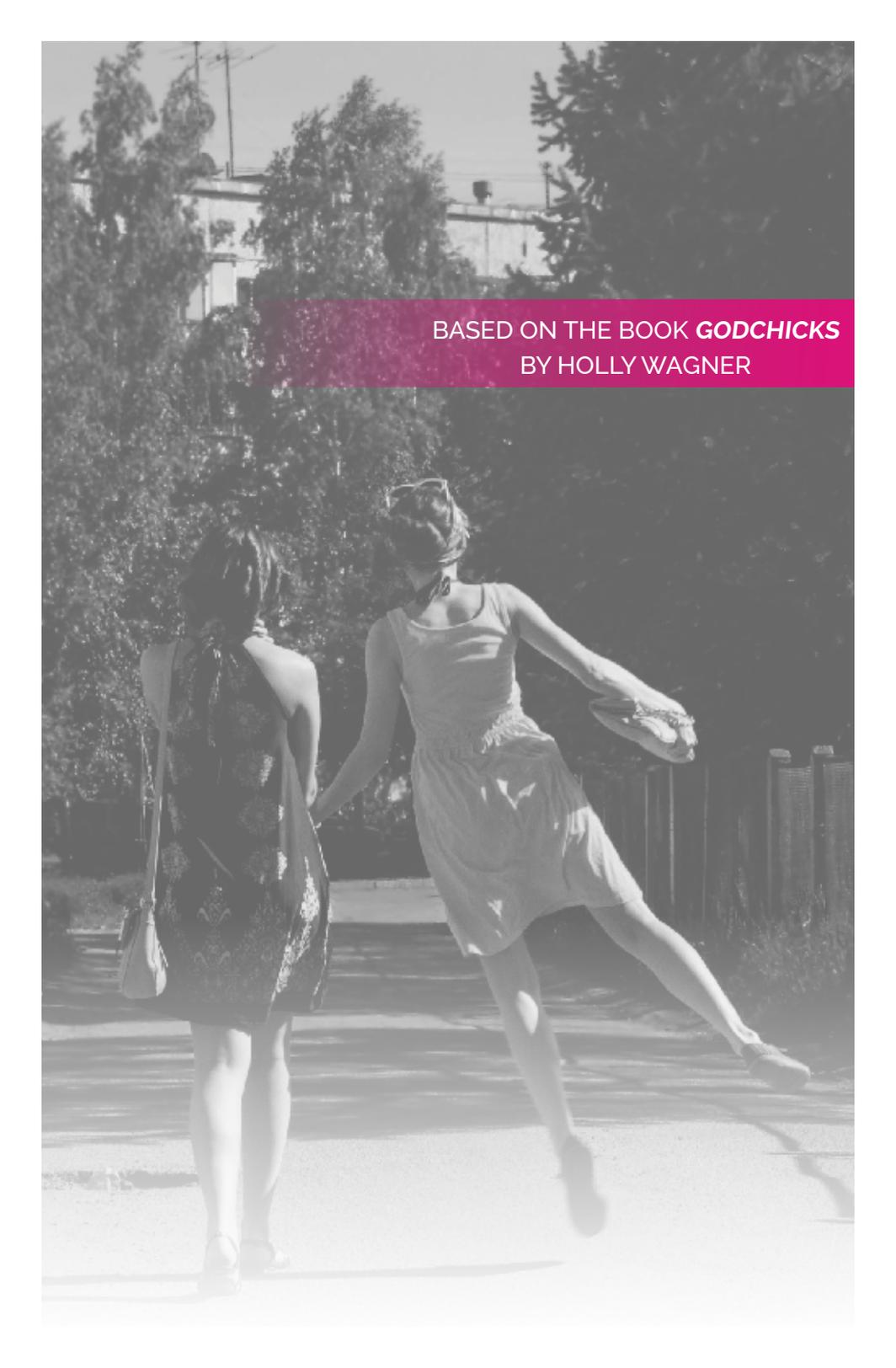


GodChicks

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

CHURCH
OF THE KING



BASED ON THE BOOK **GODCHICKS**
BY HOLLY WAGNER



Just BU Chick

Maybe the journey isn't so much about becoming anything.

Maybe it's about un-becoming everything that isn't really YOU,

so you can be who you were meant to be in the first place.

WARMING UP

Welcome to week one of the GodChicks small group! We are excited you are taking part in this journey with us. As we study and connect over the next six weeks, we'll have opportunities to share life experiences. Please consider the kinds of conversations that are important to you in this setting.

Here is a quick exercise that will help your small group discussion flow more smoothly. Choose one or more of the sentences below to help the group understand the best way to speak life and truth to you.

[Small Group Leader, briefly note what is important to you & to each person in the group – You may record the other member's names in the space below as they share their preferences. Please refer back to this page throughout the 6-week study to recall your group members' preferences.]

- // I tend to withdraw from settings like this.
- // I need to feel like this is a safe place where confidentiality is valued & practiced.
- // I rarely express my feelings in a group and prefer to listen and learn.
- // Knowing that others are praying for me is important to me.
- // I am open to Godly counsel and accountability and I welcome it.
- // Transparency from other members of the group is important to me.

During the *GodChicks* study, we will examine seven of the *GodChicks* characteristics illustrated in Holly Wagner's book, *GodChicks: Living Life as a 21st Century Woman*. Let's start the study with an introspective question. Of the seven *GodChicks* traits listed below, which do you most identify with? Choose one and share why this trait most resonates with you.

- // Just B U Chick
- // Princess Chick
- // Warrior Chick
- // Champion Chick
- // Friend Chick
- // Party Chick
- // Whatever-It-Takes Chick

OUR STORY

"I was a bit of a "Hippie Chick" when I became a Christian some 40 years ago. Enough so that I boxed up all of my clothes, donated them to charity, because I didn't think they were "church appropriate." A few years into my Christian walk, I was asked to address the women's group at a large conservative church. I felt I had a real message from God to share with the women. What I didn't think I had was the correct outfit for a relatively young Christian woman speaking to "mature" Christian women. So, I looked to the pastors wives for an example (all of whom were at least 30 years my senior). I went out and purchased a white, polyester suit jacket and skirt, stockings and pumps! Looking back at that experience, I just laugh. I thought I had to look a certain way to be taken seriously. Now I realize that while I want my appearance to reflect God in my life, I can do that with a genuine reflection of how God created me."

-A Grateful "Just Being Me" GodChick

GROWING TOGETHER

Read Psalm 139:14

I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well.

A first glance, what word or phrase from this verse stands out to you? Why?

