

She Works His Way:

A PRACTICAL GUIDE TO DO WHAT MATTERS MOST IN A GET THINGS DONE WORLD



STUDY GUIDE



INTRODUCTION

Thank you for digging into *She Works His Way: A Practical Guide to Do What Matters Most in a Get Things Done World* with us. We are so glad you're here!

Here are a few tips that will help you get the most out of using this study guide:

You do not have to use this study with a group. You can do every bit of it as personal reflection if you choose. But (*you know there was a but, right?*) there's a reason why she works His way was a community for seven years before it ever became a book. Sometimes, you just need someone to come alongside you and straighten your shoulders, aimed at Jesus. And so we are praying you won't let anything secondary get in your way of getting a group of women together to have this conversation with us.

It doesn't have to be anything formal. You can invite a few friends over to your house, or you can meet over Zoom or on FaceTime if your group juggles multiple time zones and seasons of life.

Don't have a group and interested in finding other women near you? Head to sheworksHisway.com and join our community. Our members are spread out across many locations, and we're confident we could help connect you with someone near you who would love to meet up and have this conversation.

For group meetings:

1) If your group is new or there are new women visiting your study each week, we recommend starting the group discussion with the "icebreaker" question (we provided one for you!) It genuinely just helps to "break the ice" so as you dig into deeper questions, people will be more likely to speak up.

2) Many times, one of the best ways to begin a group discussion is by simply asking, ***"Who is willing to share their biggest takeaway from the chapter we just read?"*** We've provided you with five questions that will create a rich discussion, but we also encourage you to give the Holy Spirit freedom to move in your group by beginning with an open-ended question.

3) Use the prayers at the end of each chapter to conclude your meetings. We absolutely encourage you to pray specifically to end your group, but it's also powerful for your entire group to pray the prayer aloud together. In fact, this will probably become your favorite moment of each meeting.

We love you! If we can help or support you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to us at hello@sheworksHisway.com.

Rooted in Him and rooting for you,
Michelle + Somer

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His Story

Our Story Michelle + Somer

His Way

My Way Michelle

Lose Myself

Find Myself Somer

Know God

Be Known Michelle

Obedience

Success Somer

You

Me Michelle

Relationships

Achievements Somer

Love

Skill Michelle

Listen

Be Heard Somer

Serve

Lead Michelle

Give

Earn Somer

Approved

Approval Michelle

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Pretend you're writing your own section to add to the intro that shares your story. So just like the *Meet Michelle and Meet Somer* headings, we're asking you to write Meet *[insert your name here]*.

To get your brain turning, ask yourself these three questions:

- ▶ *Who did the world try to convince you to be?*
- ▶ *What was the turning point where Jesus got your attention?*
- ▶ *What has God done in your life since you put your identity in Christ?*

[If you're willing to share, please submit it to hello@sheworkshisway.com - we'd love to read your testimony of God's goodness in your life!]

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

Share the most embarrassing job you've ever had.

Question 1

Have you felt the tug of the world trying to convince you that you can do it all, be it all, and have it all? What do you think is so enticing about that lie? And how can we recognize the lies when they hit us from so many different directions?

Question 2

Discuss the difference between a balanced life and an ordered life. Practically, what does living an ordered life look like vs. merely striving for balance?

Question 3

Look back at the four questions Michelle + Somer now call the SWHW filter:

- ▶ Does this keep me dependent on God?
- ▶ Does this keep me dedicated to my family?
- ▶ Does this make me effective at work?
- ▶ Does this hinder my commitment to the gospel?

Which question do you need to ask yourself for accountability most often? Why?

Question 4

Like Michelle, have you had many attempts to reduce the importance of earthly idols in your life that never worked? Hardly anyone likes using the word "idol," but we all have things that compete for our affections. What are the things that compete for your heart belonging to God alone?

Question 5

Like Somer, can you relate to the idea of working being your identity instead of your ministry? What changes in your heart and life are you praying God will reveal to you about working His way as you finish this book? (*Share and pray specifically for one another - as a group or as partners.*)

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Toward the end of the chapter, Michelle shares two questions to help us evaluate what's currently on our plate:

- ▶ Does this help me run?
- ▶ What's slowing me down?

