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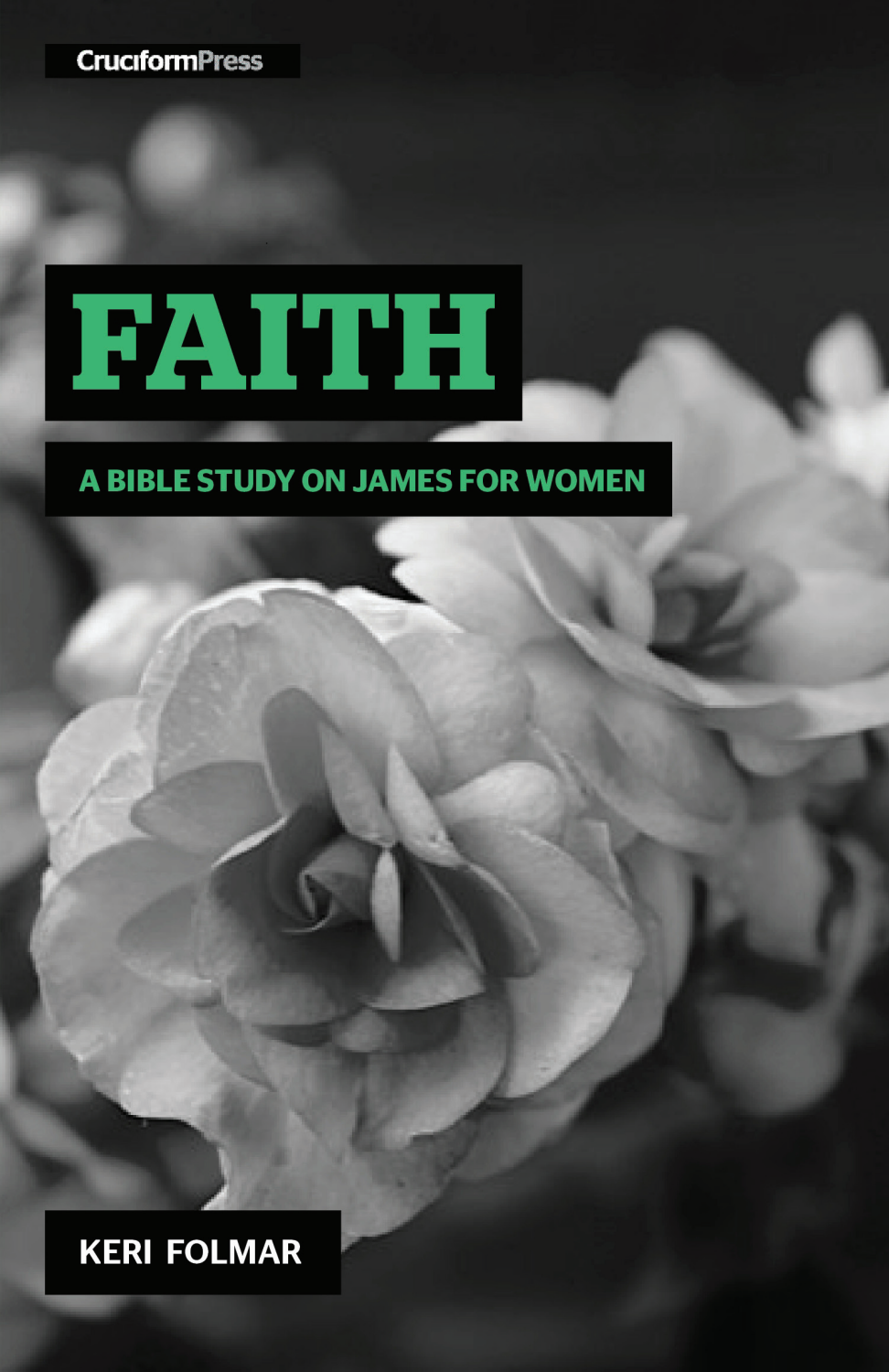

FAITH

A BIBLE STUDY ON JAMES FOR WOMEN

KERI FOLMAR

Faith

A Bible Study on James for Women

Keri Folmar

Cruciform Press | February 2014

To my grandmother, Ruth Elizabeth Oates,
a steadfast woman of faith characterized by joy.

