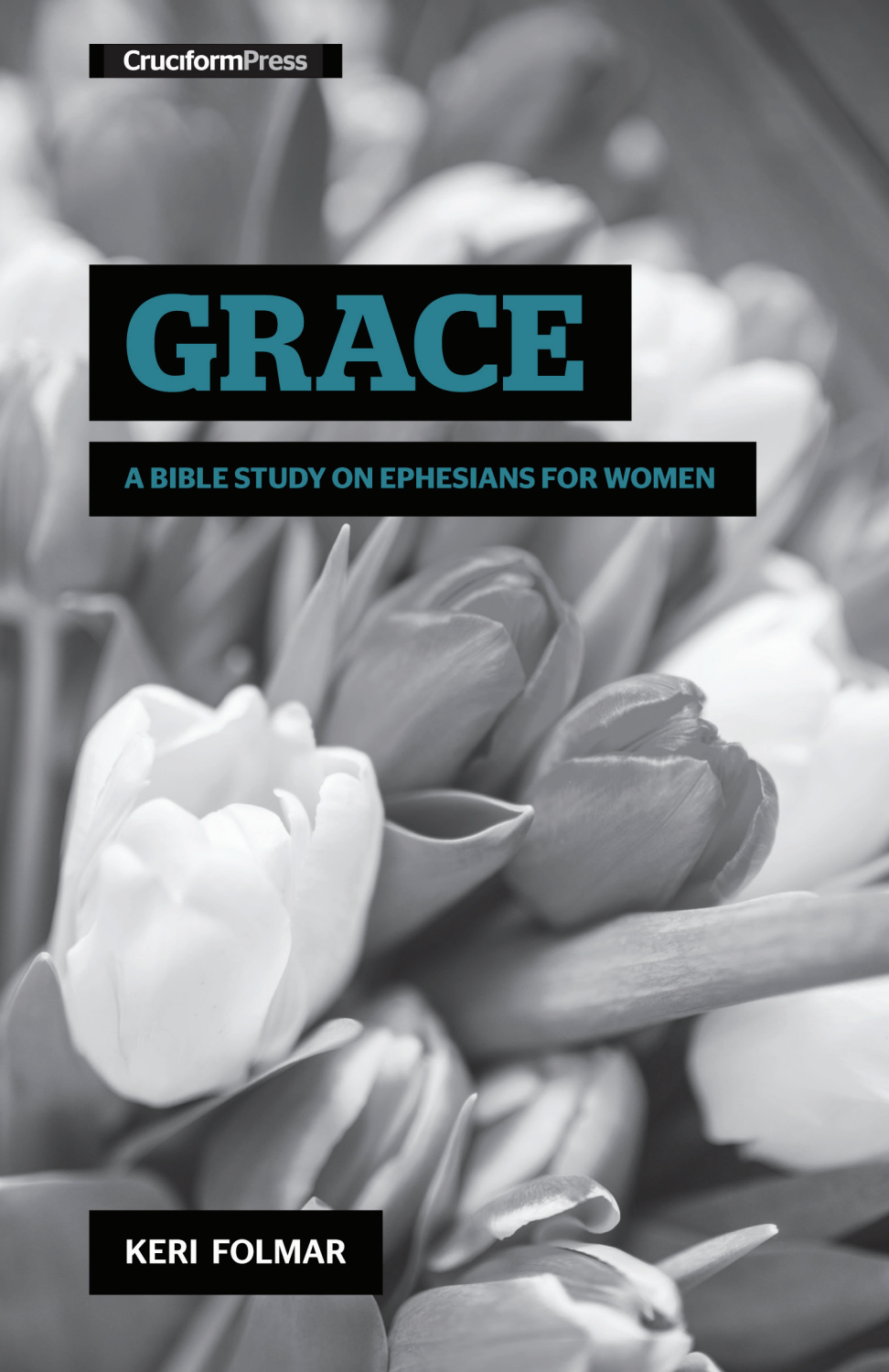
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GRACE
A BIBLE STUDY ON EPHESIANS FOR WOMEN
KERI FOLMAR

Grace

A Bible Study on Ephesians for Women

Keri Folmar

Cruciform Press | August 2015

To Yuri Ayliffe, Barbara Banks,
Sandhya Bharwani, Kim Blough,
Omolade Falade, Anna Harman, Kim Keliehor,
Anna Lim, Kate Nel, Catherina Ngwisha,
Naomi Njoroge, Bethany Tapp, Angela Verrips,
and Lisa Welkner.

