A romantic couple is shown from behind, sitting on a wooden bench. The woman is leaning her head on the man's shoulder, and they are both looking out over a body of water towards a bright sunset. The man is wearing a white shirt and dark pants, while the woman is wearing a white lace dress and sandals. The scene is bathed in the warm, golden light of the setting sun.

# *Hopelessly Devoted*

Becoming a Godly Wife  
Bible Study

Alicia Searl

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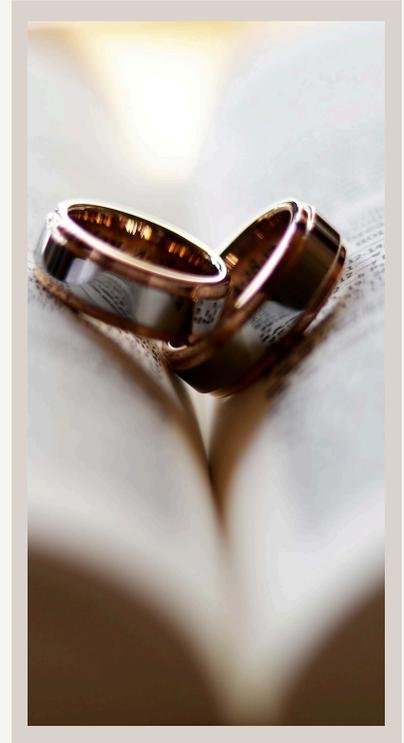
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# Welcome

I'm glad you are here and are taking this step in seeking God's truth, wisdom, and purposeful plan for your marriage. This study is going to be so good as we unpack who God says we are as His beloved daughters, faithful women, and devoted wives.

If we really want to gain a better understanding of what it truly means to be a Godly wife, we must first seek to understand how God views love and marriage by getting in tune with His heart. While love is something we all desperately crave and need, as is the design of our loving Creator, it is also rather complex. That's because we live in a society that has distorted love and offers mixed views when it comes to acceptance, approval, and adoration. This can bring into question how we faithfully love one another, especially in the confines of a marriage. Thankfully, we serve a counter-cultural God, and His Word provides us with a "template" that stands firmly in contrast with the messy hearts of humanity. This template is formed on four basic principles: submission, service, selflessness, and sacrifice.

Over the course of the next ten weeks, we will be unlocking biblical truths and gaining wisdom as we encounter God's powerful love for us, while His insightful Scripture will guide us to put these principles into practice. God also bestows special gifts that are truly unique to this sacred union: partnership, parental authority, and passion. We will be taking a deeper dive into these gifts and unlocking the key to a healthy and hopelessly devoted marriage. **The bottom line is that our marriages serve one main purpose, and that is to sanctify us and make us more like Christ!**



Sweet sis, I don't know where you are in your marriage. I don't know the joy or heartache you currently face, nor the triumphs or trials you and your husband are enduring, but I do know that God wants the best for you and your husband. Even more, He wants to see your love prevail and intends for you to be a witness to a lost world that love - His love - truly does conquer all.

Whether you're riding the tidal waves of passion in your marriage or finding yourself in a lull of complacency, let's dig into God's Word and see exactly what He has to say about your marriage. I can't guarantee that you won't encounter immense highs and lows, but I can assure you that God will see you through those times and will be a constant source of peace throughout every season.

As you are digging into this study, please know that you have a band of faithful sisters that are covering you (and your marriage) in prayer. If you have a specific need, prayer request, or simple longing for connection, please don't hesitate to reach out anytime via the link below and share your heart so that we can cover you in truth, love, and grace.

Now, all that's left to do is grab your Bible (if you haven't already), a pen and maybe a journal, a snack (because you might want to linger a while), and a heart willing and ready to dig into the Word with eagerness and anticipation. God is waiting on you and ready to meet you on these pages to remind you of your priceless worth and precious role as a devoted wife!

Your sister in Christ,

*Alicia*

[www.aliciasearl.com](http://www.aliciasearl.com)

# *Suggestions for Using This Study*

## *Who is this study for?*

This study is designed to be used by the woman that is seeking to gain wisdom in her marriage. While it is mainly for use as an individual, it can be shared with a group of trusted women to seek support, hope, and encouragement, and many of the lessons, Scriptures, and personal reflections can also be studied as a couple. The ultimate purpose is to grow closer and more intimate as a faithful husband and wife.

## *How to use the study*

During the course of this ten week study, we will discover God's plan for marriage, the unique roles He offers a husband and a wife, and how they intertwine in such a beautiful way, creating the most sacred of all human relationships. Begin each day with prayer, then read the introduction and valuable lessons that follow. Each week you will read Scriptures that pertain to marriage as you respond, reflect, and react to what is presented using the guide, personal reflections, and questions. The questions are designed to lead you back to Scripture, allowing you to seek God's wisdom and reflect on your own marriage. Whether you are doing this study alone or with a group of women, consider being candid and vulnerable with trusted friends or an accountability partner in order to grow. However, the purpose of this time is to honestly invite God into your heart and ask Him to reveal absolute truth about the sanctity of marriage and how He sees you as His beloved daughter and as a doting wife.

