

# SISTERHOOD BIBLE STUDY



*Created by the Women of Vizion for the Women of Vizion*

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## INTRO

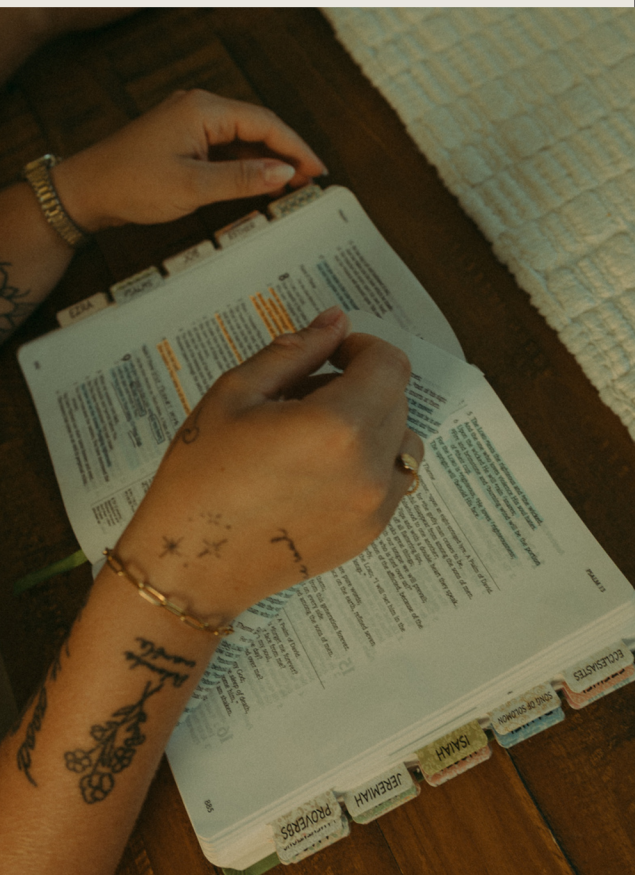
“I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA, THE BEGINNING AND THE END,” SAYS THE LORD GOD, “WHO IS, AND WHO WAS, AND WHO IS TO COME, THE ALMIGHTY.”  
REVELATION 1:8 NKJV

### How to Use this Study:

This study is structured to be used in community! Each week you are encouraged to read the study material before your meeting, and then go through the study questions together. If you miss a week, no problem! You can still benefit from conversation with your community, but you will get exponentially more out of it with your personal study beforehand and by being vulnerable with people you trust.

Heavenly Father, I pray for a hedge of protection over the women reading this Bible study. I pray that this is a place where they are pushed out of their comfort zone to be vulnerable and open not just with other women, but with You. I pray for surrender of their emotions, circumstances, and anything else that may be blocking their way to You. Lord, You are coming back soon! Show us what it means to be ready for Your arrival - whether it's trust, obedience, surrender, servanthood, preparation, or all of the above. Let these women walk away with a knowledge and reverence of You, grown from meeting with the Holy Spirit in the secret place. I pray for a discovery of their spiritual gifts to further Your kingdom, so they can continue to spread the good news that *Our King is Coming*.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.





## SESSION ONE

# HE WAS

Jesus is the King who was. He was chosen before the creation of the world to make the ultimate sacrifice for the world (1 Peter 1:20). In other words, He was next to the Father as He breathed into the universe at creation (John 1:1-2). Not only that, but the entire Old Testament points to His birth, death, and resurrection proving that He always *was*. It's imperative you know His past to better understand His, and our, future. These next few weeks are here to help you better understand how to be prepared for Jesus' return.

**Genesis 22:1-19**, is a great example of God's provision in our surrender. Isaac was born 25 years after God promised Abraham and Sarah a son. In this chapter we see God ask the unthinkable: sacrifice the promised son they waited so long for. Oddly enough, Scripture doesn't record any hesitation from Abraham. He shows immediate obedience to God's command. After questioning God's promise at every turn before Isaac was born, now he has nothing to say when God tells him to sacrifice that very promise? How many of us would do that? If God finally came through on a promise for you but told you to give it back to Him, would you do it?



Some people have used this passage against our faith, trying to paint God as cruel and unjust. On the contrary, this shows God's heart as loving and sacrificial. He wants us to choose Him. This was a test to see if Abraham loved the promise more than the Promise Keeper. Abraham knew from his years of waiting that God was faithful, causing his faith to be so strong that he was willing to give up the promise altogether. Scripture doesn't give us Isaac's reaction to being bound to the altar but his clear submission is also an act of faith. Our obedience is a result of our faith.