Examine the scope of your work -- from God's mission to your home to your career -- and be really honest about what's helping you run and what's slowing you down. After you brain dump on a blank sheet of paper, come back and fill in these two columns. Prioritize and lay down accordingly.

HELPS ME RUN

SLOWS ME DOWN

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

You have to wear a t-shirt with one word on it for a year.
Which word do you choose?

Question 1

Sometimes, having a problem with submitting to God is a sign we are submitting to culture. Have you considered how what culture tells us about submission has impacted your view of it? But what Michelle said is true: our sin nature simply makes it far easier to submit to culture than to submit to God. Why do you think that is? How can we grow in our comfort in submitting to God?

Question 2

How does it change your perspective on the Great Commission (*Matthew 28:19-20*) knowing Jesus' instruction is more accurately translated "as you go" vs. simply to "go"? How should that truth change your daily life?

Question 3

How would you have defined "Christian work" before reading this chapter and how do you define it now? Go around the group (*or in larger groups with a partner!*) and share one "work" where you've been giving God mediocre energy and share one action step you're going to take to show you've made Jesus the Boss of that area.

Question 4

Discuss the difference between **striving** and **surrendered effort** as a group. What are some practical ways you can intentionally move away from the "I've got this" mindset and embrace the "God's got me" mentality?

Question 5

"The gospel is your job. Your career is your side hustle." This is a massive shift from the majority of career advice you'll find -- even within the faith and work space. But what kind of a difference would it make if all believers lived like this? Dream a little as a group, and beg God to do a mighty work!

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Somer begins this chapter by sharing how studying God's Word often leads to discomfort and ends it by reminding us of why the study of self often feels so good. Let's take some time to relieve the unnecessary pressure some carry when it comes to God's Word.

- ▶ **Time in God's Word is about time in God's presence.** That's it. There's not a plan or a pace that God prefers.
- ▶ **Full faith is the goal - not full understanding.** If full understanding was possible, faith wouldn't be required. Following God would simply be about knowledge. But because God's ways and thoughts are infinitely higher than ours (*Isaiah 55:8-9*), we can expect there will be pieces of God and subsequently, His Word, that we will not be able to fully understand. Hebrews 11:1 defines faith as "*the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.*" So give yourself grace for your human limits in the parts you don't understand, and let your faith carry you to trust in our God who always keeps His promises.
- ▶ **God is big enough to handle your doubts.** You are allowed to have questions when you read. You're even allowed to have doubts, but you must be honest in your doubt. Honest doubt says, "God, I am open for You to reveal this to me. Even if I don't get a clear answer or get the answer that I like or I want, I'm bringing my doubts to You because You're big enough to handle them."
- ▶ **Every word is true.** It's all too common for some to claim belief in the parts of the Bible that make sense and dismiss the more difficult passages to understand. Again, full understanding is not the point - full faith is. Before you begin reading, activate your faith and decide every word is true.

Take some time and think about what has either pushed you into the study of self or what has kept you from regularly being in God's Word. What would it look like for you to prioritize losing yourself in God instead of striving to find yourself? Brainstorm, spend some time in prayer, and write a commitment for how you will lose *yourself* in God and His Word below.

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

What question should others ask to get to know you quickly?
And what's the answer?

Question 1

Open your Bible and read Luke 9:23 again together. What do you think Jesus meant by "deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me?" What does that look like in daily life?

Question 2

How often do you really stop to think about how intricately God "knitted you together" (*Psalm 139:13*)? Do you think forgetting that you are God's good idea and made in His image plays into your need for affirmation from others? If so, how can you combat this for yourself and for those around you?

Question 3

Review the chart that lists questions to find yourself vs. questions to lose yourself. Which questions do you find yourself longing for the answers to most often? Which *lose yourself* question will you prioritize asking yourself this week?

Question 4

"Your feelings are the voice your flesh uses to communicate to you." How can you juggle being honest about how you feel with the reality that how you feel may not be true?

Question 5

Why will searching for contentment outside of Christ let us down 100% of the time? How can we identify the times when we look to find contentment outside of Jesus?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Michelle asked two questions to help us figure out Who or what we worship:

- ▶ What do your head, heart and hands respond to most often?
- ▶ What do you make bigger in your life?

Answer those questions here, and you'll be able to see what currently competes with your worship of God alone. [Remember: even *good* things become bad things when we try to make good things *God* things.]

