

## Endorsements

It is one thing to know facts about God in your head, but quite another to know Him intimately, personally, and in a close heart-to-heart relationship. *I Know His Name* will enable you to develop such a closeness with God by allowing you to get to know Him through His many names used in Scripture. Wendy has an uncanny ability to combine Bible passages, personal stories, and practical application in a way that expands your faith and strengthens your walk with God. If you are serious about taking your relationship with your Creator to a place of deep connection, read and then live out the truths of this book!

—**Karen Ehman**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Keep It Shut* and eight other books; national speaker with Proverbs 31 Ministries; wife and mom of three

My dear friend Wendy Blight has taught me so much about prayer and God's love through her own grace and love for others. There is no doubt that her book *I Know His Name* is going to be a huge blessing to so many and grow His kingdom even bigger.

—**Emily Maynard**, Author of *I Said Yes: My Story of Heartbreak, Redemption, and True Love*

What a wonderful study! I was so blessed by how Wendy, in such a practical, helpful way, guides us through the names of God, what they mean, and how that knowledge will empower our relationship with the Lord. You too will be blessed!

—**Jennifer Rothschild**, Author of *Lessons I Learned in the Dark*; *Self Talk*, *Soul Talk*; and *Invisible*; founder of Fresh Grounded Faith events and womensministry.net



I Know  
HIS NAME

DISCOVERING POWER *in*  
*the* NAMES OF GOD



WENDY BLIGHT

*AUTHOR OF Living So That*



THOMAS NELSON  
*Since 1798*

NASHVILLE MEXICO CITY RIO DE JANEIRO

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## —Dedication—

To my Charlotte Bible Study girls. One of your questions (the day we prayed at the bowling alley) birthed this book. Your zeal to study God's Word continually challenges me to venture to new and deeper places in Scripture. Your constant prayers, love, and encouragement bless me more than you will ever know.



## → Acknowledgments ←

With deep appreciation, I thank the cherished friends and family listed below:

Monty—You are my best friend, and I love doing life with you.

Lauren and Bo—You light up my life with joy and laughter. Being your mom is my most favorite job in the whole world.

Robin Phillips—You said yes to *I Know His Name*. Thank you for believing in me and investing your time and exceptional talents in this book.

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Erik and Robert Wolgemuth—Thank you for your wise counsel and helping me navigate the business side of what we do.

Lisa Allen—You are a precious gift from God.

My Proverbs Thirty-One OBS family and First 5 Writing Team—You weave God's truth into my life in such beautiful ways and make ministry so much fun.

HarperCollins Christian Publishing—Thank you for investing in this book and coming alongside me, and so many other authors, to equip women to draw closer to God through His living and active Word.



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## Introduction

Welcome to *I Know His Name: Discovering Power in the Names of God*. I am excited that you have chosen to join me on this adventure through God's Word. Be confident, my friend, that you will meet God in a fresh way in the pages of His Word and the beautiful messages in this book. He makes a great promise in Isaiah 55:11, and I want you to keep that promise tucked in your heart: "So it is when I declare something. My word will go out and not return to Me empty, but it will do what I wanted; it will accomplish what I determined." During our time together, we will dive into deep waters and unveil new truths and promises about our God that will transform how we pray and interact with Him from this day forward.

*I Know His Name* can be read individually or with a small group. I encourage a small group setting because it allows for accountability and rich discussions with other women about what you have learned.

You will notice that several translations are used throughout the book, mainly The Voice and the New International Version. Even if you don't own either of these translations, you will be able to complete the lessons without difficulty. In fact, using various translations while you study God's Word will only enhance your understanding.

*I Know His Name* leads you through five chapters, combining personal stories with Old and New Testament stories and Scriptures. Each chapter opens with prayer and a memory verse. I encourage you to pray the prayer as soon as you begin the lesson. Remember, the Holy Spirit is your teacher. God's Word comes alive in our hearts when the Holy Spirit interprets what God is speaking to us. Praying invites God's Spirit into your reading and learning, and prepares your heart to receive all that God has for you. And please don't let the memory verses intimidate you. If you can remember the words



of your favorite tune or the lines of your favorite movie, you will be able to memorize these verses!

Each lesson includes a teaching, a section for Digging Deeper into God's Word, and a section to Apply It to your own life. There is space for you to write your answers, but I encourage you to get a journal or notebook to use as well. Designate a special time each day to complete your reading and study. Ask the Lord to help you make it a priority. He will be faithful.

The questions in the Apply It section are intended to help you practically apply what you are learning. When you answer them, think about what you have learned, the ways God has spoken to you, and what He asked you to do in response to what you have heard.

A five-session video study is also available in both DVD and downloadable formats (sold separately). If you or your group chooses to utilize the video teaching in addition to this book, be sure to complete the book chapter before watching the video.

On our adventure together, we will unveil God's character, name by name, including:

- ✦ *Elohim*: The One Who Created You
- ✦ *El Roi*: The One Who Sees You
- ✦ *Jehovah Nissi*: The One Who Stands Guard Over You
- ✦ *Jehovah Rapha*: The One Who Heals You
- ✦ *Jehovah Shalom*: The One Who Gives You Peace
- ✦ *All-Consuming Fire*: The One Who Is Jealous for You (An All-Consuming Fire)
- ✦ *El Elyon*: The One Who Is the God Most High
- ✦ *Abba Father*: The One Who Is Your Father



## INTRODUCTION

As you open your Bible, know that God breathed each and every word; then men inspired by God's own Spirit wrote them down. Although written by human hands, each word is divinely inspired, thereby reliable, infallible, and true.

It's not about increasing our head knowledge. We are studying God's Word so that we can know Him better and so that God can change our hearts and our lives! So, friend, surrender your heart and your schedule to Him and join me for a great adventure!



## Message from My Heart

“Bible study field day!” we exclaimed as we piled into a few cars and headed out for a fun day of bowling and fellowship. Our morning was filled with lots of laughter and, yes, a little bit of competitiveness. But that all changed in one moment when one of our sisters received a call that her husband had been taken to the hospital for emergency surgery. She rushed out the door with two of our friends, and a few of us called out that we would join her after we prayed. We gathered in a circle, and I opened our prayer with the words “Jehovah Rapha,” which means “God the Healer” in Hebrew. Eyes closed, hands clasped, tears falling, we stood united in heart and Spirit and prayed for God to heal my friend’s husband. Unbeknownst to me, one woman had opened her eyes, elbowed the woman next to her, and whispered, “Why is Wendy praying to another God? Does she believe in another God that I don’t know?”