Thank you for your wisdom, encouragement,
and prayers as we studied Ephesians together.

– Keri Folmar

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"With simple clarity, Keri Folmar guides us in learning to study the Bible…Keri encourages us to read God's Word carefully, to understand clearly, and to apply prayerfully…she encourages her readers first and foremost to listen well to God's inspired Word."

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

Introduction 5

Week 1 **Ephesians 1:1–14** 15
The Riches of God's Grace

Week 2 **Ephesians 1:15–23** 27
The Immeasurable Greatness of God's Power

Week 3 **Ephesians 2:1–10** 39
Made Alive with Christ

Week 4 **Ephesians 2:11–3:6** 53
Brought Near by the Blood of Christ

Week 5 **Ephesians 3:7–19** 65
The Manifold Wisdom of God

Week 6 **Ephesians 3:20–4:16** 79
The Fullness of Christ

Week 7 **Ephesians 4:17–5:2** 93
Created After the Likeness of God

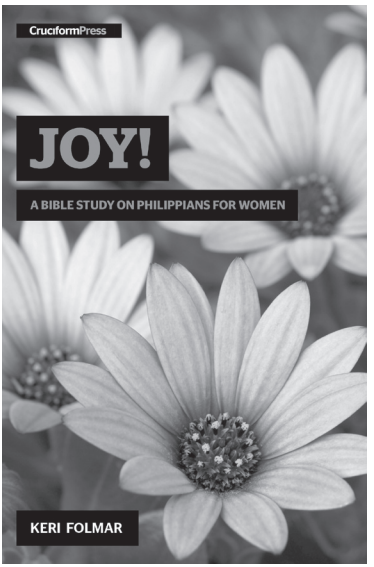
Week 8 **Ephesians 5:1–21** 109
Children of Light

Week 9 **Ephesians 5:22–6:9** 123
Christ, the Head of the Church

Week 10 **Ephesians 6:10–24** 137
The Whole Armor of God

More from Cruciform Press 152

More 10-week Bible Studies for Women from Keri Folmar



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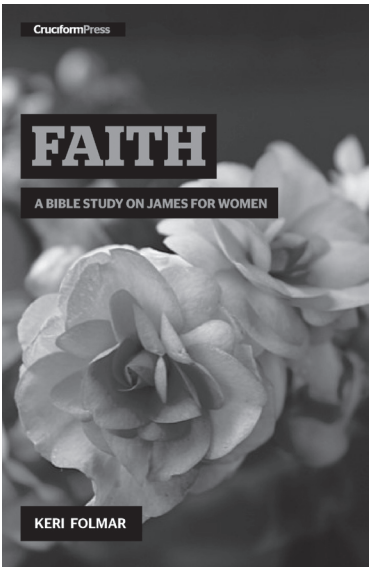

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Grace – A Bible Study on Ephesians for Women

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As we begin this study of Ephesians, 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 of God in their own minds of how God looks and acts. They "know" that God is 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, "[W]ho 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.[1]

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 Paul's letter to the Ephesians 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.

Paul prays for the Ephesians "that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, having the eyes of your hearts enlightened" (Ephesians 1:17-18). Saturate your study in prayer that you would have the eyes of your hearts enlightened and your life changed as you study through this letter.

How to Do Inductive Bible Study[2]

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."

Notes

The first day of this inductive study will be an overview of Ephesians. 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 in different fonts 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 Ephesians, 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 Ephesians* by John R.W. Stott and *The Letter to the Ephesians* by Peter T. O'Brien are good commentaries.

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.

