

“You are much more valuable than you may even realize. You are a child of the King; you are uniquely called and positioned to live devoted to God as one of His primary agents for advancing His purposes on earth. That is a high calling, and He will enable you to live it well. Never forget your value. Never settle for less than who you truly are.”

—Kingdom Woman

WELCOME

Beginning this journey is just the first step to understanding the woman you’re called to be. By completing each week’s discussions, you’re on your way to learning about how you are able to use past mistakes, heartbreaks, and difficulties to shape the woman you are. You will soon discover that through living life as a kingdom woman and advancing Christ’s purposes, you will be able to maximize not only your own life, but others’ lives around you as well. Life as a kingdom woman reminds us of our own worth, our purpose in God’s kingdom, and that no matter where we are in our present situation in life, we are women of value, hope, and excellence. What we need and what our world needs for us to do is to step up and live our lives like the kingdom women we’re created to be.

How to Use This Study Guide if You’re Leading a Group

Congratulations! You’re about to begin a journey that may bring you to a better understanding of who you are as a woman. As the group leader, the most important thing to remember is to lead with purpose. The group of women you lead will hopefully come away from this experience with the knowledge that they are all kingdom women, deserving of living a life to its fullest.

Throughout this process, it is possible that many strong feelings may be brought to the surface. Avoid pressing group members to reveal information that they are not comfortable sharing.

Because of the nature of the material, it is suggested that you set some ground rules for what is being discussed. Make sure that everyone understands that gossip is something that is

not to be tolerated. Your goal, as a group, is to share and grow with one another; gossiping takes away from the full experience.

Encourage others not to laugh; though something may seem humorous to one person, the root from which that material is shared may mean something completely different to another.

If you'd like, you can share an occasional story in order to have the material become more relatable. This may help the group feel that they are in a comfortable, trusting environment.

Feel free to skip any questions that may feel too personal; however, encourage group members to search out the answers on their own. Confronting any additional questions individually only adds to the entire experience.

Let participants know that if they're struggling, help is available. Provide contact information for local Christian counselors, especially any who are connected with your church. If your church staff doesn't know of a therapist, Focus on the Family has a referral network of Christian counselors. For information, call 1-800-A-FAMILY and ask for the counseling department.

Are you ready to make the most out of being a kingdom woman? Together, you will be able to lead your group in order to make sense of each person's calling as a kingdom woman.

Kingdom Woman Discussion Questions

Questions from the Introduction

1. Describe a strong female role model you had during your formative years. What qualities did she have that you want to emulate? Was she a woman of God? If so, how did you know she was a woman of God?
2. On pages 2 and 3, Tony Evans makes the case that men are motivated by the influence of women, that women are one of the biggest driving forces behind much of what men do. In what ways do you agree? In what ways do you disagree?
3. Are women driven by male influence in the same ways? Why or why not?

4. In what ways do you see yourself as “naturally gifted to influence and impact” your world (page 4)? If you’re not comfortable talking about yourself, in what ways do you see other women as being gifted?
5. Is the concept that God fashioned Eve laterally from Adam’s rib a new concept to you? What have you previously been taught about a woman’s role in marriage or the church? Is Tony Evans’s statement on page 5—“There is no difference in equality of being, value, or dignity between the genders”—liberating for you? In what ways? What else is new or refreshing to you about this section (The First Woman)?
6. Tony Evans makes a bold statement on page 7: “The reason [God] created women was to advance His kingdom and His glory.” On a scale of one to ten, with ten correlating to strong agreement, how strongly do you agree with this statement? What does it mean to you to “advance” God’s glory? In what ways would you like to see yourself advancing God’s kingdom and glory?
7. On page 8 Tony Evans states, “We lack the direction to truly live out our [kingdom] destinies.” And on page 9 he wrote, “Many women today still struggle with turning over personal control in their lives, thus opening themselves up to heartache, loss, and chaos.” In what ways do you struggle to turn over personal control of your life to God? In what ways do you hope this book study will give you direction to live like a kingdom woman?
8. Select the answer that best describes how you see yourself in relation to a kingdom agenda and explain why:
 - a. I don’t see myself as a kingdom woman because I struggle to simply obey God. I make too many mistakes.
 - b. I believe that I can align myself under God as a kingdom woman, but I’m afraid I’ll give up when it gets too difficult. I’ve failed and given up in the past.
 - c. I can choose to believe what God’s Word says about me, even though I don’t see it right now. I can live more like a kingdom woman if I keep listening to His Word.
 - d. I am living the life of a kingdom woman, and I see God working in my life. I can become the woman He wants me to be—not the woman the world tells me I have to be.