Do you see yourself as someone who is wonderfully made? Why or why not?

Think of little children – maybe your own children or close relative. Do you see them as wonderfully made? Do you think there is any difference between them and you?

YOU are a child of God if you have surrendered your heart to Jesus and asked Him for forgiveness. And like little children are to us, YOU are one of a kind, precious and priceless. When God made you, He threw out the mold. Our prayer during the *GodChick* study is that you will see yourself the way God sees you.

Holly Wagner says in her book *GodChicks* that ***"she has discovered the gifts given to her by God, and she is in the process of figuring out how to grow them."*** The gifts given to us to fulfill our mission on this earth are only in seed form! It then becomes our responsibility to discover them and grow them... then eventually use them. Hang in there! Becoming women of God and all that we're destined to be, is a lifelong process.

Edwin Elliot, a renowned Mathematician of the 1800s recognized for his unfailing service to helping others, said it like this: ***"By being yourself, you put something wonderful in the world that was not there before!"***

List some gifts others have discovered in you.

Read Esther 4:14

For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?

You were put here on the earth, in this geographical location, in relationship with certain people, and at this precise point in history – for a purpose.

Name your passions! Share a cause that touches your heart or hobby/sport you love?

Finish this statement with the phrase that best describes you. I feel most valued from:

- 1// Recognition from a job well done
- 2// A thoughtful gift
- 3// Extra quality time with a loved one

Explain why.

Read Ephesians 2:10

For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Read Proverbs 31:10

Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies.

It's not about how you "work it". It's about getting our identity and value from God. YOU are worth far more than rubies!

Who has time to waste comparing and cloning themselves after another person! YOU've been given unique gifts and talents to help fulfill your purpose on the planet. Someone else's gifts and talents aren't going to help you fulfill your destiny, so it's useless for us to want what someone else has. Let's bless each other's gifts and then spend time discovering how to use yours to His glory.

How can we encourage each other as we search out the gifts and talents God placed inside of us? He uniquely wired us and placed a passion to truly enjoy this journey of self-discovery, so we all need you to JUST BE YOU!

What unique characteristics do you see in your personality that the Lord wants you to embrace and be proud of?

DECLARATION [Let's speak this together]

"I am fearfully and wonderfully made! God fashioned me and wired me uniquely, depositing in me special gifts and talents. I am His handiwork! I am well able to use my gifts for His glory. My life has significant purpose. My value is far above rubies. In God's eyes, I have great worth! My identity is found in Him."

PRAYER

[For smaller groups: take time to ask everyone in the group what specific prayer requests they have. For larger groups: pass out index cards and allow time for them to record their prayer requests.]

"Heavenly Father, thank You that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Father, thank You for making me in Your image and equipping me with everything I need for life and for godliness. Help me to see myself the way that You see me. Strengthen my faith to believe what You say about me so I can be everything that You have created me to be. I know you've given me a specific purpose and placed me on earth at this precise time to fulfill this mission. I want to sense the importance of Your call on my life. Show me how to discover my mission, to embrace it, and enjoy the journey. Thank You for empowering me to complete my calling, providing me with unique gifts, and skills to fulfill my God-given purpose. Keep me committed to fulfilling my purpose and prepare me to take my place on this Earth. Thank you God, for giving me a plan and a purpose." AMEN

GOING DEEPER [Done outside of group]

Here are some additional Scripture readings that will bless you! Pause in your "busyness" this week to meditate on God's word

Read 1 Corinthians 5:17

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Read Ephesians 1:4

[Amplified Version] Even as [in His love] He chose us [actually picked us out for Himself as His own] in Christ before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy (consecrated and set apart for Him) and blameless in His sight, even above reproach, before Him in love.

Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7; 12

There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good...Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ.

Read all of Chapter 12 of 1st Corinthians to see the great value God places on each member of the body of Christ. You have a unique gift to be used for his glory! You b u!

Read Philippians 3:14

I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

"We are all in the race headed for the finish line. And...each is in her own lane." -Holly Wagner

THIS WEEK'S EXERCISE

What good things does God say about you in His Word, the Bible? Dig in there to find out! (For help, check out Biblegateway.com or youversion.com, a Bible app with numerous tools to help you search God's word.)

How can you put this truth into action in your life this week?

{ Challenge yourself to share one good thing that God says about you to a godly influence in your life. }

Princess & Chick

I am a princess not because I have a

prince, but because my Father is a

King and He is God.

WARMING UP

Picture yourself in your favorite, oh-so-fabulous outfit, complete with the perfect shoes and accessories. How do you feel?

OUR STORY

"At 17, I was in an "impossible" situation—scared, alone, hopeless, and pregnant. All I could think about was how I was going to make this "go away" and I found myself in an abortion clinic doing the unthinkable. Two years later, God met me in my brokenness and I gave my life to Him. As a new Christian I would often listen to women say, "You are a princess," "Daughter of the King," "Heiress of a magnificent God". All I heard was an inner voice shouting, you are dirty and completely unworthy. Because of my "dark" deeds of the past, I felt unworthy. During a weekend retreat, I finally relinquished the enemy's false names and labels that he wanted me to believe and hold on to. I accepted how Jesus defined me because He purchased my freedom from the past on the cross! Because of His shed blood, I could be all He said I was -washed clean, chosen, and now royalty in His Kingdom! I will never forget what that freedom felt like. I received the power of God's forgiveness of all my sin, forgave myself, and put on my crown!"

-An Accepted Chosen Princess GodChick

GROWING TOGETHER

Read Ezekiel 16:8-14

When I passed by you again and looked upon you, indeed your time was the time of love; so I spread My wing over you and covered your nakedness. Yes, I swore an oath to you and entered into a covenant with you, and you became Mine, says the LORD God. Then I washed you in water; yes, I thoroughly washed off your blood, and I anointed you with oil. I clothed you in embroidered cloth and gave you sandals of badger skin; I clothed you with fine linen and covered you with silk. I adorned you with ornaments, put bracelets on your wrists, and a chain on your neck. And I put a jewel in your nose, earrings in your ears, and a beautiful crown on your head. Thus you were adorned with gold and silver, and your clothing was of fine linen, silk, and embroidered cloth. You ate pastry of fine flour, honey, and oil. You were exceedingly beautiful, and succeeded to royalty. Your fame went out among the nations because of your beauty, for it was perfect through My splendor which I had bestowed on you, says the LORD God.

Envision yourself as a daughter of the King, washed clean and anointed with oil. You're dressed in custom made, royal robes and adorned with jewels. As your Father places a crown on your head, He calls you beautiful. How do you feel?