## *Suggested Scriptures*

There will be a suggested Scripture every week in the introduction. While it is optional, strive to memorize them to enrich your study. This may be a prime time to recite these truths out loud, write them out and place them around your home, and etch them on your heart. Key takeaways will also be highlighted to enhance your study.

## *Other things to note...*

Use this study to meet your needs and adapt it to your schedule. However, be intentional and find a time to carve out that will allow you to give God your undivided attention. You may also find it helpful to have a few translations of the Bible readily available to reference for clarity or to gain better understanding. Just remember that this should be a time you thoroughly enjoy with the Lord as you bring your innermost thoughts before Him, to help you grow as a woman of God and understand your precious role as a wife.

# BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

## Prayer

Begin each day with prayer. Use the prayer prompts to lead and guide you as you dig into His Word.

## Read

Open God's Word and read what He has to say about being His beloved daughter, so you can embrace being your husband's devoted wife.

## Respond

This will be your initial response to the passage. What stood out to you? Are there any key verses or words that spoke to you? Take notes here, in a journal, or in your Bible.

## Reflect

Personally and thoughtfully reflect on your own life and marriage. Allow this to be a place you can connect deeply with God, seek His guidance and discernment, and come clean before Him asking for His mercy and grace.

## React

This is where you put the wisdom into practice. Ponder the questions brought forth here for you to impact your role as a wife, and to help you walk with confidence in the Lord.

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*God's "Perfect Design"*  
*for Marriage*

Week One



# God's "Perfect Design" for Marriage



## Prayer

Father God, as I open Your Word and read about Your design for marriage today, open my heart and mind to receive Your love and embrace the wife You are calling me to be. Amen.

## Read

Ephesians 5:21-33

## Respond

The book of Ephesians lays out the principles of Christian living. Chapter 5 narrows in on the importance of following Jesus' example and applying His love to our marriage. What are your initial thoughts as you read this section of Ephesians?

## Reflect

God has a plan and purpose for the sanctity of marriage. What is the role of your husband? How can you help him be the leader, provider, and protector God is calling Him to be? What is your role as wife? Do you feel you submit to God's authority over your marriage?

## React

How can you embrace your role as wife? Is there an area you need to give to God and allow Him to do a work in your heart? Do you need to reconstruct your view and/or thoughts on marriage or your role as a wife?

# God's "Perfect Design" for Marriage

Take a moment to think about your blissful wedding day. Close your eyes for a bit if needed, and picture it. Recall all the senses you experienced that special day, from the smell of those perfectly picked whimsical flowers to the feel of your satiny lace gown that hugged your body just right. Remember the looks of your loving family and friends, and hear the sounds of the processional music ushering in your entry as you floated down the aisle. Then you see him!

All the excitement and unending nerves bring on an overwhelming swell of emotion that courses through your body. You lock eyes. You feel immediate warmth. In that moment, the entire world stands still. It's just you...and him. You finally arrive by his side, take his hands, exchange the most precious vows you will ever say to another human being, and the two of you become one.

Sounds lovely, right? But, maybe *this* day was not so "picture perfect" as you wrestled with unplanned events or unmet expectations. Maybe your wedding day came with heavy burdens or a few emotional strings attached, bringing forth memories that are tainted with tinges of sorrow.

The truth is, regardless of how your wedding day panned out, it was just "a day." You took a stand, made a pledge, and declared your love - for a lifetime. When you made a covenant with your spouse and God, you said, "I do," cherishing, honoring, respecting, and loving without reservation or conditions. You said, "for better or worse," from that day forward.

That day merely marked the beginning of a beautiful life that was meant to be shared as one flesh, under God's authority and supervision. **God's design for marriage is simple – what God has joined together in a union, no man should separate (Mark 10:9; Matthew 19:6).** His purpose will now prevail as a unit of one!

We will always have our identity as a woman and, first and foremost, God's beloved daughter, but now, we have another honorable role as wife, the most sacred role of all human relations. Ephesians 5:21-33 lays out the divine order in marriage, calling for a husband and wife to both submit to Jesus, and then to humbly serve one another. So, let's dig in to discover God's good and perfect plan for our marriage and how we can come together in unity with our husband, pursuing God's will as a faithfully devoted helper, lover, partner, and hopelessly devoted wife. A hopelessly devoted wife that is emotionally driven, mentally connected, physically joined, and spiritually growing, knowing that marriage is God's investment in growing His kingdom.

