

December 2018



THE SPICE

A taste of what's happening for women.

Like a Child

by Kristi Wile

There's something about the wonder in a child's eyes at Christmas. Doesn't it make the season more exciting when young children are in your gatherings? And we love increasing the excitement with secrets and mystery. We look forward to the day when those littles get to satisfy their longings as they open their gifts.

For us, the holidays don't look so magical. We've got lists to do a mile long, homes to decorate, gifts to buy, cookies to bake, all while keeping the holiday spirit in our hearts. How are we supposed to do that?

Jesus tells us in Matthew 18:3 that *unless (we) turn and become like children, (we) will never enter the kingdom of heaven.* Never do we have such a vivid example of what becoming like children would look like than at this time of year. The wonder is on their faces, the excitement in their eyes, and even in their little bodies as they jump up and down in anticipation! But when was the last time I had this kind of wonder and excitement when facing the Advent season?

The word that strikes me in all this is "mystery." Sometimes I think the reason why we aren't excited about the things of God is that we think we know it all already. We grew up in church, we've heard the stories, we understand grace and the Great Commission. We've read through the Bible a bunch of times.

But do we consider that there is *never* an end to learning things about our God? In Colossians, the Apostle Paul speaks of this mystery and encourages the reader *to reach all the riches of full assurance of understanding and the knowledge of God's mystery, which is Christ. (2:2)* Where do we find these riches? In His Word!

No, I don't expect that I'll jump out of bed tomorrow morning and run with excitement to get to my Bible. But my heart longs to have that deep desire to *want to spend significant time in Scripture, where I will never come to the end of searching for treasures that will transform my heart and mind in Christ Jesus.*

During this season, let's pay attention to the wonder we'll see in a child's eyes and then think about our own sense of wonder. Advent is about celebrating the first coming of Jesus and anticipating his second coming. Do you still have an awe and fascination with Jesus? Are you curious enough about Him to keep searching in His Word which is where He reveals Himself to us? *Unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.* Let's find some time in our busyness to linger before God and examine our hearts.

Let's be like a child.

*Women's Ministry Mission Statement:
Encouraging women to connect in
deeper, genuine relationships
both with each other
and with Jesus Christ*



THE WORD

**"Oh, the depth of the riches
and wisdom and
knowledge of God!"**

— Romans 11:33

Think About It

Colossians 2:3 tells us that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are hidden in Christ who is the Living Word. Hidden treasures need to be found. How much do you search for those treasures? And where do you search for them?

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Making Connections



Meet **Kelsy Weaver**.

Interview by Carol Landis.

Kelsy and I chatted in their family room as Alanna (2 1/2 years), and Isaiah (6 months) played beside us. Kelsy enjoys being a stay-at-home mom, and she also enjoys her part-time job in marketing at Bergey's Inc. where she uses her gifts in graphic design.

Kelsy, is the oldest of three children. She has two younger brothers, and they grew up in a log cabin on a mountain in Dillsburg, PA. Although their mile-long driveway had its challenges, Kelsy loved living in the house her dad built. Dillsburg, a small close-knit community, is a short distance from Harrisburg.

While there are similarities between where she lives now, and where she grew up, Kelsy notices two distinct differences. One, is that her home congregation, Slate Hill Mennonite, is the only Mennonite church in that area, and second, is the family connectedness. Similar family names are not the norm in her home community. Kelsy's extended family is scattered over the state of Pennsylvania, with their common thread being Messiah College, where her parents, grandparents, and many in her extended family graduated. Kelsy met Nate Weaver, her husband, at Messiah in their freshman year. Kelsy graduated in 2011 with a major in marketing and a minor in art.

Kelsy enjoys using her artistic talents with crafts, sewing projects, painting their home and other home improvement projects. She also enjoys knitting and being part of the prayer shawl ministry at Franconia.

A challenging time for Kelsy and Nate was on March 13, 2016, when she was 23 weeks and 4 days into her pregnancy with Alanna and her water broke. She clearly remembers it was a Sunday night when they rushed to Grand View Hospital's emergency room and were told she would be transferred to Lehigh Valley Hospital in Allentown via ambulance. The seriousness of their situation became evident to this young couple when Nate was told not to follow the ambulance, as they would be traveling very fast. [And for accountant husband, Nate, this was the middle of tax season!] At Lehigh Valley Hospital, Kelsy was put on magnesium, and told to prepare for an emergency C-section. She had Preterm Premature Rupture of Membranes. But by the next morning, her contractions had slowed down and there was enough amniotic fluid in her uterus to allow her to carry Alanna full term. After a few days of monitoring, she was sent home without restrictions. The membranes sealed over. However, she limited her activity to the bare essentials. This experience, Kelsy shares, is "our miracle." Reflecting back, they see how it drew them closer together as a couple, and, while it tested their faith, it drew them closer to God. (And as a side note, there were no issues with Isaiah's pregnancy.)

A favorite verse of Kelsy's is Philippians 4: 6-7: Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

What's Happening for Women

Project of the Month: Bar Soap
(Dove soap for infant kits)

Attention Mothers of Preschoolers:

Join other women who are in a similar stage of parenting, just to relax and chat. You are invited to Kathy Wenger's home (8 Rosy Ridge Ct., Telford) on Thursday, **December 6th at 6:30 pm.**

Infants are welcome, and puzzles and children's books are available to keep the little ones busy.

Please bring a small snack to share. **Contact Kathy @ mkwenger@comcast.net or by text @ 717-519-7180.**

The Christmas Tea is fast approaching!

Please sign up by December 4th.

Contact Kristi, Carol, or Ruth Ann to get your name on the list. Feel free to invite friends and family! We will be blessed!

Please bring an item to donate to the Keystone Opportunity Center. We are collecting personal care products (liquid hand soap, shampoo, feminine hygiene products, deodorant, Lysol wipes, baby wipes).

Let's be generous!

You are invited

Christmas Tea

December 8th at 9 am

Speaker- Lydia Clemmer

"Gifts and Seasons"

Breakfast by Social Tea Caterers

Suggested Donation \$10

Sign-ups in foyer



Scripture Memory Challenge 2019

In January, we will host an informal gathering to both celebrate the hard work you put into the 2018 challenge and then to kick off the next year's challenge. Here is your chance to discover what all the excitement is about! If you've not participated yet, come and find out more about what we are doing. Please watch for more information by email or in your church mailboxes. (Note: we won't start on Jan. 1st this year.)

December

A Taste of What's Happening for Women



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thurs	Fri	Sat
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Christmas Song Service 6:30 pm						Women's Christmas Tea 9-11
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Christmas Caroling 5:30 pm		Sewing Circle 8am-3pm			Live Nativity 7-9 pm	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Christmas Eve Service 6:30 pm	<i>Merry Christmas!</i>				
30	31					

Contact for more information

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