



A String of Pearls

Stuck at Home?

Throughout all time women have been “stuck” at home during bad weather. Occasionally it would have been all alone, but more times than not it’s with a houseful of kids. Most of us have heard of “cabin fever”, but you can’t take a pill and make it go away like you might with a normal fever. So what’s a woman to do? It depends on the woman. Some of us are crafty and some of us are not. For the crafty moms, out come the paints, crayons and paper. For the not so crafty moms television is the diversion of choice for the kids, but today’s TV isn’t so healthy.

Kids don’t always want to do what we want them to do. They don’t always want to color or watch TV. So what are some alternatives? First of all many women have to get past the fact that they’d prefer to be shopping or sitting at a friend’s house. Running all over town is way over rated. It stunts relationships between parent and child and teaches our kids that living in our cars is good or normal. We as Americans do way too much of this. We don’t interact nearly enough with our children and accept the idea that we have to have generation gaps. The only reason there is a gap is because we allow it. If we begin communicating with our children from before the time they emerge from the womb, they will be open with us through out their lives.

So here are a couple of ideas to pass the time inside constructively.

1. Read your bibles together. Let your children practice reading aloud as well.
2. Teach your child a handicraft such as counted cross-stitch, crocheting, knitting, or wood burning. What you choose will be dependant upon your abilities and the child’s, but we all have the need to release creativity. If you start with 15 minutes a day you can learn anything. Why not learn together? There are kits for most handicrafts. Buy more than one and learn together.



Crafty or not so crafty, you can come up with something to do.

The Proverbial Woman

Winter

February 2006

Special points of interest:

- ✍️ God is never taken by surprise. He knew what was coming your way and had a way of escape. Now you can learn to hear His voice of warning as well as His voice of love.
- ✍️ God knew the end from the beginning. Get His take and you’ll avoid lots of trouble!

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Pray for Our Nation & Our World

It’s very easy to complain and worry about the shape of our nation and of our world today, but let’s do something rather than just “mouth off”. Think about the responsibility our President faces everyday? He has the weight of millions even billions of souls on his shoulder every single day he’s in office. He gets good counsel and he gets bad advice, but he can’t know everything at all times. He isn’t God. Pray for him. Pray for his family. Pray for your Senators and Representatives. Pray for the judges. Read Proverbs and know about the job of judge or leader. When you read “king” substitute “President” or “Governor” or “Mayor”. These men and women will give account for everything they say and do. So will you. Your complaining and murmuring is destructive. Get on those knees!

Spring Cleaning & Helpful Hints



Here are some hints that may make your everyday and monthly and seasonal cleaning easier:

- ?? When painting the bottom of fences, to prevent the dirt from sticking to your brush, use an old dust pan to keep it away from the ground. Wrap it in foil and then cleaning it will be easier too!
- ?? To get rid of paint odor, put a pail of water in the freshly painted room and the odor should diminish considerably. Add 2 tsp. real vanilla extract for a sweet clean smell.
- ?? Dust with your used dryer sheets and you'll notice the dust doesn't settle so quickly. This works great for TVs and computer monitors as well.
- ?? I use a large micro fiber dust rag rubber banded onto my broom for a quick dust mop on my vinyl floor. You'd be amazed at how this works in the bathroom to pick up human and pet hair as well!
- ?? Loose knobs and handles on cupboards and draws? Tighten a cabinet or dresser knob by dipping its screw or screws into fingernail polish or shellac and reinserting the knob. When the polish or shellac hardens, the screws will be set.

Simplify and Purge

We as Americans have way too much stuff. I've seen it in myself and I believe that we're shopaholics. We substitute shopping for God just like other addicts. It's not something you can just quit, you need help. Some folks get natural help from man, but I submit that we need God's help for most of our addictions. If we get "free" of one addiction, we merely replace it with another unless we are delivered.

As we acknowledge our "fault" according to 1 John 1:9 He will be faithful and just to forgive us and cleanse us from this sort of unrighteousness. We're told NOT to love the world or the things in it, but here we are with so much stuff and our solution is to rent storage buildings to house it all rather than give it away.

On your way to freedom from the "lust of other things" you can make natural steps. Peter had to get out of the boat to walk with Yeshua/Jesus, so let's step out and begin by simplifying and purging ourselves of the excess.

I went to a club meeting and the speaker talked about ways to sort and decide whether to keep or purge a given item. She told us to have 4 boxes in front of us when making these choices: an A box, B box, C box and a D box. The A box had things it in we use every week. The B box had things we use at least once a month. The C box contained items we use at least once a season and the D box are things we haven't used or seen in a year's time.

If you're in the kitchen you want to place all the things in the A box close to where you're going to be able to reach them. The B box can go just outside of arm's reach and the C box can go in those high cupboards or out of reach cupboards or even to a pantry or closet. The D box goes to a charity, or to a garage sale.



Don't forget to wash whatever you are giving away so that whoever receives it gets it in good shape. If a shirt needs a button, either mark it with a post-it note or sew a button on. You really do reap what you sow. The Lord told us that what we do to the least of His brothers we do to Him, let's not give Him junk or rotten things!