The day my friend shared this conversation, it was an eye-opening moment. I realized that in the years I had been teaching Bible study, I had never shared the fact that Scripture contains *hundreds* of names for God and that those names speak to the vastness of His character and how He works on our behalf. I knew then that I needed to share that knowledge with as many people as I could. Because, friend, the more deeply we explore our God, the more we move from simply knowing *about* Him to truly *knowing* Him.

Some of you grew up knowing and believing in God, and He is familiar to you. Others of you are new believers to whom God is a bit of a mystery. But what matters to me is that you are here, and I believe with all my heart that God drew you here.

I am so grateful to come alongside you on this journey of unveiling God. I hope you feel prompted to ask lots of questions, because questions are good! God has a divinely appointed message for you

and questions He wants to answer for you. Be assured that He will meet you wherever you are and unfold great and marvelous truths about Himself and His creation.

I pray that the pages of this book will empower you to experience God in fresh new ways. To uncover life-changing revelations regarding His splendor and majesty, His sovereignty and power, His love and protection, and His faithfulness and goodness. You may be familiar with these words and understand their meaning. But it's my desire that through our time together, you will study them, savor them, believe them, claim them, pray them, and live confidently in them every day of your life.

Friend, God delights in us and created us for inconceivable joy and fulfillment! Listen to His invitation: "Taste of His goodness; see how wonderful the Eternal truly is" (Psalm 34:8a). May He engage all our senses with every turn of the page.

As we unwrap the mysteries of God's Word, we will experience the fullness of His goodness and the sweetness of His presence in every facet of our lives. Together let's digest each and every truth, soaking in them until they become part and parcel of who we are, what we think, and how we act.

Are you excited about our adventure? I know I am, so let's jump right in!





CHAPTER ONE

# Elohim: The One Who Created You

## Prayer:

*O God, I'm so excited for this journey on which I'm about to embark. I'm thirsting not only to know more about You, but also to know You more. God, through the power of Your Holy Spirit, help me to discover who You truly are. Open my eyes to see, my ears to hear, and my heart to understand eternal mysteries that only You can reveal on this exciting adventure. Give me the discipline to do my work, the perseverance to continue when I want to give up, and the mind to practically apply all that I learn. Enable me to taste and see that You are good. Show me marvelous things from Your Word. Reveal Your majesty, show me Your glory, and draw me so close to Your heart that I feel, down to the marrow of my bones, that You are the All-Consuming Fire! I ask all this in Jesus' Name, Amen.*

## Part One: In the Beginning

**Memory Verse:** In the beginning, God created *everything*: the heavens *above* and the *earth below*. *Here's what happened.*

—Genesis 1:1

The Word declares that our God is a personal God and a loving and forgiving Father. He demands justice, yet extends grace. He is kind and compassionate and allows for free will, but mandates that this free will has consequences when wrongly exercised. However, because of His grace, in the midst of those consequences, God extends mercy and promises to never leave us or forsake us.

Do you ever wonder what our world would be like if everyone knew our God in this way? I do ... often.

The notion that God has continued to impress upon my heart is this: if we are to introduce others to the God whom we know and love, then we must know Him better. When I first had this thought, hard questions followed. *Wendy, how well do you really know Me? My heart, My character, My names, and the attributes those names represent?*

I must confess—I did not. When I first started reading the Bible, I noticed that the writers referred to God by other names now and then. But I did not pay much attention or question why, and often I could not even pronounce the names! As I studied the Bible more, I learned that each name *meant* something; sometimes the name pointed to an aspect of God's character, and other times it pointed to how He relates to His people. Over time, I could recite many of those names and pray them eloquently, but I really didn't understand all of them or know where each name originated.

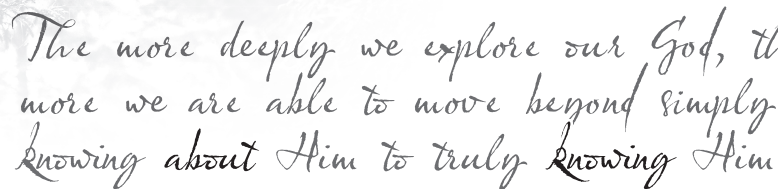
So I immersed myself in the pages of His Word once again, this time inviting God to unveil Himself to me in a fresh way. I



prayed, “Show me who You are, God, and why I should care. Reveal to me why You are worthy of being called the One True God; why I should unabashedly love and serve You and You alone. Decipher Your names. Make known Your character. Help me know You better so I can live and walk in the image in which You created me.”

As I poured myself into the Scriptures, God answered my prayers. And the more I approached God’s Word with an open heart, the more I fell in love with God’s wonderful names—the names that reveal the vastness of His character. The names that affirm the work He does on our behalf.

Friend, the more deeply we explore our God, the more we are able to move beyond simply knowing *about* Him to truly *knowing* Him. And as that love grows and our relationship strengthens, God settles into that special place—reserved solely for Him—that He created in our hearts. We become a living, breathing vessel through whom God can work in this world. He transforms our hearts, and through our changed hearts God can change the world.



*The more deeply we explore our God, the more we are able to move beyond simply knowing about Him to truly knowing Him.*

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Our newfound knowledge will give us privileged access into God’s heart and open new ways for us to experience Him in quiet time, prayer, and worship.

So let’s turn our attention to *Elohim* (pronounced el-o-heem), the God who created us.



## ( Know HIS NAME )

We find our first name of God in Genesis 1. In an English-language Bible we see the word *God*. But in the original Hebrew language, the word was *Elohim*. The word *el* is a generic word for god. It refers to our God as well as other, pagan gods. The writers of the Bible added the word *im* to the end of this generic name. This is like adding an “s” to the end of a word in English; it makes the word plural.

So the noun *Elohim* is plural, but it is always used with a singular verb. What does this mean? It means *Elohim* signifies one triune God, not many gods. This unique use of the plural *Elohim* to refer to one, individual god is unique to the God of the Bible. No other God has the name *Elohim*.

Why is this significant? Because it indicates a unity *and* diversity within the nature of God. The Hebrew language often pluralized nouns to express greatness and multiple attributes. With the name *Elohim*, this unity and diversity captures the doctrine of the Trinity—one God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.


