

The background of the entire cover is a photograph of two clenched fists wearing red boxing gloves. The fists are positioned in the lower half of the frame, with the knuckles pointing towards each other. The background is a dark, textured surface, possibly a wall or a backdrop, which makes the red gloves stand out. The overall mood is one of strength and determination.

# POWER WIVES

Fighting Fear. Finding Faith.

*Candace Lane*

A DEVOTIONAL STUDY FOR THE COACH'S WIFE

# POWER WIVES

Fighting Fear. Finding Faith.

By

Candace Lane

Women have power whether they realize it or not. Throughout the Bible, we see over and over again how women influenced their husbands, children, culture, political situations and people groups. As coaches' wives, we have an incredible platform to do the same in our marriages, families, sports culture, school systems, and with athletes of every sport and level. We have a great opportunity to make a positive impact, but there is a power struggle between fear and faith that can keep us from using our power of influence as God desires.

Dear Coaches' Wives,

My prayer is that through this study we will learn from the "fear vs. faith" examples of some power wives from the Bible, have insight into the power struggles of our own hearts, and come away with specific applications for how we as coaches' wives can use our "wife power" wisely. Above all, I pray that we will see the power of the Lord at work in these stories, and believe that He wants to work in our lives as well - whether we find ourselves walking by faith or falling in fear. The Lord is always faithful.

Praying for us all on this journey,

Candace

*Lord, Thank you for the powerful position of influence You have given to us as coaches' wives. As we take this journey, please reveal the power struggles between fear and faith that exist in our hearts - and give us victory. We believe that You are the all-powerful God, and we ask You to grow our faith, calm our fears, and show us how to be the power wives that You've created us to be. Amen!*

# Chapter 1

## THE POWER WIVES of SOLOMON

Power is defined as “possession of control, authority, or influence over others.” If you’ve seen the movie “My Big Fat Greek Wedding”, you might remember this quote about marriage: “The man is the head, but the woman is the neck. And she can turn the head any way she wants.” We see this wife power in action in marriages all around us today, but as we look at some relationships in the Bible, let’s start with the complicated romantic life of King Solomon.

One of the most powerful, rich, famous, and wise kings of all time was King Solomon, the son of David. He began his reign in humility, and one of the first things he did as king was gather all his leaders, and together they worshipped the Lord (2 Chronicles 1:1-6). Then when God asked Solomon what he wanted now that he was king, Solomon asked for wisdom and knowledge to lead God’s people, and he also wrote the book of Proverbs. Solomon was an amazing man of faith and wisdom, but his life did not end as it began, because when it came to women, Solomon didn’t obey the Lord. And his disobedience had devastating consequences in his relationship with God, his kingdom, and all future generations.

*“Now King Solomon loved many foreign women...the Lord God had said to the people, ‘You shall not enter into marriage with them, neither shall they with you, for surely they will turn away your heart after their gods.’ Solomon clung to these in love. He had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines. AND HIS WIVES TURNED AWAY HIS HEART. For when*

*Solomon was old and his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father.” 1 Kings 11:1-4*

Solomon not only turned AWAY from the Lord, but he actively turned TO idol worship and sacrifices - the things most important to his wives. The same man who built the temple of the Lord God at the beginning of his 40-year reign, was now building altars for other religions “...and so he did for all his foreign wives, who made offerings and sacrificed to their gods” (1 Kings 11:8).

It is easy to think that this happened to Solomon because he was outnumbered 1,000 to 1, but even one wife has great influence over her husband’s heart. And according to this passage, these wives had their own gods - their own idols - and their passion for these things influenced Solomon in a powerfully negative way. While his wives were worshiping these idols, he was worshiping his wives and wanted to make them happy - so he chose his wives over the One True God.

We, as wives today, do have such a special position of influence. God has given us wife-power to be used in building up our husbands, encouraging him in his calling, raising our families in God’s truth - although Solomon’s wives obviously didn’t go the positive route. Of course, Solomon was responsible for his own sin, and though God gave him the opportunity to repent, he refused and God then divided Solomon’s kingdom.

## WRAP IT UP:

*1 John 5:21 "...keep yourselves from idols."*

An idol is "a person or thing that is greatly admired, loved or revered."