Paul and the Church at Ephesus

The apostle Paul identifies himself as the author of the letter to the Ephesians. Apostles were ambassadors uniquely entrusted with the message of the gospel, and Paul was specially commissioned by Jesus to take this message to the Gentiles (Acts 9:15). He traveled widely in Asia and Europe proclaiming the gospel he had once tried to destroy (Acts 8:1-3). Paul wrote the letter to the Ephesian Christians from prison.

Ephesus was a worship center for the goddess Artemis, whose pagan temple was one of the seven wonders of the world. Idolatry and magic arts were practiced there, and demon-possession was not uncommon. In the midst of this city Paul planted a church. Despite opposition and even riots over Paul's teaching, the church flourished. Ephesus became a lighthouse for the gospel in Asia Minor. Read Acts 18:18-20:1 for a full account of Paul in Ephesus and Acts 20:17-38 for Paul's exhortation to the Ephesian elders.

Begin each day this week asking God to open your eyes to the riches of his glorious grace in Christ Jesus.

When the Ephesian church received the letter from Paul, it would have been read aloud to the entire congregation. They didn't have printing presses in the first century, so a scribe would have to painstakingly copy every word. These letters were thus carefully preserved, and written copies would have been distributed to other churches to be read aloud to those congregations (See Colossians 4:16). Reading through the entire letter in one sitting is valuable to us today, not only because it gives us a feel for what happened in the first century, but also because it gives us an overview of what the letter is about as we notice certain themes repeated throughout.

Pray.

Read Ephesians 1-6.

Write down any repeated words, phrases, or ideas you notice.

What are the circumstances in Paul's life as he writes the letter?

What is the overall tone of the letter?

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

Jot down any questions you have at this initial reading.

Day 2

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 Ephesians 1:1-14.

Ephesians 1:1-2

1. Who wrote this letter, and how does he describe himself?

2. By whose will was Paul made an apostle?

✦ 3. What does it mean that Paul was "an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God"? Read Acts 9:15.

👁 4. To whom was the letter written, and how are the recipients described?

✦ 5. Saint means "holy one" or "one who is set apart." It is a word the Bible commonly uses to describe those in the church. (See also Romans 1:7; Colossians 1:26; and Jude 3.) What does "in Christ Jesus" mean? Read John 17:20-26 and Galatians 2:20.

✦ 6. What was the relationship between Paul and the Ephesian Christians, and what was the atmosphere like for Christians in Ephesus? Read Acts 18:18-20:1.

♥ 7. The saints in Ephesus lived in the middle of pagan worship and persecution but had remained faithful. How have you been faithful to Christ in the midst of difficulty?

8. How does Paul greet the church at Ephesus?

9. Grace means a gift that is not earned or deserved (see Romans 11:5-6). Peace occurs when two or more parties are reconciled to one another. What do you think it means for grace and peace to come "from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ"?

10. Why do you think Paul opens his letter with this greeting?

11. Have you received grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ? If so, what difference has it made in your life? If not, go back to the verses that explain what "in Christ Jesus" means and think through what it would mean in your life to accept grace and peace from God.

Day 3

Pray.

Read Ephesians 1:3-14. (These verses were one long sentence in the Greek of the original letter.)

Ephesians 1:3-6

1. What is Paul doing in verses 3 and following?

2. Who is Paul blessing and why in verse 3?

3. With what has God blessed us, and in whom are we blessed?

4. Look through verses 4-14 for some of the "spiritual blessings" God has blessed us with in Christ. What are they?

5. What are some other spiritual blessings you can think of?

6. How would you explain "heavenly places" after reading verses 1:20; 2:6; 3:10; and 6:12?

7. If you are in Christ, God has blessed you with every spiritual blessing. No blessing has been withheld from you. How does that encourage you as you face difficulty or fight sin?

8. What does verse 4 say God did before the world was founded?

9. To whom does the "us" and "we" refer?

10. Why did he do this?

11. What does it mean to be holy and blameless before God?

12. According to verse 5 what did God do, and for what reason did he do it?

13. What does "predestined" mean, and how does it relate to verse 4?

14. With what has God blessed us in the Beloved, and who is the Beloved?

15. What phrase in verse 6 tells us the ultimate reason for predestination?

16. What are the implications of being chosen, predestined, and adopted by God to the praise of his glorious grace? Who gets the credit for salvation? Can salvation be lost or taken away?