9. How does knowing that women are “helpers” in the same way that God is a “helper” make you feel?
10. Eleanor Roosevelt said, “No one can make you feel inferior without your consent.” In what ways do you hope this book study will help you become bolder and more confident as a kingdom woman? What is one goal you can set today that will help you fulfill your purpose as a kingdom woman?

Questions for chapter 1: A Woman of Value

1. Before you read this chapter, what was your perception of a Proverbs 31 woman? Did you want to be like her? Why or why not?
2. On page 19, Tony Evans writes: “What sets a kingdom woman apart from any other woman boils down to her fear of God. Her reverence determines her actions, thoughts, words, and priorities.” In your life, what are the priorities that are determined by your fear of God? What priorities do you have that stem from desires that are outside the kingdom realm?
3. Read these four people-pleaser scenarios and discuss which one you’d most likely do:
 - a. You eat everything that’s served to you when you’re at a girlfriend’s home because you don’t want to hurt her feelings. You do this even though you know the food will make you feel bloated and gassy.
 - b. You’re standing still in the library stacks reading a book. Someone bumps into you and rudely says, “Watch where you’re going!” You apologize profusely.
 - c. You worked more than fifty-five hours this week. It’s Friday night. You have a cold. You’re looking forward to slipping into bed, taking some sleep-inducing cold remedy pills, and watching reruns of your favorite comedy TV show. The phone rings. It’s a woman from the church, saying the nursery is short a babysitter for a special event. The nursery coordinator is wondering if you can work with the infants . . . *tonight*. You blow your nose into a tissue. “Of course,” you say, sniffing. “I’ll come right over.”
 - d. Your husband/boyfriend/father hates the color pink, especially in women’s clothing. You’re at a clothing boutique and find a dress on clearance for fifteen

dollars that makes you look gorgeous and feel confident. But it's hot pink, and you know your husband/boyfriend/father will make a disparaging comment about it. You reluctantly hang the dress back on the rack.

- e. You and some coworkers are in a rental car on a three-hour drive to a conference. The driver selects a radio station with truly offensive commentary and music. You say nothing about the choice of radio station and sit quietly throughout the entire ride listening to coarse talk and vulgar music.
4. Does “exhaustion is close to godliness” (page 21) describe your tired life? Would you like to have more time for kingdom priorities? Do you see kingdom value in hiring a house cleaning service or “servant girl” as the Proverbs 31 woman did? Why or why not? (If you aren't exhausted, what encouragement or advice do you have for others? Please! Tell us!)
 5. Chrystal says, “I have a lot of pride. I hate the idea that I can't do it all. I hate accepting help” (page 25). But . . . she did manage to swallow that pride long enough to enjoy some free time after her father paid for her carpets and house to be cleaned. What would you do if you had two hours a day to spend on activities other than maintaining your home, taking care of your family, or working?
 6. Chrystal's mentor offered her some advice (page 27), saying, “Let [God] know that you are willing to be interrupted, willing to be derailed, and willing to be surprised if He sees fit. Then get up in the knowledge that your day belongs to the Lord.” This type of lifestyle is oh-so-easy to read about, but not-so-easy to live. What risks are involved if you offered yourself and your schedule to God daily? What might happen to your tidy to-do list? To your reputation? To your spiritual self?
 7. Tony Evans refers to Psalm 121:1–2 and James 1:5 as faith-building verses (page 28). What is your favorite Bible verse or Bible promise about God's faithfulness? How can believing the words of God help you live out your kingdom destiny? Tell about a time in your life when you trusted God in painful circumstances.
 8. What is one step any woman can take today that will help her revere God more and see her life flourish? What do you need in order to take that step?