*Suggested Scripture to Memorize:*

Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21

# BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

## GOD'S "PERFECT DESIGN" FOR MARRIAGE

**Prayer**

**Read**

**Respond**

**Reflect**

**React**

## *It Takes Three*

Aww, weddings! Is there anything sweeter? Honestly, I love to sit in a place where I can get the best visual of both of the bride and groom's faces, which is why I tend to sit on the inside aisle if at all possible. When it's time for the bride to make her appearance, I usually take a glance at her, then quickly turn my head to watch the groom's reaction upon seeing his future wife, clothed in love, walking towards him. It's such a precious moment.

God truly gives us such a beautiful gift in a marriage. Yet, the wedding and all the beauty it brings merely marks the beginning. While our culture tends to focus on a "day," our God would rather us set our eyes on the future and the investment of a lifetime.

We see how this investment in a marriage plays out in Ephesians 21-33. Husbands are called to love their wives as Christ loved the church, striving to protect her at all costs. Wives, on the other hand, are called to respect their husband's leadership. So, when a husband leads well and protects his wife, he is essentially making her feel cherished, like a valuable treasure. When a wife respects her husband and comes alongside him as his teammate, he feels empowered and emboldened to be the man God is calling him to be.

**It really takes three to make a marriage prosper: a son, a daughter, and a loving and faithful Father.**

By your submission to Christ and your humble heart, you invite God to be head of your marriage, so your husband can lead you with love, honor, and faith. As a leader, your husband takes on quite the role. It is a huge responsibility. He is called to love you and your family as Christ did the church. And, if you remember, Christ served the church and then sacrificed Himself for their salvation. So in essence, your husband is called to walk in a humble way, leading by putting you and your family's needs before his own, all while being willing to sacrifice everything, including his own life for yours - in both the literal and figurative sense.

**God is calling you, as His precious daughter, to first be strong in your faith; from that bedrock of faith, everything flows.** When you get your heart right before God and submit to Him, you give yourself permission to let go of your way and embrace God's way of marriage. You also begin to see your husband in light of God's purpose for him.

Read the verses below:

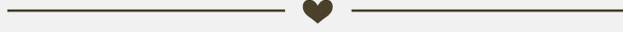
John 13:34-35 - a command to love one another, as Christ first loved us.

Hosea 2:19 - the covenant God made to His people of Israel based on His unfailing love and faithfulness.

Colossians 3:12-14 - Paul is telling us to clothe ourselves in love.

Ladies, do you see the underlying theme? Love. Due to God's divine goodness and faithfulness, even when we are unfaithful, His powerful love guides us and leads us to fulfill the roles He graciously provides us in a marriage, for a much greater purpose. Let's discover what it takes to be a Godly wife and seek to understand what our husbands need.

# *Personal Thoughts*



# Your Husband's Needs

So, what does your man need from you? According to the One who created him, he needs you to let him lead (Ephesians 5:22-24), respect his role as provider and protector (1 Timothy 5:8 and 1 Peter 3:70), and pursue him passionately (Genesis 2:24).

## Value Your Husband's Leadership

Your husband has a huge burden to carry if you truly think about it. This is why he needs you! He can't do it alone, nor was he meant to. **Your role is to support your husband by walking alongside him, with encouraging words and loving actions, and by letting him know he is not only capable but called to lead you and your family with God's guidance (I Corinthians 11:3).** As the spiritual leader, it is his responsibility to you and your children to help you conform to the image of Christ (Ephesians 4:26-27). You can show your appreciation of his God-given leadership by actually letting him lead, and by praising God when he does!

Your husband will gauge his success by reading and measuring your level of happiness. When you are unhappy, it sends up a red flag. If the trend of unhappiness continues, he will wave the flag of surrender in many cases, giving up and losing hope. This is why we must listen to our husband's cries for help and choose our words wisely. Give him thanks and praise when he leads well, and pray for him when he falls short and feels lost. In the end, your dear husband desperately seeks your approval and needs it to be able to lead you and your family. When you shower him with words of encouragement and offer to listen to his heart, you give him the confidence to be the man God is calling him to be!

## Allow Your Husband to Provide for and to Protect You

Men are called to be the primary providers, with the Bible asserting that they deny their faith otherwise (Timothy 5:8). They are also called to protect their families. (1 Peter 3:7). God may have created us equally, but He formed our bodies differently. We are also able to provide and protect our families, yet were given a different skill set that is used to complement our husbands. **Our husbands are uniquely equipped to physically protect and financially provide. So, while we can surely do our part, we must recognize that our husbands are designed by God to fulfill this role, so we must support them.**

We live in a society that downplays and outright lies about what it means to be a man, much less a man of God. We need to let our husbands know we value and need their protection and provision and that we love the way God designed them to be strong and courageous. By acknowledging their efforts, we build trust. They need to be reminded that they are good enough and "fit" to provide and protect. They need to hear that we believe in them, especially when the world loudly declares otherwise. When we speak gently and lovingly with a sincere heart, our men feel empowered to do just about anything!