– Keri Folmar

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"Keri Folmar encourages us to read God's Word carefully, to understand clearly, and to apply prayerfully. This study helps us hear James' call to true faith in Jesus Christ—a faith that works. With simple clarity, Keri guides us not only in studying James but also in learning to study the Bible." **— Kathleen Nielson***

"It is hard to imagine a better inductive Bible study tool than this one. So many study tools wander from the biblical text, but Keri Folmar's study on James concentrates on what James himself says. Also, the message of James for our everyday lives is constantly emphasized. I recommend this book for both individual and group study, for it will enable you to grow in your faith." **— Diane Schreiner***

"This study through the Book of James encourages us to have an active faith that works itself out in love. I appreciate the way Keri consistently challenges us to apply God's Word to our own hearts, and also to our relationships in the body of Christ. This is a great study to do on your own or in partnership with someone who is not yet a Christian, or with someone who struggles with assurance or expresses a desire to have a vibrant life of faith and service to Christ." **— Kristie Anyabwile***

"What a harvest of righteousness is enjoyed by those who dig deep into the book of James! We all need the wisdom that comes down from above, and this Bible study on James is a true guide. Keri skillfully created this rich resource—and not only that, she put the tools in your hands so you can study God's word for yourself. Gather your friends to study with you, and enjoy the harvest together!" **— Gloria Furman***

"This book came to me during a deep trial, forcing me to read the book of James and wrestle with Keri's questions. Keri longs for Christ and her writing bears witness to this. This study is convicting, in the best of ways. When her penetrating questions pierce the heart, Keri doesn't lead the reader to a stagnating self-pity or worldly grief over sins. A faithful teacher of the Scriptures she prods the reader to a godly sorrow and a deeper faith in Jesus. I respect Keri greatly, especially for tackling the book of James. Her theology is sound and her wisdom rings through. I highly recommend this book for either personal study or for groups." **— Luma Simms***

* See endorser bios at page 4.

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Endorser Bios

Kathleen Nielson is author of the *Living Word Bible Studies*; Director of Women's Initiatives, The Gospel Coalition; and wife of Niel, who served as President of Covenant College from 2002 to 2012.

Diane Schreiner, wife of professor, author, and pastor Tom Schreiner and mother of four grown children, has led women's Bible studies for more than 20 years.

Kristie Anyabwile holds a history degree from NC State University. Her husband, Thabiti, serves as Senior Pastor of First Baptist Church, Grand Cayman, and as a Council Member for The Gospel Coalition.

Gloria Furman is a pastor's wife in the Middle East and author of *Glimpses of Grace* and *Treasuring Christ When Your Hands Are Full.*

Luma Simms is the author of *Gospel Amnesia: Forgetting the Goodness of the News* and *Counterfeit Me* (forthcoming)

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As we begin this study of James' letter, we should think through why we are studying the Bible. Why not read some other book? Or why not just get together with some other ladies and chat?

Well, have you heard the story about the kindergarten teacher who had her class paint pictures of anything they chose? One little girl was working very intently on her painting. After observing the girl for a moment, the teacher asked, "What are you painting?" The girl answered, "It's a picture of God." Amused, the teacher informed her, "No one knows what God looks like." Without looking up from her painting, the little girl responded, "They will in a minute!"

This might be a cute example of a precocious child, but many people paint pictures in their own minds of how God looks and acts. They "know" God to be a certain way because they want him to be that way.

However, the one true God is transcendent. He is beyond our capacity to know. First Timothy 6:16 describes God, "Who alone has immortality, who dwells in unapproachable light, whom no one has ever seen or can see." God existed before time. He is the creator, and we are his creatures. He cannot be approached by sinful man.

How can we know this God if we cannot approach him? He has to approach us. The only way to truly know God is for him to reveal himself to us. He reveals his existence and power in creation. (See Psalm 19 and Romans 1:18-21.) However, if we want to truly know this God of surpassing worth in a personal way, it must be through his Word.

And God *wants* us, his creatures, to know him. Jeremiah 9:23-24 says:

> Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man boast in his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him who boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practices steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth."

Do you boast in understanding and knowing the Lord? Do you want to know this God who practices love, justice, and righteousness in the earth? He wants you to understand and know him. He is ready to speak to you every morning when you wake up, throughout the day, and before you go to bed. You have only to open his Word.

A well-known catechism says, "The chief end of man is to glorify God and enjoy him forever." That is what we were created for—to truly know and enjoy the God of the universe. Jeremiah the prophet cried out: "Your words were found, and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart" (Jeremiah 15:16).

A great saint, C.H. Spurgeon, said:

> Believer! There is enough in the Bible for you to live upon forever. If you should outnumber the years of Methuselah, there would be no need for a fresh revelation; if you should live until Christ should return to the earth, there would be no necessity for the addition of a single word; if you should go down as deep as Jonah, or even descend as David said he did, into the depths of hell, still there would be enough in the Bible to comfort you without a supplementary sentence. [ref]

This is why we study the Bible: it is God's revelation of himself to us. We need to know who God truly is and guard against painting our own picture of him. God has revealed himself to us, not in paintings, but through his Son by the words of Scripture. God the creator has spoken, and we his creation should listen to his words as life-sustaining truth and joyfully obey them.

