

# Wives after, God

Encouraging Each Other In Faith & Marriage

A 12-Week Group Study by  
JENNIFER SMITH



Unveiled Wife

# Wives After God

12-Week Group Study For Wives

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*This group study is dedicated to the people who have poured into my life sharing the light of Christ and teaching me the importance of discipleship and to the wives who, all those years ago, sat in my living room and committed to seeking God with me.*

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## *DEAR WIFE,*

It is such a wonderful blessing to share this group study with you. I desperately desired a resource that would encourage growth in my faith and growth in my relationships. I found just what I needed in my living room in the company of a few other wives willing to explore God's Word and what He says about marriage! The small group of wives I invited over each week helped me in great ways and I will forever be grateful for those precious moments we shared together. As God prepared my heart each week for our group time, He was using my need for community and discipleship to create this beautiful 12-Week study that you are about to experience. God had a much bigger plan with this study than I could ever have imagined. Taking it from a small group of women I know and putting it into the hands of many more all around the world. I hope and pray that this study is revolutionary in the two most important and intimate relationships in your life, your walk with God and your journey with your husband. I also hope that it helps you connect and build strong relationships with other wives, in real life. Be encouraged knowing that there are many more wives also experiencing the richness of this content, intentionally striving to be more holy as a child of God and as a wife. You are not alone in your struggles and you are not alone in your transformation of becoming the woman God wants you to be. Knowing that you are rallying with wives all across the world to make positive changes in your faith and in your relationships should be empowering! Thank you so much for taking the time to commit to this study, thank you for being a wife after God, and thank you for investing in your marriage. May faith, hope, and love abound, and may peace fill your heart!

Love,  
Jennifer Smith

# Dear Lord,

*Thank you for this beautiful woman reading this right now. I pray a blessing over her life. May your Holy Spirit fill her heart with peace and joy. I pray that you would use this group study to help her build stronger relationships with you, with her husband, and with other wives. May you empower her as she strives to be the woman you created her to be. Give her the courage to share openly during every discussion and may you use the group time to encourage and teach her about your truth.*

*I pray against the enemy and any schemes he may have to rob her of the benefits of experiencing this group study. I pray against any distractions that would attempt to keep her from attending each meeting or initiating the weekly challenges. Guard her heart and her mind in Christ Jesus. I pray right now that you would prepare her for what she is about to experience during the next 12 weeks. May you also protect her marriage from the attacks of the enemy. I pray her husband supports her and the time she is devoting to this study. Use this resource to make a powerful impact in their marriage.*

*Thank you for her life, thank you for her relationship with her husband, and thank you for giving her the opportunity to join other wives in the process of discipleship. Bless this wife and continue to lavish her with your great love. In Jesus' name, AMEN!*

# *PREFACE*

Hi and welcome to Wives After God!

You are reading this right now because God loves you and He cares about your marriage. Whether you were invited by another wife or simply stumbled upon this group study by chance, the truth is that God is the one who is inviting you to participate in this incredible 12-Week study designed to help you grow into the woman He created you to be!

Wives After God was developed as a resource to help you walk alongside other women, rally together in the daily battles you face, and to learn more about God's ways. Most wives can relate with the natural ebb and flow in marriages, but how many wives have a place of support, comfort, and help, where the freedom to be vulnerable is abundant and God's redeeming love heals? This group study is designed to encourage and disciple wives in a positive environment, where wives can minister to other wives through prayer, fellowship, and accountability.

Discipleship is the process by which Christians are equipped by the Holy Spirit to overcome the pressures and trials of life and become more like Christ. This process requires you to examine your thoughts, words, and actions, while striving to make adjustments necessary to align them to the Word of God. Wives After God is a group study that guides you through this process, challenging you

to examine your heart, with the love and support of other wives who are also eager to become more like Christ. Discipleship is important because as you become more like Christ, you become a living testimony of His great love story, spreading the good news of His message to others.

The benefit of experiencing a group setting is that you will quickly realize you are not alone in your struggles. Every wife encounters hardships, pain, and questions about life and marriage all the time. Participating in this group study will reveal the importance of connecting with other wives and the value of their support, accountability, and the wisdom collected from personal experiences. Sharing in a group format will help you gain understanding and insight as you press toward God together with two common goals: to blossom as a Christian woman and to better your relationships.