17. If we have been chosen to be holy and blameless sons of God, how should we live our lives?

Day 4

Pray.

Read Ephesians 1:3-14.

Ephesians 1:7-10

1. In whom and through what do we have redemption?

2. What is redemption?

3. By what disposition in God do we have redemption and forgiveness?

4. Look at the word, "lavished." What does this word tell us about God's attitude toward us while we were still sinners?

5. In what did God lavish the riches of his grace upon us?

6. What has God made known to us?

7. What is God's plan for the fullness of time, and in whom was this plan set forth?

8. What will it look like when God unites all things in him? Read Revelation 21:1-7.

9. What does redemption through Christ's blood have to do with the uniting of all things in heaven and on earth? (See also Romans 8:19-23.)

10. How do redemption and forgiveness relate to predestination?

11. We see that God through Christ accomplishes all the work of salvation. Jesus shed his blood on the cross to secure the forgiveness of sins for those God had chosen before the foundation of the world. Are you in Christ? Have you received forgiveness? If so, meditate on and rejoice in the riches of God's grace that he has lavished upon you and praise his glorious grace. If not, what questions do you have that are holding you back?

Day 5

Pray.

Read Ephesians 1:3-14.

Ephesians 1:11-14

1. To whom does the "we" in verses 11 and 12 refer? (You may want to compare it to the "you" in verse 13.)

2. What have Jewish believers obtained in Christ?

✦ 3. How is this inheritance connected with the previous verses in the chapter?

✦ 4. What exactly is the inheritance? (See Psalm 16:5-6, 11; 1 Peter 2:9-10.)

👁 5. What caused the predestination of Jewish believers?

👁 6. What things does God work according to his will?

👁 7. What is the goal of having been predestined and obtaining an inheritance?

✦ 8. What do verses 11-12 tell you about God?

✦ 9. To whom does the "you" in verse 13 refer?

10. In verse 13 what two things did the Ephesian Christians do before they were sealed with the Holy Spirit?

11. What does one need to hear and believe in order to be sealed?

12. From the verses you have already studied, explain the word of truth, the gospel of salvation.

13. According to verse 14, what is it to be sealed with the Holy Spirit?

14. According to these verses, how certain is our inheritance if we hear and believe? Which words and phrases tell you of the certainty?

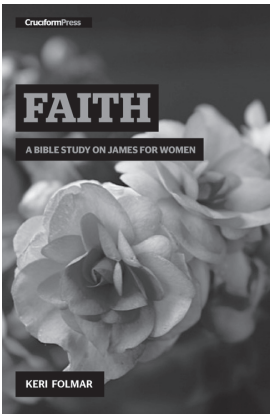
15. Why do you think the phrase "to the praise of his glory" is repeated twice in these verses? (See also verse 6.)

16. Have you heard and believed the word of truth? What is it that you believe?

17. Genuine believers were predestined to hope in Christ and have obtained an inheritance as God's children. How should this help you deal with trials in this life?

18. If you have believed the glorious gospel of your salvation and recognized the certainty of your inheritance, how can you live in a way that is to the praise of his glory?

Notes



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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 is the mother of four grown children and has led women's Bible studies for more than 20 years . She is the wife of Tom Schreiner, an author and pastor who serves at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary as Professor of New Testament Interpretation, Professor of Biblical Theology, and Associate Dean of the School of Theology.

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Kristie Anyabwile, holds a history degree from NC State University, and is married to Thabiti, Assistant Pastor for Church Planting at Capitol Hill Baptist Church in Washington DC, and a Council Member for The Gospel Coalition.