1. Do you recognize any idols in your life? Even good things that are taking the place of God in some way? For example, stability isn't a bad thing, but we can desire it more than God's plans for us. If so, what are your idols?
2. Have you ever considered that your words, attitudes and actions have power in your home? Do you have an example of this happening?
3. Are the things in your heart encouraging your husband and children to seek after God more? (Not that we are responsible for the decisions of others, but what we love and how we love impacts those we love.)
4. God's Word convicts us of idols and protects our hearts. Just like exercise strengthens us physically, the first step of being a power wife is knowing the All-powerful One personally and spending time with Him. Is this a habit in your life? How can you grow in this area?

## PRAYER:

*Lord, help us to love You with undivided, wholly devoted hearts. Please show us our idols and cleanse us. Help us to abide in You and we ask that You use our lives in positive, powerful ways to impact our husbands and those around us for Your glory. Amen!*

## Chapter 2

### REBEKAH the HELPFUL WIFE

Rebekah was Isaac's wife and she had twin boys - Esau and Jacob. When she was pregnant, the two boys "*struggled together within her*", and when she sought the Lord about it, He said, "*...the older shall serve the younger*" (*Gen. 25:23*). Jacob was younger – and since she knew what God wanted, she decided to make it happen.

*"Rebekah said to her son Jacob, I heard your father speak to your brother Esau, 'Bring me the game and prepare for me delicious food, that I may eat it and bless you before the Lord before I die.' Now therefore, my son, OBEY MY VOICE as I command you. Go to the flock and bring me two good young goats, so that I may prepare from them delicious food for your father, such as he loves. And you shall bring it to your father to eat, so that he may bless you before he dies."*

*Genesis 27:6-10*

She was right about the outcome, but she did not trust the Lord to handle it. This is such an easy trap to fall into! She felt like she needed to manipulate the situation and she did it - very well! She deceived her blind husband with food and a "costume", and got her son to help her do it (which, by the way, was not-so-great parenting)! In the end, she got what she wanted - sort of. While Jacob did get the blessing, Esau was so angry that he threatened to kill him, so Jacob had to flee. Rebekah lost her son when he left, and I am sure the whole situation was very damaging

to the relationship with her husband. But in her heart, she probably started out thinking she was helping God with His plans for her family.

As a coach's wife, I can think of so many times that I've tried to be "helpful" to my busy coach, but I'm not really being a helper to him. I can find myself just helping out of fear, because if I don't do it, no one will! Or because he's not home, it all depends on me to hold down the fort, be both parents and raise perfect kids. When in truth, God cares about my marriage and family even more than I do. And one of the best things I can do for my husband, instead of trying to be so helpful, is to ask JESUS to HELP ME!

I hate to say it this way, but Rebekah did not win the fight against fear in this particular situation. She was so wrapped up in making sure her son got what he was promised, that she took action instead of trusting that the Lord would fulfill His promises. God is so gracious. I encourage us all to remember that truth - whatever we have or haven't done as wives and mothers, friends and daughters - there is power, forgiveness and grace. Even though Rebekah sinned in such a hurtful way, Jacob is in the genealogy of Christ. God had already designed Jesus' family tree and would have done it with or without her help.

The Bible doesn't say that Rebekah ever saw Jacob again. There were consequences for her manipulation, but even still, we see God's sovereign hand prevail and His mercy continue through generations.



## WRAP IT UP:

1. **FIGHTING FEAR:** It seems like Rebekah had lost the fight against fear before this situation ever came up! She was probably bound up by something in her life already - favoritism, control and self-reliance to name a few! She had a “I better do it myself or it won’t get done” mindset. Is this a mindset you battle against?

Ask the Lord to give you His power to fight your fears.

*“The Lord will fight for you, and you have only to be silent.”- Exodus 14:1*

2. **FINDING FAITH:** At the beginning of the story, Rebekah “inquired of the Lord” (Genesis 25:22) about the struggle of the twins during her pregnancy. The Lord answered her questions, but she had an incorrect application! Have you ever seen God at work in your husband’s life and tried to help things along?

Ask the Lord to accomplish His will in His timing, and that during that time of waiting

He would give you faith to believe His promises!

*“Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.”-*

*Hebrew 11:1*

## PRAYER:

*Lord, thank you for Your grace and patience. Please protect us from the traps of control and manipulation and lead us in the ways of trust and faith in You! We believe that You are committed to our families, and You will accomplish Your purposes in Your timing. Please help us to be helpful in faith, not in fear. Amen!*

## Chapter 3

### LEAH the UNWANTED BRIDE

This title seemed to capture our study for today, but out of curiosity, I checked to see if there was already a book by this name and yes, there is a fictional romance novel called "The Unwanted Bride"! (I have not read it so this is NOT a book recommendation!) But today we are looking at Leah's non-fiction romance story, and there is much we can learn.