This study is designed to be shared in a small group setting. The directives are purposed for a wife who is willing to take a leap of faith and begin a group or to join one through invitation. This same study guide should be used by all participants in the group as they follow along with the leader.

The content in this group study was the inspiration for the 30-Day Devotional - Wife After God. It may be a great resource to read while going through this group study as it covers most of the session topics in greater depth. It is available at [WifeAfterGod.com](http://WifeAfterGod.com).

**If you are leading a group please continue reading.**

**If you are a wife joining a group please wait to move on until your group gathers for the first meeting.**

# *FOR THOSE PLANNING TO LEAD A GROUP*

## Here Is How To Get Started:

Begin by praying. Ask God to help you develop a list of 2-10 wives whom He desires to join your study. The Holy Spirit is already at work in other women's hearts, preparing them for this. Once the names start to come, write them down, and continue to pray for them, especially their marriages.

When you are ready, share with each wife how God has placed this study on your heart and that you felt led to invite them. It is very important to stress the exclusivity of the group because it will catch fire. Wives will ask you if they can bring a friend, but you must pray about it before answering. The exclusivity of the group fosters an intimate environment where wives can easily build the trust necessary for vulnerability and transparency. Be gentle and kind when you respond to the wives in your group; once they understand why the group is exclusive, they will feel even more connected and secure. Some wives may reject your invitation, this is okay. Don't allow your feelings to be hurt! Not everyone's schedule may match up and every heart may not be ready.

You will need to dedicate about 1.5 - 2 hours per week for your group time. Don't be afraid to take more time if needed. This is when you and your

group of wives will meet and journey through this study together. Keep it on a consistent day and time - for example, Tuesday nights at 7pm - this way the wives know exactly when each meeting will be and can plan for it ahead of time. Deciding on a day and time may take creative organizing, but don't worry, surely you will find a perfect time to satisfy the majority.

You will ask each wife you invite to get their own copy of this study guide. That way they have access to all of the questions and challenges listed, as well as room to write down any notes throughout your time together.

Once you have the list of wives who will make up your group, the day and time when you will all meet up, and every wife has a copy of *Wives After God - The Group Study*, all you need is a start date!

Each session in this book is designed to be read aloud and discussed. There are 12 sessions in this study, which means your group should meet together for at least 12 weeks.

(There are a few other recommendations that may add a few weeks to complete if your group chooses to do so. Please refer to the end of this section for more details.)

At the beginning of every session there is a guided prayer that you may use to start off the session; however, you may pray your own prayer as well!

It is crucial to stress the importance of consistency in attendance. In order for each wife to receive the most out of this devotional, they will need to take responsibility for showing up, as well as completing any of the given assignments. If you make the effort to stress the importance of consistency and some of the wives still struggle to show up consistently, do not let it hinder you from leading the wives that do show up!

Your role in the group is to facilitate. You will be the one to read through each session and prompt the discussion questions. Even though you will be the facilitator you still have the responsibility to complete every given assignment and weekly challenge, as well as joining in any of the discussions. In addition, when scriptures are presented you should often delegate them out for the other wives to read to encourage participation. You will also be the one in constant communication with each wife, but you will want to encourage the women to build relationships with each other as well; hopefully, it will happen naturally. Sometimes conversations can get carried away into different topics; it is your responsibility as the facilitator to guide it back to the study material. However, it is also good to let the conversations progress, so use your personal judgment per discussion.

**\*Important to Note:**

The wives in your group may look to you as an authority or as the leader in the group. If questions come up that you do not have an answer to, simply

address the wives honestly, telling them you don't know the answer or that it is something you will have to research. **If you don't have an answer, it's okay. It's better to say that you don't know than to say something that contradicts God's word.**

If you want to read ahead to prepare yourself feel free! God is moving mightily using wives to share His passion for marriage all over the world. Thank you for being a willing servant to facilitate such a powerful discipleship group!

Also, at the end of the group, you will be encouraged to share a testimony about your experience as the leader. Please keep notes on your journey to help you prepare! Share both good moments and challenging ones.

Have fun and thank you for being willing to let God use you in such an extraordinary way!

***\*During the first meeting together with your group there is an assignment that each wife will need to participate in. Please be prepared by supplying paper and envelopes for each wife. You can make it simple or bring decorative stationery for them to use!***

## *ADDITIONAL MEETING IDEAS*

These are supplements, not intended to replace any of the actual meetings.