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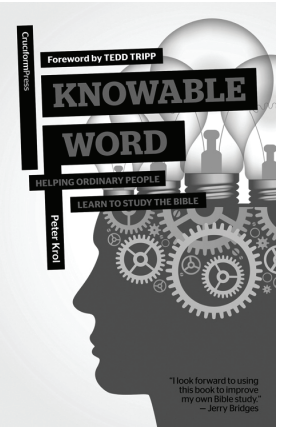

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"Peter Krol has done us a great service by writing the book *Knowable Word*. It is valuable for those who have never done in-depth Bible study and a good review for those who have. I look forward to using this book to improve my own Bible study.'"

Jerry Bridges, author, **The Pursuit of Holiness,** ***and many more***

"It is hard to over-estimate the value of this tidy volume. It is clear and uncomplicated. No one will be off-put by this book. It will engage the novice and the serious student of Scripture. It works as a solid read for individuals or as an exciting study for a small group."

Tedd Tripp, pastor and author (from the Foreword)

"At the heart of *Knowable Word* is a glorious and crucial conviction: that understanding the Bible is not the preserve of a few, but the privilege and joy of all God's people. Peter Krol's book demystifies the process of reading God's Word and in so doing enfranchises the people of God. I warmly encourage you to read it. Better still, read it with others and apply its method together. "

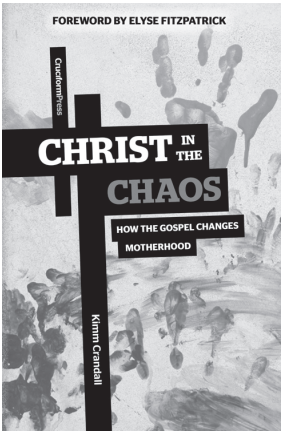
Dr. Tim Chester, The Porterbrook Network

"Here is an excellent practical guide to interpreting the Bible. Krol has thought through, tested, and illustrated in a clear, accessible way basic steps in interpreting the Bible, and made everything available in a way that will encourage ordinary people to deepen their own study."

Vern Poythress, Westminster Theological Seminary

"This book has three primary virtues and many secondary ones. Its primary virtues are the nobility of its goal..., the accuracy of the proposed methodology for interacting with the Bible, and the practical approach to the subject. Additionally, this book does a splendid job of employing the practice of 'learning by doing.'"

Leland Ryken, author, **How to Read the Bible as Literature**



Christ in the Chaos

How the Gospel Changes Motherhood

by Kimm Crandall

FOREWORD BY ELYSE FITZPATRICK

MOMS:

– Stop comparing yourself to others.
– Stop striving to meet false expectations.
– Stop thinking your performance dictates your worth.
– Instead, look to the gospel for rest, joy, sufficiency, identity, and motivation.

*Learn more at **bit.ly/Christ-in***

"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."

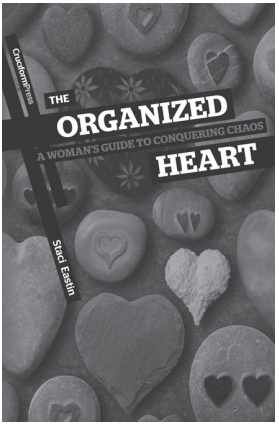
Scotty Smith, author; Founding Pastor, Christ Community Church

"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."

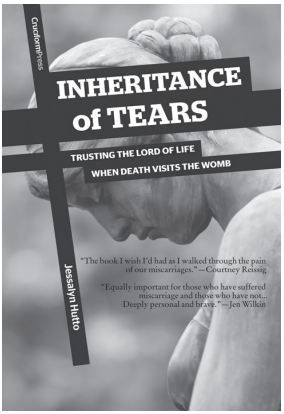
Aileen Challies, Mom of three; wife of blogger, author, and pastor Tim Challies

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***



Inheritance of Tears

Trusting the Lord of Life When Death Visits the Womb

by Jessalyn Hutto

Miscarriage: Deeply traumatic, tragically common...and so often misunderstood or trivialized.

The gospel can male all the difference to suffering mothers.

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

"We wish there had been good Christian books on miscarriage available when we faced that terrible trial. This book is written out of deep suffering, but with an even deeper sense of hope. This book can help you think and pray if you have faced miscarriage, and it can help you understand how to minister to someone who has. grieving women in your local church."