What are some changes you may want to make in your thinking or habits as a Princess Chick?

(See page 27, first paragraph of God Chicks for some examples)

Read Psalm 45:13

The royal daughter is all glorious within the palace; Her clothing is woven with gold.

Read John 15:16

You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit—fruit that will last—and so that whatever you ask in my name the Father will give you.

Read Ephesians 1:3-4

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ. For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight, in love.

Which of these verses can you most relate to? Why?

List some areas in your life that show you are CHOSEN by God.

How does this knowledge shape your perception of your identity?

Holly explains, "From the inception of royalty on the earth, kings, queens, and their children were supposed to serve the people they ruled. They were to be the protectors. We must get this concept of serving! I am a princess, not to be served, but to serve."

As a royal daughter of the King of Kings, a *Princess Chick*, we learn how to serve and not just be served.

Share a moment when you were on the receiving end of being served. How did that make you feel?

Think of a time when you had an opportunity to serve others? What were you feeling?

Were you most affected by your own act of service or by someone serving you?

Holly says, "I am not confused about the reason I am a princess on the earth. I am here to serve humanity, not to be served. So are you. But, we can serve our fellowman only when we understand our role. When we understand that we are His daughters and thus have to access all that He has (i.e. love, grace, patience, and material resources), then we can freely serve and freely give."

DECLARATION {Let's speak this together}

I confess I am a daughter and princess of the Most High King. Freedom from the pains of past sin is mine. By the powerful and precious blood of Jesus, I am seen as beautiful and pure as snow in the eyes of God, my Father and King of Kings. By faith, I put on my beautiful salvation garments and crown of righteousness. I am a blessed woman with a promising future.

PRAYER

[For smaller groups: take time to ask everyone in the group what specific prayer requests they have. **For larger groups:** pass out index cards and allow time for them to record their prayer requests.]

Thank You, Heavenly Father, for helping me to understand that I am your child. You teach me to rest in the knowledge that I am a daughter of the Most High God. Open my eyes and help me recognize Your presence in my life. Help me to trust that You are at work in my life even when I can't see it. Guard my mind and my thoughts about my identity so I can embrace who I am in Christ. Lord, I want my life established in the knowledge that I am a daughter of the Most High God. Remind me that I am Your child and help me to believe this deep down in the marrow of my bones. I ask You to renew my mind and give me an accurate perspective of what it means to be your child. Thank you for the privilege of being called Your daughter. Amen.

GOING DEEPER {Done outside of group}

Here are some additional Scripture readings that will bless you! Pause in your "busyness" this week to meditate on God's word.

Read 1 Peter 2:9

But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation; His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.

Read Matthew 22:14

For many are called, but few are chosen. You are special, chosen of God!

Read Matthew 20:16

So the last will be first, and the first last. For many are called, but few are chosen.

Again, we are chosen as princesses, not to rule over others, but to serve them.

Read Deuteronomy 7:9

(Message Version of the Bible) Do this because you are a people set apart as holy to God, your God, chose you out of all the people on Earth for himself as a cherished, personal treasure.

THIS WEEK'S EXERCISE

Practice visualizing yourself wearing beautiful linen clothing, gorgeous accessories, and a crown on your head every day until you believe this is who you are.

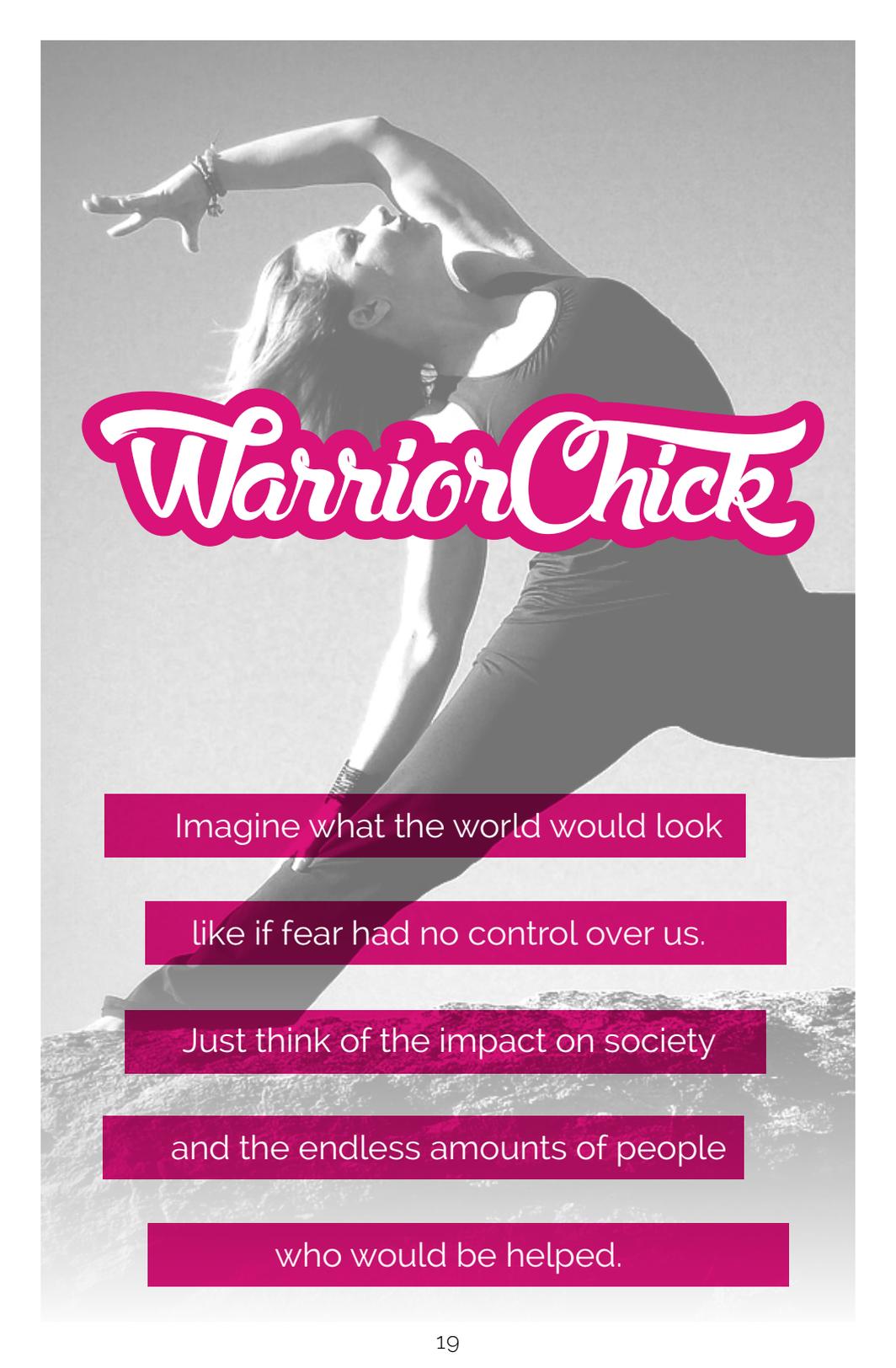
Cut at the dotted line below and fill in the blanks with 3 declarations that define you as a Princess Chick. Put this special note where you will see it daily, like on your mirror or refrigerator.