This Bible study workbook is to assist you in studying James' letter in an inductive way. Inductive study is reading the passage in context and asking questions of the text with the purpose of deriving the meaning and significance from the text itself. We really do this automatically every day when we read. When we study the Bible inductively we are after the author's original intent, i.e., what the author meant when he wrote the passage. In this workbook you will figure out the meaning by answering a series of questions about the text, paying close attention to the words and context of the passage.

The theme of James' letter is possessing real faith or having a faith

that works. Saturate your study in prayer that your life would be changed as you are challenged, exhorted, and encouraged by James to show your faith by your works.

How to Do Inductive Bible Study

Step 1 – Begin with prayer. "Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law" (Psalm 119:18).

Step 2 – Read the text.

Step 3 – Observation. ***The goal of this step is to figure out what the text is saying.*** This is where you ask questions like: Who? When? Where? What? These questions should be answered from the very words of the text. Ask yourself if this passage reminds you of any other passages in Scripture. Write down any questions that arise in your mind.

Step 4 – Interpretation. ***The goal of this step is to figure out what the text meant to the original hearers.*** This most important step is often skipped, but a lack of correct interpretation leads to incorrect application. We cannot understand what God is saying to us if we don't first understand what he was saying to his original audience and why he was saying it.

Your job in interpretation is to figure out the main point of the passage and understand the arguments that support the main point. Your interpretation should flow out of your observations, so keep asking yourself, "Can I support this interpretation based on my observations?"

Here are some questions to ask yourself as you study:

- How does the surrounding context of the passage shed light on its meaning?
- Why did the author include this particular passage in his book?
- Do other passages of Scripture fill out my interpretation?

- Is my interpretation consistent with my overall observations, or is it too dependent on a few details?
- How does this passage fit within the Bible's teaching as a whole? (The context of any passage is ultimately the Bible as a whole.)
- What is the main point of the passage?
- Can I summarize the passage in a few sentences?
- If an Old Testament passage: how does this passage relate to Christ and his work on the cross?

Step 5 – Application. ***Prayerfully apply the passage to your own life.*** The application should flow from the main point of the text.

Here are some questions to ask yourself in order to apply the text:

- Did I learn something new about God, his ways, his character, his plans, and his priorities? If so, how should I be living in light of this truth?
- Do I need to change my beliefs based on this passage, or is a truth reinforced?
- Is there a behavior I need to adopt or stop?
- Does this passage have implications for the way I should relate to the church?
- Does this passage have implications for the way I relate to or speak to my non-Christian friends?
- How should I pray based on this passage?
- Should I be praising God for something in this passage?
- Do I see a sin for which I need to repent?
- Is there an encouragement or promise on which I need to dwell?

In Summary

Luke 24:44–47 says,

> Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem."

This is why we study the Bible: so that we can know Christ, repent, be forgiven, and proclaim him to the nations. We must keep Jesus in mind when we study Scripture. Adrienne Lawrence writes, "God has one overarching redemptive plan—to glorify himself by creating and redeeming a people for himself through Christ. Christ is at the center of God's plan. All of Scripture in some way speaks to that plan. Keep this in mind as you are doing your study of Scripture."

[*Note: This "How to" has been adapted from Adrienne Lawrence's pamphlet on Inductive Bible Study.*]

Notes

The first day of this inductive study will be an overview of James. On the following days you will study smaller segments of the letter and answer observation, interpretation, and application questions. The questions were written based on language from the English Standard Version of the Bible. However, you are welcome to use any reliable translation to do the study.

To assist you in recognizing the different types of questions asked, the questions are set out with icons as indicated below.

Observation:	Look closely in order to figure out what the text is saying. Get answers directly from the text, using the words of Scripture.
Interpretation:	What's the "true north" for this verse? Figure out what the text meant to the original hearers by determining the author's intended meaning.
Application:	Apply the passage to your own heart and life, concentrating on the author's intended meaning that you have already determined.

Because Scripture interprets Scripture, many of the questions cite passages in addition to the one you are studying in James. If the question says, "Read…" you will need to read the additional verses cited to answer the question. If the question says, "See…" the verses help you answer the question but are not necessary. "See also…" signals you to read the verses if you would like to study the answer to the question further.

You only need your Bible to do this study of James, and in fact I highly recommend first answering the questions directly from your Bible before looking at any other materials. That said, it may be helpful for you to confirm your answers, especially if you are leading others in a group study. To check your answers or for further study, *The Message of James*, by J. Alec Motyer, is excellent. For helpful overviews of the passages, Kent Hughes has published a series of sermons called, *James: Faith That Works*.