### **Guest Wife Meeting:**

Invite a guest wife from outside the group who would feel comfortable sharing their testimony and answering questions about it. Let the group know in advance so they can prepare questions if they would like. (This is a great way to expound on an area you and your wives would benefit from such as intimacy, finances, motherhood, etc. It is valuable to invite a guest speaker who has experience and can provide encouragement to your group.)

### **Date Night Meeting:**

Together as a group, plan and prepare a special date night towards the end of the 12 weeks. Craft special invitations to give to the husbands. Use this as an opportunity to dress up and cook for all the husbands, honoring them. You can go even further and plan a special moment during dessert to say one nice thing about your husbands to affirm them in the presence of others.

### **Girls Night Out:**

Have a girls night out where you all go to dinner or do something fun together.

# INTRODUCTION

## **Leader:**

*This introduction should be shared during your first meeting together. From this point forward you can read out loud to the group straight from the text as they follow along.*

Welcome to the very first meeting of Wives After God! We are here because God has pursued each one of us. God always initiates His relationship with us, giving us an opportunity to respond. Sitting here among this group is evidence of our response to Him. He wants our relationship with Him to grow alongside this group of wives. We have many differences, but our common denominator is wifehood and, during this study, we have the privilege of encouraging one another, advising one another and praying for one another. Let us hold each other accountable and pursue discipleship together!

This study is designed to walk us through an intense journey of experiencing God, specifically tailored to one of our most important ministry roles: being a wife! Here are some scriptures that support the purpose of this group study:

## **Please Read:**

Colossians 3:16-17

James 4:8

Matthew 28:18-20

Luke 6:40

These four scriptures are foundational to the purpose of this group devotional. God has called each of us to draw close to Him, to know the message of Christ, to be encouraged, and to be a blessing to others. These things occur when we meditate on His Word and share our understanding with each other.

There are 12 sessions in this devotional, which means for at least the next 12 weeks you are committing to the following:

- Spending quality time with God daily through reading His Word, praying, and journaling.
- Actively engaging and participating in all of the given challenges within each session.
- Consistently attending every group meeting.
- Committing to confidentiality and respect for others in the group.

Some of you may or may not be familiar with spending time with God on a daily basis. Whether you are experienced with this or not, here are a few quick tips on how to spend quality time with God:

- **First** you will need a Bible. It is written in Hebrews 4:12 that God's Word is living and active, so just as you would carry on a conversation with a close friend, God will converse with you through His Word. The material in this study is based on the NIV; however, reflecting on different translations can provide more understanding. Feel free to share different translations as you are going through scriptures.
- **Second** you will need a study guide to take notes in (some of you may want to also use a personal journal if you need more space to write). Writing is one of the most comprehensive ways to learn, because it forces you to slow down in your thinking process to allow your hand a chance to translate your thought. It is also very beneficial in that you will now have the opportunity to refer back to any archived entry and see your relational growth with God, along with any answered or unanswered prayers you may have written down.

Here is a journal entry excerpt for you to use as a guideline; however, there is freedom to customize your personal journal:

*(Date) 11-24-10*

*(What God Is Teaching You)*

*I need to stop worrying and give all of my cares to God. I need to keep praying everyday. I need to lean on God's understanding and not my own.*

*(Answer Questions From Devotional)*

*My worry stems from fears or insecurities that I won't have enough to get by.*

*(Prayer)*

*God, please help me not to worry about my kids or my job. Please give me confidence in the plans you have for me. I pray that you bless my husband and give him patience today. May your will be done in my life. Amen!*

When you spend quality time with God, growth in your relationship with Him is inevitable. The amount of time you spend with God and the length in words you write down are completely up to you. Just be sure to pray, read scripture, and record what you experience daily. If you have difficulty knowing what to read in the Bible, there will be guided verses listed at the end of each session for you to use as a reference. Remember, God wants to hear from you and He wants you to listen, the balance of both of these will result in great communication, the key to any thriving relationship.

Consistency is very crucial, both in your quality time with God and in your attendance each week for these meetings. Consistency reflects commitment, self-discipline, and trust. You are going to be building relationships with these wives and you will all be challenged in the same ways. This study will require you to take action! Some of the assignments will be more difficult than others; however, the result is a stronger relationship with God, with your husband, and with the other wives sitting next to you. You must understand that this discipleship process is only as effective as you are willing to commit, and the devotion you exert especially in your relationship with God, will overflow into your relationship with your husband.