Though the exact meaning of *Elohim* is not known, the name itself incorporates the idea of strength and power and speaks to the supremacy of God as He reveals Himself through His creation. We find it in the opening words of Genesis 1: “In the beginning, God created *everything*: the heavens *above* and the earth *below* ...” (Genesis 1:1a).


### Digging Deeper

*In the beginning God created.* Our universe does not exist by accident. God acted freely and intentionally with each word He spoke. He executed each stage of creation’s design. Just look around you—the glorious beauty that lies before you has been carefully crafted by a living, personal, creative God! *Elohim* purposefully placed earth in its exact location and deposited each one of His created people on



that earth at a specially ordained time and place in order to accomplish His purposes!

 **Read Acts 17:24–27.** How do Luke’s words confirm the truth that God is Creator?

 Throughout Scripture, God’s Word affirms and confirms that He is the Creator. Read the following verses and share what you learn about *Elohim*.

1. Psalm 8:3–9

2. Proverbs 3:19

3. Isaiah 40:26


### Apply It

Our God has done great and unsearchable things beyond our comprehension. He brought into existence every natural wonder the eye can see: every twinkling star, every delicate snowflake, every drop of rain, every billowy cloud, every crisp cool day, every roaring sea, every clap of thunder, every bolt of lightning, every majestic

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mountain—all gifts shaped and fashioned by our Creator. *Elohim's* invisible qualities echo throughout our world: “From the beginning, creation in its magnificence enlightens us to His nature. Creation itself makes His undying power and divine identity clear, even though they are invisible; and it voids the excuses *and ignorant claims* of these people” (Romans 1:20).

*Elohim* dictates the rising and the setting of the sun. He sets the boundaries of the sea. The stars rise and fall at His command. Nothing, absolutely nothing, has been or ever will be that His hand has not created.

 Take some time today to thank God for His creation. Look outside your window. Remember the sights and sounds from any of your trips to the mountains or the beach. Praise Him for all He has created for your enjoyment and pleasure! Write your prayer of praise in the space provided.



## Part Two: Creator of Heaven and Earth

**Memory Verse:** In the beginning, God created *everything*: the heavens *above* and the *earth below*. *Here's what happened.*"

—Genesis 1:1


Let's revisit Genesis 1 as we probe deeper into the word *create* and what exactly God created "in the beginning."

### **Reread Genesis 1:1.**

"In the beginning" refers to a specific point in time. While Genesis 1:1 is the starting point of creation, God existed before that time. He is an infinite being without beginning and without end (Revelation 21:6; 22:13). But in Genesis 1:1, God initiated a work that is measured by time as we understand it.


The word *create*, as used here, translates from the Hebrew word *bara*.<sup>1</sup> By definition, a deity name is always the subject or the implied subject of this verb, meaning it refers solely to divine work. This has profound theological significance because it means that any activity associated with this word is inherently divine, initiated by God and God alone. All other verbs for "creating" allow a much broader range of meaning and can have both divine and human subjects.


Most scholars agree that *create*, as used here, expresses the notion of creation out of nothing. In other words, there was no preexistent matter from which our earth was produced. The light, waters, dry land, and seas created in Genesis 1:3–10 were made out of nothing, formed at God's command and then filled with God's created things.

 **Read Isaiah 45:18.** How does this verse speak about creation?

### Digging Deeper

Human logic teaches that you cannot create something out of nothing. Our understanding of the laws of nature governing the universe make such a thing impossible. But by the power of our Almighty God, such things are possible. In fact, God's Word explicitly states that with God *all* things are possible (Matthew 19:26; Luke 18:27).

 How does God create something out of nothing? What exactly happened in Genesis 1? To answer this, we must first know what our world looked like at the time of creation.


 **Read Genesis 1:2 and John 1:1-2.** Describe the condition of the earth at the time of creation. Who was present?

In the beginning the earth was formless, empty, and dark (from the Hebrew words *tohuw*, *bohuw*, and *choshek*). *Tohuw* means "to lie waste, a desolation, a worthless thing." It also means "confusion, without order."<sup>2</sup> *Bohuw* means "to be empty."<sup>3</sup> *Choshek* means "darkness, dark (as withholding light)."<sup>4</sup> This darkness surrounded a desolate, unformed mass. There was absolutely no light. It was out of this chaos, this immense mass of matter, that God created the earth upon which we walk today.




Biblical scholars debate exactly how creation occurred and the actual number of days or years that it took. Some theologians theorize that there were actually two creations. They base this on Genesis 1:2, which says that God was present in a mass of unformed matter before He initiated His first day of creative work, which is described in Genesis 1:3. Genesis 1:2 says, “The Spirit of God was hovering over the empty waters.” They contend that Genesis 1:2 describes the first stage of God’s creative process, initially unformed and unfilled, and that Genesis 1:3 relays the second phase, His intentional, purposeful process of forming and filling the earth.

While these are fascinating debates, for our purposes this distinction is irrelevant. We want to focus on the first few verses of Genesis 1, which teach that at a certain point in time, God’s Holy Spirit—the power that parted the Red Sea, the power that raised Jesus from the dead—brought shape, order, and light to a formless, chaotic mass.

 What do you think the universe felt and looked like before God’s Spirit began His creative work? Describe your image of the earth before God said in Genesis 1:3, “Let there be light.”

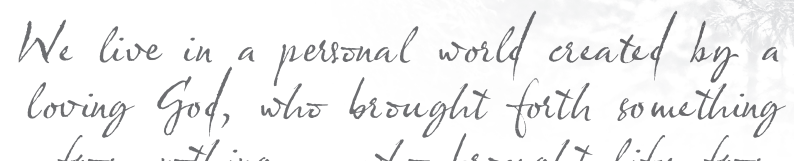
The words in Genesis 1:3–25 generate still more controversy among biblical scholars. Scripture teaches that God created our earth in six days. The probing question is whether this refers to six literal days as we know them. Some scholars argue that the days in Genesis 1 represent six literal days as measured by our modern-day calendar. Others argue the days represent eons of time. Still others argue the referenced days are merely a literary device and have nothing to do with the actual length of time that passed.

 **Read Genesis 1:3–25.** What words or phrases might lead to the conclusion that God completed His creation in six literal days? (See also Exodus 20:11.)