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

If you had to teach a 30-minute class without any notice,
what would you teach?

Question 1

Michelle talked about intentionally fighting against our pride so our pride doesn't fight against our Kingdom impact. What do you think intentionally fighting against your pride looks like practically in your life?

Question 2

"You don't have to increase in order for [God] to increase." Do you see how a large portion of stress in Kingdom work is rooted in the desire of dual increase -- both for you to increase and for God to increase? How can you prevent your business brain from getting in the way and ditch the lie of the dual increase for good?

Question 3

When was the last time that you were truly amazed by not just the fact that you can know God, but that God knows you? When the enemy wants to make you feel insignificant, how can you remind yourself that God knows you and loves you and that Him knowing you is *incredibly* significant?

Question 4

This chapter included two graphs with two different gaps: one with the gap between us and others and another with the gap between God and us. Which graph best demonstrates what your life currently looks like? What steps do you need to take to best reflect the graph that shows the large gap between God and us?

Question 5

Discuss Eric Geiger's observation of how Paul's view of himself changed over time while he simultaneously became more ambitious for the gospel. Have you typically viewed humility and ambition in opposition? How does the example of Paul change your view of both humility and ambition?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

While it's fresh on your mind, open your Bible to **Matthew 25:14-30** and read the *Parable of the Talents*. If you're a note-taker, add Somer's observations in the margins of your Bible as reminders of these truths.

Which truths from this text are either hardest for you to believe or the most difficult for you to live out? Journal your thoughts honestly, and pray to ask God to help you define success solely as He does.

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

What's the smallest step you ever took that has made the greatest impact on your life so far?

Question 1

If success is exclusively defined as obedience to God, what worldly success endeavors (*if any*) are currently competing with His definition of success for your life? What are some intentional things you can do to stop chasing the world's version of success?

Question 2

..."the particular way in which God decides to provide for you or bless has zero to do with how valuable you are to Him." Have you ever struggled with believing that earthly blessings equal God's favor? That's a man-made belief that makes sense to our human logic, but it's not a God-given one that is echoed by the Holy Spirit. Share with the group about a time when God has provided for you/ your family. (*Recognizing God at work and being grateful are great remedies against discontentment and entitlement.*)

Question 4

This one hurts, but it's so important, so please be vulnerable with one another: do you feel the tug of the world's version of success creeping into your parenting? Are there any ways you may be telling your kids that Jesus is most important with your words but showing them something else matters more by your actions? Stop and pray specifically for every woman who is brave enough to share honestly and have one person in the group commit to support her personally as she works to make changes.

Question 3

Like Somer's family move, has God ever called you to do something that so drastically opposed human logic that even the believers in your life tried to talk you out of it? How did you see God move through your obedience?

Question 5

Somer gave us so many truths we need to apply from the Parable of the Talents (*Matthew 25:14-30*). What stood out to you most as Somer walked through this passage? Let a few women share their top takeaway.

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Ambition is a spiritual gift -- and the truth tucked in this chapter is probably the biggest test for each of us to evaluate if we are using our gifts the way God intended for us to:

"As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace." - 1 Peter 4:10

Because we are to use our gifts to serve one another, if you have the spiritual gift of ambition, you should not merely use it in your own life, but to be ambitious for those around you: to be like Barnabas, taking your role as their encourager and supporter seriously.

Brainstorm the people in your life for whom God has given you a supportive seat. *(Because like Michelle said, we will have many more opportunities to be like Barnabas in our lives than we will have to be like Paul!)*

Answer these questions Michelle shared in the chapter for each person you wrote down:

- ▶ How do they know I believe in them?
- ▶ How do I show I believe in them?

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

Think about your best spiritual friend.
What do they do to encourage you?

Question 1

Put yourself in the story. When Paul came to Jerusalem, do you think you would have been more like Barnabas, willing to offer Paul a second chance? Or do you think you would have been more like the disciples - fearful and skeptical he had really changed? Explain your answer.

Question 2

Michelle explained living the gospel this way: **"We live the gospel vertically by putting God over everything and we live the gospel horizontally by putting you before me."** Share some practical examples of how to live both (*putting God over everything and others before ourselves*) in daily life.