Russel and Maria Moore, Russel Moore is President of the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention

"This book is equally important for those who have suffered miscarriage and those who have not. Rarely is the topic of miscarriage addressed with such candor and depth. Deeply personal and brave.... May her words minister to many."

Jen Wilkin, author, *Women of the Word* (Crossway)

"Comforting, biblical, helpful...a needed word for anyone who has experienced this great loss. A great resource for the church."

Trillia Newbell, author of *Fear and Faith* (2015) and *United* (2014)

"Many women grasp for hope in the overwhelming days of grief that follow miscarriage. I have twice been that woman, and Jessalyn Hutto has written the book I wish I'd had as I walked through the pain. This book will be a healing balm to grieving women."

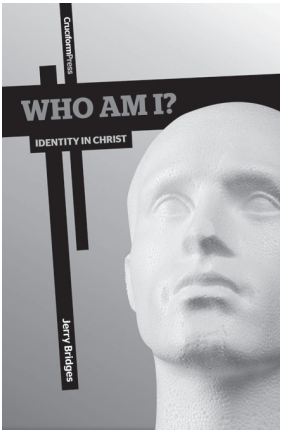
Courtney Reissig, wife; mom; author, The Accidental Feminist

"Miscarriage? Don't talk about it. Sadly, this is the approach many churches take. As a result, the woman in the pew suffers unbearable pain and grieves all alone. Change must happen, and Inheritance of Tears is the place to start.."

Matthew Barrett, Executive Editor, Credo Magazine

"She guides us theologically, so that we see God's wisdom, God's purpose, and God's love in the midst of our suffering. I gladly recommend this work to others."

Tom Schreiner, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



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."

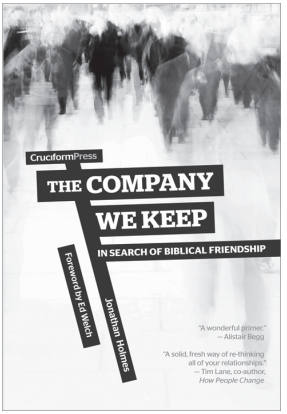
***R.C. Sproul, founder, chairman, president, Ligonier Ministries; executive editor,* Tabletalk *magazine; general editor,* The Reformation Study Bible**

"*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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. I Am a Creature
2. I Am in Christ
3. I Am Justified
4. I Am an Adopted Son of God
5. I Am a New Creation
6. I Am a Saint
7. I Am a Servant of Jesus Christ
8. I Am Not Yet Perfect



The Company We Keep

In Search of Biblical Friendship

by Jonathan Holmes
Foreword by Ed Welch

Biblical friendship is deep, honest, pure, tranparent, and liberating.

It is also attainable.

112 pages
bit.ly/B-Friend

"Jonathan Holmes has the enviable ability to say a great deal in a few words. Here is a wonderful primer on the nature of biblical friendship—what it means and why it matters."

Alistair Begg, Truth for Life; Senior Pastor, Parkside Church

"Jonathan has succeeded in giving us a picture of how normal, daily, biblical friendships can be used by God to mold us into the likeness of Christ. If you want a solid, fresh way of re-thinking all of your relationships, read this book."

***Dr. Tim S. Lane, co-author,* How People Change**

"Jonathan has made a significant contribution to the Kingdom. We expect far too little from our friendships, and Jonathan's work not only encourages us to expect more, it also equips us to give more. His four marks of biblical friendship—constancy, candor, carefulness, and counsel—provide a robust and relevant GPS for intentional and vulnerable gospel-centered friendships. The 'Dig Deeper' sections embedded in each chapter make this a great book not only for individuals, but also for small groups."