 **Read 2 Peter 3:8.** What does this verse say about creation?

Although we will not dwell on the answers to either of these questions because there is no certain resolution, they are interesting to think about. But what is certain is that Genesis 1 makes it quite clear that we live in a personal world created by a loving God, who brought forth something from nothing ... who brought life from death ... who made full from empty. And the best news of all is our God wants to do the very same for each one of us.

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*We live in a personal world created by a loving God, who brought forth something from nothing ... who brought life from death ... who made full from empty. And the best news of all is our God wants to do the very same for each one of us.*

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Now, let's explore God's creative activity during those first six days.



 **Reread Genesis 1:3.** Describe what happened on day one.

As we study God’s creative process, we find distinct steps. First, God spoke. Second, what God spoke came to be. Third, God evaluated His work and commented on it. Fourth, God named what He created. Finally, God established evening and morning, a beginning and end to each day.

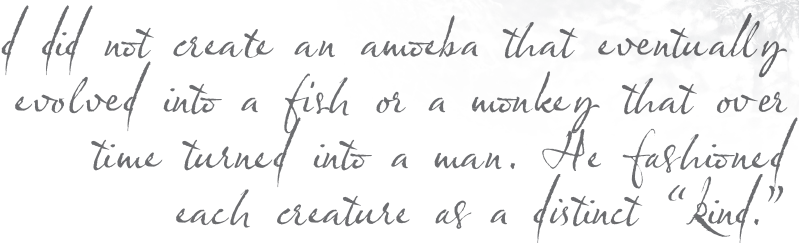
 Do you see this exact process in each of the first five days of creation?

 Did you find any differences between the days? If so, what are they and in what ways do you find them significant?

Did you notice God created each thing “according to its kind”? The root word here is *mīyn* in Hebrew. It means “to portion out, to sort.”<sup>5</sup> God designed each creature in a distinctive way. He did not create one or two types of creatures and intend for them to evolve into other forms. Each species, whether plant or animal, had its own distinct features, purpose, and role in God’s created order. The vegetation (1:11–12), the living creatures of the sea (1:21), the winged birds (1:21), and the living creatures on the land (1:24) were all created “according to their kind.” What God’s Word makes clear is this: God did not create an amoeba that eventually evolved into a fish or a monkey that over time turned into a man. He fashioned




each creature as a distinct “kind.” What a creative and awesome God we have!



God did not create an amoeba that eventually evolved into a fish or a monkey that over time turned into a man. He fashioned each creature as a distinct “kind.”

We see God’s incredible handiwork displayed most magnificently when we next meet the crowning work of His creation, mankind.

 **Read Genesis 1:26–27.** Did you notice God changed His creative process? Reread Genesis 1:26 and share how it opens differently from God’s other creative processes.

This time God said, “Let *us* make mankind in *our* image, in *our* likeness” (Genesis 1:26a). Creating people became a joint effort, a creative work done by God the Father, His Son, and the Holy Spirit. This is the first hint of the Trinity we see in the Bible.

 **Read Genesis 1:27** and write it below.




These carefully chosen words make it very clear that we did not evolve from any kind of animal. God made us in His image and likeness. *Image*, translated from the Hebrew word *tselem*, means “shape, resemblance, shadow.”<sup>6</sup> *Likeness*, translated from the Hebrew *dmuwth*, means “shape, fashion, model” and signifies the original after which a thing is patterned.<sup>7</sup>

Friend, lean in close and soak up these words. Our heavenly Father shaped and patterned us after Himself. By His very hand, He formed every inch of our forefather, Adam, from the top of his head to the tips of his toes. He gave Adam a heart to love and feel, a mind to think and comprehend, a tongue to speak and praise, emotions to laugh and cry, and talents to work and serve. God makes it very clear in His Word—we are *not* like every other created creature! He made us in His image, in His likeness, with His heart and His mind. As my pastor says, we carry the divine DNA of our Creator!


*Our heavenly Father shaped and patterned us after Himself.*


Jump ahead for a moment to Genesis 2:7 to find the specifics of how God created man.

 **Read the words of Genesis 2:7:** “One day the Eternal God scooped dirt out of the ground, sculpted it into *the shape we call human*, breathed the breath that gives life into the nostrils of the human, and the human became a living soul.” From what did God make man?




( Know HIS NAME  )

 Why do you think God made a man out of the dust of the earth?

 After *Elohim* scooped the dirt and sculpted the dirt into a formed being, what did He do in Genesis 2:7?

 Apply It

I want you to grasp the weight of the words in Genesis 2:7! God breathed a piece of Himself into Adam. God gave Adam, and He still gives us today, the breath of life!

 What does it mean to you that you are created in the image of God? What are some attributes of God (compassion, love, grace, justice, wisdom, creativity, truth) that you see in yourself?



## Part Three: Adam and Eve


**Memory Verse:** In the beginning, God created *everything*: the heavens *above* and the *earth below*. *Here's what happened.*

—Genesis 1:1

How are you coming along with your memory verse? Does it hold more meaning as you unveil the creative side of our God, *Elohim*?


Genesis 1 isn't the only place we find evidence that God is Creator. We find further affirmation throughout both the Old and New Testaments. Isaiah 45:18 reminds us, "For this is what the LORD says—he who created the heavens, he is God; he who fashioned and made the earth, he founded it; he did not create it to be empty, but formed it to be inhabited—he says: I am the LORD, and there is no other" (NIV).

*Elohim* formed and shaped our universe. Psalm 148:5–6 says, "Let all things *join together in a concert of praise* to the name of the Eternal, for He gave the command and they were created. He put them in their places *to stay* forever—He declared it so, and it is final."

 **Read Psalm 104** and write down your thoughts and feelings about what the psalmist shares about creation.

Both Psalm 19 and Romans 1 explain that God's creation is a reflection, a "wordless" message, about how God is the Creator of heaven and earth.



 **Read Psalm 19:1–6 and Romans 1:18–20.** The author of Psalm 19 and Paul, the author of Romans, both speak of creation itself as compelling evidence that God is Creator of all things, but for different reasons. What are those reasons?

### Digging Deeper

God labored for six days before He created mankind. God wanted to prepare a beautiful place for Adam and Eve. So before their arrival, He readied the earth by filling it with living things for their nourishment, use, and enjoyment. And, finally, at the end of the sixth day, God brought both Adam and Eve into being.

God’s creation story paved the way for another story—the story of relationships. More specifically, the relationship between Adam, and Eve. God created Adam first. He knew Adam would be lonely and would need a companion. But not one of his created creatures suited that role. Adam needed someone special, someone created just for him. So *Elohim* caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. While he was sleeping, God removed one of Adam’s ribs and from it fashioned a woman—Eve, God’s final creation. I like to say He saved the best for last!