Jacob (Rebekah's son) loved Leah's younger sister Rachel. Rachel was beautiful, and Jacob worked for her father Laban for 7 years the right to marry her. However, on the wedding night, Laban made the switch, and gave Jacob the older, less attractive sister, Leah. Imagine how Leah felt when Jacob was "raging" at her father the next day, "What is this you have done to me? Did I not serve with you for Rachel? Why then have you deceived me?" (Gen. 29:25) So the next week, Laban gave him Rachel as his wife too. Now Leah has to share her husband with her incredibly beautiful sister, and he's a husband who doesn't think she's pretty and never wanted her in the first place.

So Leah does the natural thing. She tries "performance based acceptance" to earn Jacob's love by giving him as many sons as possible.

*"When the Lord saw that Leah was hated, he opened her womb, but Rachel was barren.*

*(Genesis 29:31-35, paraphrased)*

And Leah conceived and bore a son, (Reuben)

*"...now my husband will love me."*

And Leah conceived again, and bore a son (Simeon)

*"Because the Lord has heard that I am hated, He has given me this son also."*

Again she conceived and bore a son (Levi)

*"Now this time my husband will be attached to me because I have borne him three sons."*

And she conceived again and bore a son, (Judah) and said,

*"This time I will praise the Lord."*

It seems that by the fourth son, Leah had a paradigm shift - it wasn't about earning her husband's love at that point, it was about loving God. She seemed to understand that the Lord loves her. And, although she falls back into the performance trap later on, at least at this moment, I think she experienced rest - and not just from birthing all those babies, but from striving to earn acceptance. Trying to please people is exhausting, and there is so much freedom in letting go.

As coaches' wives, we sometimes feel that pressure to perform - to have it all together for the parents and fans, even other coaches' wives and our own husbands. To do it all! To handle all logistics and emotional needs of the kids, the laundry, the job...And when we don't keep the plates spinning, we can get frustrated with ourselves and even compare ourselves with other wives! But we cannot live for the affection or approval of others - not even of our own husbands. Believe it or not, our husbands find us most beautiful when we are praising the Lord and finding our value in Him!

## WRAP IT UP:

1. **FIGHTING FEAR:** There is a good chance that Leah felt powerless in her life. She couldn't get out of the relationship, and the pain of rejection was probably a constant struggle. We all fear rejection in some way, and we all want to be loved! It's easy to fall into the trap of performing to avoid rejection and earn love. Do you have an example of fighting your fears by trying to perform? Maybe fears that concern moving to a new place and meeting new coaches' wives or trying to be the perfect coach's wife where you are?

Ask the Lord to show you your value in Him and His love for you.

*"There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love."- 1 John 4:18*

2. **FINDING FAITH:** There came a point for Leah when she desired to please God more than her husband - not that she still didn't desire a loving relationship with Jacob, but it appears that he was no longer her idol and she was no longer putting her faith in him and what he thought of her, at least for a time. As much as we love our husbands and want more time with them through the busy seasons, we can find fulfillment in the Lord regardless of the fact that he might not have time to give us much attention! Do you struggle with finding worth in your husband? Is there a way you can make the most of the time you do have together?

Ask the Lord to give you faith to believe He is at work in our marriages, and He can fill our hearts more than any earthly relationship.

*"...as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you."- Isaiah*

**PRAYER:**

*Lord, we can't do it all even on our best days. Yes, we want our husbands to think we are beautiful. Yes, we want them to be glad they married us. But no, we won't find unconditional love in anyone but You. Thank you for this love and acceptance because of Your son Jesus. Help us to live in freedom and praise of You. Amen!*

## Chapter 4

### MIRIAM the LIFE OF THE PARTY

*“Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. And Miriam sang to them: ‘Sing to the Lord, for he has triumphed gloriously: the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.’”*

*Exodus 15:20-21*

Most scholars believe that Miriam was married to Caleb, one of the 12 spies who, along with Joshua, was sent into the Land of Canaan. Caleb and Joshua both had faith that God would give them victory, though the other spies doubted. Miriam was also Moses’ older sister. She was the one who put her baby brother in a homemade basket in the reeds, then approached Pharaoh’s daughter so her own mother could be Moses’ nursemaid - what a brilliant, brave girl! (Exodus 2:1-10) She was a musician, a leader of worship, a leader of women, a high-energy encourager, and a prophetess according to the Bible. Micah 6:4, “For I brought you up from the land of Egypt, I redeemed you from the house of bondage; and I sent before you Moses, Aaron and Miriam”.