SAY this out loud each day:

My Heavenly Father tells me:

{ _____ }
{ _____ }
{ _____ }



Warrior Chick

Imagine what the world would look

like if fear had no control over us.

Just think of the impact on society

and the endless amounts of people

who would be helped.

WARMING UP

What do you visualize when you think of a Warrior Chick?

OUR STORY

When my four-year-old son was diagnosed with cancer, then passed away 5 months later, I was in shock. I never imagined I would experience anything like that and yet, there I was left with the reality of life without my son. I had to process all that had happened and adjust to the new "normal" imposed upon me. What helps me to keep moving forward is knowing that I have a purpose and this painful experience is going to be used as part of that purpose. The delight of God's plan for my life exploded in my heart when I realized there were other hurting people who possibly only I could reach or help. My heart still aches on this side of heaven, but I live life now with the richness of God's purpose being fulfilled in me. I believe a Warrior Chick isn't the fastest or the strongest, but the one who rests in God's love. She moves courageously forward overcoming obstacles, hurts, or offenses and fulfills her God-given destiny.

-A Strong Gentle Courageous Warrior Chick

GROWING TOGETHER

Read 2 Timothy 1:7

For God did not give us a spirit of timidity (of cowardice, of craven and cringing and fawning fear), but [He has given us a spirit] of power and of love and of a calm and well-balanced mind and discipline and self-control. (AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

Name some situations that make us feel fearful.

How does fear hold us back from becoming all that God created us to be and do?

Re-read 2 Timothy 1:7. What does this verse say about what God has promised to us?

Read 1 Peter 3:6

Just as Sarah obeyed Abraham and called him lord, you have become her daughters by doing good and by not letting anything terrify you.

Warrior Chicks trust that God is in control, no matter what. They do not let anything terrify them!

Holly describes a Warrior Chick as a woman who:

- // Doesn't let fear paralyze her
- // Offers forgiveness
- // Stays at the posts she has been assigned
- // Lays down her ego
- // Handles conflicts in her relationships in a positive manner

Which one of these Warrior Chick traits do you identify with the most?

Read 2 Timothy 4:7

I have fought the good (worthy, honorable, and noble) fight, I have finished the race, I have kept (firmly held) the faith. (AMPLIFIED BIBLE)

Fighting the good fight implies that we are going to have to overcome things like fear and hurts. God has called us in this life to stay at our posts and be willing to forgive. This means we are going to have to do some uncomfortable things to finish our race well, like laying down our ego and handling relational conflicts... ouch! Ladies, none of this is easy in our own strength.

What are some ways we can become the Warrior Chicks that God believes we can be?

Read Galatians 5:22-23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

As we spend time with Jesus in prayer, abiding in His presence, resting in His affirming love, reading His Word, we take our place in Him and know who we are. The overflow of this spills over to what the Bible calls the *fruit of the Spirit*.

It is very clear about where our strength should come from:

Read Ephesians 6:10

Be strong in the Lord and in the power of HIS might!

Warrior Chicks fight the good fight not in our own strength, but in God's strength. A Warrior Chick must exchange her weak human strength for God's strength & His great might.

Read Proverbs 31:25

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

Now, that's a Warrior Chick!

Think of some things in your life that you can change to help you become the Warrior Chick God sees in you.

Read Romans 8:28

For I know that all things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to His purpose.

Warrior Chick, YOU are called according to His purpose and your love for Him qualifies you! ALL THINGS are being worked out for your good – even the seemingly terrible things!

DECLARATION [Let's speak this together]

I will finish my race well, with God's strength and grace! Yes, I will! My might comes from Him and not from any human strength. Fear has no hold on me because God's perfect love drives away all fear! I release all fear in my soul, heart, mind and imagination right now. Fear, be gone! You are not welcome in my life! I hereby surrender and yield to the filling of the Holy Spirit. I am filled with the fullness of God in my life! He causes me to walk in the power of the Holy Spirit and in His love. I agree that God is in control of my situation. I bow my knee to His sovereignty in my life. He is working all things together for good because I love Him and I am called according to His purpose for my life. I am clothed in dignity and strength. My great worth comes from God, not from others. His blood shed for me on the Cross is proof that I am extremely precious to Him. I now receive His great love and acceptance of me. I receive His full and complete forgiveness. I am free! I am His! I am a Warrior for Jesus!

PRAYER

[For smaller groups: take time to ask everyone in the group what specific prayer requests they have. For larger groups: pass out index cards and allow time for them to record their prayer requests.]

Heavenly Father, when I feel afraid, help me to seek You with my whole heart. Remind me that You are my refuge and strength. Open my eyes and help me to trust that You are with me and that You will help me. Give me courage to move forward instead of retreating in fear. Help me to learn and to remember that Your desire is not for me to live a timid, shy, weak, or fearful life, but to live boldly and confidently. Teach me to rely on Your promises to deliver me from all my fears. Thank You for the ways that You protect me. Give me courage

continued on next page

to press past my fears in order to make an impact for You in my generation. I ask that You give me courage and strength to forgive others and forgive quickly. Help me to lay aside any hurt, anger, bitterness, resentment and any other issue that prevents You from working in my heart. Remind me that forgiveness is not a feeling but a choice. Thank You, God that You will not leave me nor forsake me. AMEN

GOING DEEPER [Done outside of group]

Webster's Dictionary defines "warrior" as one who fights in battles, struggles or conflicts and is known for having courage and skill.

"Courage" is defined as the strength to persevere and withstand danger, fear of difficulty.

2 Corinthians 12:10

The Apostle Paul tells us in the Amplified Version, *"So for the sake of Christ, I am well pleased and take pleasure in infirmities, insults, hardships, persecutions, perplexities and distresses; for when I am weak [in human strength], then am I [truly] strong (able, powerful in divine strength)."*

Paul is saying that we will inevitably face hardships in this life, but when we feel weak, scared and tired, we are strong in Christ! He emphasizes that we can actually take pleasure through life's difficulties because that's when God shows up with "powerful divine strength."