Questions for chapter 2: A Woman of Hope

1. We've all heard the Cinderella story. What's your favorite thing about the traditional fairy tale or a Hollywood spinoff movie?
2. Whether you're married, single, young, old (or just feel old)—in some aspects we are all like Cinderella searching for the Prince. Which statement best describes your stage in the drama?
 - a. Prince? There's a Prince, really? Prove to me there's a Prince, and *maybe* I'll put on the dress and go to the ball.
 - b. There is a Prince, but He would never enter my lowly realm. I don't think I want to go to all that effort at beautification only to be ignored. It's okay if my stepsisters want to go and act like fools, but I'll just stay home and get caught up on the housework.
 - c. I'll go to the ball. But if the Prince does notice me, He would never ask me to dance. I'm too damaged for someone like Him to love.
 - d. I've heard stories about the Prince's lovingkindness and mercy. I've heard He can do miracles. I need a miracle, and so I'm riding to the ball in the first pumpkin coach that comes my way!
 - e. I met the Prince and He said He loved me, and I loved Him. But something happened; I'm a scullery maid again. I don't know how it happened, but I'm not living the life of a princess anymore.
 - f. I've been wearing this silly dress all my life. When is the Prince going to show up? How long must I wait?
3. On page 32, Tony Evans says, "A lot of us have given up on God. We have counted the years when it seems our prayers have not been answered, and we have determined it's too late. Too many times we miss out on the destiny God has for us because we have stopped looking. We have stopped hoping." Describe a time in your life when you've been low on hope. What happened?
4. Were you able to identify with the "bent" woman whose story is in Luke 13:11? How has your view of the world been distorted because of a "bent" perspective?

5. “Being a kingdom woman isn’t summed up in just going to church more or doing more good things. It’s about connecting with the One who gives hope,” says Tony Evans (page 34). How does a woman “connect” with the One who gives us hope? Can you describe a time in your life when you “connected” with God?
6. Why is it difficult to tell when our problems are rooted in spiritual matters? What is Tony Evans’s solution for spiritual problems? (pages 36–37). Do you agree or disagree with him on this issue? Explain your answer.
7. Chrystal offers a solution for life change based on Hebrews 12:1 (page 41). She notes that the word *sin* in this verse means “unbelief.” She also says, “We aren’t to get weighed down trying to fix this, that, and the other. Because if we don’t get the main thing right, we’ll never get the rest to fall in line.” What do you believe is the “main thing” she’s referring to? What is the main thing you need in your life in order to maintain a relationship with Jesus? Is this complex or deceptively simple? Why?
8. Do you believe the bent woman had a right to be blessed based on her heritage as a daughter of Abraham? Do you believe you have a right to be blessed based on your standing with Jesus Christ (page 43)? What does it mean to you to “be blessed”?
9. In what ways has this chapter inspired you to stand tall and walk straight?

Questions for chapter 3: A Woman of Excellence

1. Tell about your favorite restaurant or the most “excellent” restaurant experience you’ve ever had. What makes it “excellent” in your opinion?
2. On page 46, Tony Evans says God will ask us at the Judgment Seat of Christ: “Did you merely give God your leftovers, or was quality attached to your life even in the mundane tasks that pile up in a woman’s life?” How would you honestly answer that question today? How would you like to answer it?
3. In this chapter, the life of the biblical character Ruth is examined. Do you think Ruth was truly noble, doing “excellent” work, or do you think she could have been just lucky, at the right place at the right time? What clues do we have from the story that can help answer that question (pages 46–47)?

4. Does striving toward excellence sound exciting or merely tiring? Explain your answer. In what areas in your life are you experiencing “excellence”? Which areas of your life need a boost toward higher expectations? How is striving toward excellence a different goal than legalistic perfectionism (page 48)?
5. What’s one lesson we can learn from Ruth on how to have a spirit of excellence (page 49)?
Hint: It has to do with letting go of the past . . .
6. What can we learn from the Israelites about letting go of the past? What can happen if we keep harkening back to yesterday?
7. What are your “sloppy” thoughts (page 50)? In what way do you believe that attitude can determine your actions? Tell about a time in your life when you had an attitude focused on excellence and it produced godly results.
8. On page 52, “Chrystal’s Chronicles” reveals that she rises early and goes to bed late in order to achieve a semblance of excellence in her day-to-day mother routine. What sacrifices do you make in order to achieve excellence? Are the sacrifices worth it? Why or why not?
9. Chrystal also mentions that the rewards of excellence extend beyond this life. Is that just rhetoric to you, or does knowing that we are “investing in the pleasures of eternity in heaven” (page 54) motivate you toward excellence? If so, how?
10. In what way is your life of excellence meeting the needs of your family? The church? The community? If you’re not happy with your influence, what are some goals you’d like to set so that in one month you’ll be able to see growth in your life?