For more general help in knowing how to study the Bible, I

highly recommend *Bible Study: Following the Ways of the Word*, by Kathleen Buswell Nielson and *Dig Deeper! Tools to Unearth the Bible's Treasure*, by Nigel Beynon and Andrew Sach. Bible study teachers and students who want a closer look at New Testament theology that will also encourage your heart can read Thomas Schreiner's, *Magnifying God in Christ: A Summary of New Testament Theology*.

Notes for Leaders

This Bible study can be done by individuals alone, but the best context for Bible study is the local church. When small groups of women gather together to study the Scriptures, it promotes unity and ignites spiritual growth within the church.

The study was designed for ladies to complete five days of "homework" and then come together to discuss their answers in a small group. The goal of gathering in small groups is to promote discussion among ladies to sharpen one another by making sure all understand the meaning of the text and can apply it to their lives. As ladies discuss, their eyes may be opened to applications of the text they didn't see while doing the individual study. Believers will encourage one another in their knowledge of the gospel, and unbelievers will hear the gospel clearly explained. As a result, ladies will learn from one another and come away from group Bible study with a deeper understanding of the text and a better knowledge of how to read the Bible on their own in their private times of study and prayer.

If you are leading a small group, you will have some extra homework to do. First, know what Bible study is and is not. Bible study is not primarily a place to meet felt needs, eat good food and chat, receive counseling, or have a free-for-all discussion. All of these things tend to happen in a ladies' Bible study, but they should not take over the focus. Bible study is digging into the Scriptures to get the true meaning of the text and applying it to lives that change as a result.

Second, make sure you know the main points of the text before leading discussion by carefully studying the passage and checking yourself using a good commentary, like one of those listed above. You

may also find a Bible dictionary and concordance helpful. Second Timothy 3:16-17 says, "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man [or woman] of God may be complete, equipped for every good work." Scripture is powerful. That power comes through truth. Scripture is not like a magical incantation where you mouth some words and see the effect. Instead, we must know what the text of Scripture means before we apply it and see its work of transformation in our lives. Your job as a discussion leader is not to directly teach, nor to simply facilitate discussion, but rather to lead ladies in finding the meaning of the text and help them see how it is "profitable" and can make them "complete, equipped for every good work."

Third, pray. Pray for the ladies in your group during the week while you prepare. Pray as you start your small group study, asking the Holy Spirit to illuminate the Scripture to your minds and apply it to your hearts. And encourage ladies to pray based on what they studied at the end of your small group time. Ask the Holy Spirit to use his sword, the Word of God, in the lives of your ladies.

Fourth, draw ladies out and keep your discussion organized. Choose what you determine are the most important questions from the study guide, focusing the bulk of your discussion on the interpretation and application questions. Ask a question, but don't answer it! Be comfortable with long pauses, or rephrase questions you think the group didn't understand. Not answering the questions yourself may be a bit awkward at first, but it will promote discussion in the end because your ladies will know they have to do the answering. Feel free to affirm good answers or sum up after ladies have had time to discuss. This gives clarity to the discussion. However, don't feel the need to fill in every detail and nuance you gleaned from your personal study. Your goal is to get your group talking.

Fifth, keep your focus on the Scriptures. The Holy Spirit uses God's Word to change ladies' hearts. Don't be afraid of wrong answers. Gently use them to clarify and teach by directing attention back to the Scriptures for the right answers. If ladies go off on unhelpful tangents, direct them back to the question and address the

tangent later one on one or with reading material. However, if the tangent is on a vital question that goes to the gospel, take time to talk about it. These are God-given opportunities.

Sixth, be sure you focus on the gospel. In your prep time, ask yourself what the text has to do with the gospel and look for opportunities to ask questions to bring out the gospel. Hopefully, your church members will invite unbelievers to your study who will hear the glorious good news. But even if your group is made up of all believers, we never get beyond our need to be reminded of Christ crucified and what that means for our lives.

Lastly, enjoy studying the Scriptures with your ladies. Your love and passion for the Word of God will be contagious, and you will have the great joy of watching your ladies catch it and rejoice in the Word with you.

James' Letter to the Twelve Tribes in the Dispersion

James was the half-brother of Jesus and a pillar of the Jerusalem church. He became known as James the Just for his faithfulness to the law, love for the saints, and constancy in prayer. James wrote his letter, most likely sometime in the mid to late 40s and, according to tradition, was killed by scribes and Pharisees for his refusal to denounce Christ in 62 A.D.

James' letter is written with a pastor's heart. The Jerusalem church was dispersed after the stoning of Stephen, and they scattered as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch. They were Jewish believers living in the Gentile world, trying to rebuild their lives in the midst of temptation, difficulty, and persecution.

James is a book about having true faith—a faith that works. It is from a pastor to his beloved brothers and sisters, urging them to live out their faith, even while the world, the devil, and their own flesh give them much trouble. James is an eminently practical letter to encourage us to live out our faith in the God who sent his Son, Jesus, to die that we might be brought forth to truly live for him.