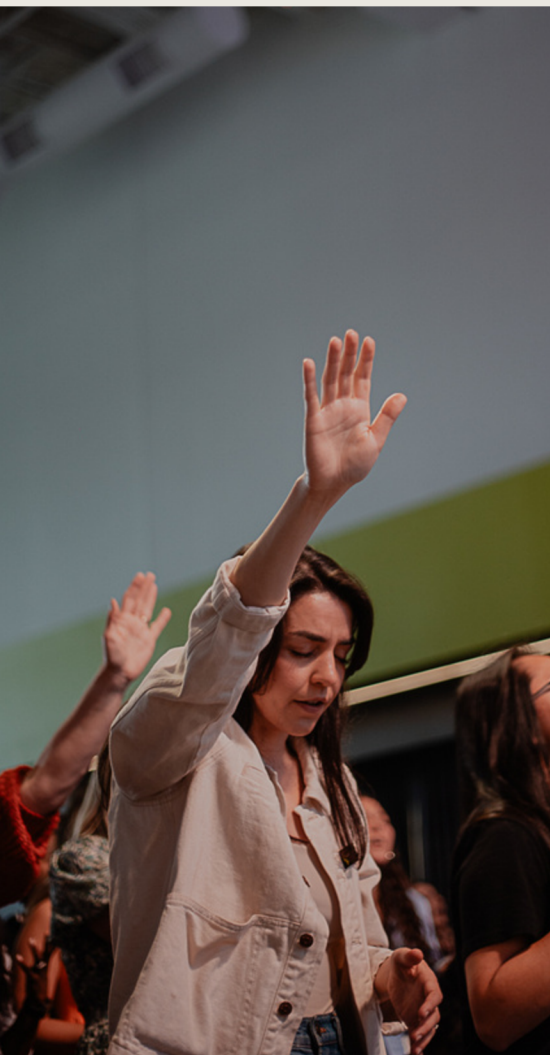


Abraham's response showed his fear of God (Genesis 22:12).

To fear God means:

- Reverence Him as sovereign
- Trust Him
- Obey Him

If God calls you to do something this extreme, you may not be diving headfirst like Abraham did. It takes time for our first instinct to become trusting God even when we don't know what's next.



When I first got saved, it took me a long time to let go of my worldly life. I spent three years being a lukewarm Christian, recognizing God as my Savior but not my Lord. Holding onto my worldly ways, I would still hang out with the people God told me to leave behind doing the same things I was doing before I met Christ. Letting go of that version of me felt like jumping off a cliff into the unknown. The tighter I held on, the more conviction I felt. When I finally took the leap of faith to live my life the way Christ called me to is when He was able to do the most work in me. Doors opened up for a new job, new community, and new ways to serve Him.

The thing I thought would break me actually healed me.

Ephesians 3:20 says He is able to do abundantly more than we could ever ask or think, to Him be the glory!

Our obedience is rewarded with His provision. In verse 13, we see God provided a sacrifice after He saved Isaac. This is the first time Jehovah Jireh, *The Lord will Provide*, is used in Scripture to describe God. This is a reference to Jesus, where another sacrifice was provided in the place of others, where He who had no sin took our place on the Cross.





God ends the chapter with another confirmation of the rest of the promise that is to come for Abraham and his family, accrediting it to his obedience. Your obedience will look different from others. It could be a step back or step forward, a jump off a cliff or being still in where God has you. **Whatever it looks like, start seeking His will over your own and surrender your best, holding nothing back.** That is how God wants to find you at His return.

## GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What stands out to you in this chapter? Would you react the same way as Abraham in this situation? Why or why not?
2. What is something you need to surrender to God to be closer to Him?
3. What's it look like to fear God in your daily life?
4. How can you be obedient in your current season God has you in?





## SESSION TWO

## HE IS

As we unite under the banner of “Our King is Coming,” let us pause and reflect to remember what kind of King we serve. The King who Is; the Bondservant.

The arrival of our glorious King was not marked by crowns and trumpets, but rather by humility and servanthood. Jesus showed us that greatness in the Kingdom comes through serving, not status. He modeled this posture from birth to death: exchanging the Holiest of Holy positions to be born in a barn as a baby, living a primarily quiet and simple life, to eventually dying a criminal’s death.

**In Philippians 2:1–11**, Paul gives us a powerful picture of who Jesus is; and how that should shape who we are as we are joined to Him as His followers. Jesus is not only our Savior, Redeemer, and Lord; He is the Bondservant. He is the King who stooped low; trading his divine privileges to become a human slave (Philippians 2:6-7). The One who willingly exchanged His throne for a cross; committed to die to pay a debt He did not owe (Philippians 2:8).

The One who, though fully God, did not cling to His divine rights but instead “made himself nothing” and “took on the nature of a servant.” And yet it is because of His obedience and humility, that God exalted Him to the highest place of honor (Philippians 2:9). This is the upside-down nature of the Kingdom. Humility precedes glory. Servanthood precedes honor.







