



How Am I Doing with Loving Jesus? by Carol Landis

Although not musically gifted, I do love to sing. A fact my family and probably even our neighbors could confirm 😊. Recently I found myself singing the refrain of a song from earlier years. *“Can men tell that you love Jesus, can they by your life and mine, see in daily walk and action that we have His life divine?”* As I sang these words, they felt a prayer. I want others to see Jesus in me. As I have been influenced, so I hope I too, can cause others to thirst for a close relationship with Jesus.

With the second verse, I feel a challenge. *“Would men know by word and action, in the small things of this life, in the daily round of duty, in the midst of toil and strife?”* While it's not about meeting human expectations, that desire can slip in, bringing stress and exhaustion. Quite the opposite of being contagious. And, a distraction from nurturing the love I share with Jesus. How does one live in the “first love” Jesus desired of the church in Ephesus (Revelation 2:4)? Although the Ephesian church had quite impressive qualities: hard work, perseverance, good deeds, enduring hardship, not tolerating wicked actions, and not being weary (v.3). [This final trait is quite impressive!] But Jesus noted their heart.

In the world around me, hard work and persevering to achieve high goals are important. Along with an emphasis to pamper, care and protect ourselves. But Jesus promotes something different. Not achieving on our own strength and hard work. Neither to solely pamper [Check out Amos 4:1]. Rather He calls us to be still. *“Be still and know that I am God”* (Ps. 46:10). Be still and be filled with His love. *“How great is the love the Father has lavished on us...”* (1 John 3:1). *“I will not leave you...I will come to you”* (John 14:18). It seems *being* needs to come before *doing*. Then, after being still and filled with His love, others will know we love Jesus. And the doing follows.

[Would Men Know? By E.O. Sellers]

Jesus instructed the Ephesian church: *“Repent and do the things you did at first”* (Rev. 2:5).

What were those things...?

- Being still to be with Jesus.
- Being still to hear truth(s) when reading His Word.
- Being still to see the eternal in daily life.
- Sharing with others about our relationship with Jesus and what He's teaching us.

Take time to discern what “these things” are for you.

September 2021



WOMEN'S MINISTRY MISSION STATEMENT: Encouraging women to connect in deeper, genuine relationships both with each other and with Jesus Christ.



Making Connections

Sydney Leaman: This past summer I had the privilege of counseling at Spruce Lake Wilderness Camp for my third summer. Spruce Lake has always been the place where I feel closest to the Lord and is where I thrive the most. I enjoy the friendships that I make and love getting to meet so many new people. My favorite thing about camp is being able to counsel girls of all ages and share the gospel with them! This summer I saw the Lord work in so many ways. He touched the hearts of my campers, fellow staff members, and even myself. After each summer I find myself wanting a stronger relationship with the Lord and leave camp feeling on fire for Him and inspired. One of my favorite memories from this past summer was being able to talk to my campers and pray with them as they accepted the Lord into their hearts. God is so faithful and loves all of His children no matter the age! Something I kept reminding myself of this summer was that the Lord wants us to WANT a relationship with Him, and no matter what mistakes we have made, He is a good good father and loves us through it all.



Laura Bergey: This was my fifth summer at Bethany Birches Camp, and it came with old friends, new friends, some familiar challenges, and some newer obstacles. Every summer that I work at camp I am reminded of the servant-minded leadership that is required for the job. This summer I was a counselor again and I got to experience counseling boys and girls of all different ages. I also had the privilege of leading our Leaders in Training and Counselors in Training. These are high schoolers who want to grow in leadership and/or be counselors someday. During our leadership sessions and hours of service in the kitchen and helping with maintenance, we taught them the importance of leading through serving others and putting others' needs before your own. I heard negative comments from my campers during these times and I realized how Jesus truly transformed my life. I was able to wake up and serve with JOY each morning even if I wasn't completely enjoying what I was doing, because Jesus showed me that example and he renews my soul. It would be much

harder to work at camp if I did not have a purpose to share Jesus with these kids and a God to fill me up with joy. My last week of counseling was the hardest. As Anna Martin was encouraging me one night, she reminded me that we are called to do God's work, but that doesn't mean it's going to be easy. Service will come with challenges, but the amazing rewards make it all worth it. The friends, campfire meals, star-gazing, opportunities to be completely ridiculous with the campers, and moments of sharing about Jesus to fresh ears made the summer another great experience!

Alana Bergey: This summer, I had the privilege of working at a Christian summer day camp in Pittsburgh called Urban Impact. I saw God work clearly and powerfully here as I served as a 3rd grade math and English teacher for a group of 15 students. The mornings were *(Continued on page 3)*



Making Connections, continued

(Alana, continued from page 2) spent in class (they also had a Bible teacher come in each day to teach the Gospel story), while the afternoons were ours to play with the kids and do various activities. My co-counselors and I quickly learned, however, that much of our job consisted of correcting behavior and actions. Almost all the kids in my classroom came from homes with little structure and extremely difficult behavior. In the beginning, it felt like we corrected the same unacceptable behaviors time and again, but through this summer, God taught me the excitement of asking Him for creativity in how I respond. I learned the power of breathy prayers asking for wisdom on how to respond to a specific camper in a way that would show Christ, rather than impatience. God opened doors to allow me to have one-on-one conversations with campers, getting to ask about home lives, and foster incredible conversations that I wouldn't have had the chance to experience otherwise. I had multiple instances in which the students would tell us that they were also praying on their own, in their own homes, for better attitudes and behaviors. They were learning to earnestly pray for Christlike attitudes, and we would see real change happen. It was through these unpleasant behaviors that I had to correct that I saw God move most clearly. We saw campers come to know the Lord personally, and we saw as they learned valuable Bible stories that they can in turn share with their unbelieving families. I praise God for the work He is doing in Pittsburgh!