Question 3

Do you see how our lack in believing in one another has contributed to escalating the "believe in yourself" mantra playing out around you? How do you think believers making this shift would contribute to increasing gospel curiosity among those who do not yet know Christ?

Question 4

We often ask one another the question, *"What has God called you to do?"* But it's not often followed up by asking, *"Who will come with you?"* Take the time to go around the circle and let each woman answer who is either already with her + who she's praying God will send to come alongside her.

Question 5

Review the end of the chapter where Michelle gives three examples of distinct differences between culture's way and God's way. Which one listed is hardest for you to abandon culture's way for God's way?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Some gave us a big challenge to live in such a way that the largest legacy we leave is within our relationships - not our achievements. And here's the thing about legacy: it isn't created magically at the end of our lives, but *how we live now* determines the legacy each of us will leave behind.

Look at your normal routine - is there margin for people? How can you make room for relationships to get priority over tasks? Write down any changes you need to make here, and don't wait - head straight to your planner or app and make the swap!

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

If you got to choose a fictional character from a movie, TV show or book to be your co-worker for the day, who would you choose and why?

Question 1

Are you more like Michelle (*the one who basically won't let someone out of being your friend*) or like Somer used to be (*the one who thought she had to choose between friends and a career*)? How can you move forward now that you have learned this about yourself?

Question 2

God's Word is clear that none of us get to bypass community. Each of us struggle with community in a different way (*we've got a lot of other responsibilities, we're introverted, we're shy, or we've been hurt by someone in our past and it's hard to let others in, etc.*). What is your biggest hurdle to overcome to make community a priority in your life?

Question 3

"What does not come naturally for humans can come supernaturally by way of our God who loves us." This is true in all areas, not just relationships. But specifically, do you have any relationships you are trying to force in your own strength vs. relying on His power? Stop and pray for each woman who shares.

Question 4

Like Somer said, you don't have to be a mom for God to use you in someone's life to be motherly. To combat the way the world tends to downplay mothering or nurturing as offensive or degrading, what's one way you can show the strength of mothering to those around you?

Question 5

Have you ever thought about how different Rebecca's life would look if she had chosen to ignore the stranger who showed up on her property instead of showing him kindness? God still gives these opportunities, but sometimes, we're so distracted that we miss them. What distracts you most often from noticing the people God puts around you? How can you minimize your distractions so you can be fully available for God to use?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Beneath each prompt, write one way you can live + love this out in your work:

▶ trust God's timing

▶ separate self from ambition

▶ see people for who they are, not what they do

▶ overlook most offenses

▶ celebrate + support

▶ stop keeping score

▶ stay teachable

▶ do not delight in evil
+ rejoice with truth

▶ make the effort to honor

▶ quit quitting

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

If you were the eighth dwarf (yes, from Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs!), what would your dwarf name be?

Question 1

When you work, what do you think is most obviously on display: love or skill? How radical of a shift is this to remember that the world will know we belong to God because of our love -- not because we're the best?

Question 2

"Fight the urge to rush God's timing and rush into God's presence instead." Like the example of Joseph, has there been a time of preparation God had for you that required patience? And now that you're on the other side, you can better understand how God was working? Encourage one another by sharing how God has been faithful to you.

Question 3

Have you ever thought about how we rename adolescent struggles as we get older -- like changing jealousy to comparison? Can you think of any other sins we rename in adulthood to make us more comfortable that we should lovingly confront in our lives instead?

Question 4

Which one is hardest for you: overlooking offenses or keeping score? What consequences typically emerge when you choose the easy way out vs. making the effort to show love?

Question 5

How much did you love the example of the 70 degree weather day in February that resulted in Dani's boss giving her a day off work to enjoy the sunshine? Brainstorm together: what are other ways you can creatively and proactively show you see your co-workers and your family (*just as important here!*) for who they are, not merely what they do?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Open your Bible to Luke 8:4-15 and read the Parable of the Sower on your own. Some listed four kinds of ears that exist based on the different soils: *distracted ears, stubborn ears, anxious ears and spiritual ears*.

The goal is to hear with spiritual ears, but our flesh probably bends toward one of the other soils more easily than the others. Which ears are you most likely to hear with if you don't engage your spiritual ears?

Write a prayer below, asking God to help you lay down your _____ ears for spiritual ears.