> And this I do boldly and confidently say, that true holiness is a great reality. It is something in a man that can be seen, and known, and marked, and felt by all around him. It is light: if it exists, it will show itself. It is salt: if it exists, its savour will be perceived. It is a precious ointment: if it exists, its presence cannot be hid.
>
> —J.C. Ryle, *Holiness* (Mulberry, IN: Sovereign Grace Publishers) p 25

Begin your study each day praying for the Lord to give you wisdom to understand the purpose for trials in our lives so you can rejoice in what he will do in and through them.

Pray.

Read through James 1-5.

Write down any themes or observations that stand out to you.

Are any subjects repeated?

Is there an overall tone to the book of James?

Jot down any questions you have at this initial reading.

Remember:

- **Observation:** Figure out what the text is saying. Get the answer from the words of Scripture.
- **Interpretation:** Figure out the meaning of the text. What did the writer intend to convey?
- **Application:** Prayerfully apply the passage to your own life. The application should flow from the main point of the text.

Pray.

Read James 1:1.

1. Who wrote this letter?

2. How does James describe himself?

3. Who was James? Read Acts 12:17; 21:18 and Galatians 1:19.

4. Why do you think James describes himself as a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ instead of as Jesus' brother and an apostle who is the leader of the church in Jerusalem?

5. What lesson can we learn from James' humility as we relate to each other in the church?

6. To whom is James writing his letter?

7. Who are the twelve tribes?

8. What does the "Dispersion" refer to? See Acts 8:1 and 11:19.

9. In your own words, who do you think James' letter was written for?

10. What would people who are dispersed be going through?

11. Does James' letter apply to non-Jewish Christians today? See Galatians 3:28-29.

♥ 12. Think about your life. In what ways do you feel like a part of a people who have been dispersed?

♥ 13. Read Jeremiah 31:10-14 and Revelation 21:22-27. How do these passages give you hope as you begin your study of James?

Day 3

Pray.

Read James 1:2-4.

👁 1. What does James call the people to whom he is writing?

✦ 2. What makes one a brother or sister of James?

👁 3. How does James tell his readers to respond to trials?

👁 4. What kind of trials should believers respond to with joy?

5. List some of the various kinds of trials a believer may meet with.

6. What is God's purpose for trials in the believer's life?

7. What does it mean that God tests your faith through these trials?

8. What do trials produce in a believer's life?

9. What is steadfastness?

10. What is the effect of steadfastness?

✦ 11. What does Christ's death and resurrection have to do with having joy in trials?

✦ 12. Putting this together, why should believers respond to trials with joy?

♥ 13. What are some trials you are currently undergoing?

♥ 14. How can you have joy in the midst of these trials?

Pray.

Read James 1:2-8.

James 1:5-8

1. What does James tell believers to do if they lack wisdom?

2. What will God give to the believers who ask for wisdom, and how will God give it?

3. What does this tell you about God?

4. What is wisdom from God? (What does asking for wisdom have to do with previous verses?)

5. How is the believer to ask for wisdom?

6. What is the doubting person like?

7. What does it mean for a person to be like a wave of the sea?

8. What should the man who doubts expect from the Lord?

9. What is the man who doubts (see v 8)?

10. What does it mean for the doubter to be double-minded and unstable?

11. How is this section of Scripture related to what you studied yesterday in verses 2-4?

12. Putting all this together, what does it mean to ask for wisdom in faith without doubting?

13. Look back at the trials you listed yesterday. Do you believe God is in control even of these difficulties in your life? Do you believe he has sent them into your life for his good purposes? If so, then pray about these things asking God for his wisdom in them and for joy through them.

Day 5

Pray.

Read James 1:2-11.

James 1:9-11

1. What are the two types of brothers James addresses in verses 9 and 10?

2. What is the lowly brother to boast in?

3. In what way has the lowly brother been exalted? See Galatians 3:28-29. Can you back up your answer with any other passages in the Bible?

4. What is the rich brother to boast in?

✦ 5. What does verse 11 have to do with the rich man boasting in his humiliation?

✦ 6. What does it mean for the rich man to boast in his humiliation? See Philippians 3:2-11.

✦ 7. What does James intend for both poor and rich believers to boast in? See Galatians 6:14.

♥ 8. In what way can you boast in your:

Exaltation in Christ	Humiliation in Christ

❤ 9. How does this boasting affect your level of joy in trials?

End this week praying that it would bring you great joy to boast only in Christ in every circumstance.

