

4. In Psalm 139:16-18 David expressed his praise and thanksgiving for God's guidance. Write a prayer expressing your gratitude for the way God has guided you to this point in your life. Thank Him for specific events that helped change your life.