2 Corinthians 5:7

We walk by faith, not by sight. The Amplified Version explains in greater detail, *"For we walk by faith (we regulate our lives and conduct ourselves by our conviction or belief respecting man's relationship to God and divine things, with trust and holy fervor; thus we walk) not by sight or appearance."*

Acknowledging that our strength is not in ourselves but in Christ, is what being a Warrior Chick is about. Warrior Chicks, we are not to be motivated by the circumstances surrounding us, nor by our unsteady feelings or emotions, but we are to walk by faith in God Almighty who works all things for our good (**Romans 8:28**)!

Joshua 24:15

And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.

THIS WEEK'S EXERCISE

Come on! Choose to be the Warrior Chick! God will help you once you've made the choice.

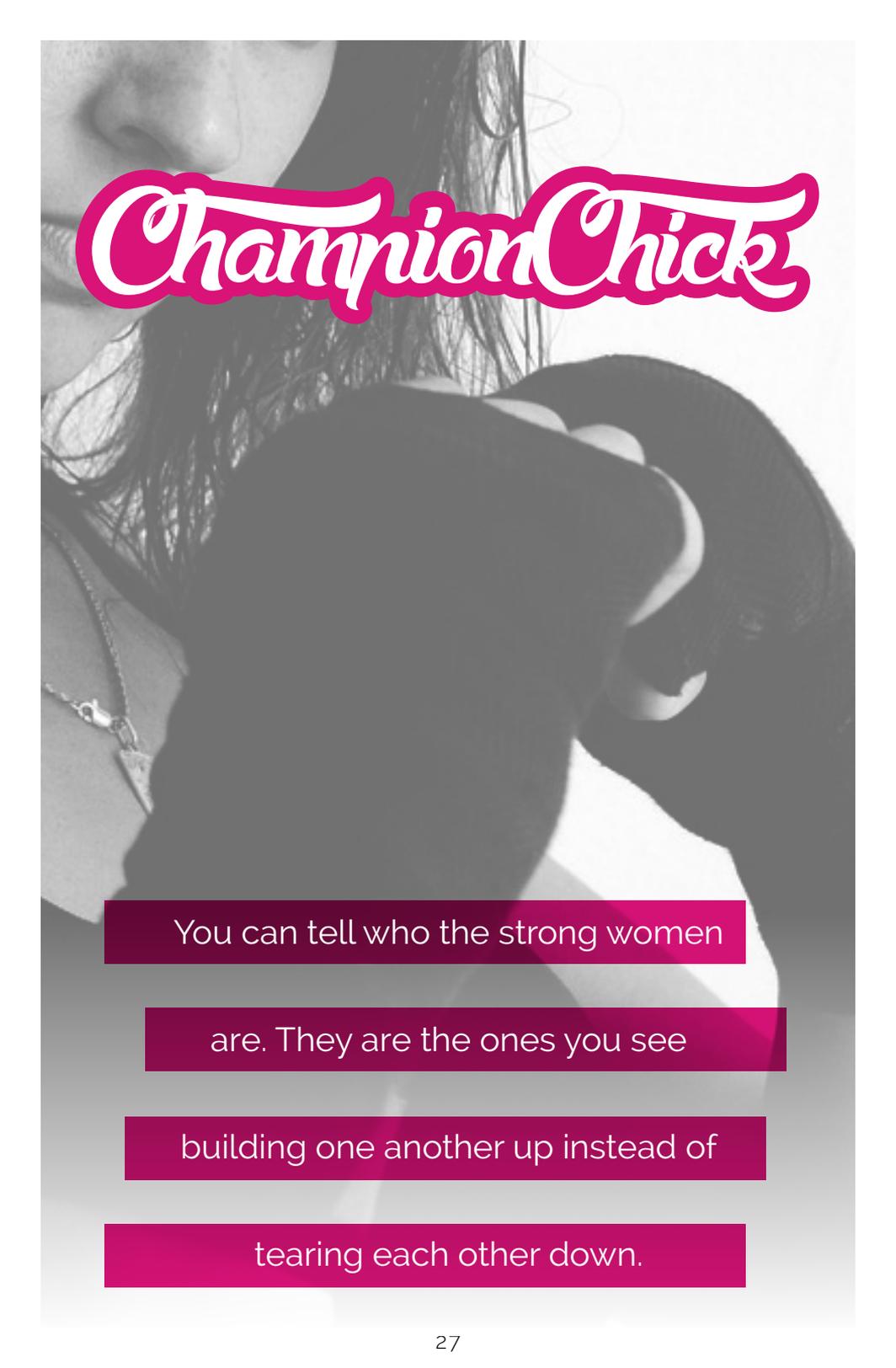
Which of the choices will you exchange this week?

Fear > Courage	Immaturity > Maturity
Weakness > Strength	Pretending > Authenticity
Bitterness > Forgiveness	My will > God's will
Paralysis > Action	Masking > Transparency

Fill in the blanks below. Choose one or more from the list above. Share these decisions with someone you trust and ask them to pray for you and your commitment to grow in these areas. Revisit your list and continually ask God for His help with another exchange!

This week, I choose to trade:

{ _____ FOR _____ }
{ _____ FOR _____ }
{ _____ FOR _____ }



Champion Chick

You can tell who the strong women
are. They are the ones you see
building one another up instead of
tearing each other down.

WARMING UP

Think of a TV actress or book character you related to in your childhood.

OUR STORY

I was never particularly competitive as a young girl. However, as I became a young adult, I got married and had my own children, the competition to "be the best" suddenly became important to me. I found myself "measuring" my accomplishments against a standard that society defined as successful. I remember when I finally implemented sleep-training methods with my infant. When they went to bed early and without crying, I felt like a great mom. If I had dinner ready on time for my family and everyone sat down together, I felt success. When I incorporated an exercise routine in my day and lost a few pounds, I felt pride that "I did it." While all these things were good, I came to a place of exhaustion and burn out. I learned that I was doing these things, and many others, out of the motivation to "be better" than my friends or other women I compared myself to. God spoke to me through a faithful friend one day who discouraged me to seek doing things with excellence because the Lord gives me the strength. After I dropped the comparison game and found the strength and grace of God to do things well, I felt like a weight had been lifted. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me (Philippians 4:13) became my favorite life verse. I still struggle with pride and comparison from time to time, but thank God I am making progress and I'm not where I used to be.