Questions for chapter 4: A Woman of Commitment

1. On a scale of one to ten, with ten being the most advanced, how would you rank your multitasking abilities? Do you believe as Tony Evans does that women are better at multitasking than men? What is your best multitasking talent?
2. In the story of the unnamed widow (2 Kings 4), we find out that her children were going to be taken as slaves to pay off her debts. What were some of the other pains she was experiencing (page 59–60)? In what ways can you relate to the unnamed widow?

3. One of Tony Evans's favorite sayings is this: "When God is silent, He is not still. God does some of His best work in the dark." Is there a time you can remember that even though God was initially silent, after a time He answered your prayers?
4. Tony Evans claims, "Sometimes God lets you be in a situation that only He can fix, so you will discover that He is the One who can fix it" (page 61). Have you ever been in or known someone in a situation that only God can fix? How does trusting God in those circumstances—when you can't trust in your own abilities—affect your faith?
5. Tony Evans defines a *rhema* as "a specific utterance with a specific situation or person in mind" (page 62). The unnamed widow needed a *rhema*. Do you think she was expecting to be told to collect jars? What would you have felt had you been the widow and Elisha had asked you to collect jars? Has God ever asked you to do something that seemed illogical and pointless? Did you obey? If so, what happened as a result?
6. Tell about a woman you know with "life wounds" who is more godly as a result. On page 64, Chrystal asserts that God doesn't look for women without smudges. Instead He looks for "a heart that will commit to follow Him. . . . He looks for whether the woman has learned to depend on Him, whether she knows the value of commitment and the supreme power of faith." In what ways do you fit that job description? What do you need to add to your spiritual résumé?
7. On page 68 Tony Evans says, "By giving, you open up a channel for which to also receive. In other words, by hoarding—or keeping what you think is yours only—you cut off God's flow to you." Do you believe this principle is truly rooted in Scripture? Discuss the verses Philippians 4:19 and Acts 20:35. What are some ways you see the principle of giving/receiving spiritual blessings working?
8. Tony Evans outlines four principles about the widow's path of commitment (pages 67–69): (1) God's way is the best way to address life's problems. (2) God responds to your emptiness. (3) Give others what you need God to give you. (4) God does not need a lot to do a lot. Which one of these principles holds the most meaning for you at this stage in your life? Explain your answer.
9. Read the Zoad poem on page 70 out loud. Which line in the poem resonates with you the most? Why?

10. How has your view on spiritual commitment changed or been expanded because of the material in this chapter? What is one way you can bump up your personal commitment to God this week?

Questions for chapter 5: The Power of a Kingdom Woman's Faith

1. The Evans family witnessed an event where God honored the prayer of a kingdom woman when she asked for the rain to stop (pages 73–75). What's the most "miraculous" event or prayer you've ever witnessed?
2. Read the story about Hannah's faith from 1 Samuel 1. What role did motherhood play in Hannah's society? How was Hannah valued by her husband? By Peninnah?
3. On page 77, Tony Evans says, "An important principle of living by faith is knowing that if God is the cause of whatever issue you are facing, then only God can be the solution." How did Hannah apply this principle? Do you believe that approaching God in faith can be the solution to any problem? Why or why not?
4. God blessed Hannah not only with Samuel but also with five more children. Do you think Hannah appreciated her children more than Peninnah appreciated her own children? Explain the reasoning behind your answer.
5. Read 1 Kings 17:9–24 and Luke 4:25–26. What are some of the odd elements in this story? Like the desperate widow, are you now or have you ever been at an economic point so low it seemed as if there was no way out? What happened?
6. Tony Evans points out that "Elijah's request wasn't practical. In fact, it might not have even seemed moral: to give food intended to feed her son to someone else. . . . It didn't make sense. In fact, it was downright ridiculous. Yet God had asked. And [the widow] obeyed in faith" (page 79). Tony then comments, "Sometimes the greatest faith is found in the most surprising places." Tell us about a situation when you have been surprised to find faith—was in you or someone else?
7. Face it: There will be times when God asks you as a kingdom woman to do something unpractical and even downright strange. What steps can you take today so that you're ready to

say yes to God when the time comes? What can increase your faith so you can believe that God has more than enough to supply all your needs?