God then presented the woman to Adam, who named her, saying, “At last, a *suitable companion, a perfect partner*. Bone of my bones. Flesh from my flesh. I will call this one ‘woman’ as *an eternal reminder that* she was taken out of man” (Genesis 2:23).

Eve had special significance because God created her to be Adam’s helpmate, to come alongside him to rule over earth (Genesis 1:26). They walked and talked with God every day, safe and secure in their relationship with their Creator. He provided for their every




need. God gave Adam and Eve the responsibility to care for and manage His creation. He equipped them, uniquely in all creation, with a mind and will of their own so they could do just that.

God gave Adam and Eve everything they needed; they lacked for nothing physically, spiritually, or emotionally. A.W. Tozer wrote of man's heart at this stage: "In the deep heart of the man was a shrine where none but God was worthy to come. Within him was God; without, a thousand gifts which God had showered upon him."<sup>8</sup>

God placed only one restriction on the happy couple. They were not to eat from the tree in the center of the garden in which they lived. Sadly, Eve made the mistake of wandering near the forbidden tree. Then Adam and Eve used their free will to defy the very God who created them.

 **Read Genesis 3:1–7.** What happened when Eve wandered over to the tree?

 **Read Genesis 3:21–24.** What was God's response?

Adam and Eve chose disobedience and fell from *Elohim's* grace. He issued severe punishments to them, including the loss of their home, a sentence of hard work, and a promise of sorrow, pain, conflict, and ultimately death.

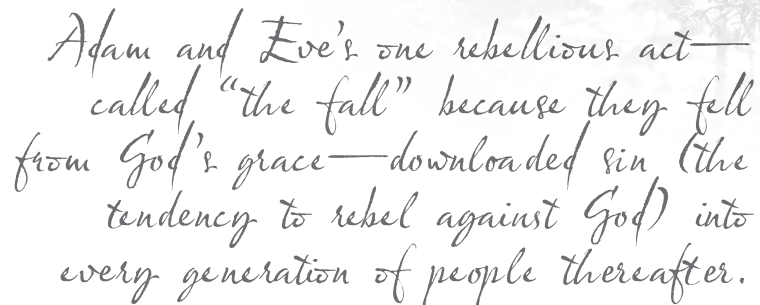
Adam and Eve's one rebellious act—called "the fall" because they fell from God's grace—downloaded sin (the tendency to rebel against God) into every generation of people thereafter, forever affecting the relationship between God and man, between man and

God's creation, between husbands and wives, and among siblings, families, communities, and nations.

Sin "introduced complications and has made [the] very gifts of God a potential source of ruin to the soul."<sup>9</sup> Sadly, Adam and Eve desired the gifts more than they desired the Giver. A.W. Tozer writes, "Within the human heart 'things' have taken over. Men now have by nature no peace within their hearts, for God is crowned there no longer, but there in the moral dusk stubborn and aggressive usurpers fight among themselves for first place on the throne."<sup>10</sup>

Because Adam and Eve's sin passed from one generation to the next, "things" have taken over our hearts. We too covet "things" more than God.

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*Adam and Eve's one rebellious act—called "the fall" because they fell from God's grace—downloaded sin (the tendency to rebel against God) into every generation of people thereafter.*

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 Apply It

Because God loved His creation and longed to be back in relationship with them, He continually intervened in their lives and sought to show them their sin and draw them into repentance. Sadly, God's children responded with stubbornness. Though at times some repented and turned their hearts back to God, as a whole they repeated the sins of Adam and Eve. And, if we're honest with ourselves, we'll admit that sometimes we behave just like the people we read about





in the Bible. I have good news for you though! *Elohim* had a plan, and that plan was fulfilled in the gift of our Savior, Jesus Christ. So, let me challenge you to examine your own heart today.

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*Because God loved His creation and longed to be back in relationship with them, He continually intervened in their lives and sought to show them their sin and draw them into repentance.*

---

 What good gifts from God do you desire more than the Giver? Take a few minutes to reflect on this, and then make a list of anything that you currently desire more than God.

 Write a prayer asking God to help you desire Him and love His Word more than anything else.

## Part Four: Created in His Image

**Memory Verse:** In the beginning, God created *everything*: the heavens *above* and the *earth below*. *Here's what happened.*"

—Genesis 1:1

God speaks in the most unique and unexpected ways. One afternoon, my daughter and I joined several of our girlfriends for lunch. As it is when you gather with friends, laughter filled our time together, so much so that, at my age, it prompted a quick trip to the ladies' room. As I closed the door in the stall, an advertisement for a plastic surgeon caught my eye: "Define yourself through the hands and eyes of a true artist."

The words pierced my heart. The joy and laughter that had filled my heart moments before vanished as I realized that there are women searching so desperately for their identity that they would look for it on the back of a bathroom door. I thought too of how God's heart must ache when one of His beautiful creations—a woman He created with strength, dignity, beauty, and unique purpose—hastily adds this doctor's number to her contacts. Sadly, this is where our culture has led us.

What our world has lost sight of—and what this doctor seems to have flippantly and arrogantly tossed aside—is the fact that there is only one true Artist. His name: *Elohim*. He alone is the Creator of human life; He alone is the source of our identity.


### Digging Deeper

Genesis 1 has taught us that God, in the first six days of creation, created the heavens and the earth and filled them with an incredible assortment of celestial bodies, geographical wonders, plants, and



animals. At the end of that sixth day, God handcrafted the first two human beings, Adam and Eve. But God didn't stop there; He continues to create life. He handcrafted each one of us. One of my favorite psalms beautifully portrays this truth.

 **Read Psalm 139:13–16.** What does this passage teach you?

 You are fearfully and wonderfully made by *Elohim*! Do you believe that God created every part of you—your body, your mind, your heart, your spirit, your soul? How does this make you feel?

 **Read Ephesians 2:10.**


God did not create us all from the same mold. We're not all designed to look like a Victoria's Secret model or a box-office movie starlet—and that's perfectly okay! Ephesians 2:10 (NIV) declares we are God's "workmanship." The Greek word for *workmanship* is *poiema*, which means "a product," something created from scratch.<sup>11</sup> From this Greek word we derive our English word *poem*. A poem is a work of art crafted with extraordinary skill. Friend, you too are a work of art! A supreme achievement. A work completely created and fashioned by God's hand. A vessel for His use and for His glory.


