



*WRITE THE WORD:
CULTIVATE WORSHIP*

bible study companion



KNOW THE TRUTH. LIVE THE TRUTH.
IT CHANGES EVERYTHING.



Welcome Letter



Hi OBS friends! My name is Wendy Blight, and I'm the Biblical Content Specialist for Online Bible Studies. We're excited to journey together with you over the next three weeks, drawing closer to God through worship, prayer and feasting upon His living and active Word.

Let's meet our teachers for the first two weeks, Wendy Pope and Micca Campbell. Both of these ladies are dear friends and have a deep love for God's Word and a God-given gift to teach it. We've served together for over a decade speaking, teaching and writing for Proverbs 31. They are authors and excellent Bible teachers. You will be blessed, equipped and empowered as you spend the next few weeks with them. I'm honored and excited to be the one to close out our time together in Week 3.

I can't think of a better way to open our time together than with a prayer.

Let us pray ...

Oh, God, we're so excited for a new journey through Your Word with You. Open our eyes to see, our ears to hear, and our hearts to receive and understand the eternal mysteries that only You can reveal on this exciting adventure through Your Word. Carve out time for us each day to spend with You. Give us the discipline, and most especially the desire, to do our study work, the perseverance to continue when we want to give up, and the mind to practically apply all that we learn. And, Father, help us not to stop at the end of Week 3. Give us the desire and dedication to take what You teach us far beyond these three weeks. Continue to reveal marvelous new truths and promises from Your Word. Draw us closer. Speak into our lives and transform our hearts and mind in fresh new ways. We ask all this in Jesus' Name, Amen.

Are you ready? Let the feasting begin!

With love and prayers,

Wendy B.



Week One



Hey Friends!

My name is Wendy Pope. My friends, however, call me WePo. A dear friend bestowed this nickname upon me many years ago so the P31 family could distinguish me from the wonderful Wendy Blight. Since we're hanging out for a little bit, why don't you call me WePo too?

I'm beyond thrilled to be part of this amazing short study, *Cultivate Worship*. Nothing delights me more than studying God's Word. It's my honor to spend time with you and the Lord as we break open the Holy Scriptures. Are you ready?

Can I tell you a secret? Just between friends? I haven't always loved studying the Bible, but I've loved carrying it to church and Bible study.

There was a time when my study of the Bible began and ended with filling in the blanks in my workbook, highlighting verses and writing sermon notes in the margins of my Bible. Boy, did I feel spiritual when I got out my highlighter (gel highlighters only please)! The red letters representing Jesus' actual words caused me to pause at the wonder of ancient text. But did I love studying the Bible? No, not really.

It wasn't until my early 30s, when my happily-ever-after wasn't so happy, that I began to open and study my Bible without a workbook or a Sunday sermon. It was then that I came to realize the difference between Bible Study and studying the Bible. Bible Study is a class you attend, with your Bible, to study material written by another person. Bible Study is excellent! God uses wonderfully gifted individuals to excavate His truths and present them in written form. I love to participate in Bible Study! However, *studying* the Bible is different.

Studying the Bible is you and the author of the book (your Creator) meeting in a designated space at a designated time. To study the Bible, you need four things: the Bible, the Holy Spirit, a notebook and a pen. The pen and paper are essential. God has so much to teach; you don't want to miss a single truth He reveals. As believers in Jesus Christ, we have the Teacher and Interpreter of Scripture, the Holy Spirit, living inside us.



Write John 14:26 in the space below. Underline or highlight the role of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus tells us the Holy Spirit teaches us what we don't know and reminds us of what we forget. The Holy Spirit can *teach* and *remind* us through our small group Bible study material, but there's something different, something intimate when we study our Bible with our Teacher.

You see, friend, the weight of our spiritual growth, understanding and application of Scripture is too substantial to be placed on the shoulders of a pastor or Bible study teacher. It isn't possible to learn all that God wants us to know by showing up for Sunday morning service and mid-week Bible Study. God desires a personal relationship with His children. And, the very best way to enter into that relationship is through intimate quiet time with God. Times to pray and study the Bible, which is His letter to us. It's in that time we come to know God our Creator. And it's through that time God equips us for daily living.

Paul writes in 2 Timothy, *"All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work"* (2 Timothy 3:16-17, ESV).

How is the study of God's Word profitable for us?

What kind of work is God equipping us to accomplish?



Learning to study the Bible is one of the purposes of our *Cultivate Worship Journal*. In this week's study, we're going to discover the relationship between the Old and New Testaments. It's OK if you mumble *Ugh* under your breath. There was a time when the thought of studying the Old Testament made me cringe, except maybe Psalms and Proverbs. The Law, sacrifices, prophecies, kings, and war can feel intimidating. I pray as we share this part of the journey, you become a New Testament "this side of Calvary" girl who loves to study both testaments. Let's get started.

Paralleling Scripture Defined

I'm a lover of both words and the Word. Often on my writing and "study the Bible" days, I get lost in the rabbit hole of biblical Lexicons (a Bible Dictionary filled with Hebrew and Greek words), Dictionary.com, and my thesaurus. Since I wasn't much of a student, my new-found enjoyment of studying God's Word has surprised me and proves God is truly a miracle worker. So, if you're yawning or trembling at the idea of bookmarking tabs at Biblehub.com, Biblegateway.com and Studylight.org, it's alright. When we close our time together, you'll be well on your way to being a Word nerd.

"Parallel" might be a word you relate to a building project or hanging pictures. Or it may take you back to a nauseating flashback from ninth grade geometry class. (I apologize if the last reference gives you hives.) While most of us identify the word "parallel" with one of the aforementioned examples, it's doubtful that you've ever associated it with studying the Bible. Me too. In fact, it's quite possible that I'm the first to use that word in connection with studying Scripture. It's going to be so much fun!

"Parallel," according to Dictionary.com, means "to provide or show a match; corresponding, similar and analogous." Note, highlight or underline the word "*corresponding*" because it's key to what we'll be learning.

Our working definition of *Scripture paralleling* is to locate a verse in one testament that matches or aligns with the same truth or principle in the other testament. This study technique gives us the opportunity to reflect, connect and compare corresponding scriptures and biblical Truths.