What I see in Miriam is what I see for us as coaches’ wives. Her husband Caleb was a courageous leader - and so was she. She was not behind the scenes. She was not on the sidelines - she was called by God to be in the game. God gave her a necessary, integral role to ensure the success of Moses’ calling, and she had a calling of her own. And, as it says in the scripture above, God sent Miriam just as HE sent Moses and Aaron. Imagine her constantly nagging and

complaining to her brothers and her husband, causing dissension among the women she was leading, being discouraging and NOT leading the celebration when God displayed His power to save! Though she had to have been tired and frustrated at times, and though she did fail in disobedience at one point in the journey and suffer the consequences, she obviously supported and participated in the very difficult road from slavery to freedom. I often use this quote by Francis Chan:

“Being in war together keeps us from being at war with each other.”

It is so crucial to realize and so encouraging to understand that we, ALL coaches' wives, are NOT the afterthoughts of God. We are not married to our coach by accident, and we – YOU - are called by God to fulfill a role that no one else can. And though I don't know the dynamics of your family (kids, job, responsibilities), or how this will play out for you daily - if you are a coach's wife, this is true for you. We are not made to suffer through the life, the seasons, and challenges - we were not made to crawl, we were called to dance!

Miriam was front and center with Moses, married to Caleb, both of whom were some of the greatest leaders in the Bible - but not everyone plays the tambourine and wants to dance on a stage! So if you don't have a “Miriam” personality, that's more than ok! We are all called to be on the mission field of sports with our husbands, but it plays out in different ways for each wife and each family. Just remember our calling to dance and please don't compare yourself to any other wife!

## WRAP IT UP

1. **FIGHTING FEAR:** Miriam might appear to be fearless, but imagine how she felt when she was trying to save her baby brother from being killed! There were many other fear-filled moments in the desert, but Miriam's commitment to worship was most likely a way she combatted her fears - for example, leading worship after the Red Sea experience! Are there any worship songs that help you focus on the Lord during moments of fear and feelings of defeat?

Ask the Lord to help you look to Him for victory.

*"The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in Him, and He helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise Him."- Psalm 28:7*

2. **FINDING FAITH:** Miriam learned to walk in faith from an early age. Her family trusted in God, and she saw God work in many ways through the years. She probably discovered her gifts and abilities at an early age as well, but many people discover the unique way God created them to be later on in life. As coaches' wives, we can lose ourselves in the craziness of the coaching life. We can easily enter survival mode and forget that the Lord created us, and we are coaches' wives by design! Have you ever asked the Lord how He wants to use you specifically to bless your family and the community He has called you to? Do you compare yourself with others? Have you ever taken a personality test or spiritual gifts test to give you insight into how God has designed you?

Ask the Lord to help you believe what His word says about you.



*“For You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother’s womb. I praise you for I am fearfully (incredibly, remarkably) and wonderfully made...” - Psalm*

*139: 13-14*

**PRAAYER:**

*Lord, You have called us to the mission field of sports, together with our husbands, and You are on this journey with us. We will fear and fail along the way, and we thank you in advance for Your grace and forgiveness, and YOUR commitment to our life of faith. You’ve uniquely designed us, so please help us not compare ourselves with others, but use our position of influence in whatever way You desire. Amen!*

## Chapter 5

### RAHAB the BRAVE HOSTESS

The main focus of Joshua 1 is to call us to be strong and courageous! In chapter 2, the drama unfolds and we see courage in action, so here is the synopsis: Secret Israelite spies are in Jericho. The king is searching for them so they hide on the roof of an immoral woman's house. She helps them escape through her window. Our heroine is the very strong and courageous Rahab the prostitute.

How could this woman with a questionable profession have been brave? Strong? Courageous? She knew that to help the spies was a crime punishable by death, and by defying the king she was betraying her own country. She knew who she was - her reputation and her reality - but she had heard stories about the God of Israel, and decided to put her trust in Him. This is what she said to the spies:

*"I know that the Lord has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting because of you. We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. When we heard of it our hearts melted and everyone's courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below."* Joshua 2:8-11

Rahab's fear of God made her fearless. And then she was able to live by faith.

