

*Women & More*  
*A 'call' and 'walk' Experience*

**Accepting Life's Stages**

Worksheet 18: **March 12, 2015**—*gratitude*

If we live long enough, the believer's body may break down, the emotions may embroil, and the mind may meander, but our spirit of *gratitude* can soar in the very midst.

**Charles Spurgeon about the Holy Spirit, said—**

“They who yield to His influences become good,  
they who obey His impulses do good,  
they who live under His power receive good.

Let us then act towards so good a person according to the dictates of gratitude.”

**Of Exodus 15:19 someone asked:**

“If he leads us through the sea, will he not also guide us to a well?”

“Tomorrow is only a day on a fool's calendar.”

Unknown

**Prepare by Soaking in Scripture:**

**Psalm 139:16b**

**Ecclesiastes 12:1**

**Zechariah 8:4-5**

**Matthew 25:21c**

**Philippians 4:11**

**Scripture to Memorize:**

**Psalm 37:2** *“I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging bread.”*

**NOTES on Speaking Session:**

**Questions for Mentor-group Discussion:**

1. Look at **Philippians 4:11** you wrote out on page 1. What are the three things mentioned that are 'natural' to man (and woman)—“*as natural as thorns are to the soil*” Paul said.

“ \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ ”

2. The Bible pictures growing older with growing wiser as a godly goal; but older does not make wiser unless that 'older' is committed to the Lord God like Job. Name and explain below a child, a teen and an older person in Scripture who was committed to the Lord.

Name:	What demonstrated their commitment to the Lord?
Child: _____	_____
Teen: _____	_____
Older: _____	_____

3. **Why are we still here?** No matter our age and stage in life, we are still here. Give at least three biblical reasons why you believe you are still here.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

Speaking to the fact that our lives either shed light or cast a shadow, someone said:  
“Most of the shadows of this life are caused by standing in one’s own sunshine.”

**Recommended Reading:**

*A Long Obedience in the Same Direction*, Eugene Peterson  
*Growing Strong in the Seasons of Life*, Charles R. Swindoll

## *JUST A MOM?*

Sent to me in June 2009—author unknown

A woman, renewing her driver's license at the County Clerk's Office, was asked by the woman recorder to state her occupation. She hesitated, uncertain how to classify herself. "What I mean is," explained the recorder, "do you have a job or are you just a ...?"

"Of course I have a job," snapped the woman, "I'm a mom."

"We don't list 'mom' as an occupation; 'housewife' covers it," said the recorder emphatically.

I had forgotten all about her story until one day I found myself in the same situation at our own Town Hall. The clerk was obviously a career woman, poised, efficient, and possessed of a high sounding title like, 'Official Interrogator' or 'Town Registrar.' "What is your occupation?" she probed.

What made me say it? I do not know. The words simply popped out. "I'm a Research Associate in the field of Child Development and Human Relations." The clerk paused, ball-point pen frozen in midair and looked up as though she had not heard right. I repeated the title slowly emphasizing the most significant words. Then I stared with wonder as my pronouncement was written in bold, black ink on the official questionnaire. "Might I ask," said the clerk with new interest, "just what you do in your field?"

Coolly, without any trace of fluster in my voice, I heard myself reply, "I have a continuing program of research, (what mother doesn't) in the laboratory and in the field, (normally I would have said indoors and out). I'm working for my Masters, (first the Lord and then the whole family) and already have four credits (all daughters). Of course, the job is one of the most demanding in the humanities, (any mother care to disagree?) and I often work 14 hours a day, (24 is more like it). But the job is more challenging than most run-of-the-mill careers. And the rewards are more of a satisfaction rather than just money."

There was an increasing note of respect in the clerk's voice as she completed the form, stood up, and personally ushered me to the door.

As I drove into our driveway, buoyed up by my glamorous new career, I was greeted by my lab assistants—ages 13, 7, and 3. Upstairs I could hear our new experimental model, (a 6 month old baby) in the child development program, testing out a new vocal pattern. I felt I had scored a beat on bureaucracy! And I had gone on the official records as someone more distinguished and indispensable to mankind than 'just another mom.'

Motherhood, what a glorious career! Especially when there's a title on the door. Does this make grandmothers 'Senior Research Associates in the Field of Child Development and Human Relations' and great grandmothers 'Executive Senior Research Associates'? I think so! I also think it makes Aunts 'Associate Research Assistants.'

## Scripture's Metaphoric Description of Growing Old Ecclesiastes 12:1-7

*“Remember your creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, ‘I find no pleasure in them’—**2**before the sun and light and the moon and the stars grow dark and the clouds return after the rain; **3**when the keepers of the house tremble (**arms & hands**), and the strong men stoop (**legs & knees**), when the grinders cease because they are few (**teeth**), and those looking through the windows grow dim (**eyes**); **4**when the doors to the street are closed (**hearing**) and the sound of grinding fades (**voice over toothless gums**); when men rise up at the sound of birds (**easily frightened**), but all their songs grow faint (**singing voice**); **5**when men are afraid of heights (**fear of falling**) and of dangers in the streets (**fear of traffic**); when the almond tree blossoms (**hair is white**) and the grasshopper drags himself along (**get-up-and-go has got-up-and-went**) and desire no longer is stirred (**sexual desire is gone**). Then man goes to his eternal home (**death**) and mourners go about the streets (**funeral**).*

***6**“Remember him before the silver cord is severed (**spinal cord**), or the golden bowl is broken (**head & brain**); before the pitcher is shattered at the spring (**heart attack**), or the wheel broken at the well (**digestive system**), **7**and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it.”*