Before we dig in, respond to the following:

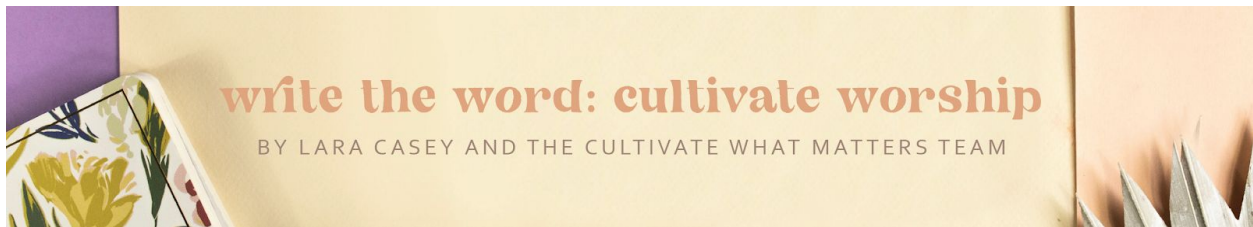
How do you feel about studying the Old Testament? Be honest.

How do you feel about studying the New Testament?

In your own words, what's the relationship between the Old and New Testament? It's okay if you aren't sure of the answer to this yet. That's what today is about.

In 20 years of teaching the Bible, I've found that many Christians study the Old Testament for history, and not so much for application. I know this was true in my life, even into the early years of ministry. My mind failed to see any connection between the Old Testament and New. Maybe you've had similar thoughts.

I hope our time together will encourage and show you how vital this connection is to our spiritual growth and health. So, when we can't see the connections, let's commit to continue to read, study, even wrestle with the Scripture, to find that connection.



Paralleling Together

I thought it would be fun to parallel together through a passage of Scripture from an often-overlooked book of the Bible, Ezekiel. There was a time I avoided books of the Bible with names like Ezekiel. *Who was he? Where is his book? How can his words have anything to do with me today?* Oh, and I didn't want to be caught looking at my Table of Contents. Do you feel the same? Truth: there's no shame in looking at the TOC in your Bible. Let's repeat that phrase together, aloud.

So we all feel good and start in the right place, how about we find Ezekiel together?

Open your Bible to the Table of Contents.

What book comes before Ezekiel?

What book follows Ezekiel?

On what page does Ezekiel begin? (I know, we all have different Bibles so the page number will not be the same, but I told you we were going to have fun.)

Context, context, context. When studying Scripture, context is key. In order to protect the integrity of God's Word, it's essential we understand the context of what we're reading.

Context addresses the following questions:

- *Who is speaking?*
- *Who is the person speaking to?*
- *In what time period does this verse or passage take place?*



We can find the answers to these questions in Bible commentaries. Don't have any of those lying around? That's fine. Open your favorite browser to any of the following sites: Biblehub.com, Biblegateway.org, or Studylight.org to access FREE commentaries! My favorite? Probably Biblehub. Also, many Study Bibles have lengthy and helpful introductions at the beginning of each book of the Bible. A Study Bible will have notes at the bottom of each page that direct you to interesting history, other passages that relate or connect to your passage, geographical references and so much more! I suggest, if you're able, that you get your hands on a good Study Bible. Most all translations publish a Study Bible option.

Let me pause here to add a side note: Studying the Bible requires an investment of time. But, it's an investment that yields a great reward, so be prepared to devote more than 15-20 minutes between supper and bedtime.

OK, back on topic. For our study, I've taken the liberty of completing a short commentary on Ezekiel. (Don't worry, you'll have an "On Your Own Assignment" to complete later.)

Short Commentary on Ezekiel

Ezekiel was the prophet credited with writing the book bearing his name. He was a contemporary of the prophets Daniel and Jeremiah. He grew up and served as a priest in the Temple of Jerusalem, and his name means *strengthened by God*. This priest, strengthened by God, was among the second group of Israelites taken to Babylon after the Babylonians invaded Jerusalem. It was during this time of captivity God called Ezekiel to be a prophet for His people.

May I make a completely unrelated point? Please take notice that Ezekiel became a prophet while *in* captivity. His story shows us God wants to make our lives useful for the Kingdom no matter our circumstance.

God called up prophets, also called seers, to communicate a specific message at a specific time to His people. Ezekiel's assignment, like many of the prophets, was to call God's people out for their sin and help them turn from it. Ezekiel spoke specifically of:

- God's disapproval and judgment of Judah.
- God's hopeful future for Judah.
- God's rebuilding of the nation.
- The eventual reign of Christ.



Now that we've set the context of our passage — identified who's speaking, who's listening, and the specific circumstances surrounding the message (general context) — it's time to dig into a passage of Scripture to answer the question: What can I learn from Ezekiel's specific message to the nation of Judah?

Let's parallel.

Warning: The language in this message, as well as most of the messages concerning the sins of Israel and Judah is strong, very strong.

Let's reflect upon, connect and compare a few of God's warnings in Ezekiel 33:12-16 with the biblical truths those who commit their lives to Jesus Christ can be certain of.

"Son of man, give your people this message: The righteous behavior of righteous people will not save them if they turn to sin, nor will the wicked behavior of wicked people destroy them if they repent and turn from their sins. When I tell righteous people that they will live, but then they sin, expecting their past righteousness to save them, then none of their righteous acts will be remembered. I will destroy them for their sins. And suppose I tell some wicked people that they will surely die, but then they turn from their sins and do what is just and right. For instance, they might give back a debtor's security, return what they have stolen, and obey my life-giving laws, no longer doing what is evil. If they do this, then they will surely live and not die. None of their past sins will be brought up again, for they have done what is just and right, and they will surely live" (NLT).

Note, highlight or underline the following phrases in the Ezekiel passage above:

- Verse 12: ... the righteous behavior of righteous people will not save them if they turn to sin.
- Verse 13: ... their past righteousness to save them.
- Verse 14: ... but then they turn from their sins and do what is just and right.
- Verse 16: ... none of their past sins will be brought up again.



Practice Paralleling: Reflect, Connect and Compare

In this stage, I'll give you an Old Testament verse from Ezekiel 33. Next I'll paraphrase it in my own words. Then I'll send you to a New Testament verse so we can find the connection between the Old Testament and New.

Read Ezekiel 33:12.

Reflect: Salvation is not governed by our good works. We are saved by God's grace.

Connect: In the space below, write our New Testament connecting verse, [Ephesians 2:8-9](#).

Compare: Compare and contrast the statements. I'll share my answer to help you find that connection. In the days of Ezekiel (Old Testament times), people believed their good acts would make them right with God. In New Testament times, Ephesians 2 tells us we are made right with God by the grace of God and the sacrifice of Jesus Christ.

I know this might feel hard. It's baby steps. So, let's do another one together.

Read Ezekiel 33:13

Reflect: Our righteous acts/good works have nothing to do with our salvation.