*God did not create us all from the same mold.*



I Know HIS NAME 

All too often, we women struggle to believe this. We sometimes see ourselves only as a knotted, tangled mess—like the underside of my grandmother’s cross-stitch patterns. But when I flip the stitched work over, I see the beauty of the finished product, woven together in an intricate pattern, perfectly crafted to bring joy and delight to all observers. That beauty was there all along, but I just couldn’t see it until I changed my perspective. So let’s revisit Genesis 1 for some answers on how to change our self-perception and to combat the lies we too often believe.

 Do you believe that you truly are God’s masterpiece? If not, why?

 What lies have you believed about yourself that might hinder you from seeing yourself as God’s masterpiece? Write down these things. Then ask God to help you to replace those lies with the truth of His Word.

Genesis 1:26 explains how God created us. Here God says, “Now let Us conceive *a new creation*—humanity—*made* in Our image, *fashioned* according to Our likeness. And let Us *grant* them authority over all the earth—the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky, the domesticated animals and the *small* creeping creatures on the earth.”

Did you notice that God said “let Us”? Who is “Us”? It refers to the Trinity—the three persons of the Trinity joined together to fashion God’s final creation. Human beings, the crown of God’s creation, are the handiwork of God the Father, God the Son, *and*



God the Holy Spirit. This truth distinguishes us from every other creature God made.

✎ In fact, this verse (Genesis 1:26) teaches that we are not only distinguished from the other creatures but also given responsibility. But for what? (See also Psalm 8:3–6.)

Earlier, we studied the words *image* and *likeness*. Let's return to these terms to go a bit deeper. *Image* translates from the Hebrew word *tselem* and means “an illusion, a resemblance.” *Strong's Concordance* says God made man in His image, “reflecting some of His own perfections: perfect in knowledge, righteousness, and holiness, and with dominion over the creatures.”<sup>12</sup> *Likeness* translates from the Hebrew word *dmuwth* and signifies in this verse “the original after which a thing is patterned.”<sup>13</sup>

✎ What does it mean that we are created in the image of God?

God is quite clear. Adam was not made in the likeness of any creature that went before him but in the likeness of his Creator. God created man from the dust of the earth, shaped him with His hands, breathed His very breath into him, and then imprinted His image on his heart, mind, soul, and body.

We bear the image of God. Cling to this truth and treasure it always in your heart. We share, though imperfectly and finitely, in God's nature. He imparted His identity, emotions, personality, creativity, wisdom, love, holiness, and justice into each one of us.




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*We bear the image of God. Cling to this truth and treasure it always in your heart.*

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Do you know what this means? It means *you* are His child, created in His image, valuable and worthy in His sight for all eternity!

 **Read Genesis chapter 2.** What are some ways you see God expressing His love for the man, Adam, whom He created in His image (vv. 9, 15–17, 20–21, 23)?

How are we created in the image of God? Three ways strike me in particular:

### ***The Mind of God***

God endowed us with intellectual ability far superior to that of any animal. He gave us a mind capable of hearing and assimilating His Word. He gave us emotions capable of responding to His love. And He gave us wills enabling us to choose whether to obey His Word.


 Share ways you exhibit this God-given intellectual ability in your everyday life.


### ***The Character of God***

God created us to be holy as He is holy. Adam and Eve, in their holiness, experienced perfect communion with the Father. They lived




and walked in God's moral perfection. We know this because in Genesis 1:31, God affirmed that everything He had made was "very good." It was only because of the fall that Adam and Eve, and all mankind, lost moral perfection. But God's holiness, His character, is still embedded in us. And through the power of His Holy Spirit, by which we were sealed when we accepted Him as our Lord and Savior, we can live and walk in that holy character.

 Some would say our conscience keeps us from choosing evil over good. What is it really that keeps believers from succumbing to temptation and disobeying God? How does God speak to you when you find yourself in this place of temptation?

 Share some of the ways we can be light to the world by showing our lost and dark world that we are created in God's image.

### *The Fellowship of God*

Before time began, God existed not alone but in fellowship with the Son and the Holy Spirit. God, who *is* love, desires love and relationship and created us to desire the same. Within each of us is a space made by Him, for Him. When He takes up residence in that space, He intends to fill it so completely that nothing else can ever satisfy. God also created us for fellowship with other people.

 **Read Proverbs 27:17.** Then take a moment to think about the people with whom you are most closely in fellowship. Are those



relationships God-honoring? Is your fellowship driving you to a deeper love of your Savior or hindering you from growing in your faith?

God has imprinted His image on us in a unique way, hand-crafted and gifted each of us with spiritual gifts and distinct talents. Never forget that *you* are the *only you* there has ever been or ever will be. God has a special plan for your life, and it's one that only you can fulfill.

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*God has a special plan for your life,  
and it's one that only you can fulfill.*

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We should never again look at ourselves (or others) as being without value or worth. Yes, Adam and Eve marred the image of God engraved on their hearts, and yes, they passed that damaged likeness on to their descendants, including you and me (Romans 5:12). But this fact does not nullify the truth that we bear God's image. It just means that we bear the scars of sin as well.

Even though we are born with a sinful nature, we find good news tucked into Genesis 3:15. God punished the serpent for interfering in the garden and drawing His children into temptation: "I will make you and your brood enemies of the woman and all her children; the woman's child will stomp your head, and you will strike his heel."



God warned of the perpetual animosity between Satan's forces and God's children. The first offspring (seed) of Eve was Cain, followed by all of humanity, including Christ. The offspring of the serpent includes demons, those who serve his kingdom of darkness, those whose father is the devil (John 8:44). God's punishment prophesied that, although Satan would continually launch attacks against mankind (strike at his heel), the seed of Eve—one Seed in particular—Christ, would deliver Satan's fatal blow (stomp his head).

God loves us so much that, even in those first days of creation, He set a plan in place to redeem us, to restore all that Adam and Eve lost. A plan that called for His Son to give His life for ours. That redemption began a process whereby, through salvation, God restores in each one of us the original unblemished image of God.


