



## A Grasshopper by Carol Landis

*"We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them." (Numbers 13:33).*

As I read the word grasshoppers, immediately a picture came to mind of a small critter that can be crushed by a foot. I couldn't help but be impressed with the immediate visual this gave the intended audience.

However, I also noted the word "seemed." Seemed could be substituted with appeared, looks, give the impression of, or assume. From *seemed* they moved to declaring: *"We looked the same to them."* How often do I do this? What seems, becomes "is." It matters where my thoughts dwell for they will determine what I believe.

Clearly, fear-filled thoughts set the path for 10 of the spies. Fear led them back. Back to wanting to be enslaved again. Slavery *seemed* better than facing a war they were convinced they would lose. They feared what *seemed* certain death and their families being taken captive. These were human, legitimate fears. The countries they faced were experienced fighters. They had established armies, an arsenal of weapons, and walled cities. These refugees clearly were the underdog. But instead of focusing on the miraculous delivery God orchestrated when He led them out of Egypt, parted the Red Sea, and provided in the desert, they focused on *seemed*. They could not believe God's promise for victory. Unlike Joshua and Caleb, the majority focused on the impossibility.

I feel reminded to see God in the enemies that *seem* able to crush me underfoot. Do I focus on my inabilities, weaknesses, lack of resources, difficult circumstances, or, do I choose to focus on the presence and power of God in the past, and, His promises for me now?

Forty plus years later, Joshua 21 records what they could have experienced: *"But the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their forefathers, and...gave them rest on every side...Not one of their enemies withstood them...not one of all the Lord's good promises...failed"* (vs. 43-45).

Like the Israelites, I can't defeat my enemies on my own. My inability is truth. Truth God already knows. And that's not what He asks of me. But I do need to make a choice; either intentionally, or, it becomes one I make by default. A choice that will leave me wandering in desert places, or experiencing the riches of leaning in, and living on, God's promises. Will I depend on my perceptions or lean into God and live out His perception of my situation? God invites me, a "grasshopper," to be a part of the victory He has planned.

*Lord, we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from You and not from us (2 Cor. 4:7). Please strengthen me so I choose to depend on Your power. In Your precious name, Amen.*

# September 2025 |



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



# Making Connections

Meet **Rachel Detweiler.**

Hi! My name is Rachel Detweiler. My husband is Landon Detweiler and we have a son named Caden who turned one this past April. My parents are Tim and Cheryl Shreiner. I grew up in Harleysville, and have attended Franconia my whole life, and this past November my husband and I bought a house in Limerick where we have slowly been turning the house into our home. I was blessed to be raised in a Christian home where Christ was always at the center, and not having any sisters, my mom was my best friend and showed me what it is to be a godly woman, wife, and mother. Instead of attending Penn View Christian School like many of my Sunday school peers, I attended Vernfield Elementary School and then Indian Valley Middle School. I was blessed with the opportunity to go to Christopher Dock for high school and I couldn't be more grateful for my time there.

I have always had a passion to help and care for others and loved the medical world, and so upon graduating Dock I started attending Messiah College aiming for a nursing degree. During my first semester, I continued to feel a lack of peace over the whole situation and after lots of prayer I decided not to continue at Messiah the following semester. Even though I didn't know what God's plan was, I felt at peace with the decision. I started working at Alderfer Poultry Farm and the Old Dutch Cupboard and found that this was exactly where I needed to be. I found so much joy and laughter and friendship, and formed relationships with other Christ-minded individuals. I also happened to meet my husband there when he came home from Pensacola Christian College to resume his summer job. He still had two years of college left, but we made the long distance work and got engaged a few months after he graduated.

During our engagement, Landon started the police academy in Montgomery County, and I started a new job as a caregiver for Candace and Ciara Alderfer who have Cerebral Palsy. It was the perfect job filling the desires I've always had to help and care for others. Five days before our wedding in June 2022, Landon was hired by Whitpain Township as a police officer, and we couldn't be more grateful to the Lord



for his constant provision and protection with Landon's job. When I got pregnant with our son, my biggest wish had come true. Being a mother has been the greatest joy and most difficult thing I've ever done, but nothing has been as rewarding. It strips away every ounce of selfishness you could have and has shown me a glimpse of understanding the magnitude of the Father's love for us. I am blessed to be able to stay home with our son everyday and strive to raise him as a devoted follower of Christ, always remembering that he is the Lord's before he is mine.

One of my absolute favorite verses is 2 Corinthians 12:9-10, "But he said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.' Therefore, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong."



# Get Involved!

Join Women's Ministry as we serve with  
*Feed My Starving Children*

**Friday September 19th from 6-8:30 PM**  
at Berean Bible Church  
[2675 E High St, Pottstown, PA 19464](https://www.bereanbiblechurch.com)

*\*We are planning to meet at the Pottstown location at 6:00 PM. If you'd like to carpool from Franconia, please let us know on the sign-up sheet or by email.*

### Did you know?

\$106 provides enough meals to feed a child a meal a day for a YEAR!

That's less the .30 cents per meal!

Please sign up using the QR code on this page, or at the Women's Ministry Table, or email [franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)



**Ladies' Walk Night**  
at Franconia Park  
Thursday, Sept. 25  
at 6:30 PM

All are welcome for fellowship, exercise, and enjoying God's creation. Come for as long as you like!



### Other Upcoming Activities

**Sewing Circle**  
Tuesday, Sept. 9  
8 AM – 4 PM

**Prayer Shawl Ministry**  
Tuesday, Sept. 9  
at 7 PM



**CONTACT US:** [franconiawomen@gmail.com](mailto:franconiawomen@gmail.com)

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