Connect: In the space below, write [Isaiah 64:6](#).



Compare: Compare and contrast the statements. Your answer may say something like: No matter how good I think my good works are, if my heart is not pure, God sees my works as filthy rags. In Isaiah 64:6, Isaiah was speaking to the self-righteous hypocrisy and idol worship of the Israelites who had turned their backs on God after receiving blessing after blessing from Him.

Read Ezekiel 33:14.

Reflect: God wants me to turn from my sin.

Connect: In the space below, write [Luke 13:3](#).

Compare: Compare and contrast the statements. Your answer may say something like this: *God wanted His people to repent of their sins then, and He wants us to repent of our sins now.*

Read Ezekiel 33:16.

Reflect: God will not remember my sins.

Connect: In the space below write [Hebrews 8:12](#).

Compare: Compare and contrast the statements. Your answer may say something like this: *God will not remember our sins.*



Okay, I know that might have felt challenging. This process takes time and practice. Even if the only thing we learn in the early stages of this process is that God addresses sin in the lives of His people in both the Old Testament and the New, that's enough. That's a win! Each time we take a step in this study process, God will lead us through to the next, increasing our confidence and understanding.

On Your Own

Maybe you're wondering: How do I determine which phrases to emphasize and study? Where do I find the connection verses? These are great questions! Let's tackle them one at time.

The answer to the first question, determining the phrases to emphasize, depends on how comfortable you are with listening for the Holy Spirit. I know that sounds a little wonky, like I'm dodging the question, but I'm not. The answer to this question depends on the time we invest in the study of, and our obedience to, the Word.

Here's a simple formula: Study + Obedience = Revelation. By revelation, I mean communication from the Holy Spirit — the teaching and reminding Jesus speaks of John 14:26. *"But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you"* (ESV). Our response is directly related to His revelation.

The more you study the Bible, the deeper and more intimate your relationship with God will be. The closer you are to God, the more you will know and recognize His voice. It's in that closeness you will sense in your heart that a verse or passage of Scripture is for you. Author and speaker Priscilla Shirer says it well. It's like a giant highlighter comes over the verse. Or you feel like it leaps off the page into your heart. Over time, you'll know and recognize His voice with more certainty. He'll impress upon your spirit the verses to further unpack and study.



I'll share a story to bring this alive. Years ago, my parents limited the time I could spend on the phone with my best friend to once a week. (Can you even imagine?!) She lived in the next county over, making the call "long distance." Back in the day, long-distance calls cost money. (I just dated myself.) We couldn't wait for that weekly call! When I answered the phone, I knew it was Christie. Not because her number appeared on caller ID or her picture popped up on the screen — rotary dial phones didn't have those features. (My younger friends may have to Google rotary phones.) I knew my best friend was on the other end because I recognized her voice. I recognized her voice because I spent a lot of time with her. This same idea applies to our relationship with our Teacher. He will direct our study time, as well as give us the will and desire to obey what He teaches.

In the space below, write Philippians 2:13.

Now let's go to the answer to the second question: where do I find the connecting scriptures? This answer isn't as spiritually in-depth. I'm not a schooled theologian; I'm a woman who loves the Word and wants to be found with it on my lap and in my heart when Jesus returns. You can find numerous "for purchase" Bible study resources out there, and I'm not opposed to them. However, my motto is simply "free is for me." There has never been a time when believers have had more resources readily available to study the Word. We are truly blessed!

I previously mentioned several free online resources, but don't limit yourself to those. Dig, dig and dig some more. Even with all these resources available, I sometimes begin my search with Google or Duck Duck Go (search engines). For example, from our practice parallel, if I want to find Bible verses that address being *saved by grace*, I type in the search bar *saved by grace verses* and follow the links. It's so fun!

Well, it's been a blast hanging out with you! I pray through this study you've received not only a lift in your spirit, but encouragement and courage to grab your Bible and dare to follow where the Spirit leads through the pages of His Word. I also pray your spiritual confidence will soar as you walk out what the Holy Spirit reveals.



Oh friend, never stop studying the Word.

The Spirit never stops teaching and making the ancient Scripture relevant. In fact, the Bible tells us so!

“For the word of God is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires” (Hebrews 4:12, NLT).

And, the Lord never stops working, *“But Jesus replied, ‘My Father is always working, and so am I’”* (John 5:17, NLT).

Be encouraged!

Serving Him Until I See Him,

Wendy (aka WePo)



Week Two



Hello! My name is Micca Campbell. I serve on the Speaker Team at Proverbs 31 Ministries, and I'm the author of *An Untroubled Heart: Finding a Faith Stronger Than All My Fear*. On a personal note, I love Jesus, carbs and the beach!

Thank you for joining me here on the Bible Study Companion today. I'm excited to dive into God's Word with you!

Have you ever wondered what God is like? Is He a good God? What exactly are His attributes?

Only God can answer those questions, and the cool thing is, He wants to be known. In fact, God has taken the initiative to reveal truths about Himself that we can understand.

Theologians call this "Divine Revelation," which means "to uncover" or "unveil."

God reveals His divine nature through **creation, His Word, to specific people, and His Son, Christ Jesus**. We will base our study on these four revelations.

While we can't fully understand God this side of heaven, something significant happens when we seek to know the heart, mind and will of God. We fall in love with Him and develop a heart of devotion. It can't be helped, y'all. Because there is no one like Him!

The more we love and know God, the clearer we discern just how lovely He is. Are you ready? Let's begin.

The Revelation of God in Creation

● Creation reveals God's invisible attributes.

Read Romans 1:20. What has God made plain so that one is without excuse?

Paul, the author of Romans, makes it clear. Creation shouts the existence and nature of God. No one can bring their excuses to Him or point fingers. God has shown Himself to them. Some may deny it or reject it, but y'all, they can't miss it!



What are the two invisible qualities of God mentioned in Romans 1:20?

Two things we can understand about God are His eternal power and divine nature.

God's divine nature is the sum of God's personality. Other translations use the word "Godhead" in place of divine nature, but both point to God as the one and only Deity.

Consider David's song of praise in 1 Chronicles 29:11.

"Yours, O LORD, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, for all that is in the heavens and in the earth is yours. Yours is the kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as head above all" (ESV).

Time doesn't allow us to uncover all God's attributes, but we can consider a few mentioned in David's song.

● **Creation reveals God's sovereignty.**

Sovereignty isn't necessarily a biblical term. It's more a theological theory. Still, the Bible points to God's authority, greatness and majesty as "*King of kings and Lord of lords*" (1 Timothy 6:15, NIV).