Therefore, in this passage, Paul gives us a call of action to do the same. His call to action says that because we have the encouragement of belonging to Christ, the comfort of His love, and the fellowship of His spirit; we are invited into a lifestyle of:

- **Unity in the Spirit (Philippians 2:2)**
- **Humility over pride (Philippians 2:3)**
- **Service over selfishness (Philippians 2:4)**
- **Obedience over comfort (Philippians 2:5)**

So when the call of Christ feels too difficult; when we're tired, unseen, or discouraged, we must look only to Jesus as our role model. If anyone deserved to be served and was entitled to divine privilege, it was Him. And yet He came not to be served, but to serve (Mark 10:45).

Understanding the character of Jesus isn't just about worship and connection with Him; it's about discipleship. It's about developing the same attitude that Jesus first demonstrated to us (Philippians 2:5). It's about our spiritual growth, development, and maturity. It's about learning to live like Him, and actually emulating His characteristics so that a dark and fallen world can see and know Him in all of His beautiful glory.

Because guess what? He is coming again. But this time, He's not coming in lowly humility but in glory. This time, every knee will bow and every tongue will confess (Philippians 2:10-11). But until then, we are called to be His bondservants. To live as Paul lived, who considered it his genuine joy and utmost privilege to be a servant of Christ (Galatians 1:10). To be a bondservant today means we willingly surrender our lives; not out of obligation or hidden pride, but out of pure, abiding love for our Father. It means choosing hiddenness over applause, lifting others up instead of ourselves, and saying "yes" to the Spirit even when it costs us.

And I know, friend, that this is so much easier said than done. Personally, I never found serving in humility to be easy when I was wiping sticky hands and changing diapers in a preschool classroom, exhausted before lunchtime, without so much as a thank you. Just as I never found it easy to sit beside a stranger in a nursing home, holding trembling hands, and listening to the same story for the fourth time, knowing they wouldn't remember me tomorrow. As a newlywed, I've never found it easy to wake up early, care for our home, and keep a cheerful spirit towards my spouse, especially on the days when I'm running on empty. And no, it's not easy when the ministry I poured my prayers and passion into feels like it's standing still; unnoticed, unseen, and uncelebrated.

But it is holy.

Because here's the beauty in living this out: God takes care of His servants. He sees them. He rewards them. He promotes them. He stores up our treasures and rewards in Heaven for us, where they can never be wasted (Matthew 6:20-21). And He is coming back again to dwell with His people, and His servants will reign with Him forever (Revelation 22:3-5).

But the time leading to that is so very short. So let us not waste it on pursuing the things that won't last. Let's pour ourselves out in love to others around us. Let's be known not by our platforms, but by our posture.

**Because the King is coming; and He's looking for hearts that look like His. Let us be found serving.**

## GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does it look like to be a bondservant today?
2. What practical ways can you take on the posture of a servant in your daily life—at home, in ministry, or at work?
3. When you're weary or resistant to serve, how can you call upon the Spirit of God to strengthen you?
4. What are the benefits of having an eternity-focused mindset when it comes to serving others? How does it change your perspective?





## SESSION THREE

# HE IS TO COME



## Jesus, our Bridegroom, is Coming Again

Unlike the American wedding today which primarily focuses on the bride (her dress, her hair, her beauty), the ancient Jewish wedding customs focused on the bridegroom – a prophetic picture pointing to Jesus, our Bridegroom and His prized possession, the Church. It's all about Him!

These weddings were not one-day events like we know today either. They included a betrothal (usually lasting a year), a time of waiting and preparing, a wedding and a feast.

### “The Betrothal” (Past)

In ancient Jewish culture, the groom's father chose a bride and paid a “bride price” to her family declaring his intentions for their relationship. It was more than just a casual agreement. It was a binding covenant, and the couple would be considered legally married at that time even though they weren't living together yet.

As referenced in many Scriptures, believers are considered to be the bride of Christ. Just as the groom's father chose the bride for his son, God has chosen us in Christ. The bride price was paid for by sacrificing His Son Jesus. When we receive Him, we enter into a covenant relationship with Him.

When we accept Christ's sacrifice, God, in His intimate love for us, betrothes (promises) us to His Son Jesus. We are marked in Him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit. The price Jesus paid by His blood on the cross secured our redemption. We are His, and we forever belong to Him!

When God sent us the Holy Spirit, it was not unlike when a man gives a woman an engagement ring, signifying the promise of things to come – an eternity of being with each other as one.

- *“You did not choose Me, but I chose you” (John 15:16 NIV).*
- *“You are not your own; you were bought at a price” (1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NIV).*

### “Waiting and Preparing” (Present)

After the betrothal, the groom leaves to build a room onto his father's house where they would live, and the bride would wait for his return. Meanwhile, she wasn't passively waiting. She spent her time waiting by making herself ready. She didn't know the day or time he would come, but she was waiting and watchful – longing for his return. Even the groom didn't know when that time would be. He had to wait until he heard his father say, “Now is the time.”