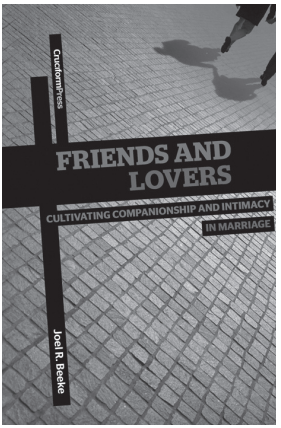
Robert W. Kellemen, Executive Director, Biblical Counseling Coalition

"Short. Thoughtful. Biblical. Practical. I'm planning to get my friends to read this book so we can transform our friendships into something more biblical. I am grateful to Jonathan for carefully helping us think through the topic of Christian friendships."

Deepak Reju, Pastor of Biblical Counseling, Capitol Hill Baptist Church, Washington, DC

"I talk with many Christians who have intensely practical questions about how to make and maintain friendships with their fellow believers. Jonathan Holmes' book is filled with answers that are equally down-to-earth, nitty-gritty, and specific. This is a book that isn't just a roadmap for cultivating Christian friendship. It's also a tour guide, taking us where we need to go with warmth and wisdom."

***Wesley Hill, author,* Washed and Waiting**



Friends and Lovers

Cultivating Companionship and Intimacy in Marriage

by Joel R. Beeke

Marriage is for God's glory and our good.

The secret? Intimate Christian companionship.

*96 pages — Learn more at **bit.ly/FriendsAnd***

"A book about love, marriage, and sex from Joel Beeke that is surprisingly candid yet without a trace of smuttiness. Fresh and refreshingly straightforward, this is the best book of its kind."

Derek W H Thomas, Visiting Professor, Reformed Theological Seminary

"Marriage is hard work. And wonderful. And sometimes, it's both at the same time. *Friends and Lovers* is like a personal mentoring session on marriage with a man whose heart is devoted to seeing Christ honored in how we love each other as husbands and wives. It's full of practical wisdom and grace. A delight."

***Bob Lepine, Co-Host,* FamilyLife Today**

"By laying the theological, emotional, social, and spiritual foundations of marriage before heading to the bedroom, Joel Beeke provides a healthy corrective to the excessive and obsessive sex-focus of our generation and even of some pastors. But, thankfully, he also goes on to provide wise, practical, down-to-earth direction for couples wanting to discover or recover physical intimacy that will both satisfy themselves and honor God."

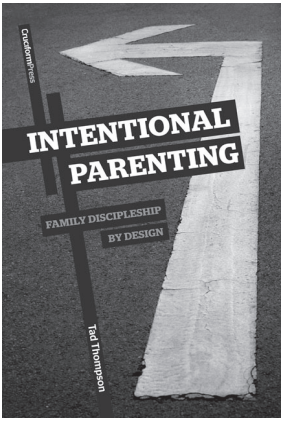
Dr. David Murray, Professor, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

"There is no better book than this to renew the affection of happy marriage."

Geoffrey Thomas, Pastor, Alfred Place Baptist Church, Wales

"The pure delight our ancient parents had in each other, touching every aspect of their lives together, was sadly lost at the fall. What this book powerfully shows through the teaching of the Scriptures, though, is that this delight is recoverable to a great degree in Christ. I appreciated enormously the way in which the divine gift of human sexuality is handled, with biblical honesty but without any pandering to our culture's prurient ways."

Michael A.G. Haykin, Professor of Church History and Biblical Spirituality, The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary



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."

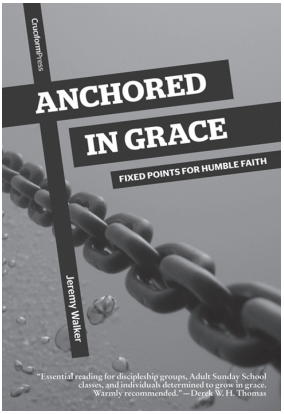
Joel Beeke, President, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

"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



Anchored in Grace

Fixed Points for Humble Faith

by Jeremy Walker

Clear truths from Scripture...

Central. Humbling. Saving. Comforting. God-glorifying.

Get Anchored.

86 pages
bit.ly/ANCHRD

"Rarely does the title of a book so clearly represent its contents as does this one. With brevity and precision, Jeremy Walker sets forth God's work of salvation in the believer from beginning to end. In a day when there is so much confusion regarding even the most fundamental truths of redemption, this concise yet comprehensive work is a clear beacon of light to guide the seeker and to instruct and comfort the believer."