What does Psalm 103:19 say about God's rule?

Nothing happens in our world, or to us personally, outside of the scope of God's authority. In other words, no matter what, God's got your back!

Read Job 42:2. It explains that God has the right to do as He pleases, and no one can stop Him. That's sovereignty!



God's sovereignty may seem unimportant to your everyday life, but it's actually everything. The sovereignty of God is practical and significant for daily living. For example, since God is in control of all things, it removes all cause for worry or making difficult decisions when God is guiding your way.

Can you think of another way God's sovereignty affects your daily life? Write it below.

● **Creation reveals God's glory.**

If creation reveals the nature of God, what do the heavens tell us about God? (Psalm 19:1)

Our word, "glory," comes from the Latin word "*gloria*," meaning "fame or renown." How does Psalm 8:1, 3-4 describe God?

I love this verse! Think about it. There are over 100 billion galaxies — each containing 100 billion stars that proclaim the beauty and infinite glory of God every night.

And get this. "*He determines the number of the stars and calls them each by name*" (Psalm 147:4, NIV).

Friend, if God knows the names of a hundred billion stars, He knows your name too!

It's important to note that the glory of God isn't a part of who God is. It's all that God is. Every aspect of God is glorious! His beauty displayed in the heavens invites us to celebrate His wonders.



Have you ever marveled at the work of God’s hands as you witness a sunset, the changing seasons or how the moon shimmers on the lake? The thing is, y’all: When we worship and praise God, we become aware of His magnificence. Suddenly, our troubles shrink in comparison to His greatness.

● **Creation reveals God’s power.**

David tells us something about God’s mighty power in Psalm 33:6. Give it a read. Now, consider verse 9 of Psalm 33 and fill in the blanks below.

“For He spoke, and it _____; He commanded, and it _____” (NIV).

Read and think on Hebrews 1:3 for a moment. It tells us God not only spoke the heavens and its host into being, but He holds it all in place! That’s power, y’all!

Write Jeremiah 32:17 below.

You may be facing the impossible right now, but God’s power is greater. Nothing is too hard for Him. If God has the power to create the whole world, He has the supernatural ability to take care of you. So, go ahead. Place your challenges in His capable hands and thank Him for His mighty power to intervene in your life. Consider writing a prayer below asking God to help you trust Him with what’s on your heart.



The Revelation of God in His Word

It all begins with the Word, really.

It is God's written revelation of Himself to His children, making the Bible our only source of true knowledge about God.

One of the first things revealed about God is that He is a speaking God.

Write John 1:1 below.

In Greek, "Word," as used by John in this verse is "*logos*." It's most often used to speak of Christ, expressing the thoughts of the Father through the Spirit. It's a name or title for Jesus.

What this tells us is that speaking is central to God. He is literally the Word, y'all.

Every time we read our Bible, we're receiving revelation from God!

What does Psalm 29:4 say about the voice of God?

Every time we open our Bible to read, who is speaking? (2 Timothy 3:16, NIV).

Friend, God is not silent. He still communicates with us today! We cry out to God in prayer, then open our Bibles to listen.

God not only speaks to us through His Word, but He also makes statements about His nature and so do others. Let's take a look.



- **Statements made by God.**

In Exodus 3:14, God reveals Himself to Moses. What does God call Himself?

God gave Moses a special revelation of who He is. A new name to call Him: "I AM WHO I AM." A personal name. Though the meaning of this name is not completely certain, one possible meaning is "I will be to you all that I AM." Through this name, God promised to be everything Moses and the Israelites needed.

Some scholars believe that "I AM," as used here, comes from the Hebrew verb "to be or to exist." So, with this statement, God declared to Moses that He is self-existent, eternal, self-sufficient, self-directed and unchanging. What comfort that must have brought Moses in the midst of so much uncertainty!

God chose to introduce Himself by name because it's hard to trust someone you don't know. Psalm 9:10 says it best. Give it a read.

What does God make clear about Himself in Isaiah 45:5?

Take a look at Jeremiah 9:23-24. What are we to boast about?

Compare Malachi 3:6 with Hebrews 13:8. What did you learn about God from these verses?

The world claims God has gone out of style, but Scripture tells us **God does not change!** He does not change His mind about you, His plan for you or His promises to you!



● **Statements made by others.**

Read the next three verses and write what you learn about God's character.

2 Peter 3:9

Numbers 23: 19

We can't always take people at their word, except for God. He doesn't lie, and He never will.

1 John 4:16

God isn't just loving, y'all. He is love. That's something we need to settle in our hearts. It's a game-changer.

Summarize below what you've learned about God so far.

Knowing God deeply takes time. It doesn't happen overnight. So, I hope you'll meditate on these wonderful attributes of God until they sink into your heart and transform your life.



The Revelation of God to Individuals in the Bible

God sometimes gives a special revelation of Himself to a specific person. Abraham is a great example. Go with me to Romans 4 (NIV). We'll camp out here for this section.

Before we can trust God, we must hear from Him.

According to Romans 4:17, what promise did God make to Abraham?

God's promise to Abraham revealed God's will — to make Abraham a father of many nations. Sounds good, but Abraham had to consider the facts found in verse 19. List them below.

Abraham's story teaches us **God first reveals His nature before He reveals His will** so that we might trust Him.

Look back at verse 17. What did Abraham believe about God's nature as revealed to him? Fill in the blanks below (remember we are reading in the NIV).

The God who _____ and calls into being _____.

I love this! God revealed to Abraham His two specialties—

1. He is the God of resurrection (who gives life to the dead).
2. He is the God of Creation (who makes something out of nothing).

Why did God reveal these two characteristics? We find the answer in verse 18. Write it below.



“Against all hope, Abraham in hope believed” (Romans 4:18, NIV). **God’s promise matched His nature.**

If we’re going to worship God, it’s important to have a correct understanding of who He is. If our view of God is wrong, so will be our worship. And this leads to an unstable faith, y’all. A true understanding of God’s character is the foundation of our faith and our devotion.

Pertaining to God’s promise, what did Abraham **not do**? (v. 20).

What was Abraham persuaded God would do? (v. 21)

What about you? Are you fully persuaded that God is who He says He is and will keep His promises to you? Why or why not? (v. 21)

How did Abraham respond to God for making him the father of all nations? (v. 20)

Finish by reading verses 22-25.

What’s true for Abraham is true for you and me too. **Faith is our response to God’s revealed nature.** The more we trust in who God says He is, the stronger our faith and devotion become.



Can you name a time when God revealed Himself to you in a new way just before you needed to lean on that particular attribute of God? Explain.