In the Bible, fear refers to being overwhelmed, controlled by something. The Lord doesn't want us to be overwhelmed by anxiety and worry, but to be overwhelmed with the wonder of His greatness; to be controlled by His love. Rahab was overwhelmed in the good way! She feared the Lord. She was amazed by His power, and the miracles He had done and this moved her into action. She wasn't afraid of the king, or consequences of aiding the spies - she lived in awe of the Lord. And when Jericho burned to the ground, she and her family were saved. In all of this we see Rahab learning to walk by faith before she was married, and then she not only became one of the power wives of the Bible, the Lord also gave her a godly legacy.

God rescued Rahab and made her radiant. He saved Rahab from her life as a prostitute and brought her and her family into the Israelite family. Then she married Salmon the Israelite and became the great, great grandmother of King David - and Christ was born from the line of David 28 generations later. What a Lord we serve that He would not only save us from our sin, but also entrust us with special callings - as He did Rahab, from whose lineage came Jesus.

There are so many things to be fearful about in this life. There are fears of opportunities in the instability of our husband's job, of the moving from team to team and place to place, of our coach's reputation in the community based on wins and losses - so many things to trust God about! But let me encourage you:

*Psalm 27:1 "The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?"* Whatever your past, your current situation or future challenges, the Lord is "God in the heaven above and in the earth below."

## WRAP IT UP

1. **FIGHTING FEAR:** Rahab had to have been terrified - she had everything to lose in helping the spies; however, she gives us a powerful example of what it looks like to fight fear with fear. Her fear of God and understanding of His greatness, gave her strength to fight her fear of man and do what was right. Has God ever asked you to do something that terrified you? In those times, has your view of God and His ultimate power given you strength to obey? Or do you struggle to see God as all-powerful?

Ask the Lord to give you a healthy fear of Him.

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge...” - Proverbs 1:7*

2. **FINDING FAITH:** Rahab had heard the true stories of the greatness of God, and this helped shaped her view of God. This is a great encouragement for us to seek to know God through His Word. As we read stories of His power and His love, our understanding of God's character grows, and so will our faith that He won't let us down. But it's not just about the stories - it is a personal relationship with Jesus that changes everything. We also need to remember that the Lord is patient and wants us to tell Him when we are struggling with faith and fear. “Cast your cares (anxieties) before the Lord for He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7). So in this, God's Word and prayer, we can grow in our faith. Do you spend time reading God's word for yourself and praying to Him? Do you feel comfortable doing these things?

Ask the Lord to provide someone to encourage you in your walk with Him, and someone you can encourage as well.

*“Let us know; let us press on to know the Lord; His going out is sure as the dawn; He will come to us as the showers, as the spring rains that water the earth.”- Hosea 6:3*

**PRAYER:**

*Lord, You call us to an adventure with You that can be overwhelming. Help us to be brave. Help us to seek to know You through Your word and prayer. Help us to remember who You are - Your Power and Might - and obey in faith. Amen!*

## Chapter 6

### RUTH the BEAUTIFUL WIDOW

The story of Ruth is beautiful. Her name means “beauty”. Her character, servant’s heart, hard-working attitude all stand out to me, but my favorite thing is that Ruth made beautiful, selfless decisions.

When Ruth’s husband of 10 years died, she made the decision to stay and care for her mother-in-law Naomi instead of turning back to her people and searching for another husband. More importantly she decides to embrace Naomi’s faith in God. *Ruth said, “Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.” Ruth 1:16-17*

After this commitment is made, these two widows travel to Bethlehem, Naomi’s hometown, and arrive at the beginning of the barley harvest. Ruth decides to glean in the fields of Naomi’s relative Boaz. I don’t know if this was her first choice as a career option, but it was a way for her to take care of Naomi, find favor with Boaz, and she worked with a diligent heart. Then Naomi tells Ruth to propose marriage to Boaz by laying at his feet in the middle of the night (Ruth 3 - definitely read it for yourself!). Seems like a crazy request from her mom-in-law, but the way things were in those times, if Boaz, who was kin to Naomi, were to marry Ruth, he

would be ransoming the family inheritance and giving the family name a legacy if they were to have children. Again, Ruth made the decision to do as her mother-in-law asked. Ruth's gentle and quiet spirit attracted Boaz and turned his heart towards her. The Lord blessed her godly decisions with a redeeming marriage, an inheritance restored, and a son named Obed was born who would become the great-grandfather of King David! And Jesus comes through the line of David generations later!

