## What Were You Thinking?

By Pauline Long and Janice M. Pratt

Classroom Materials designed for teens and adults

This Bible study gently engages each member of the class in personal study of well-known characters and also in presenting what they have learned.



Whether one has been a Christian for many years or is new to studying the Bible, stories of heroic characters can seem far away and unrelated to our busy modern lives. Yet if we cannot identify with their struggles and experiences, we may miss many of the lessons they hold for us.

In addition, identifying with these characters can help us exercise our faith and strengthen our ability to make appropriate choices when we are challenged.

Teachers should allow each student to select a character for study. Character situations and study references are presented on separate pages, along with space for individual notes. Then each class period should provide an opportunity for two (or more) students to present their character study. Typically, allow about 10 minutes per student and an additional 10 minutes for class discussion. The 25 character studies usually fit nicely within a 13-week class quarter. Teachers can easily add or delete characters as necessary to fit the time allotted and the number of students.

Teachers should be prepared to stimulate questions from class members and encourage identification of similar situations in modern life. Use the following chart to plan your class periods.

	Character	Scripture Ref.	Student	Class Date
1	Ruth	Ruth 1:6		
2	Moses	Exodus 3:1		
3	Naomi	Ruth 1:3		
4	Uzzah	2 Samuel 6:6		
5	Job's Wife	Job 2:9		
6	Job	Job 3:1		
7	Queen of Sheba	1 Kings 10:1		
8	Daniel	Daniel 6:16		
9	Zaccheus	Luke 19:1		
10	David	Genesis 17:41		
11	Leah	Genesis 29:22		
12	Sarah	Genesis 18:10		
13	Philippian Jailor	Acts 16:27		
14	Esther	Esther 5:1		
15	Rebecca	Genesis 24:1		
16	Rachel	Genesis 29:22		
17	Naaman	2 Kings 5:1		
18	Martha	Luke 10:38		
19	Joseph #1	Genesis 37:2		
20	Joseph #2	Genesis 39:20		
21	Lazarus	John 11:1		
22	Saul	Acts 9:1		
23	Lot's Wife	Genesis 19:15		
24	Peter	Matthew 26:34, 69		
25	Eve	Genesis 2:21		

Ruth	Date.
father-in-law. Only your mother-in-law is	has just died, along with your brother-in-law and left and she wants to return to her own homeland. What are your thoughts and feelings at this moment
Ruth 1:6	

	Student:
Moses	Date:

You are Moses. A voice has spoken to you out of a burning bush directing you to become the deliverer of the Israelites who are in bondage in Egypt. You are content out here herding the sheep. What are your thoughts and feelings as you hear the voice identify itself as the "Great I AM"?

Exodus 3:1			

You are Naomi. You have lost your husband and two sons, and would like to return to your own homeland so far away. You have two daughters-in-law but they are "foreign" women. What are your thoughts and feelings as you contemplate your predicament?
Ruth 1:3

Date:

**Naomi** 

You are Uzzah. You are trying to help take the Ark of the Covenant back to its proper place, and as you see it beginning to topple as it rides on an oxcart, you stretch forth your hand to steady it. What are your thoughts and feelings at that moment?
2 Samuel 6:6

Date:

**Uzzah** 

Job's Wife	Date:
You are Job's wife. All your children, your home from you; and Job, covered with boils, still refuse What are your thoughts and feelings at the mome	es to take your advice and curse God and die.
Job 2:9	

You are Job. Your family, animals and all your possessions have been taken away from you and your wife and friends advise you to curse God and die. What are your thoughts and, feelings at the moment?
Job 3:1

Date:

<u>Job</u>

	Student:
Queen of Sheba	Date:

You are the Queen of Sheba. Solomon, King of Israel, has just displayed his treasury to you and you have become aware of his wisdom. What are your thoughts and feelings at the moment?