The Revelation of God Through Jesus

Jesus is God's final and fullest revelation of Himself we will ever have on earth. No wonder Satan has tried to distort who Jesus is throughout the centuries. Let's discover this truth together.

● Who Jesus is.

Read John 1:1-4 and answer the questions below.

When did the Word first exist? (v. 1)

Who was the Word with? (v. 1)

The Word was with God! Do you see the relationship between God and Jesus? This tells us our God isn't distant at all. He's personal — and He desires to have a personal relationship with you and me.

The last part of verse 1 states the "Word was God." We also find this truth in John 10:30. Write it below.

Through Jesus we can know the mind, will and heart of God.



● Why Jesus came.

Read Colossians 1:15. God became a person, Christ Jesus, to identify with us. You may know John 3:16 by heart, but read it again with fresh eyes.

Jesus came to show us God's love.

What did Jesus come to give us? (John 10:10)

It's God's will that everyone who believes in Him experiences abundant life. But that's not always the case.

Friends, we were created to have a loving, ongoing relationship with God. Because of our rebellion (wanting our own way), our fellowship with God is broken.

Take a look at Romans 3:23. What does sin lead to?

Sin, if not dealt with, separates us spiritually from God, preventing us from having a relationship with Him.

● Jesus is the bridge between God and us.

According to Romans 5:8, Jesus took our place on the cross, dying for our sin that we may be close to God now and forever. Give it a read.

Acts 2:24 tells us Jesus didn't stay in the grave. What was death unable to do?

What promise is made to us in 2 Corinthians 4:14?



We can live a life of praise because Jesus has conquered sin and death! We will rise with Him!

What a mind-blowing truth! A truth we find in nature.

Consider the changing of the seasons. It's a cycle between life and death. The death of winter always comes back to life in the spring. Oh, friend, we can be certain that the same power that changes the seasons and raised Jesus from the grave will raise us also!

One last question. In John 14:6, what does Jesus say about other roads to God?

God has made it so clear, friend. The purpose of God's revelation through Jesus is that you and I might come to know Him in a personal and loving way. It's not enough to know God's provision. We must receive by faith. And since salvation is our greatest need, we should give thanks daily.

Now that we know how to seek God, we don't have to wonder what He's like. Through these appointed revelations, we know and can continue to know His power and divine nature. His love and forgiveness. His salvation and eternal life. His presence and promises. His power and His purposes. And so much more.

Let's keep seeking God and appreciating Him for who He is and all that He is to us every day. What do you say?

Thanks for studying with me!
Micca



Week Three



Hi! Welcome to Week 3 of our *Cultivate Worship* Bible Study Companion. My name is Wendy Blight. I serve as the Biblical Content Specialist for our Online Bible Studies Team. I'm excited to be with you this week as we focus on the topic of prayer.

Do you struggle with knowing what to pray and how to pray? I can relate!

Sometimes, it's hard to know where to begin with prayer. We want to pray specifically for our friends and family, but we can't quite figure out where to start.

Prayer began to change for me when I served on a leadership team with some amazing prayer warriors who modeled a new way to pray. They showed me how to pray God's Word. This one change truly transformed my prayer life. The lessons they taught me helped me to pray more confidently, powerfully and effectively, and now I can't wait to share them with you!

Why does praying God's Word make our prayers more powerful and effective?

Think about these two questions:

Mom, can I have a piece of candy?

Mom, remember yesterday you promised me a piece of candy? May I have it now, please?

Which statement probably resonates more strongly in a mom's heart ... the one in which her child simply asks for a piece of candy, or the one in which her child *reminds* her of *her* promise to give him a piece of candy?

The latter, of course. That's how it is with God. When we pray God's Word back to Him, we're *reminding* Him of His promises.



What the Bible says about God's Word.

The Bible gives us a very great promise about God's Word in Hebrews 4:12:

"For the word of God is alive and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart" (NIV).

What words does the author of Hebrews 4:12 use to describe God's Word?

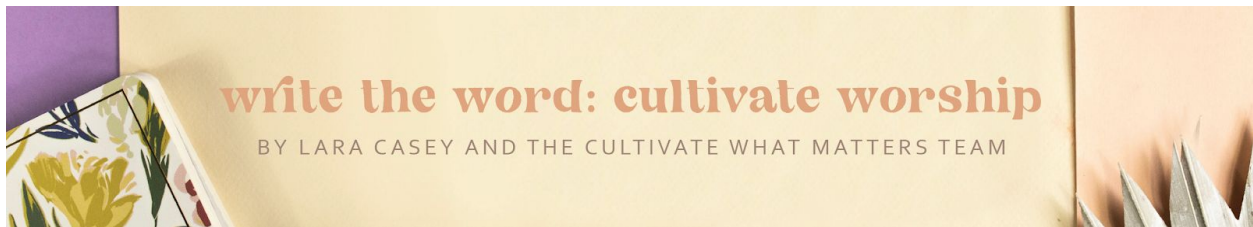
Now let's dive deeper into this verse by studying the meaning of three of these words.

First, God's Word is "living."

Some translations use the word "quick." This word is from the Greek word "zao," which means "to live, to be alive, to have vital power in itself and exert the same upon the soul." God's Word is not a dead piece of literature to be read, enjoyed, and put back on the shelf. It's relevant to our lives today. It implies God's Word is inexhaustible, meaning no amount of study can exhaust its potential to impact and influence our lives. Every time we open it, God is waiting to speak a fresh Word from His heart to ours. But for us to hear God speak, we have to be familiar with His voice. That means spending time in His Word and taking time to listen for His voice as we read it. It's in the listening, God speaks, leads, guides, convicts, encourages and ministers to us.

Second, God's Word is "active."

Some translations use the word "powerful." This word is from the Greek word *energes*, which means, "effective, productive of due result, at work." By using this word, the author of Hebrews ensures we know God intends for His Word to cause activity and change in our lives. We see this happening throughout the Bible. When God's Word was spoken through Jesus and His called ones, it convicted people of their sin, converted their hearts, raised the dead to life, made the deaf to hear, the blind to see, the mute to speak, and the lame to walk.



Third, God's Word is "sharper."

The author of Hebrews emphasizes the sharpness of God's Word. "*Sharper than any double-edged sword.*" This word "sharper" is from the Greek Word "*tomoteros*," meaning to cut with a single stroke, as opposed to hacking and using repeated blows. God wants to use His Word to seize us immediately and quickly. To cut to the heart of the issues we're struggling and praying about, and then penetrate deeply, reaching into the depths of our hearts, souls, even the very marrow of our bones to effect change in our lives.