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Servanthood as Worship: The Privelige of Life in the Local Church, by Nate Palmer

Cruciform: Living the Cross-Shaped Life, by Jimmy Davis

Innocent Blood: Challenging the Powers of Death with the Gospel of Life, by John Ensor

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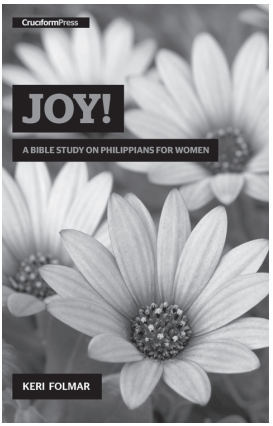

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Kathleen Nielson, author of the Living Word Bible Studies; Director of Women's Initiatives, The Gospel Coalition

"Keri's Bible study will not only bring the truths of Philippians to bear upon your life, but will also train you up for better, more effective study of any book of the Bible with her consistent use of the three questions needed in all good Bible study: Observation, Interpretation, and Application."

Connie Dever, author of The Praise Factory children's ministry curriculum and wife of Pastor Mark Dever, President of 9 Marks Ministries

"Keri lets the Scriptures do the talking! No cleverly invented stories, ancillary anecdotes, or emotional manipulation here. Keri takes us deeper into the text, deeper into the heart of Paul, deeper into the mind of Christ, and deeper into our own hearts as we pursue Christ for joy in all things. There are rich treasures to discover as we unfold the truth that our joy ultimately comes from glorifying God in every sphere and circumstance of life. I highly commend this study for your pursuit of joy."

Kristie Anyabwile is a graduate of NC State University and wife of Thabiti, a Gospel Coalition Council Member

"Keri Folmar is convinced that God is God-centered and that for the sake of our joy, we should be, too. This inductive study will increase your joy in a loving God who is sovereign over all things. I highly recommend that you embark on this study with some other ladies. Then you can all watch in amazement at how God gives you contentment in him as he shows you the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus as Lord."

Gloria Furman is a pastor's wife in the Middle East, a Crossway author, and editor for the Domestic Kingdom blog.

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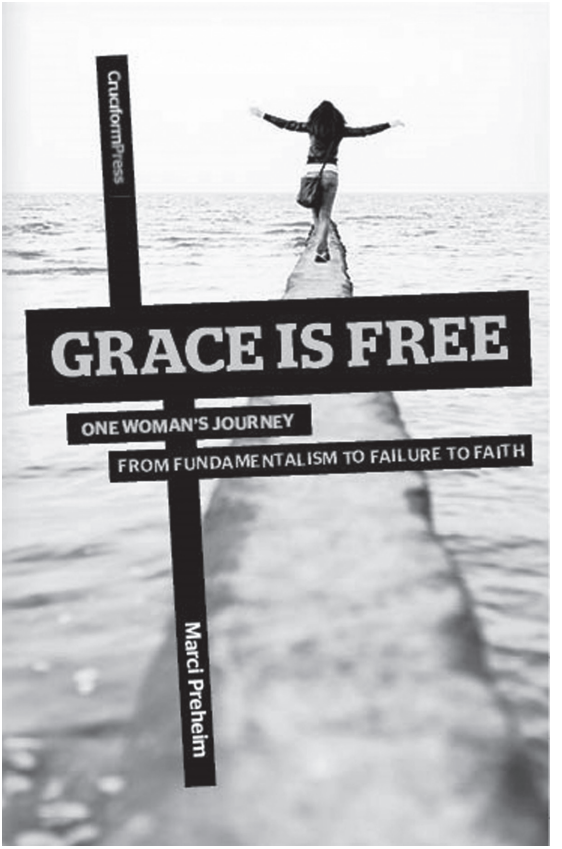

Foreword by Pastor Byron Yawn

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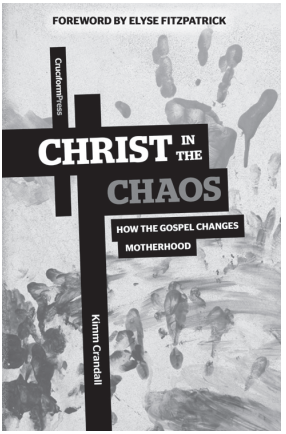

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by Kimm Crandall

FOREWORD BY ELYSE FITZPATRICK

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"Although Kimm Crandall's message would revive any soul longing for the breath of the gospel of grace, I am especially eager to recommend this book to that heart who strives to know God and to make him known to the little ones who call her 'Momma.' Kimm is a candid and gracious fellow sojourner, faithfully pointing to God's immeasurable steadfast love and grace in the midst of our mess."

Lauren Chandler, wife of Matt Chandler (pastor of The Village Church), mother of three, writer, singer, and speaker

"What an amazingly wild and wise, disruptive and delighting, freeing and focusing book. Kimm's book is for every parent willing to take the stewardship of children and the riches of the gospel seriously. This is one of the most helpful and encouraging books on parenting I've read in the past twenty years. Kimm writes as a multi-child mom and a grace-saturated woman who understands the exhausting demands of good parenting and the inexhaustible supply of God's grace. This will be a book you will want to give to parents, to-be parents, and grandparents."