Why not throw in a favorite item as well. Make it a sacrifice of praise. After all, a sacrifice isn't a sacrifice if it doesn't hurt.

Now, before you buy something new consider the following:

- ?? Do I need this?
- ?? Do I have one like it that I'm not using?
- ?? Does someone else need something more than I need this item?
- ?? Am I being led by the Holy Spirit to purchase this or driven of the adversary to buy, buy, buy?

Music or Not?

It doesn't matter where you look these days, you'll see someone with headsets in his/her ears. You can be sure that they have "music" playing and most listen constantly. Every waking moment of the day something will be going into the ears and therefore the souls and spirits of the listener.

Music is nothing more than words with instrumental accompaniment. Our souls are the birthplaces of faith and fear. Both are seeded with words. Bad words set to music are just as destructive and bad words without music.

1 Cor 15:33 Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners.

We're seeing a "trend" of children taking on the attitudes and ideals of gangsters. Why? Because our children listen to murder rap, gang rap and all sorts of music full of death words.

Do you know what your children are listening to? What sort of music are you listening to? Country & Western music can be just as bad as the worst rap music. Would you sing the words you hear on the radio to the Lord? If you are a spirit-filled believer you are defiling your temple, the temple of the Holy Spirit by listening to such things.

Phil 4:8 Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure,



All that glitters isn't gold.

whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.

You can't just quit or expect your kids to quit listening to whatever you or they are accustomed to hearing. Wean yourself by choosing holy and clean things to go into your ears. Even some "Christian" music is bad. Just because the name of the Lord is called on doesn't make it right or good.

Weigh everything you see and hear by the unchanging word of God. If it lines up with what God

has said or is saying in your heart it's worth filling your ears and souls with. If it is full of complaint, unbelief and fear it's just as dangerous as the most ungodly music one might hear in Hollywood.

You are truly the temple of the Holy Spirit. We will be held accountable for what we fill our minds and hearts with, let's fill ourselves with words of life and blessing?

"Let us not grow weary in well doing, for in due season we shall reap if we faint not."

Stuck Inside?

3. If you have a dog, why not work on teaching it a new trick? Again work together with your child/children.
4. Make greeting cards for someone who is shut in their home on a daily basis or in a nursing home. Talk about being "stuck inside" all the time with your children. They will learn that they aren't the center of the universe and that they need to be willing to reach out to others.
5. How about going through the children's toys and finding toys they no longer play with. Teach your child the concepts of giving, sowing and sacrifice. Make sure you use disinfectant on the toys before passing them on. Talk to your children about picking who they will gift their

toys to. Talk about giving "favorite" toys away. This is a lesson for every believer. Give of your best and God will do likewise. Be an example moms.

6. How about dusting together. Why must chores be chores rather than opportunities to thank God for the pretty things He has given us. Teach stewardship and gratefulness. Your children will learn important lessons by doing and so will you!



Teach your dog a new trick.

The Proverbial Woman

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Websites worth checking out:

<http://misslink.org/children/kidlink.html> (A site full of "child-safe" sites. Remember, you need to be there when your kids surf the net. I have not checked out all of these sites, but it's nice to have a central location for you to check out.)

<http://www.4crocheters.com/craft/crocheting.htm> (A site full of links to crochet sites.)

<http://www.learnspanishtoday.com/> (A site where you can learn Spanish. They even offer a free CD to help you with your goal.)

<http://www.fiddlersgreen.net/> (A site with free cardstock models to download, print to cardstock and build. A nice site for boys who enjoy planes, buildings and other items.)

<http://h10025.www1.hp.com/ewfrf/wc/activityCenterHome?lc=en&cc=us> (The Hewlett Packard Activity website with loads of different printable items.)

<http://marilee.us/paperdolls.html> (Free paper dolls to print and cut out.)



Take me away...



Schedule a Sabbath!

Life on this side of eternity is short and we take a lot of it way too seriously. So when you're wiped out from too much pressure remember that the journey is just as important as the destination. How many of us miss the fun of the journey and are really disappointed because we expected the destination to be much more exciting than it ended up being? Take the time to really enjoy each second of life. Don't wait for "retirement" to enjoy life. There are so many people who leave life for those years only to discover that they are too feeble to enjoy the dream of retirement.

Think of your favorite "comfort" foods and make them when things are just too hectic. If you enjoy a hot cup of cocoa, then keep a box of packets handy for those days when nothing goes right. Buy a package of marshmallows and keep them in a nice dry place for those moments you need to "get away from it all". Have a favorite author? Stop at your neighborhood used book store and get a couple copies of your favorite mystery. Schedule time to read or do other stress relieving things. Schedule a Sabbath. You'll find you can say "No" much easier when you schedule God into your life. Don't give Him the last place, but the first place in your day, week and month.

I enjoy getting up an hour earlier than my husband and praying and studying my bible. Giving God the first place in my life causes Him to give me the first part of His life. I can face the daily "storms" and "foxes" that show up without notice.

Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not to your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will direct your path. Proverbs 3:4-5