Jesus Himself teaches us more about prayer in John 15.

Read John 15.

When teaching His disciples about abiding and prayer, Jesus spoke these words from John 15:7-8,

"If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples" (NIV).

Jesus says to remain in His Word. What does that mean to you?

This conversation took place as Jesus walked with His disciples to the Garden of Gethsemane. Some scholars believe Jesus may have been walking past a vineyard as He spoke these words. If that's the case, while He was explaining that He was the True Vine and His followers were the branches, they could have been looking upon abundant vines bursting forth with fruit.

The first part of verse 7 invites us to remain in Christ. What does Jesus mean by "remain" (some translations use the word "abide")? It simply means to spend time with Jesus in His presence and in His Word. The more time we spend with Him, the more His Word permeates our hearts and minds and becomes a part of us and the more the fruit of His Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23a) — love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness and self control — becomes fully alive in us.



The second part of the verse tells us that when we remain in God's Word, whatever we ask will be given.

This is NOT telling us when we pray, we get what we want. God is not a genie in a bottle.

It helps to read this verse in context with the rest of John 15. Receiving whatever we wish requires a close, intimate, interactive relationship with Jesus. It comes back again to hearing the voice of God through His Word. It's that intimacy that enables us to hear God's voice. The more we hear it, the more we'll recognize it. His words and voice become familiar.

God's will is found in His Word. So the more familiar we are with God's voice, the more familiar we will be with His will. The more familiar we are with His will, the easier it becomes to align our hearts with His will. And, the more we align our hearts with His will, the more our prayers will reflect, and be driven by, His Word and His will.

Now, let's take what we've learned and move into the realm of prayer.

Baby steps to praying God's Word.

Let's get more practical and talk about how to pray God's Word.

I'll begin by sharing how I learned to pray God's Word and then invite you to join me.

Here's the three-step process I follow:

First, I think of something weighing heavily on my heart. I then open my Bible and pray this prayer taken from Psalm 119:18, "Father, open the eyes of my heart so I can see what You have to speak into my life about this topic."

Second, I turn to the concordance at the back of my Bible. A concordance sorts Scripture by topic (fear, worry, peace, forgiveness, anger, peace, joy, etc). If your Bible doesn't have one, you can always do a Google search. Type in the search bar "Bible verse on _____." I then take the verses I find and jot them down in a journal or notebook. Or you can type them into a document. I then again ask God for ears to hear His voice and a heart to receive what He wants to speak to me through the verse(s) to which He led me.



Finally, I personalize each verse based on how God leads. I'll share some examples below.

At a time when I wanted to pray for my children but wasn't quite sure what to pray, or how to do it, I went to God's Word. I took baby steps and found a few scriptures that spoke to what was on my heart. I then personalized the verses.

A few examples.

First, I give you the verse the Lord gave me and then, I invite you to find it, read it and write it. Finally, I show you how I personalized it.

Find, read and write Psalm 119:11.

Wendy's personalized prayer using Psalm 119:11.

Lord, please hide Your Word in Lauren's heart so her desire is to please You and obey You in all she says and does.

Find, read and write Proverbs 3:5-6.

Wendy's personalized prayer using Proverbs 3:5-6.

God, help Bo to trust in You with all his heart and lean not on his own understanding, and to acknowledge You in all his ways.

Find, read and write Luke 2:52.



Wendy's personalized prayer using Luke 2:52.

Father, grow Lauren and Bo in wisdom, stature and favor with You and with man.

Now it's your turn to take a baby step.

Since most of us struggle with worry and anxiety at one time or another, I thought that would be a great topic to begin this section.

Take a few minutes to find the words *anxious*, *worry* or *peace* in your Bible's concordance (or use Google). Prayerfully read through the verses you find.

As you read through them, listen for God's voice. See if any stir your heart. That's usually how you know God is answering your prayer to "open the eyes of your heart" to receive what He has for you. I usually find 2-4 verses.

Once you find your verses, write each one below.



Now, take some time to personalize each verse below.

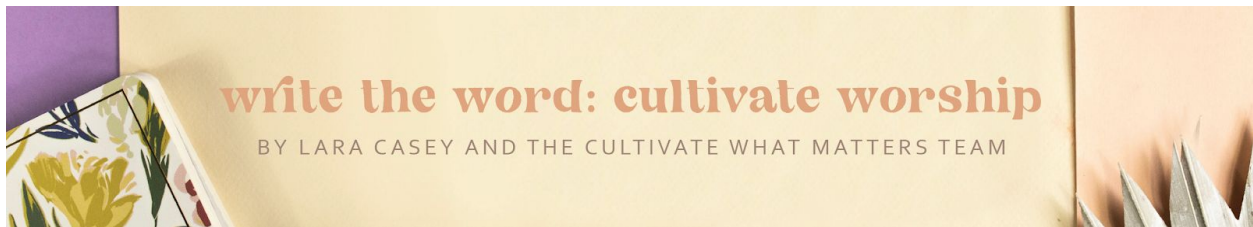
Weaving our verses into a prayer.

After we find and personalize our verses, the next step is to pray our verses. We can always do that verbally. But, what has helped me grow my prayer life is taking my verses and weaving them together into a longer written prayer.

Two of my favorite verses on peace are Philippians 4:6-7 and Isaiah 26:3.

Philippians 4:6-7, *“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus”* (NLT).

Isaiah 26:3, *“You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you”* (NIV).



Below, you'll see how I personalized those two verses and weaved them into a prayer. I begin by sharing with God what's on my heart with God, and then I pray the scriptures into and over my circumstances.

Father, I have so much on my mind right now. I can't even sleep at night. I feel so anxious. Your Word tells me to fix my mind on You, not my circumstances and my worries. Your Word tells me to pray about everything. So right now, Father, I'm coming to You with my worries, especially the fact that I cannot rest or relax. It feels like a motor is constantly running in my body. My mind never rests. I desperately want to walk in the fullness of Your peace.

So, Father, I thank You that I can stop trying to control everything because You are in control of all things. I'm choosing to fix my mind on You and Your promises. I'm doing this so You will make my heart steadfast. And, I'm giving all my worries to You, claiming Your promise that in doing this, Your peace, the peace that passes all understanding, will guard my heart and mind. I trust You for this peace because You are a promise-keeping God. I thank You that as I continue to fix my eyes on You and trust You with my circumstances, I will be filled with Your peace from the top of my head to the tips of my toes. I trust You for this. I will wait patiently as You heal me and grant me rest from the inside out. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Now it's YOUR turn to write YOUR prayer.