Confidentiality is a must! Whether you know one another outside of the group or not, each of you has the responsibility to uphold the confidentiality of the group. Any intimate details shared within the privacy of this group should not be used to slander one's character in any way. Respect each other

to the highest degree. However, if something is mentioned that is illegal or raises concern for the health of another, please voice it to the group and decide together how it should be handled.

Also, since this group study focuses on marriage there will be moments when you share about your husband. This is okay if done in a respectful way. Please do not slander your husband's character to the group in any way. If, during discussion, a wife bashes her husband, please stop the conversation and remind the ladies to uphold their husband's character in spite of their frustrations with his character.

The format of each weekly session will generally be similar, with slight variations depending on the topic. All of the questions listed in each session need to be read aloud, including any prompting to define a specific word. After first discussing definitions, you may want to use a dictionary to help aid in defining certain words to gain a better understanding. These questions are intentionally provoking in order to fuel the group discussions.

Please note that each question is unique, resulting in many different types and lengths of answers; some may even produce silence, which is okay. It may take some time to feel comfortable sharing answers aloud; however, the more transparent you are willing to be, putting aside any insecurities or fears, will result in great discussion, deeper understanding, and the unveiling of truths that God wants you to realize about yourself as a woman, a Christian, and a wife.

Others in the group may be fluent during discussions, which is good, but be aware of the sneaky tangent. Consistently chatting off topic can interrupt the effectiveness of the devotional material. Please be respectful to each other during discussions, especially to me (the group's facilitator) and respond to each other in love and gentleness.

By committing to these standards you will allow God to transform your life, your marriage and countless others who you will positively affect through living as an example of Wives After God!

\*Sign below as proof to yourself and God of the commitment you are making.

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### **\*Important to Note:**

There may be questions that come up that I (the facilitator) may not have an answer to. In this event, I will simply tell the group that I don't know or that it is something I will have to research. It is okay if there isn't an answer or wise advice to every question; it is better to say that I don't have an answer than to unintentionally claim anything contrary to God's Word.

If, throughout the next 12 weeks, you glean wisdom about marriage from the study material and you feel it would benefit your husband, please share it with him. Explain what God is teaching you!

### **Additional Information:**

There is an individual 30-Day Devotional based on the material in this group study called Wife After God which can be found at [WifeAfterGod.com](http://WifeAfterGod.com) Please check it out for more awesome encouragement.

**Please take a minute to post a picture of your group on Facebook, Twitter, or Instagram, include how many wives are in your group and tag @unveiledwife, #WifeAfterGod and #WivesAfterGod. This will let other wives in the community know who is going through the study, providing encouragement to them, and it will motivate others to want to start a group of their own!**

*The content in this study, although rooted in Biblical principles, are the expressed interpretations and opinions of Jennifer Smith. She is not a licensed professional.*

There are certain situations in marriage that may need the assistance of professionals or authorities, such as abuse. Please do not hesitate to seek professional help.

Does anyone have any questions, concerns or comments?

Now that you know what is expected of you on a daily and weekly basis, let's jump into our first session.

SESSION 1:  
*MARRIAGE BY DESIGN*

Let's open this study with a prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit to lead each of us through this devotional with understanding and revelation.

*Dear Lord,*

*Thank you for each wife in this group. Thank you for bringing us together. May your Holy Spirit prepare our hearts for this study. May you use this resource to draw us closer to you and closer to our husbands. Give us courage to discuss the questions and help us to be transparent with each other so that our experiences help each other in our roles as Christian women and wives.*

*In Jesus' name, amen.*

## **Assignment #1 – Love Letter To God**

Every wife will need one blank piece of paper.

On one side only, write a love letter to God.

Take about 5 minutes to express the desires of your heart; don't hold back, this is personal between you and Him. You can mention the condition of your marriage, your goals for what you desire your marriage to be, or perhaps any pressing prayer requests. Most importantly, at the end of your letter include what you expect to gain during the next 12 weeks.

When you are finished, place your letter to God in a self-addressed envelope, seal it, and put in a collective pile.

*The Leader will be responsible for holding onto these letters; they will not be opened or tampered with. They will be handed back at the end of the 12 weeks.*

Now spend about 2-4 minutes each giving a brief description of your personal testimony; including when you got married, why you got married and one thing you love about being married!