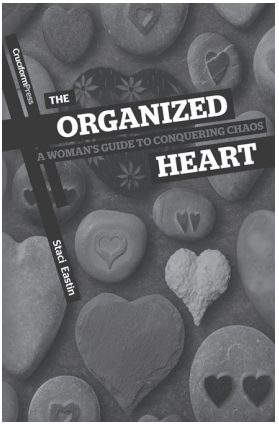
Scotty Smith, author; Founding Pastor, Christ Community Church

"Kimm Crandall has discovered that chaos can be the perfect context in which to experience God's liberating grace. She is a wise, practical, gospel-drenched guide for anyone navigating through the wearisome terrain of parenting."

Tullian Tchividjian, author; Pastor, Coral Ridge Presbyterian Church

"Kimm gives us the truth of free grace that unshackles us from trying to be Mom of the Year, and shows us how the gospel changes motherhood from drudgery to joy. I pray each mom who finds this book becomes more aware of how Christ's love for her changes everything about her."

***Jessica Thompson, coauthor of* Give them Grace**



The Organized Heart

A Woman's Guide to Conquering Chaos

by Staci Eastin

Disorganized?

You don't need more rules, the latest technique, or a new gadget.

This book will show you a different, better way. A way grounded in the grace of God.

*Learn more at **bit.ly/OHEART***

"Staci Eastin packs a gracious punch, full of insights about our disorganized hearts and lives, immediately followed by the balm of gospel-shaped hopes. This book is ideal for accountability partners and small groups."

***Carolyn McCulley, blogger, filmmaker, author of* Radical Womahood *and* Did I Kiss Marriage Goodbye?**

"Unless we understand the spiritual dimension of productivity, our techniques will ultimately backfire. Find that dimension here. Encouraging and uplifting rather than guilt-driven, this book can help women who want to be more organized but know that adding a new method is not enough."

***Matt Perman, former Director of Strategy at Desiring God, blogger, author of the forthcoming*, What's Best Next: How the Gospel Transforms the Way You Get Things Done**

"Organizing a home can be an insurmountable challenge for a woman. The Organized Heart makes a unique connection between idols of the heart and the ability to run a well-managed home. This is not a how-to. Eastin looks at sin as the root problem of disorganization. She offers a fresh new approach and one I recommend, especially to those of us who have tried all the other self-help models and failed."

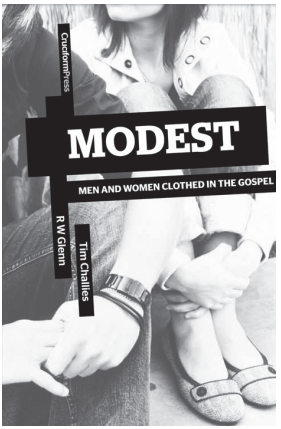
Aileen Challies, Mom of three; wife of blogger, author, and pastor Tim Challies

FROM READER REVIEWS:

"Undoubtedly the first and most important book any Christian woman who wants to start living a disciplined and organized life should read." ***BeckyPliego.com***

"This is a powerful book that is far from the ordinary 'how to' organizing fare." ***Melissa Nixon Jackson***

"This is a book that I can't recommend highly enough." ***Samantha Muthia, DomesticKingdom.com***



Modest

Men and Women Clothed in the Gospel

by R W Glenn, Tim Challies

Modesty is about freedom, not rules.

What you say or do or wear is not really the point. The point is your heart.

True modesty flows from a solid grasp of the gospel.

*Learn more at **bit.ly/CPModest***

"It is so refreshing to have a book on modesty that is a useful resource and not a legalistic, culture-bound list that leaves you a bit paranoid and guilty. No, this book is different. Its counsel on modesty is not rooted in rules, but in the grace of the gospel of Jesus Christ. That grace alone is able to get at the heart of the problem of modesty, which *is* the heart. In a culture where immodesty is the accepted norm, Glenn and Challies have given us help that every Christian desperately needs."

Paul Tripp, pastor, conference speaker, and author

"How short is too short? How tight is too tight? Glenn and Challies don't say. But they do provide a thoughtful framework to help us come to a grace-based, gospel-grounded understanding of modesty that extends beyond mere clothing. They uphold a vision for modesty that's both beautiful and desirable — and not only for gals, but for guys too! This book is a great tool to help you wrestle with the practical question of what and what not to wear."