For this section, you'll need your Bible, a pen and a notebook/journal/paper/last page of teaching today or your computer (to write your verses and your prayer).

Below you'll find a variety of topics, along with scriptures that address those topics. Prayerfully read through them. Choose one topic that speaks to your heart. It may be for you or for someone you love.

The topics include:

- Fear and Peace
- Surrender and Trust
- God's Sovereignty and Provision

After you choose the topic, read through my personal introduction for each topic and the verses provided. Listen for God's voice ... His prompting, leading, direction, conviction, comfort, encouragement.



Invite the Lord to lead you to one or two verses and spend time with those verses. It might be a few minutes. It might be five or ten minutes. If you have time, read your verse in context with the verses that come before and after it. Maybe do a Google search, or look at the concordance in the back of your Bible, for more verses speaking to the topic. Jot down the verses you chose and any other verses you may find.

Within each topic, you'll notice I include a "thoughts and prayers the Lord brought to mind" section. In this section, I listened for the Holy Spirit to speak as I read through the verses. Please know my heart, friend. I'm not rewriting the verse or passage. I'm not adding to God's Word with these thoughts. They are my words, not God's. They came as I spent time thinking and praying over the passages. My prayer is that these thoughts will help you listen for the Lord's voice as you spend time with Him in His Word.

After you've finished these steps, prayerfully write the prayer God lays on your heart.

*All verses are NIV unless otherwise noted.

Fear and Peace

A few days after my college graduation, I found an armed, masked man hiding in my apartment. That horrible incident spiraled me into a place of fear and anxiety that held me captive for nearly a decade. Satan used that fear to keep me from living in the fullness and freedom for which God created me. You may find yourself in a similar place, sweet friend. Remember, we're fighting a spiritual battle. A battle Jesus has already won! Why? Because by His death and resurrection, Jesus conquered sin, fear and death. (2 Timothy 1:10; Hebrews 2:14) As a saved child of God, you and I are His beloved daughters. Because of our identity as God's daughters, we too have already won! Romans 8:37 tells us we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus.

We either surrender to Satan and remain imprisoned in our fear and anxiety, or we walk fiercely and confidently in the power and work of Jesus to defeat that fear and anxiety. I found verses that directly addressed my fear. Powerful, earth-shaking, faith-transforming verses I began to pray. Verses that, on one particular night, broke the chains of fear that had held me captive for so many years. I fell on my knees before God that night and wept, praising Him for His faithfulness. And I haven't stopped telling my story since! When fear is gone, so follows anxiety. God replaces it with the peace that is ours in Christ Jesus. The peace that passes all understanding. That peace is not of this world. It's found only in Jesus ... in His Spirit living in us.



Fear

Joshua 1:9, *“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”*

Isaiah 41:10, *“So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.”*

Psalms 27:1, *“The LORD is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The LORD is the stronghold of my life—of whom shall I be afraid?”*

Psalms 56:3, *“When I am afraid, I put my trust in you.”*

2 Timothy 1:7, *“for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control” (ESV).*

1 John 4:4, *“You, dear children, are from God and have overcome ... because the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world.”*

Thoughts and prayers the Lord brought to mind ...

- Do not be afraid, My child. I’m always with you. I will never leave you. I will help you through what you’re walking through and hold you in the palm of My hand.
- Know fear is not from Me. I give you My Holy Spirit. In My Spirit, you have access to My power, My love and My mind. My Spirit is stronger than anyone or any circumstances you face. Remember, you are an overcomer because greater is the One who lives in you, which is Me, than the one who lives in the world.
- I am your rescuer and defender! I am your stronghold. So, you should fear NOTHING! I will never leave you or forsake you. Take refuge in Me.

Peace

Psalms 4:8, *“In peace I will lie down and sleep, for you alone, LORD, make me dwell in safety.”*

Psalms 46:1, *“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”*



Psalm 55:22, *“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.”*

Psalm 91:1-2, *“Whoever dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”*

John 14:27, *“Peace is what I leave with you; it is my own peace that I give you. I do not give it as the world does. Do not be worried and upset; do not be afraid”* (GNT).

Galatians 5:22, *“But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things”* (NLT).

Thoughts and prayers the Lord brought to mind ...

- Cast your cares upon Me, daughter. Don’t you know how much I care for you? I will carry them for you. I will not let you fall. My Spirit, My power, My love will sustain you. Trust Me.
- My Spirit lives in you. The fruit of My Spirit fills you. Peace is part of that fruit. Believe My promise. Walk in My promise. Then, you’ll live abundantly in My promises.
- I will keep you in perfect peace when you trust in Me. You will lie down in peace and rest, when you keep your eyes fixed on Me. I am your fortress and safe place. Take refuge in Me.

Surrender and Trust

Next, we’ll spend time with the words “Surrender” and “Trust.” Oh, these are two of the hardest things to do when walking through trials with God. These words come into play most often when we find ourselves in the “wait room” with God. When we’re struggling to trust His timing. His perceived silence. The answer we think we’ve heard. I’ve walked through each of these waits and am in an especially hard one right now. One thing I’ve learned on this journey is if we don’t run *to* God, we’ll run *away* from God. And, that running will take us to an even lonelier, darker place. A place we will drift deeper and deeper into uncertainty and doubt.

Let’s remember together, even when we can’t see, feel or hear God, He is there! He has promised us in His Word He will never leave us or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6; Matthew



28:20; Hebrews 13:5). We need to trust this promise and surrender. Surrender means to yield, relinquish, submit. To raise the white flag. To release the tight grip we have on what we want and place it in the hands of our Abba Father, who is more than able to carry the load.

Surrender

Psalms 55:22, *“Cast your cares on the LORD and he will sustain you; he will never let the righteous be shaken.”*

Psalms 61:1-3 (David’s cry to God), *“Hear my cry, O God; listen to my prayer. From the ends of the earth I call to you. I call as my heart grows faint; lead me to the rock that is higher than I. For you have been my refuge, a strong tower against the foe.”*

Psalms 147:3, *“He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.”*

Isaiah 42:3-4, *“A bruised reed he will not break, and a smoldering wick he will not snuff out. In faithfulness he will bring forth justice; he will not falter or be discouraged till he establishes justice on earth. In his teaching the islands will put their hope.”*

Lamentations 3:22-23, *“Because of the LORD’s great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”*

2 Corinthians 12:9, *“... ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may rest on me.”*

Thoughts and prayers the Lord brought to mind ...