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

What's the best advice you've ever been given, and who gave it to you?

Question 1

Somer gave us three groups (*we probably all fit into more than one!*) that tend to have the most trouble listening: talkers, fixers and debaters. Which category do you fit into best, and how can you prioritize being a better listener knowing the area where you are weak?

Question 2

"We may be missing out on some huge gospel opportunities simply because we're talking over them." We often reduce ministry to speaking, but listening is ministry - an extremely important ministry! And as Somer also pointed out, how we listen to others often reflects how we listen to God. What are some areas of your life you need to work on to become a better listener?

Question 3

It's a radical parenting strategy to limit your lectures and teach your kids to listen to the Holy Spirit. But can you think of a better way to show your children (*and anyone else who's watching!*) your confidence in God? Think outside of parenting: what are other relationships where you should exercise restraining your mouth, listening more, and begging God to be loud?

Question 4

Somer challenged us to try leading quietly. As a group, describe and give examples of what it looks like to be a quiet leader.

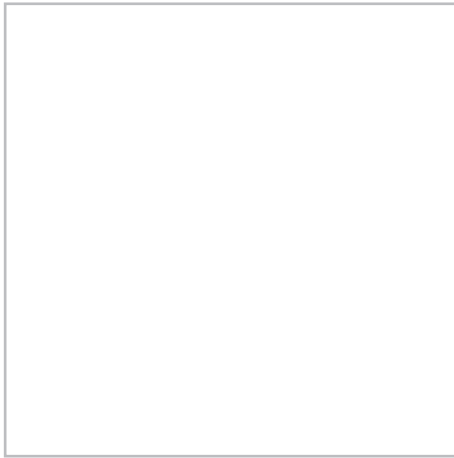
Question 5

It's never been easier to put your words out there. We can mindlessly type things we would likely never say in person from the security of hiding behind a screen. So knowing that we are to be careful with our words coupled with the ease of making our words public, how can we prioritize listening over being heard in online spaces?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Real leadership happens in unseen spaces. Pray and ask God to help you think of ways you can serve in unseen ways in every place He has called you. List what He reveals to you below.

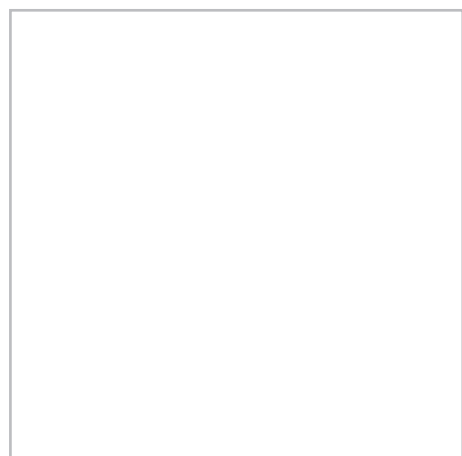
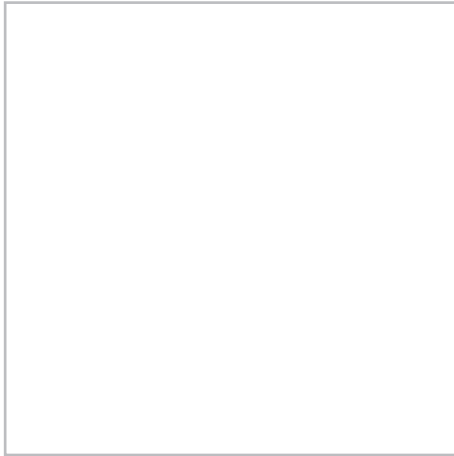
HOME



WORK



CHURCH



GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

You can only pick one: is trust earned or given?

Question 1

"Teaching and leadership alone do not automatically create trouble. But often, titles do."

How can we combat against letting any earthly title we earn or do not earn define us?

Question 2

Michelle shared two questions we can ask ourselves to make sure our actions are rooted in following God, not just looking good: *Does your boldness change when people are watching? Do you need someone watching to do something?* Which of those questions hits your struggle point? And are you more likely to hold back if someone's watching or are you more likely to act if you know someone besides God is watching?

Question 3

Every believer should be willing to lead, but what makes the difference is being a leader who loves God instead of a leader who merely loves leadership. What is the difference between a leader who loves God and a leader who loves leadership?