 **Read Ephesians 4:24.** How does it speak to what we are talking about here?

 **Read aloud the following passage from Ephesians 2:4–9:**

But God, with the *unfathomable* richness of His love and mercy focused on us, united us with the Anointed One and infused our lifeless souls with life—even though we were buried under mountains of sin—and saved us by His grace. He raised us up with Him and seated us in the heavenly realms with our *beloved* Jesus the Anointed, *the Liberating King*. *He did this for a reason:* so that for all eternity we will stand as a living testimony to the incredible riches of His grace and kindness that He freely gives to us by uniting us with Jesus the Anointed. For it's by God's grace that you have been saved. You receive it through faith. It was not our plan or our effort. It is God's gift, *pure and simple*. You didn't earn it, *not one of us did*, so don't go around bragging *that you must have done something amazing*.



( Know HIS NAME  )

 “God infused our lifeless souls with life.” Share what God is speaking to you in this moment. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for what God has done for you.

*Elohim* created you in His image. He wants you to discover who you are in Him, recognize all the treasures He has bestowed upon you, and live in the fullness of it all!

We continually compare ourselves to others. And because of that comparison, we often believe the lie that we don’t measure up. We look in the mirror and criticize, sometimes even detest, the reflection we see. And what we see in that reflection fully depends upon what fills our hearts: biblical truth or the world’s lies.

*Elohim* longs for us to see ourselves as His beautiful creation. The world creates an unrealistic and false image of beauty. Scripture testifies to the accurate image of beauty. God alone is the Author of Life. He alone handcrafted each one of us. And He alone knows the wonderful plans He has for us. Jeremiah 29:11 says they are plans “to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future” (NIV).

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*The world creates an unrealistic and false image of beauty. Scripture testifies to the accurate image of beauty.*

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 **Read Song of Songs 4:7.** Write out the verse in the space provided.

*Elohim*, the Creator of the universe, the One who hung the sun, moon, and stars, formed and shaped *you* and calls *you* beautiful. He created you perfectly for the plans He has for you. You are His handiwork; precious, beautiful, and valuable in His sight.

### Apply It

Being made in the image of God means we have within us the capacity to know God intimately and deeply. The moment God seals us with His Spirit, this knowledge becomes a reality as the Spirit quickens us to new life in Christ. We gain the ability to know the deep things of God, to experience His presence, to recognize His voice, to gain His peace, to live in His joy, and to know His love. Friend, you truly are His masterpiece. He loves you deeply and desires that you know Him more and more every day.

 **Read the following passages** and write down what you learn about your identity as a daughter of *Elohim*:

1. Galatians 2:20

2. Ephesians 1:4

*I Know HIS NAME* 

3. Psalm 103:2-5


4. Galatians 3:13

5. 2 Corinthians 5:17

6. Hebrews 10:8-10

7. Jeremiah 1:5

8. 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

 Which of these verses do you struggle to believe or live out? Invite God to bring these verses alive in your heart and transform the



reflection you see in the mirror so that you will believe them and walk confidently in who you are in Him.

If you're struggling to believe that you are everything that God says you are, or even if you're living with complete confidence in the fact that you're God's precious and dearly loved daughter, I encourage you to pray this prayer with me today.

*Elohim, thank You for creating me in Your image and that I am fearfully and wonderfully made. In You, I am forgiven and redeemed and a new creation. Help me discover the woman You created me to be. Give me eyes to see myself as You see me. Father, thank You that I am holy and set apart for Your purposes. Open my eyes to see my true beauty, a beauty that reflects Your heart, Your character, Your strength, and Your dignity. Plant Your truths deep in my heart. Empower me to influence the culture around me. Protect me from being deceived by its lies and temptations. Fill me with Your Holy Spirit and bless me all the days of my life. I ask all this in the name of Your Son, Jesus. Amen.*



## Part Five: Jesus


**Memory Verse:** In the beginning, God created *everything*: the heavens *above* and the *earth below*. *Here's what happened.*

—Genesis 1:1

Okay, time for a field trip. I'm taking you on a Scripture excavation! We are about to dig deep as we shift from focusing the eyes of our hearts on God and turn them to Jesus.

To do this, let's first revisit Genesis 1:26. God said, "Let *us* make man in *our* image, after our likeness." With these words, God revealed that He has always existed as more than one person. In fact, we learn later in Scripture that He exists as three persons, yet He is one God. But how can God be three persons yet one God?


The church calls this the doctrine of the Trinity. God eternally exists as three persons: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and each person is fully God, yet there is only one God.<sup>14</sup> Though Scripture never expressly uses the term *Trinity*, we find its essence in many places, especially in the New Testament. In Matthew 3:16–17, we witness all three persons of the Trinity present and active.

 **Read Matthew 3:16–17.** Write this passage in the space provided.

 What role does each person of the Trinity play here?




Matthew returns to the Trinity at the end of his gospel in Jesus' last words to His disciples: "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19 NIV).

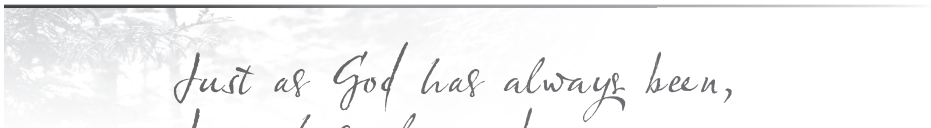
 **Read 1 Corinthians 12:4–6; 2 Corinthians 13:14; Ephesians 4:4–6; and 1 Peter 1:2.** Share what these verses teach about the roles of each person of the Trinity.

### Digging Deeper

In Part One, we learned that God the Father initiated the act of creation. But Genesis 1:26 clearly states that God did not create alone; the concept of the Trinity is essential to today's message.

 **Read John 1:3; 1 Corinthians 8:6; and Colossians 1:16.** What do you learn in these verses?

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*Just as God has always been,  
Jesus has always been.*

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Centuries after creation, John wrote: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made" (John



1:1–3 NIV). Just as God has always been, Jesus has always been. They both existed “in the beginning.” Before Jesus came into our world in human form, He existed with God the Father. The Nicene Creed, a famous statement of faith formulated by the church in AD 325<sup>15</sup> states:

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father by whom all things were made ...

Jesus not only existed with the Father but also created with the Father.

 **Read Psalm 33:6.** Describe how God created the heavens.

Jesus cocreated our universe with His Father. John 1:3 goes even further and says “without him nothing was made that has been made.” Jesus joined His Father to hang the stars, fill the seas, sculpt the mountains, mark the seasons, and knit together each and every creature that crawls and walks on the face of the earth. Colossians 1:15–17 says, “The Son is the image of the invisible God, the first-born over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him. He is before all things, and in him all things hold together” (NIV).

