

Women of the Word,

This study is designed to help you in your reading of God's word. Ideally you would use the study daily as part of your devotional time with God. *Day One* generally will take 30 minutes and the other days around 15-20 minutes.

Day One is the most beneficial because you are discovering for yourself what God's word is saying. If you can't complete the whole lesson then I encourage you to focus on *Day One*. In each *Day One* you will read the whole chapter and pray through it in response to what you see.

On *Day One* there is also a verse from the chapter to meditate on. Lingering over a verse or passage in God's word will help you to take your study of the Bible to a different level. Write the verse for that week on a card and keep it with you or post it somewhere you will see it often and think about throughout each day or as you fall asleep at night. If the Holy Spirit touches your heart with a different verse than the one listed, meditate on that one!

"Meditation pauses, not to discover the meaning, but to steep our souls in the significance, and try to feel a greater sense of it in our hearts. Meditation funnels our Bible intake to the heart. It takes the mental work of reading (and study) and presses it down into our emotions to better feel the weight of the meaning."-Dave Mathis

The "Digging Deeper" questions take you to a different part of the Bible and will give added understanding to the subject at hand.

The "heart" questions require some inner examination and reflection. They help you to apply God's word to your own life. (These are the one you might be tempted to skip! :)

The "Scholar's Notes" and "Picture and Ponder" help to clarify and deepen understanding and application.

"For Discussion" are questions that are conducive to brainstorming. The answers aren't found directly in the passage, but relate to it.

All Scriptures are ESV unless otherwise noted.

As I write the study, I pray for you, that God would fuel in you a strong desire to know him as he has revealed himself in his word and that he would help you be able and willing to overcome the obstacles that invariably rise up against this. Most of all I ask God to help you know how much he loves you and that he would cause your heart to love and treasure him more and more. And for you moms with little ones at home, I pray that you won't feel discouraged or condemned if your study doesn't look like you want it to, but I ask the Lord to help you be diligent to seek him out in the ways you can and have sweet times with him. In the outpouring of your life as a busy mom you especially need to feed your soul as Jeremiah 15:16 says, "Your words were found and I ate them, and your words became to me a joy and the delight of my heart."

Lastly, no genuine benefit can come from studying God's word without the help of the Holy Spirit. So let us pray each time we open God's word that he would incline our hearts to his word (Psalm 119:36) and open our eyes to see the wonders in his word (Psalm 119:18).

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