



## Vulnerability with an Omniscient God by Alana Bergey

We all know it's rare if someone responds with anything other than a cheerful "Good!" upon being asked how they are. We don't want to give people the long answer of how we are honestly feeling, unless it's a true friend who clearly cares to know. Transparency has always been difficult for me, and I know it's something that a lot of other people struggle with too. You don't want to bother people with your inner thoughts, so you decide not to bring up what's really going on.

Recently, as I was studying Job and reading of the raw, unfiltered cries he let out to God, I was struck with the question of whether I am even vulnerable with God. We are reminded many times through Scripture that God already knows our inner thoughts, so what does it mean to be vulnerable with an omniscient God?

I realized that I have been holding back from confessing to God when I am dealing with anything that is causing me to not be my best (which to be honest, is most of the time...). My first response is to try to do everything on my own. I don't want to have to include God in my plans or ask for help when I'm overwhelmed, anxious, or frustrated because then I would be admitting that I am not capable of doing it on my own. As I read through Job, however, I discovered that God desires me in the midst of my imperfection. He wants me to be vulnerable with Him. Job beseeches God within his suffering and hurt. He approaches God to honestly, bluntly tell God how he is feeling and the questions with which he is wrestling. Job confesses all of his unpolished emotions. In fact, Job says, "Therefore I will not keep silent;/ I will speak out in the anguish of my spirit,/ I will complain in the bitterness of my soul" (Job 7:11). Job speaks out in his despair, and God has the ultimate love and patience to bear it. He tells us to lay our burdens on Him, and that He will take it for us (Matthew 11:28-30). God does not want our surface-level prayers or for us to put on an act in our spiritual life. He knows us better than we know ourselves, so let us approach God with honesty and invite Him to meet us where we are. When we open our hearts to be transparent with God, then He can take that burden and continue to sanctify us.

How can we exhibit more vulnerability with God in the midst of our weaknesses and struggles?

*"Come to me,  
all you who are  
weary and  
burdened, and  
I will give you  
rest. Take my  
yoke upon you  
and learn  
from me, for I  
am gentle and  
humble in  
heart, and you  
will find rest  
for your souls.  
For my yoke  
is easy and  
my burden is  
light"  
(Matthew  
11:28-30).*

Praise God for  
the honesty  
we can have  
with Him, the  
Creator of the  
Universe.

# October 2021





# Making Connections

Welcome to **SHINE**: We as a SHINE team sit back in amazement of how SHINE has come together since the simple seed of an idea. From the unanimous approval from the Outreach Team and their continued support to the Pastoral/leadership Team committing to share in our worship time once a month. Also, the willingness to help from all the church staff, and the awesome volunteers that have exceeded any expectations we could have had.



One vision we had was to have volunteers who would come regularly to build relationships with the children. We thought this might happen after a few months but it is already happening after only three weeks!! We are in awe of what God is doing! This past week when we were partnering children with a mentor, some of the girls asked to have the same mentor again. The volunteer had spent a lot of time connecting with them after their homework and the girls wanted that again. As we were leaving last week one of the boys asked "Is he going to be here next week?", referring to one of our amazing young adult guys who is helping with math and rec time, and it was so good to be able to say "yes"!!! Others are serving food and then sitting with the kids and telling them stories, volunteering to be back every week and to bring brownies along ☺. And still others supplying us with fruit and dessert, with some committing to every week.

We have seen how God is orchestrating the volunteers and the connections with the 10 children from four different families that have attended so far. In talking with the moms, it's evident they appreciate the opportunity their children have to be a part of this. They love their children dearly and desire the best for them, but there are just certain things they can't do for them—either because of language and cultural barriers, time limitation due to long work hours and such. Whatever the reason, we see this as meeting the needs, helping these sweet kids with homework so they feel supported and empowered. We also take this time to share Jesus and teach them about Him. All of this facilitates conversations as we play and have dinner together. We build relationships, where they can talk about their day, classes, social, and school experiences. It's an opportunity for them to be heard and feel valued and supported, with the end goal that God will do the work in their lives and one day they will commit their lives to Jesus. That's our prayer..... One Tuesday at a time. Please pray for us, and if you feel led to volunteer, join us! You can talk to any of us or [sign up](#) and see God at work – you'll BE incredibly blessed! ☺

*The Lord said to Moses, "Tell Aaron and his sons, 'This is how you are to bless the Israelites. Say to them: "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn His face toward you and give you peace."' ~Numbers 6:22–26*

The SHINE team -Janet Crawford, Jaselyn Ramos, Priscila Freed, Renita Leatherman, and Reenie Hoover





# What's Happening for Women

## Fall Women's Bible Study

Please check out the Women's Ministry Table this Sunday. We'll have two studies for you to look over:

1. *Better: A Study of Hebrews* by Jen Wilkin
2. *You'll Get Through This (on the life of Joseph)* by Max Lucado.

**Please let us know which study you would be most interested in!**

We are making plans to begin in October, on Thursday morning and will offer childcare.

## Women's 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 **KrisAnne Swartley**, who will share about being anchored in Christ, which gives us strength and peace in daily decision making.

**Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>  
7:00-8:30pm**

At Franconia Mennonite Church,  
Upper Fellowship Hall

The evening will include singing, discussion groups, and light refreshments

*We look forward to seeing you there and encourage you to invite your friends!*



## MOMMY & ME

Friday,  
Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>  
11:00am  
At Church

## Sewing Circle

Oct. 12 – We will help knot comforters at MRC's Blitz. (This will be at the MCC Material Resource Center.)

Oct. 13 – Meet at the sewing building as usual

## Save the Date

Oct. 26 – Walk in the Park  
6:30pm (Franconia Park)

Oct. 30 – Scrapbook Crop  
(Contact Janet Derstine if interested 215-723-7413)

Nov. 9 – Service opportunity:  
Assembling Women's Hope  
Kits for World Vision

# October 2021

SUN	MON	TUES	WED	THUR	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3 Check out Bible Study options at WM table	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12 Sewing Circle at MRC Prayer Shawl Ministry 7pm	13 Sewing Circle 8am-4pm	14 Speaker Event 7-8:30pm	15 MOMMY & ME 11:00am	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26 Walk in the Park 6:30pm	27	28	29	30 Scrapbook Crop
31						

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**THE SPICE**