-A Grace-filled Growing Champion Chick

GROWING TOGETHER

Read Psalm 92:12-15

The righteous will flourish like a palm tree, they will grow like a cedar of Lebanon; planted in the house of the LORD, they will flourish in the courts of our God. They will still bear fruit in old age, they will stay fresh and green, proclaiming, "The LORD is upright". He is my Rock, and there is no wickedness in Him."

This scripture is telling us that as believers when we place our faith in God, He gives us strength and vitality.

Who do you envision when you think of strong people? What are some words you would use to describe someone who is mentally, physically and spiritually strong?

When we have a daily diet of God's word, participate in regular worship and have life-giving relationships in the body of Christ where we are rooted, we find ourselves becoming **spiritually strong**.

Each time we choose to embrace change, we become more flexible with spiritual muscles to "workout" the bumps and curves of life. As we flex our spiritual muscles, we develop our **mental strength** because our emotions no longer overcompensate and we can grow through the difficulties and triumphs.

A healthy lifestyle allows us to reach our world with energy and a strong body. We grow **physically strong** when we choose to make good decisions for our bodies.

List some practical steps you can take to become spiritually, mentally and physically strong?

**Remember to focus on progress, not perfection,
Champion Chicks!**

Read Psalm 4:23

Above all else, guard your heart, for everything you do flows from it.

Read Proverbs 4:24-27

Keep your mouth free of perversity; keep corrupt talk far from your lips. Let your eyes look straight ahead; fix your gaze directly before you. Give careful thought to the paths for your feet and be steadfast in all your ways. Do not turn to the right or the left; keep your foot from evil.

We ,Champion Chicks, should also be aware of what is going into us, not just what we are ingesting into our mouth. We need to make sure that what we see on social media, the internet, books or movies helps us along the journey. What we allow into our hearts affects us.

Our daily diet of the word of God, the conversations we have, and media we expose ourselves to affect how a Champion Chick operates in life.

What steps have you found helpful to keep a positive godly perspective while guarding your heart?

Take a mental inventory of what media you consume daily, from culture-books, articles, language, websites, games, television, movies, music, etc. What trend or pattern do you see?

Philippians 3:12-14

The Apostle Paul is giving us some great wisdom here. He says, *"Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."*

**Remember, Champion Chicks: God loves progress,
not perfection!**

One obstacle we all face in this important race is **offense**. Offense is just one of the hurdles on this journey that we must get over. The offense itself is not the problem, but rather the way we respond to an offense. It is our incorrect response that can create the problem. We are not called to react to people or situations, but rather to act in obedience to God's word. The way we respond to an offense can determine our future. Champion Chicks drop an offense before it becomes an obstacle.

Offense is defined as: *an annoyance or resentment brought about by a perceived insult to or disregard for oneself or one's standards or principles.* Skandalon - translated from Greek - means "a stick for bait (of a trap), generally a snare, a stumbling block."

Picture yourself trying to walk with a snare's teeth crushing your leg. Could you do anything with ease or pain-free with this dragging behind you? No one can run a race bound by a trap. This is not what God has in mind for you.

Women are tenderhearted, so offenses can often hurt our feelings. We have to be quick to release an offense before we withdraw behind our emotional barriers. Stay the course and with God's help, you can do this. Together, let's "let go!"

Proverbs 19:11

Blessed is he who overlooks an offense!

Where are you in passing the baton along to those coming along behind you?

Can you identify any hindrances that might prevent you from finishing strong?

Let's continually extend the baton of grace to an older, wiser generation, ready to receive. With the other hand, we pass the message of Christ to the next generation. We are Champion Chicks who become strong—in spirit, mind, and body by overcoming offenses and obstacles along the journey. Persevere from start to finish in your race. Let's finish it well, together!

John 3:16-17

God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

Champion Chick, never forget that intimacy comes by spending time with Him. Intimacy is in-to-me-you-see. Get close to God by spending time in His Word, praying and linking arms with other believers. A Champion Chick wants to see into the great things of God and have Him see into her.

DECLARATION [Let's speak this together]

"God loves me and proved it by giving up His life for me. By His grace and my continued dependence upon Him, my mouth and my words line up with His Words; regardless of my circumstances. He purifies my heart and my thoughts, because I yield to Him. I am strong in the Lord and in the power of His might! I am strong mentally, emotionally, physically and spiritually. He lives in my heart forever and I welcome His work in my life. I will finish my race well. God is helping me, right now, to let go of any and all offenses. He will cause me to overcome life's obstacles and be victorious! I praise Him for this! "

PRAYER

[For smaller groups: take time to ask everyone in the group what specific prayer requests they have. **For larger groups:** pass out index cards and allow time for them to record their prayer requests.]

If you haven't begun your relationship with God, how about opening your heart to Him now? His hand is extended toward you—ready to lead you on the most amazing adventure. Go ahead, take His hand. God showed His great love for us by sending His perfect Son to die a sinner's death on the cross for our sins. Knowing about Jesus is not enough. Each of us must

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ask Him into our own hearts. An encounter with Him is simply life-changing!

I am extending an invitation to everyone in our group. If you haven't asked Jesus to be your Lord and Savior, or if you want to rededicate your life to Jesus today, Here's an opportunity to do so, let's close our eyes and repeat this prayer out loud together, with everyone in our group

Dear Jesus, I am a sinner in need of a Savior. I have sinned. Thank you for dying on the cross and making a way for me to come to God. I let go of my past and turn to You. I turn to the cross. I ask You to wash me clean with Your blood. You are now Lord of my life, You are my Master. I give control of my life & my future over to You. Forgive me, fill me with your spirit. I put my life in Your hands, Jesus Christ. From this day forward, I am Yours! AMEN

GOING DEEPER [Done outside of group]

Here are some additional Scripture readings that will bless you! Consider taking a few moments this week to enjoy reading them. Ask God to affirm them to you!

READ TITUS 2:3-5

Likewise, teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can urge the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God.

As Champion Chicks, we need to have the strength to start the race...but to start again if necessary...to overcome inevitable obstacles. The strength to finish the race can only come from God as we surrender & yield to Him! There are some amazing women who have come before us to run their race and handed the baton to us. Now, we are running this race... not just for us,

but for future generations to come. We must finish strong, ladies! We can even gain momentum as we run our races and not get worn out along the way to the finish line. This is God's grace for us! Let's not drop the baton on our watch.

Finally, let's continually extend one hand to an older, wiser generation, ready to receive, and with the other hand pass on the message of Christ to the next generation. You and I must be those Champion Chicks who become strong...in spirit, mind, and body. We must be the champions who overcome obstacles along the journey and finish strong!

SPIRITUALLY STRONG

Hebrews 10:23

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful."