## How Do We Make Ourselves Ready?

This is the season the Church is in right now. As we wait for our soon-coming king, how do we make ourselves ready? The assurance of His return is rooted in God's character, knowing He will make us into the Bride Christ is coming back for – without spot or wrinkle. God is the One Who will make us ready, but there are some things He calls us to do to keep our lamps filled with oil.

### ● *Prioritize your relationship with Him! That takes intentionality.*

I don't know about you, but I can get easily distracted by what's going on in my life. I'm married and have four sons. I homeschool my youngest. I have a son with special needs that requires more of me. I just graduated nutrition school, and I'm starting a business. Most days, I wake up and hit the floor running trying to check off as many things as I can on my to-do list.

And when my head hits the pillow at night, that's usually when I hear His voice. He's been asking me to be with Him, but I'm too tired. "I will spend time with You tomorrow, God." But if I don't prioritize my relationship with Him, the busyness of life has a way of filling up all the empty spaces ... and tomorrow never comes.

"Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 5:18 NLT). That phrase "be filled" means to "continually be filled." It's not a one and done kind of thing. It's something we need to do every day!



*Surrender to the purifying and sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit.*

Listen to the whispers of the Holy Spirit and be quick to respond. He's a gentleman and will not force you to do anything. The more we respond to Him, the more sensitive we'll be to hear His voice.

*Return to your first love!*

Do you remember what it was like when you first fell in love? You couldn't stop thinking about the guy, talking about him, or wanting to be with him.

It was the same when I got saved. Remember what it was like when you first got saved? I remember learning about His overwhelming love for me. I couldn't stop talking about Him. I couldn't get enough of His Word. Hearing other people's testimonies inspired my faith. If I wasn't careful, though the flame of my first love would die out. I didn't keep fanning that flame, and the passionate love I had for Him lessened.

In Revelation 2:4, the church of Ephesus was commended for many things, but the one thing He had against them was they lost their first love. What were they supposed to do? They were encouraged to do the first works. Do the things you did when you first met Christ:

- Read His Word.
- Pray.
- Repent.
- Forgive others.
- Stay in fellowship with other believers.





### ● *Stay Ready*

In the Parable of the Ten Virgins in **Matthew 25:1-13**, we can see that we need to stay alert and ready for Christ's return. All 10 virgins had lamps, but only five kept a constant supply of oil in their lamps in preparation for his return.

Similarly, we can go through the motions of religion, but it's only in staying intimately connected to Christ will we be prepared when He comes.

Because the bridegroom didn't come when the 10 virgins expected, they all fell asleep. But when they heard the shout announcing that he was coming, they woke up and prepared their lamps. Those with oil were ready and went in with him to the marriage feast, and the door was locked.

But the foolish virgins missed their opportunity to join when the bridegroom came. They were busy trying to buy oil. They begged to be let in, but he called back, "Believe me, I don't know you!"

Only those who are truly prepared or spiritually awake will not miss the Marriage Supper of the Lamb.

There's no playing catch up when He comes.

There's no borrowing from someone else's relationship with Jesus.

We are to live fully awake, watchful, and devoted to our Bridegroom Jesus! Set your heart and mind on things above, and don't let this world distract you.

- "I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am" (John 14:3 NIV).
- "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day or the hour" (Matthew 25:13 NIV).
- "His bride has made herself ready..." (Revelation 19:7 NIV).



## “The Wedding and the Feast” (Future)

When the groom returned for his bride, there would be a shout and a trumpet blast announcing his return. The bride’s attendants would use their lamps filled with oil to light the way from her house to his. The bride would then be swept away for the celebration.

Likewise, the Second Coming of Christ will be announced with a shout from the Archangel Gabriel and a trumpet sound announcing His return to take us, His bride, to be with Him forever.

All events of eternity past, present, and future will culminate at this one event: The Marriage Supper of the Lamb. It represents the fulfillment of God’s redemptive plan. We will be clothed in Christ ready for His return.

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### You are invited! Are you ready?

- “For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God” (1 Thessalonians 4:16 NLT)
- “Let us rejoice and be glad...for the wedding of the Lamb has come, and his bride has made herself ready” (Revelation 19:7 NIV).

## GROUP REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does “making yourself ready” look like in your current season of life? What distractions make it hard for you to live with expectancy and readiness?
2. In what ways has the world distorted your identity as the Bride of Christ? What helps you stay anchored in your true identity?
3. Am I relying on someone else’s faith or trying to “borrow oil” instead of cultivating my own walk with Christ?
4. How does the reality of the “door being shut” impact how I view grace and the urgency to share the Gospel with others?





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SUMMER 2025



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