Kings 10:1		

<b>Daniel</b>	Date.		
You are Daniel. You have just been thrust into the As the lions prance around you hungrily, what are	ne lion's den for refusing to denounce God. e your thoughts at the moment?		
Daniel 6:16			

You are Zaccheus. You would like to see this man Jesus who is coming down the street surrounded by a crowd. But you are too short to see over the mob. What are your thoughts and feelings at this moment?
Luke 19:1

Date:

Zaccheus

You are David. You have volunteered to go out against the Giant with only your slingshot and a handful of stones. Goliath stands there laughing and sneering at you, making fun of your youth and small size. What are your thoughts and feelings as you face the giant?		
Genesis 17:41		

Date:

**David** 

	Student:	
<u>Leah</u>	Date:	
You are Leah. You know that Jacob was very muthought he married her yesterday at the wedding have consumated your wedding vows. Any minuthat you took Rachel's place. What are your thou	ceremony. During the night the two of you te now he is going to wake up and realize	
Genesis 29:22		

You are Sarah. You have just heard one of the strangers to you will bear a son. You have been waiting 25 years for a appearance yet. What are your thoughts and feelings about Genesis 18:10	child and he hasn't made an
Ganacia 19:10	
Genesis 16.10	

Philippian Jailor	Date:	
You are the Philippian Jailor. An earthquake has prisoner has escaped, you will pay with your life. begin to count your prisoners?		u
Acts 16:27		

You are Queen Esther. It is forbidden to enter the king's presence without an invitation. You have to make an effort to save your people, yet it could cost you your life. What are your thoughts and feelings as you open thee door into the King's throne room?		
Esther 5:1		

Date:

**Esther** 

Rebecca	Date.	
You are Rebecca. You have come with a servant many long miles to another country to marry a man whom you have never seen. What are your thoughts and feelings as you approach his home?		
Genesis 24:1		

You are Rachel in love with Jacob who has worked for you seven years. At your supposed wedding your sister has secretly taken your place. What are your thoughts and feelings during that long wedding night?
Genesis 29:22

Date:

Rachel

<u>Naaman</u>	Date:
You are Naaman. You have dipped yourself in that muddy river six times and still have your eprosy. What are your thoughts and feelings about dipping a 7th time?	
2 Kings 5:1	

You are Martha. You have 13 unexpected guests plus your own family to fix a passable dinner for. Your sister is in the other room talking with your honored guest, leaving you to all the hard work. What are your thoughts and feelings concerning the situation?	) do
Luke 10:38	

Date:

**Martha** 

<u>Joseph (#1)</u>	Date.
You are Joseph, Abraham's favorite son who has just been sold by your own brothers to caravan of strangers! What are your thoughts and feelings about the long, hot journey Egypt?	
Genesis 37:2	

<u>Joseph (#2)</u>	Date:
You are Joseph, and have been cast into prison because of false accusations by Potiphar's wife. What are your thoughts and feelings as you sit in the dark cell?	
Genesis 39:20	

<u>Lazarus</u>	Date.
You are Lazarus. You were very ill. Then yo everyone is crowding around you. What are situation?	
John 11:1	

Saul	Date:	
You are Saul on the road to Damascus. Suddenly you see a light and hear a voice that your companions do not experience. What are your thoughts and feelings about the message you receive?		
Acts 9:1		

Lot's Wife	Date.
You are Lot's wife and have been told not to look back! What are your thoug	I to leave your hme, relatives, friends, possessions - an ghts and feelings about this situation?
Genesis 19:15	

You are Peter. It's been a long and stressful night. Now in the distance you hear a rooster crow twice and realize you have just denied knowing Jesus three times. What are your thoughts and feelings at this moment?  Matthew 26:34, 69-75		

Date:

**Peter** 

Eve	Date:
You are Eve. What are your thoughts and feeling five senses, and discover this strange creature be	ngs as you experience for the first time your eside you who says he is your husband?
Genesis 2:21	