- Surrender your broken places to Me, My child. They are opportunities for you to experience Me in all My fullness and for Me to display My glory.
- Always filter your hurt through My unconditional, everlasting, abundant love and compassion.
- Invite Me into your pain. I will bind your wounds. My healing balm will soothe your wounded heart and soul.
- Surrender everything to Me. Let it all go. I will carry it. My grace is sufficient for you. My power is made perfect in your weakness.



Trust

Psalms 31:14-16, *“But I trust in you, LORD; I say, ‘You are my God.’ My times are in your hands; deliver me from the hands of my enemies, from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in your unfailing love.”*

Psalms 46:10, *“He says, ‘Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”*

Psalms 119:89, *“Your word, LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.”*

Proverbs 3:5-6, *“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.”*

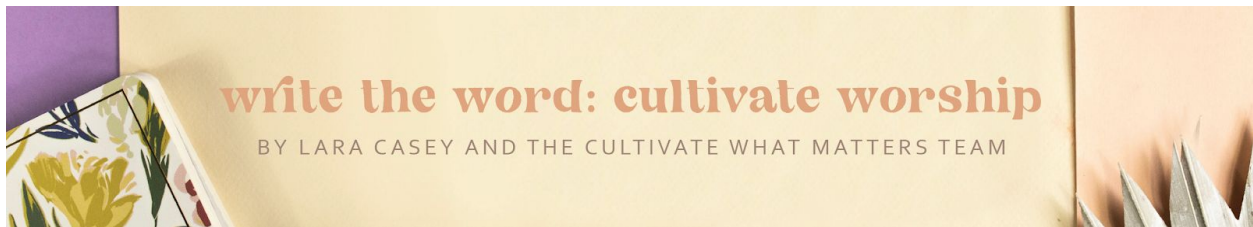
Matthew 28:18, *“Then Jesus came to them and said, ‘All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.’”*

Romans 8:1, *“Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus,”*

1 John 1:7, *“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.”*

Thoughts and prayers the Lord brought to mind ...

- I am all authority in heaven and on earth. No circumstance, person, place, hurt or sickness is outside My reach or beyond My control. Nothing burdening your heart is too hard for Me. Trust Me.
- Trust Me with your past. No sin is too great that My Son’s shed blood will not cover. Walk out of the darkness and into the light. In Me, you’ll find no condemnation, only grace.
- My Son gave His life for you. We both love you with an everlasting, lavish love. Never doubt that. We settled that on Calvary, when My Son poured out His blood and the veil was torn. So come to Me. Trust Me with all your heart. Don’t lean on your human knowledge and understanding. Submit that to which you are clinging to Me. I will show you the way.



God's Sovereignty and Provision

It's God's sovereignty and provision I seem to struggle with the most. I ask and pray for things that seemingly align with God's Word and His good plans for me or my family. I tell Him if He answers my prayer, He'll get all the glory. It will point others to Him. It will grow my child's faith. But then, that specific answer never comes. Sometimes, it's quite the opposite. That's really hard. I find myself being angry with God. Questioning His goodness even though I know I shouldn't. Then I feel guilty.

It's in those places I have to remember where God was faithful before ... whether in my life or in the lives of His people in the Bible. I reread those stories. It redirects my heart and mind to again trust God's sovereignty. Trust that He is completely in control of everything. Trust that nothing passes through to me without first passing through His hands.

A sovereignty I know is bathed in love. It's not a hammer. It's not cold and calculating. It's not ruled by harsh decrees. God's sovereignty flows from a Father's heart consumed by a lavish love for His children. A God who promises to give us the desires of our heart **when our desires align with His**. That is the key. We're on a journey of sanctification ... of God working in and through us to mold and shape us to become more like Jesus. So, when God withholds that answer or answers it differently, we can trust God is protecting us. Trust that Jehovah Jireh, God our Provider, will provide what's best in His sovereign plan for us.

God's Sovereignty (God is in control)

Job 26:14, *"And these are but the outer fringe of his works; how faint the whisper we hear of him! Who then can understand the thunder of his power?"*

Isaiah 46:9-10, *"Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come. I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'"*

Isaiah 55:8-9, *"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways," declares the LORD. 'As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.'"*

Matthew 28:17-18, *"When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted. Then Jesus came to them and said, 'All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.'"*



Colossians 1:16-17, “For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether *thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.*”

Words and prayers the Lord brought to mind ...

- Every season has its own beauty, look for it! I am there in your midst. Look for Me. Not one thing you’re walking through and experiencing is out of My control. I see you.
- Don’t miss the wonder of I AM. Of who I am. I Am the One True God. There is no one greater or more powerful. Trust me with all that burdens your heart ... that you can’t understand ... that you feel you cannot bear ... because I am over it all; I am in it, and I am enough.
- I am completely faithful with each place I walk you through: the valleys and the mountaintops. With each place, trust Me because I’m drawing you closer to Me.

God’s Provision

Genesis 22:14, “*So Abraham called that place The LORD Will Provide. And to this day it is said, ‘On the mountain of the LORD it will be provided.’*”

Psalms 107:8-9, “*Let them give thanks to the LORD for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.*”

1 Corinthians 2:9-10, “*However, as it is written: ‘What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived’—the things God has prepared for those who love him—these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit. The Spirit searches all things, even the deep things of God.*”

2 Corinthians 9:8, “*And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.*”

Ephesians 3:20, “*Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.*”



Words the Lord brought to mind ...

- I am Jehovah Jireh, your Provider. What I want most is to give you more of Me. Delight yourself in Me, and I will give you the desires of your heart.
- I am the God of all grace who longs to give you an unlimited supply of My riches. Don't try to do this on your own. Come to Me, My child. Remember in Me, you lack nothing.
- I may provide differently than you've asked. Trust Me. I know what's best for you. Be thankful and invest where I have you. You will be blessed when you do.
- I am the All-Sufficient One. I am enough.

Now, it's time for you to write your prayer! Please know, I've already prayed for each woman who would be reading this teaching, choosing her verses and writing her prayer. That means I've prayed for you! So, write with confidence, daughter! The Lord is present with you, giving you understanding, leading your study and your prayer.

Thank you for joining us for our *Cultivate Worship* Bible Study Companion.

As we close our time together, I encourage you with these words. Don't stop, sweet friend. Keep meeting God in His Word. Keep seeking Him for verses and passages to pray. Keep writing prayers.

Share your prayers with your friends and family. It's one of the sweetest ways you can bless and encourage others, especially during this Christmas season.

Wishing you a blessed and joyous Christmas!

Wendy B. (not be confused with WePo)