Paul David Washer, Director, HeartCry Missionary Society

"As a pastor, I am always looking for a book that is brief, simple, and biblical in its presentation of the God-exalting doctrines of grace to put into the hands of believers. I think my search is now over! Jeremy Walker provides us with a book that shows us in small compass how God's grace has turned wretched sinners into heaven-bound saints. Wonderful!"

Conrad Mbewe, pastor, Kabwata Baptist Church; Chancellor, African Christian University, Lusaka, Zambia

"Crisp, clear, concise, and biblical, Walker's book offers up the doctrines of God's grace in a manner persuasive to the mind and powerful to the heart."

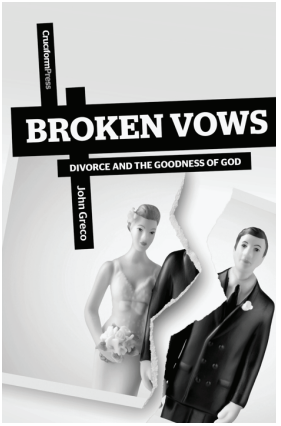
Dr. Joel R. Beeke, Pres.ident, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

"A sure-footed journey...a trusted guide. Reading this book will both thrill and convict, challenge and confirm. Essential reading for discipleship groups, Adult Sunday School classes, and individuals determined to grow in grace. Warmly recommended."

Derek W.H. Thomas, Professor, Reformed Theological Seminary

""This is a meaty feast of solid doctrinal truth crammed into a short, pointed, and applied book. The deeply encouraging doctrines of grace are opened up to us and explained clearly. This is historical, biblical truth brought back into the light for the modern Christian. Everyone's a winner with this one."

Mez McConnell, author; Senior Pastor of Niddrie Community Church, Edinburgh, Scotland; and founder and ministry director of 20schemes



Broken Vows

Divorce and the Goodness of God

by John Greco

Marriage is supposed to be for life, but divorce still happens. How can a Christian reconcile the reality of divorce with the biblical view of marriage?

How can a wronged spouse forgive? And how can God still be good when bad things happen?

94 pages — Learn more at ***bit.ly/B-VOWS***

"I really, really like this book, for it is much larger than it appears. John helps us see and live in the relentless grace and sure direction of the Father in the face of our seemingly unbearable real-life trials. He writes wisely, not from untried theory, but fire-tested experience."

Glenn T. Stanton, Director of Family Formation Studies, Focus on the Family

"John Greco does a beautiful job making it clear that though he never wanted his marriage to end, he would never trade the intimacy he now enjoys with his Heavenly Father. This book is filled with wisdom from cover to cover. It's the overflow of a painful personal struggle that resulted in a life full of authenticity and hope."

Phil Tuttle, President and CEO, Walk Thru the Bible

"Sadly, divorced Christians are often treated as damaged goods and second-class believers. I've felt that sting because I, too, am a member of the Scarlet D Club. But there is good news—yes, even for the divorced—and in *Broken Vows* John shows us the gospel-based path to true forgiveness, personal healing, and life after divorce. When betrayal, rejection, and regret threatened to make John Greco a life-long victim he learned to look beyond the offender to the sovereign God who never stops loving. If you've been divorced—or know a Christian who has—you need to get this book!

Bob Bevington, co-author with Jerry Bridges of **The Bookends of the Christian Life** ***and*** **The Great Exchange**

"This book can be helpful for those recovering from divorce, not by giving them superficial or sentimental answers to dealing with their pain, anger, and sense of abandonment, but by taking them back to the gospel truth of God's sacrificial love, absolute sovereignty, and transforming power. And it can assist those who minister to others in their broken state by alerting them to hurtful misconceptions and guiding them to biblical truths that truly help and heal."

William B. Barcley, Senior Pastor, Sovereign Grace Presbyterian Church, Charlotte, NC; Adjunct Professor, Reformed Theological Seminary