Question 4

Who else felt the second-hand conviction through Michelle's confession about realizing God could give her the same admonishment about being a sibling instead of trying to be a parent as she gave to her son? Discuss how differently it would look if we took the *"I love you"* posture instead of the *"I'm above you"* posture with one another.

Question 5

Review the chart where Michelle shares how we are to respond in the moments we experience any area of "increase." The five areas she lists are personal competence, platform size, audience, responsibility and opportunity. Which one is the biggest struggle for you, and how can this group hold you accountable and support you?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Remember the difference Somer explained between a worldview and a Christian worldview:

A **worldview** sees only right now, centers on me, stores up and focuses on my earthly impact.

A **Christian worldview** sees eternity, centers on God, gives away and focuses on my Kingdom impact.

Which worldview do you see situations through most often? A way to get your wheels turning: *what often occupies your energy and brain space? And which description do your most frequent thoughts and actions align with?*

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

What's the greatest example of generosity you've ever seen or experienced personally?

Question 1

Most of the faith + finance resources focus far more on the importance of savings and making wise investments than they focus on generosity. Why do you think we are so uncomfortable with calling generosity wise financial advice -- even when generosity is the financial topic the Bible mentions most?

Question 2

Somer shared two Biblical accounts of people who were poor by the world's standards (*the widow and Jesus' parents*), but yet, they had greater joy than many others who were far more wealthy. Why do you think it's so common to believe money equals happiness when there are far more examples that show us wealth does not equal joy?

Question 3

What would it really look like if you stopped viewing your stuff as your stuff and your money as your money? What if you truly recognized God as the Giver and the Owner of everything you have? Does that thought make you lean toward fear or freedom? Why?

Question 4

Sometimes, we don't see or meet needs... but it's definitely not because there aren't needs around us. What do you think distracts you from seeing the needs of those around you or prevents you from meeting the needs around you?

Question 5

How drastic of a difference could we make as believers if we aimed for extravagant generosity more than extravagant lifestyles? Think of one way you could be extravagantly generous as a group and do it! (*If you're willing to share, we'd love to know what God called your group to do. Send your story and group photo to hello@sheworksHisway.com!*)

PERSONAL REFLECTION

Open your Bible and read Matthew 6:1-7 for yourself. Turn this passage into a personal prayer - asking God to remind you that He sees you, He knows everything about you, and one day, He'll reward you in ways only He can. And that's really all that matters. *(If you have time, write your prayer in the space provided below so you can always refer back to it when you need the reminder.)*

GROUP DISCUSSION

ICEBREAKER:

What is one thing we may not know about you yet?

Question 1

How do you stay grounded where God has called you -- even in the moments when it seems like no one cares or you're surrounded by opposition?

Question 2

Michelle shared how after David was anointed as the next king that he continued to go back and forth between the palace (*not to rule, but to play the harp for Saul!*) and his home to tend sheep for his father. If you feel like God has promised you something else is in your future, here's the question you can answer now: are you *waiting well*? What do you think waiting well looks like?

Question 3

Review Michelle's social media principles she follows to fight against approval addiction. Which principle listed did you need to be reminded of the most?

Question 4

Have you ever thought about how crazy it is that the same crowd who praised Jesus during His triumphant entry into Jerusalem also shouted "crucify Him!" just four days later? What does that teach us about the danger of following the approval of people?

Question 5

"Almost every other world religion is rooted in what you have to do, but following Christ is rooted in what Jesus has done. Approval is what Jesus did for you on the cross. The gospel is your approval. Jesus earned your approval." (Is anyone still seated? We're dancing over here!) What does it mean for you that in Jesus, you get to go through your life living approved instead of living for approval?

TO GROUP LEADERS:

Because this chapter very clearly lays out the gospel, in the time of prayer, we encourage you to recognize aloud that there may be women there who have never given their life to Jesus. Give them space to respond. We're praying for you. Right now, we're asking Jesus to give you the right words, incredible discernment and His spirit of wisdom. *Do it, Jesus. Only You can save. Capture the heart of every woman here!*

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You did it!

We are so grateful for the time we've had with you already, and we're not ready for it to end! Joining the SWHW community is simple if you'd like to stay connected with us - just head to sheworkshisway.com. We hope to see you on a live class soon!

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