Ephesians 4:14

"...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting, but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him..."

MENTALLY STRONG

Romans 12:2

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."

Romans 8:5-6

"For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit, the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded is death, but to be spiritually minded is life and peace."

PHYSICALLY STRONG

1 Timothy 4:8

"For bodily exercise profits a little, but godliness is profitable for all things, having promise of the life that now is and of that which is to come."

1 Corinthians 6:19

"Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own?"

CHALLENGE

Take a specific step this week to grow in strength!

**Champion Chicks, our strength to finish
the race comes only from God as we
surrender & yield to Him!**



Friend Chick

1// a person attached to another by feelings of affection or

personal regard. 2// a person who gives assistance; supporter;

faithful companion; keeper of secrets. 3// someone with whom

you can laugh or cry, share your hopes and dreams. 4// someone

who knows all about you and loves you anyway.

WARMING UP

If you could have lunch with anyone, past or present, who would it be and why?

OUR STORY

One of my dearest friends started to say some things that were just not like her. She began sharing ideas and thought patterns that were not in alignment with God's Word. I had a choice to make; tell her the truth (which would be difficult and could possibly alter our friendship) or just let her continue on the path that she was on, knowing that it was going to result in much pain. I risked it and shared my heart with her and challenged the lies that she started to believe. I am so grateful that she responded well and chose to change those patterns in her life. She is now reaping the benefits of doing things God's way. I am so grateful that I found the courage to challenge her. Our friendship has deep roots and flourishes because we planted in rich soil – God's truth.

-A Courageous Faithful Friend Chick

GROWING TOGETHER

Ecclesiastes 4:9-10

Two are better than one because they have a good reward for their labor for if they fall, one will lift up his companion, but woe to him who is alone when he falls, for he has no one to help him up.

Think about a friend who has walked with you through a celebration or grief. How did it affect your friendship?

You and I are not created to go through life alone. We are part of an awesome company of women who must stay connected to the people who join us on our life journey. These connections will help us to fulfill our God-given purpose. The verse in Ecclesiastes expresses the **value** of friends. We are that valuable and loyal *FriendChick!*

Proverbs 17:17

A friend loves at all times

Proverbs 18:24

A friend sticks closer than a brother.

We are called to be friends in the good times and the not so good times. We share laughter with our friends and we share tears. It is said that a good friend multiplies our joy and divides our grief.

Romans 12:15

Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep.

Think of some of your closest friendships. Is there a common thread running through them?

Friend Chicks are to *"be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another."*

Romans 12:10

The Message version of the Bible puts it this way: *"Be good friends who love deeply; practice playing second fiddle."*

As a Friend Chick, knowing that someone else is fulfilling her purpose doesn't take away from you fulfilling your purpose.

There is a children's song that says, *"Jesus, others and you. What a wonderful way to spell J-O-Y."* Jesus modeled this for us; we are good friends when we put others before ourselves.

Holly's book, *GodChicks*, encourages us to embrace friends of different personalities, age groups and backgrounds. We often play it safe by choosing friends that are most like us. In **I Corinthians 12**, God calls the church the body of Christ. He explains that we have diverse gifts, ministries and activities, but it is the same God who works in all. Friend Chicks, let's embrace those differences.

We live in the microwave generation. We want things and we want them now! Friendship takes time to cultivate—think Crock-pot! Friendship grows over time as we invest in the friendship.

Proverbs 8:24

When there were no depths I was brought forth, When there were no fountains abounding with water.

This scripture teaches us that to have friends, we must show ourselves friendly. But what does friendly look like? Holly shares some practical steps: invest time with your friends, send a card, or make a phone call to show value to your friend. Be willing to be intimate as you build your friendship over time.

Here's a powerful exercise. Go around the room and state one positive and honoring word or short phrase that will express value to the person sitting to your right. Who would like to start this chain of encouragement?

Affirming words encourage and refresh us. From what we've discussed, how can you be a better Friend Chick?

DECLARATION [Let's speak this together]

"God is my Friend, He calls me friend! I can step outside of my comfort zone and be friendly to those who can help me be all that I am meant to be in Him. Joy can be mine as I put God and others first. Because of Christ's love for me and in me, I can love deeply. I show honor, value and loyalty to my god-given friends. These special FriendChicks help me to walk bravely toward my destiny in Jesus Christ"

PRAYER

[For smaller groups: take time to ask everyone in the group what specific prayer requests they have. For larger groups: pass out index cards and allow time for them to record their prayer requests.]

Heavenly Father, Thank You that You call me Friend. Guide me into the right friendships. Open my heart to develop godly friendships. Help me to seek out and stay connected to godly women who will encourage me in my journey to serve and honor You. Thank you for showing me how to build friendships with other women and invest in these friendships through this small group! Show me how to encourage and to inspire my friends. Remind me that you are the One who created

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relationships and designed us to live interdependently linked together. Help me to rejoice with others when they experience successes; knowing that someone else fulfilling her purpose doesn't take away from me fulfilling my purpose. AMEN

GOING DEEPER [Done outside of group]

Here are some additional Scripture readings that will bless you! Consider taking a few moments this week to enjoy reading them. Ask God to affirm them to you!

Let's remember that Jesus is the perfect example of a friend.

He laid down his life for his friends (**John 15:13**).

That includes you. If that doesn't convince you of your **value**, I don't know what will! Jesus had friends during his time on this earth. We know of at least 12 of them. His ministry centered around relationships. Jesus is a **loyal** friend.

We need people in our lives whom we sharpen and who sharpen us. We were not created to do life alone.

Proverbs 27:17

As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend."

As Friend Chicks, it's our job to encourage others to love and do good deeds. **Hebrews 10:24-25a** says "*And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting*

to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another." We see from this verse that it takes time to meet together be a friend.

// Take a concrete step this week to show loyalty to a friend and express it a way she'll appreciate.

// What can you do to sharpen a friend or accept sharpening from a friend?

// Be a creative FriendChick and invite a new friend into your life.

Party & Whatever It Takes Chick



You are a very beautiful and

Influential GodChick.

WARMING UP

If we all dropped by to visit your favorite place in the world, where would we be and what would we see there?