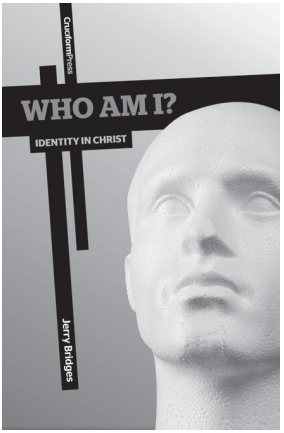
***Mary A. Kassian, Author,* Girls Gone Wise**

"The authors of *Modest* break new ground in their treatment of this difficult subject. It is a healthy antidote to the prevailing views, which tend toward either legalism or antinomianism, by grounding the whole subject in the gospel. I heartily recommend this book."

***Jerry Bridges, Author,* The Pursuit of Holiness**

"As a Christian who lives in a diverse global city, I need this book. Every day I make decisions regarding modesty as well as commit unintentional cultural faux pas. What does the gospel have to say about these things? I need the love of Christ to shape how I think about modesty in all of life. The authors discuss how a biblical perspective on modesty goes to the depths of the human heart, applying the life-giving good news of the gospel. *Modest* is wonderfully edifying, encouraging, and practical."

***Gloria Furman, Author,* Glimpses of Grace**



Who Am I?

Identity in Christ

by Jerry Bridges

Jerry Bridges unpacks Scripture to give the Christian eight clear, simple, interlocking answers to one of the most essential questions of life.

Also available as an audiobook read by Alistair Begg

*Learn more at **bit.ly/WHOAMI***

"Jerry Bridges' gift for simple but deep spiritual communication is fully displayed in this warm-hearted, biblical spelling out of the Christian's true identity in Christ."

***J. I. Packer, Theological Editor,* ESV Study Bible*; author,* Knowing God, A Quest for Godliness, Concise Theology**

"I know of no one better prepared than Jerry Bridges to write *Who Am I?* He is a man who knows who he is in Christ and he helps us to see succinctly and clearly who we are to be. Thank you for another gift to the Church of your wisdom and insight in this book."

***R.C. Sproul, founder, chairman, president, Ligonier Ministries; executive editor,* Tabletalk *magazine; general editor,* The Reformation Study Bible**

"*Who Am I?* answers one of the most pressing questions of our time in clear gospel categories straight from the Bible. This little book is a great resource to ground new believers and remind all of us of what God has made us through faith in Jesus. Thank the Lord for Jerry Bridges, who continues to provide the warm, clear, and biblically balanced teaching that has made him so beloved to this generation of Christians."

Richard D. Phillips, Senior Minister, Second Presbyterian Church, Greenville, SC

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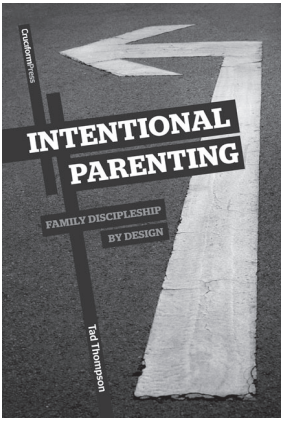

Intentional Parenting

Family Discipleship by Design

by Tad Thompson

The Big Picture and a Simple Plan — That's What You Need to Do Family Discipleship Well

This book will allow you to take all the sermons, teachings, and exhortations you have received on the topic of family discipleship, make sense of it, and put it to use.

*Learn more at **bit.ly/IParent***

"As parents, we know God has given us the responsibility to train our children in his ways. But many parents don't know where or how to start. Tad has done us all a favor by identifying seven key categories of biblical teaching we can utilize in teaching our children godly truth and principles. This easy-to-follow plan will help any parent put the truth of God's Word into their children's hearts."

Kevin Ezell, President, North American Mission Board, Southern Baptist Convention; father of six

"Dr. Tad Thompson's *Intentional Parenting* is a practical page-turner that encourages fathers to engage the hearts of their families with truth and grace. In an age when truth is either ignored or despised, it is refreshing to see a book written for ordinary fathers who want their families to be sanctified by the truth. Thompson writes with a grace which reminds us that parenting flows from the sweet mercies of Christ."

Joel Beeke, President, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

"Need an introductory text to the topic of discipling children? Here is a clear, simple book on family discipleship, centered on the gospel rather than human successes or external behaviors."

***Timothy Paul Jones, Ph.D., Professor of Discipleship and Family Ministry at The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary and author of* Family Ministry Field Guide, Perspectives on Family Ministry, *and* Trained in the Fear of God: Family Ministry in Biblical, Theological, and Practical Perspective**

"Tad Thompson knows about the needs of today's families. This approach is creative, thoroughly biblical, and is a must read for any parent who desires for the children to love God with all their heart, with all their soul, and with all their might. This is a great strategy for anyone who is looking for a way to pull their family together around God's Word."

Blake Gideon, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church, Inola, Oklahoma