Paul’s words in Colossians affirm John’s teaching. Jesus is the “image” of the invisible God, meaning “the exact representation and revelation” of God.<sup>16</sup> John 1:18 says, “God, unseen until now,



is revealed in the Voice, God's only Son, *straight* from the Father's heart." And Hebrews 1:3 says, "This is the One who—imprinted with God's image, shimmering His glory—sustains all that exists through the power of His Word ..." In Jesus, God is perfectly revealed in human form. John 14:9 says, "If you have seen me, you have seen the Father." While nature reveals the existence, creative power, wisdom, and glory of God, Jesus reveals the very essence of God.

Next, in Colossians 1:15, Paul described Jesus as God's "first-born." The term as used here does not refer to actual birth order, like the first born of many children. Rather, the word refers to Jesus' status. God has given His Son positional authority.

This conveys two important facts about Christ. First, He preceded all of creation. Second, He is sovereign over all creation. Paul used this word because his audience, composed of mostly Hebrew Christians, was familiar with the Old Testament significance of the firstborn. A Jewish firstborn child had not only the priority of birth but also the honor and superiority that went with it.


Paul continued in verse 16, saying, "in him all things were created." He created everything in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible.

 **Read Matthew 8:26 and Matthew 14:13–21.** How do these stories speak to the truths that Paul taught concerning Jesus?

And Jesus, like God, is eternal. He was, is, and always will be. Jesus asserted His eternity in John 8. Here we read of a crowd of angry Jews, many of them Pharisees, challenging the claims Jesus made about Himself. Jesus asked if any of them could prove Him guilty of sin. Since they had no answer, they accused Him of being



a Samaritan and demon-possessed. They harbored deep hatred and resentment for Jesus and desired nothing more than to kill Him. And they had no idea that He was about to go to the cross for them, to give His life for theirs. In answer to their accusations about His identity, Jesus stood boldly before the assembly and answered them with these words in John 8:58, “Very truly I tell you ... before Abraham was born, I am!” (NIV).

 Read Exodus 3:14. Why are Jesus’ words here significant?

Notice that Jesus did not say, “Before Abraham was, I *was*.” He said, “Before Abraham was, I *am*.” He was telling them that He is Jehovah, the I AM, *Elohim*. Make no mistake. His audience knew precisely what Jesus was claiming, because in the very next verse they took up stones to kill Him for blasphemy!

 Read Revelation 22:13. What does Jesus call Himself?

 Read Revelation 1:8. What does the Lord God call Himself?

This is not the only place we see Jesus talking about who He is in relation to creation and time. Alpha and Omega are the first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, the language in which most of the New Testament was written. God defines Himself as the beginning and the end (Revelation 1:8). He sovereignly rules over all of human history. Jesus applied these same words to Himself in



Revelation 22:13, constituting a strong claim to equal deity with God the Father. Christ is before all creation and will continue to exist after our universe is destroyed. He, like God the Father, is the Eternal One!

Before we close our chapter, let's examine one more word from Peter about Jesus. "He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake" (1 Peter 1:20 NIV). Now read this same verse in *The Voice*: "God determined to send Him before the world began, but He came *into the world* in these last days for your sake. Through Him, you've been brought to trust in God, who raised Him from the dead and glorified Him for the very reason that your faith and hope are in Him" (1 Peter 1:20–21).

Peter's words in Acts 2:23 also confirm that Jesus' coming to earth and what happened to Him while He was here were part of God's grand plan: "this man, *Jesus*, who came into your hands by God's sure plan and advanced knowledge ..." Before time began, both God the Father and God the Son knew that this would be Jesus' mission. Even before they created the world, God designated His Son to be our Savior and Redeemer!

Jesus is

- ... the visible expression of the invisible God.
- ... the living expression of His Father's heart.
- ... the written expression of His Father's mind.
- ... the creative expression of His Father's hand.
- ... the perfect expression of His Father's will.

So doesn't it only make sense that if we want to know more about *Elohim*, we must get to know more about His Son? Throughout the rest of our journey together, we will do just that.

 Apply It

Creation leads us to the Creator. The sheer breadth of the heavens and the vast expanse of the earth point to an all-powerful Creator. The awe-inspiring heights jutting forth from the Colorado Rocky Mountains and the breathtaking palette painted across an Ocean Isle Beach sunset point to a personal and intimate God. A God who says, “Look, I am here!” God didn’t have to create such wonders; He chose to create them. He built them into our world. As gifts. As signs. As wonders to point us to His majesty and His glory. To point us to *Elohim*.

On earth, *Elohim* unveils Himself bit by bit. But one day we will gaze into the eyes of our Creator. It will no longer be a reflection of His glory that we see, like the breathtaking flight of the eagle or the vibrant colors of a sunset. It will be our Great God Himself. The Creator of heaven and earth. It will be *Elohim* in the fullness of all His glory.

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*On earth, Elohim unveils Himself  
bit by bit. But one day we will  
gaze into the eyes of our Creator.*

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No more will we experience God through His created things. Such things will no longer satisfy; they will no longer fill us with awe and wonder. *He will.*

I cannot wait for that day! What about you?


But until that glorious day when we meet our Father in heaven, the One who is the Author of Life, we will have to choose what we




believe: either Jesus is who He says He is, or He is not. *What will you choose to believe?*

My prayer is that you will choose to believe Jesus' words that He is the great I AM, Jehovah God, *Elohim*.

Here are two final questions for this section. Take time to prayerfully answer them based on what you have learned from God's Word and what God has spoken into your heart throughout your time with Him.

 Who is *Elohim*?

 What does this mean for my life?


 **Prayer:**

*You are Elohim, who made everything out of nothing, created order out of chaos, gave birth to all of nature, and called it good. Enable me to comprehend the vastness of Your glory and learn to live my life in a way that forever magnifies Your holy name.*



I Know HIS NAME 

## Optional Video Study

 Use the space below to note anything that stands out to you from the video teaching. You may also choose to take notes on a separate sheet of paper.

 Use the following questions as a guide for group discussion:

What one thing stood out to you most in this chapter?

How can you apply the name of God you studied this week to your own life and current situation?

Take a few moments to review this week's memory verse together. What does this verse mean to you personally?

Could you relate to any of the people or situations from the Bible that you studied this week? If so, how?