## Pursue Him Passionately

Knowing that God can meet all our needs, He still gave us the gift of a special kind of physical affection only to be enjoyed within the confines of a marriage. When we say our vows, we pledge to give our husbands our hearts, minds, and bodies. He pledges to do the same. The truth is – **your husband needs you, all of you.** (And you need him!) He desires your body. God created Him that way as He created man in His own image, and you were created from man (Genesis 2:21-24). God's constant pursuit of our heart leads our husbands in constantly pursuing ours. To your husband, sex is a vital part of becoming one flesh and feeling deeply connected to you. When you pursue your husband, that oneness and pleasure can bring about many benefits to a marriage, including glorifying God with our bodies!

Unfortunately, we live in a sinful and lust-filled society that has twisted the beauty found in marital sex. These broken views are causing many men to stumble and fall. We need to guard our husbands' hearts and minds as they can easily become susceptible to falling into the worldly trap. Think of it this way - Eve (we) gave Adam (man) the apple, which brought about these types of sins, so now we live in a world where our men are tempted with bad fruit - all the time. We must offer our husbands what is pure, innocent, and good. We must offer them good fruit found in the confines of a marital bed.

# *Personal Thoughts*



*Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ. Ephesians 5:21*



## *Week 1 Recap*



**God calls a husband and wife to both submit to Him and His authority.**

Read Ephesians 5:21. Are you submitting and surrendering your life and marriage to Christ? How can you and your husband come together as one flesh and seek God's will for your marriage?

**God's design for your marriage comes with gender specific roles.**

Read Genesis 2:18. Do you feel you are honoring God by being the encourager and helper your husband needs?

**God's view of marriage is vastly different than that of the world.**

Do you feel you are embracing the role God gave you as a wife? How can you allow your husband to lead, give him the encouragement to provide and protect, and pursue him passionately this coming week?

*A Wife of  
Noble  
Character*

Week Two



♡ Hopelessly Devoted

Becoming a Godly Wife  
Bible Study





*Thank you!*

From one devoted wife to another, it has been an honor to walk beside you on this journey. My hope and prayer is that you are able to tuck some of these truths in your heart and welcome God's love into your marriage.

I must admit that this study was written from the depths of my own heart, as my husband, Jeremy, and I have encountered many highs and lows in our nearly twenty-three years of marriage. From emotional scars and battles with infertility, family trauma and intense grief, to raising a wayward daughter and everything in between, we have had moments when we were hanging by a thread and all we could do was live on a prayer. I remember searching for hope and desperately needing a lifeline! So, I figured other women must feel the same and need a reminder that they are not alone and God is always at work!

Now my sweet hubby and I find ourselves working together to create a dream that was laid on our heart nearly twenty years ago. Together we are building a tiny home on a piece of property, that if I told you the entire backstory, would only prove God was behind it all! Let's just say butterflies (that symbolize and remind me of my late mother) and a radiant cross scattered across the sky with sunbeams was involved. It was as if God was telling us it was time. It surely wasn't the dream we had envisioned, but we know this was what God had planned for us, and it came with a precious purpose. One day in the near future, we hope to use this little place to love and minister to family, friends, and youth alike. We are eager to see what God does at our little "Sweet Haven Cottage!"

I share this because I know that God has such big plans for you and your marriage! God's design for marriage is filled with precious promises and a purposeful plan. Our roles as husband and wife are designed to complement one another in such a beautiful way. In good times and in bad, we have a gracious God that has provided an instruction manual for us to live out a faithful marriage that honors and glorifies Him. When we choose to view marriage the way our God does, we begin to seek joy. As married women, we have such a unique way of contributing to this world, offering our hearts in a way that connects us deeply to our husband, children, family, and community. Let's embrace that and live out a marriage that exudes His love!

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to share how God has touched my heart through His Word. I hope that we can stay in touch and grow as beloved daughters and faithfully devoted wives. I would love to hear your story and learn how I can be lifting you (and your marriage) in prayer. I also highly value and sincerely appreciate your feedback! If you found this study helpful, please share your thoughts via a review on Amazon or other place of purchase, so that others can find this study and reap its benefits as well.

Find more Bible Studies, devotionals, prayers, and encouragement, along with the heart behind Sweet Haven Cottage on my website or by following along @AliciaSearlWrites via Instagram or Facebook.

Much Love,

*Alicia Searl*

As a contributing writer for Salem, many of the introductions, lessons, and personal reflections have been shared in this study. Find more articles, hope, and faith-based content just for women on my site by following the links provided.