It's easy to make decisions in light of what is best for me, but every decision Ruth made was about what was best for others. She literally laid down her future for Naomi and physically laid down at Boaz's feet to request that he give her a legacy.

When we decided to marry our husbands, even if we didn't know that our future with him would hold a coaching career, we made a commitment for richer or poorer, sickness or health - or in the words of Ruth "where you go I will go, where you lodge I will lodge...where you die I will die..." And even years after the vows have been spoken, we have the daily opportunity to put our husband first and to make continual decisions as Ruth did: To lay down what's best for me - to serve and give, and not worry about myself. And look at all God did in and through her life!

AND PLEASE REMEMBER THIS: When we make selfish decisions and don't want to serve, which will happen, we have a perfect, forgiving Savior who can change our hearts. We need Him and He is our strength and example: *"But the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:28)

## WRAP IT UP:

1. **FIGHTING FEAR:** Ruth made a very difficult choice. It would have been much easier to return home to her family after the death of her husband, but she committed to go and serve Naomi with no guarantee for her own future security. There are many things to be afraid of when facing the unknown, but she seems to focus on WHO she knows, not circumstances. She knew and loved Naomi. She knew and loved Naomi's God. Is there an example from your life as a coach's wife when God called you and your husband into the unknown? Do you struggle to focus on WHO you know - the Lord- and trust that He is in control?

Ask the Lord to help you believe that He knows what He is doing.

*“For I know that plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”- Jeremiah 29:11*

2. **FINDING FAITH:** Ruth followed Naomi by faith, and then continued to step out of her comfort zone once they arrived in Bethlehem, even proposing marriage to Boaz! So we see that walking by faith is a life-long journey, and the faith required for this has to come from the One who created us, gives us the faith to believe and gives us the power to choose rightly. And when we do choose FEAR, HE is always FAITHFUL.

Ask the Lord to help you keep your eyes on Jesus through this faith journey.

*“Now stay focused on Jesus, who designed and perfected our faith. He endured the cross and ignored the shame of that death because he focused on the joy that was set before Him; and now He is seated beside God on the throne, a place of honor.”- Hebrews 12:2*



PRAYER:

*Lord, please help us to make beautiful, selfless decisions that honor you and bless those in our lives! Make us fearless in light of Your faithfulness, even when that means following our husbands into the unknown. Thank you for being our Redeemer, and setting the example of complete selflessness through Your death on the cross. We love you.*

*Amen!*

As we close out our study, I wanted to share the reason why the application section of each lesson is titled “Wrap it up.” It’s because I love the book cover! I love the image of the woman’s hands, wrapped up and prepared to fight her fears and find faith in the battle. But the image of the wrapped hands also reminded me of some very powerful truths about the power of fear and the power of God’s love.

A life wrapped up in fear is paralyzing. When we get wrapped up in the lies, insecurities and anxieties, it’s almost impossible to move and difficult to breathe! We often want to fight through it so we wrap up our hands and try to handle it ourselves. But the Lord wants to set us free, and wrap us up in His love instead. And as an added word of encouragement, if you are experiencing overwhelming fear, please reach out to someone and walk the faith journey together. Be honest with the Lord too, He already knows your struggles and your deepest fears, and He Himself was “wrapped up” on your behalf!

You see, it’s not about us wrapping up our hands to fight fear - we are powerless to do so without the power of faith, given to us by the Author of our faith. It’s not about us wrapping up our own hurts and bandaging our own wounds so we can become stronger...

It’s about JESUS, who was wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger- so that we could live by faith and not fear.

It’s all about JESUS, who was wrapped in a linen cloth for burial after His death on the cross- so that we could live by faith and not fear.

I do hope you have learned from these power wives of the Bible. I do hope that you've had insight into your own personal struggles and are walking away with practical applications for your life as a coach's wife. But above all else, I hope that you have grown in your faith as you've come to know the Lord who is the Giver of faith. The One who fights for us, and in His faithfulness sets us free from the fears that bind us.

Praying for us all as we continue on this journey,

Candace