OUR STORY

A car traveling about 45 mph ran off the road onto the sidewalk and hit me while I was riding my bike, sending me up into the air several feet. The next year of my life involved intense painful rehabilitation on my legs, back and neck. Four months later, I was able to take my first steps. I was grateful to be alive. Many years later, God healed me completely of widespread chronic pain from these old injuries. My body needed more healing though. A heart defect kept me weak and sickly. Doctors were ready to schedule me for major heart surgery to repair one heart valve and replace another. However, due to my young age at the time, they wanted to delay this surgery as long as possible. During Easter that year, I went up for prayer after service at church, and those two heart valves were supernaturally healed on the spot before that surgery happened! Thankfully, because of Him, I can say, in my best heartfelt party voice: "I really do celebrate life because today I am fully healed and actively doing life with Jesus and with some pretty amazing God Chicks. You're invited! Come join the excitement of living for Him!

-A Grateful Healed & Restored Party Chick

GROWING TOGETHER

One of the ways we can enjoy life is to celebrate the *moments* we are given. We are all given the very same 24 hours in a day. By being aware of our "moments", it becomes possible to make every second count.

Party Chicks have learned to value *now*, and take time to celebrate victories in our lives- even small ones! We can easily lose focus on the task before us before we know it; we blink, and years have passed.

Let's challenge ourselves to celebrate this amazing life we've been given, especially the difficult times. This involves us becoming skillful at choosing joy. It is far more powerful than being happy. Joy is your strength, and it comes from God.

Nehemiah 8:10

Don't be dejected and sad. The joy of the Lord is your strength!

**Share a moment when you have chosen joy
regardless of the circumstance.**

Choosing to see beyond the present pain and into a good redemptive future is what God teaches us to do in the Bible. We can mirror God's perspective through optimism in our thoughts and our lives! You have power over your choices. Party Chicks choose optimism.

Hebrews 12:2

Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who, for the joy set before Him endured the cross.

According to Hebrews 12:2, how did Jesus endure the cross?

In difficult circumstances, we can look for the joy that is available to us, just like Jesus did. When we yield and surrender our lives and situations over to Jesus and keep our eyes on Him, we really can live above our circumstances.

A Party Chick is careful to say what God would say about her situation. She opens her mouth with good words- words that bring life and not death. Furthermore, she uses her speech to agree with God, not repeating over and over what her eyes see, but what God says. She chooses praising God over whining, because praising God for who He is in the hard times, will carry you to a beautiful and redemptive future.

Proverbs 18:21 instructs us on this very powerful principle. It says, "*Life and death are in the power of the tongue.*"

Another trait of a Party Chick is that she knows how to laugh, even during stressful and difficult challenges. We all have them!

Job 8:21

"*God will fill our mouths with laughter.*" Ask Him to fill your mouth with laughter.

As we are working to develop into Party Chicks, Holly encourages us to grow in these areas:

- // Valuing the moments of life
- // Choosing joy
- // Speaking words of life
- // Learning to laugh

Which of these traits needs more development so that you can become a well-rounded Party Chick?

WHATEVER-IT-TAKES CHICK!

As we conclude our study this week, we want to introduce you to one last GodChick. She is the Whatever-It-Takes Chick.

Let's face it. We don't handle pressure and stress very well when we rely on our own human strength and resources. We blame. We explode. We vent. We cry. Like a steam engine, we blow up at times. Thankfully, God provided a better way.

Whatever-It-Takes Chick rely and depend on God to work in them and through them, especially during challenging times. They are continually being filled with the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit. They ask Him to fill them! They become beautiful peaceful rivers of living water, flowing out onto others. Since we leak, we need refilling often and here's how. We simply ask God to fill us with the Holy Spirit.

What are some practical ways we can allow the Holy Spirit to replenish us?

In our walk together these past six weeks, we have come to know and love some powerful *GodChicks*: Just B U Chick, Princess Chick, Warrior Chick, the Champion Chick, Friend Chick, Party Chick, and Whatever-It-Takes Chick!

During our first week together, you listed the chicks you felt you'd most identify with. Has your "Chick List" changed and why?

DECLARATION (Let's speak this together)

God causes me to always triumph! I can do all things through Him, who supplies me with His strength. The joy of the Lord is my strength. I am well able to endure hardships because of the joy set before me. God is my greatest encourager and I welcome His encouragement in my life. He fills my mouth with laughter and causes me to enjoy my life, regardless of my circumstances. I rise up and gain wisdom and peace as I move closer to Him. I love God and with His help, I obey His commandments. I speak God's words of life over myself, my family and my circumstances. When it's hard, I depend on His grace, which is actively working in me to live according to His design. My love for God and others is growing everyday. My light and momentary troubles are achieving for me an eternal glory. The God of Hope deposits great hope into me, for He is able and willing to do immeasurably more than all I can ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within me. I am full of the Holy Spirit, for I continually ask Him to fill me. He is faithful to me. For I know, that in all things, God works for my good, because I am found in Christ Jesus, He is my Lord and my savior and I delight in Him!

PRAYER

[For smaller groups: take time to ask everyone in the group what specific prayer requests they have. For larger groups: pass out index cards and allow time for them to record their prayer requests.]

Heavenly Father, thank You for sending Jesus to bring abundant, overflowing life to me. Help me to live my life in such a way that it leads others to You. Remind me that my job on Earth is to display the nature and character of Jesus. Let the words of my mouth honor You. Show me how to use my words to bring encouragement to others. I ask You to fill me with your love so that I can love others like You do. Remind me that we are all made in Your image. Give me strength to obey You. Give me a determination to live every moment fulfilling the purpose for which I have been created. Help me to love You more each day. Thank You for supplying me with Your strength, for I cannot do any of this in my own resources. Thank You that I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!

GOING DEEPER [Done outside of group]

As you God Chicks go forward from this great study, here are some closing thoughts and recommended reading.

Your words can actually bring life or death to a situation. Think about it.

What have you been saying lately about that "problem?" How can we agree with what God would say about that "problem"?

Look up each Bible verse provided in the list below and then fill in the "We can agree with God & say" blanks with the words of life that God wants us to begin to speak instead!

Instead of saying:	We can agree with God & say:
"I can't do it!"	<hr/> Philippians 4:13
"I'm overwhelmed!"	<hr/> Psalm 61:2
"It's not fair!"	<hr/> Isaiah 30:18
"I'm so tired!"	<hr/> Isaiah 40:31
"This is hopeless!"	<hr/> Psalm 71:5 & 14
"I'm jealous."	<hr/> Proverbs 14:30 & 1 Corinthians 13:4-5
"Things will never change!"	<hr/> 1 Peter 3:12 & Jeremiah 29:11
"My child is bad!"	<hr/> Isaiah 44:3 & Psalm 127:3-5

By speaking words of life, by saying what God would say, you not only become an encourager to others, you usher in the will of God for your life. When we are tempted to speak negatively about our situation, we can instead choose to say what God would say about it!