New Feature: Recipe of the Month!

Crispy Potato Bake

<https://foodwithfeeling.com/crispy-potato-bake/>

Submitted by Carol Landis. Carol says, "This is an easy to prepare and very delicious side for chicken, fish or beef. It also can be adapted for personal taste. I omitted bacon, chives and also substituted dried rosemary for fresh, and received rave reviews from guests."

Ingredients

- 7-10 russet potatoes (depending on the size), position the potatoes in your dish to see roughly how many will fit
- 1 small sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 3 tablespoons of butter
- 2 tablespoons of olive oil
- 1 teaspoon of salt
- pepper to taste
- 1 tablespoon of chopped fresh rosemary, plus more for garnish
- ~3 strips of cooked bacon, chopped, for topping
- Parsley/ chives for topping



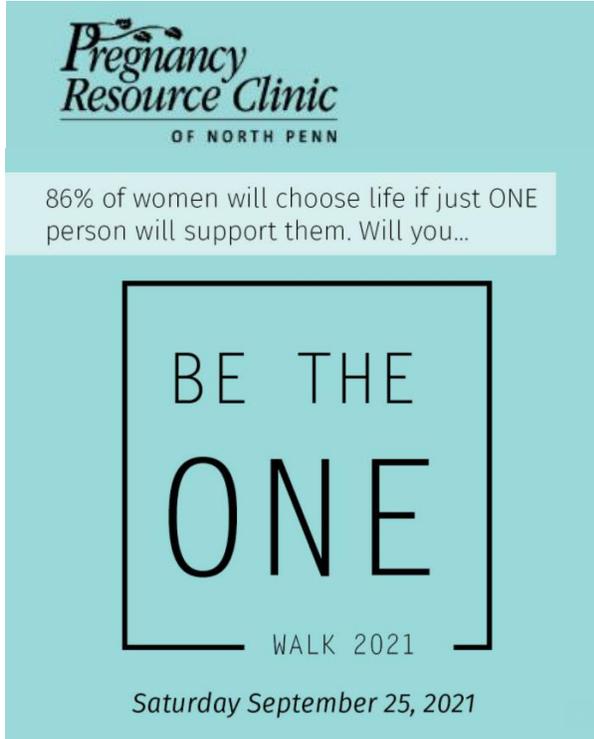
Instructions

1. Pre-heat the oven to 375 degrees F. Grease a 9x9 baking dish.
2. Slice the potatoes about as thin as you can. This is best done with a very sharp knife. As you're slicing, do your best to keep the potato together so that it can be arranged in the tray properly. Once sliced, neatly arrange the potatoes in the dish. You can split a couple of the potatoes up to best fit snug in the dish.
3. Wedge the onion slices in between slices of the potatoes and sprinkle with the chopped rosemary.
4. In a small bowl, melt the butter and mix in the olive oil, salt, and some freshly cracked black pepper. Brush ~1/3 of the butter mixture over top of the potatoes. Set the rest aside.
5. Cover and bake for 45 minutes. Remove from the oven, brush with another 1/3 of the butter mixture and bake for an additional 45 minutes, uncovered. Watch it the last 15 minutes to make sure it isn't burning.
6. Remove from the oven, brush with the remaining butter mixture and top with parsley/ chives and bacon bits. ENJOY!



What's Happening for Women

This month we will participate in a fundraising walk:



Pregnancy Resource Clinic
OF NORTH PENN

86% of women will choose life if just ONE person will support them. Will you...

BE THE ONE
WALK 2021

Saturday September 25, 2021

9:00-11:00am
At Franconia Park

Click [here](#) to hear about how Carla's life was changed by the care she received from the Pregnancy Resource Clinic.

Look for more information on the Women's Ministry Table in the foyer

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Women's Ministry Survey! If at any time you have comments, questions, or suggestions for the WM Team, please contact one of the team members, or email franconiawomen@gmail.com

Attention Moms!

Moms of Preschoolers: you are invited to a **Playground Playtime** at Church on Thursday, Sept. 9 at 11am



Outdoor Mom's Market & Yard Sale
Sat. September 11th - 9:00 to noon
Rain Date: September 25th

Children's clothes, books, toys and more
Bake Sale

FREE ADMISSION,
\$10.00 tables available
contact: Franconiamomsmarket@gmail.com
Franconia Mennonite Church

Upcoming Speaker Event

"Finding Confidence in Christ to make Wise Choices for Ourselves and Our Families"

Do you ever feel overwhelmed by all the information constantly bombarding you? Do you find yourself getting anxious about whether you are making the right decisions when social pressures are strong? Come join us for an evening with speaker **Carolyn Custis James**, who will share about looking to Christ for our confidence in daily decision making.

Thursday, October 14th
7:00-8:30pm

September 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	Mommy & Me playtime 11am	10	Mom's Market and Bake Sale 9:00-12:00
12	13	Sewing Circle 8am-4pm Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	Fundraiser Walk 9-11am
26	27	28	29	30		

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