**Ready. Set. GO!**

### **Marriage By Design**

**What is God's purpose for marriage?**

*(Give the group time to answer aloud)*

**Please Read:**

Genesis 1:27

Ephesians 5:22-33

Don't rush past these verses from Ephesians 5; they are the anthem to which husbands and wives should model their relationship.

God created the marital union between a man and a woman to mirror His image and to reflect the intimate relationship between Jesus and His followers, both of which bring glory to God.

Marriage is an opportunity to express unconditional, selfless, sacrificial love, just as Jesus did for us when He died and rose again.

**Define Love**

*(After discussing among the group, you may also look-up the definition)*

**Define Respect**

*(After discussing among the group, you may also look-up the definition)*

Although husbands and wives have needs of both love and respect, God intentionally chose to highlight the needs of love and respect because He created man and woman each with specific needs. He designed woman with a longing to be romantically loved and He gave man a desire to be respected. When the two are joined together they become one! He highlighted these needs accordingly in Ephesians to help us understand His design so that we can better meet those needs in marriage.

**What are the differences between showing love and giving respect?**

**In what ways does your husband show you love?**

**In what ways does your husband show you respect?**

**In what ways do you show love to your husband?**

**In what ways do you show respect to your husband?**

**What makes it difficult for you to love your husband?**

**What makes it difficult for you to respect your husband?**

The intimate relationship between a husband and wife was perfectly created and designed by God with purpose. Genesis chapter 2 explains that God placed Adam in the Garden of Eden, but quickly realized something.

**Please Read:**

Genesis 2:18

**What is God's response to man's need for a helper? See verse 19.**

God doesn't go straight to creating a woman; instead, he gives Adam the task of naming all the creatures. God created Adam so that He could share a love relationship with him. God wanted to give Adam an opportunity to participate in their love relationship. He did this by asking Adam to name all the animals; an important task that made Adam feel valuable.

**Do you allow your husband and does your husband allow you to participate in your love relationship (marriage) through trusting each other with responsibilities? *(Give Examples)***

A love relationship requires trust. Just like God trusted Adam, husbands and wives need to have a foundation of trust.

**What things keep you from building trust with your husband?**

**In what ways do you and your husband build trust in your marriage?**

At the end of Genesis 2:20 it states that, “for Adam there was not found a helper suitable for him.” (NIV) God knew Adam wasn’t going to find a suitable helper; He used this situation to show Adam his need for one.

**Do you think God continues to show man his need for a helper? If so, in what ways does God show man a need for a helper?**

## **Please Read:**

Genesis 2:21-22

Notice that God put Adam to sleep and then created woman. This means that man had nothing to do with woman's design! Women are God inspired, and when paired alongside man, they mirror God's image! God designed Adam with the purpose of marriage in mind, knowing that a husband and wife would mirror His image and reflect His love story, while experiencing for themselves an incredible and intimate love relationship.

## **Please Read:**

Genesis 2:23-25

Adam receives Eve as a gift from God, recognizing her as his counterpart, not because of anything she did, but rather because he knew God and trusted God.

**In what ways does God know you trust Him enough to receive your spouse as a gift?**

Eve did not have to do anything to win her husband's acceptance and affection. She was received as a gift and she received her husband as a gift.

**Do we understand that a love relationship is not based on performance? How does this challenge the way you view your marriage?**

**How is receiving our spouse as a gift from God demonstrated on a daily basis?**

Your attitude towards your spouse, how you respond to your spouse, and meeting your spouse's needs before your own, will reveal whether you view them as a gift or not. If you do receive your husband as a gift from God, a gift of value, a gift of worthiness, then you would be motivated by God's great love for you to respect your husband, regardless of whether you think he deserves it.

**Challenge:**

Find a moment to tell your husband that you respect him and give him two reasons why. This will greatly affirm him. Then ask your husband to list 5 needs he has and strive to meet those needs throughout the week. Be a blessing to him.

## **This Week's Verses:**

Acts 20:35

Ephesians 2:10

Galatians 6:9

Galatians 5:13-14

Matthew 20:28

Philippians 2:3-4

## **Prayer Requests:**

Take a few minutes to write down any prayer requests and then close in prayer.

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*Or Visit*

WivesAfterGod.com