8. On page 85, Chrystal declares, “[God] hears every cry and sees every tear. He is not absent when you are in a state of anguish or anxiety. He knows that you don’t have to travel your road alone. He is not off duty, on leave, or MIA. He knows that He has asked you for high sacrifice, hard choices, or to carry a heavy cross. Have faith.” What heavy load is God asking you to carry right now? How can remembering (on a daily basis) those other kingdom women in the Bible and/or in your Christian fellowship help encourage you?
9. What is one thing you can do this week to encourage another kingdom woman?
10. The widow of Zarephath gave all of her food, her “it,” to God (page 87). How much are you willing to give God in order for Him to answer your prayers?

Questions for chapter 6: The Pursuit of a Kingdom Woman’s Faith

1. Tell about a time when you were sick or someone in your life was ill and how your attention became fixated on finding healing or wellness. How does God use physical illness to get our attention? Do you believe a person can also be spiritually “ill”? Why or why not?
2. What are some of the different reasons you’ve seen, either in your life or in those around you, for shrinking back from trusting and relying on God?
3. Read Luke 8: 40–48 and Leviticus 15:25. What is one thing new you’ve learned about this passage from Tony Evans’s commentary? What do you think it was like for the woman to be considered “unclean” for so many years?
4. Which of the reasons listed below would be the biggest obstacle for you to overcome in order to seek Christ’s healing touch? Explain why.
 - a. Pride of public humiliation or fear of being seen as needy.
 - b. Fear that your request wouldn’t be granted because, well, it’s been so long and you’ve asked so many times before.
 - c. You don’t believe that Jesus really cares about your burden or the level of your pain; it’s your “thorn in the flesh” that you must carry.

- d. Because it just sounds impossible. Reason and common sense tell you that your situation is unfixable.
5. On page 94, Chrystal describes what it felt like when she found out her three-year-old son was out of the house unsupervised. What's the worst feeling of panic you've ever had? How was it resolved? Was your relationship with God impacted either positively or negatively? Explain.
6. When he ran away, little Jesse had been pursuing his mother with all the resources and strength he had available (page 96). What do you think would happen in your life if you pursued God with all your available resources and strength?
7. Tony Evans points out that there were a lot of people pressing against Jesus in the Luke 8 passage (page 97). What made the touch of the woman who wanted healing noticeable to Jesus? What was different about her?
8. In what ways do you struggle to be a true kingdom woman seeking after God instead of merely being a part of His Fan Club?
9. Why do you think Jesus wanted the woman to declare publicly that she had been healed?
10. On page 100, Tony Evans says, "[God] wants you to be His daughter. He wants you to have the courage to pursue Him publicly in order to enter into an intimate relationship with Him." What are some things you can do this week that will foster closeness with your heavenly Father?

Questions for chapter 7: The Possibilities of a Kingdom Woman's Faith

1. Like the thin mountain woman in the opening story, do you get tired of people asking you for help or money?
2. What's the biggest leap of faith you've ever taken? It can be spiritual, financial, social . . . anything!
3. Tony Evans tells us about the limitations of impalas: "The impala—despite its gift of leaping high and long—can easily be contained in a zoo enclosure with nothing more than a three-foot-high wall. This is because the impala does not jump when it cannot visualize where it will land" (page 102). In what ways do people make the same mistake? Think about big life upheavals such as marriage, changing jobs, becoming a missionary overseas, or getting a master's

degree—does fear of the unknown keep us from taking risks? What changes in your life have you avoided due to fear of the unknown?

4. Here's a bold statement: "Faith is acting like God is telling the truth. To act like God is telling the truth is to act on His words without having to see any proof first that what He says is true" (page 102). Is this an accurate portrayal of faith in your opinion or has Tony left anything out? If so, what? How can this simple definition of faith impact your walk with God?

5. At the gym, Chrystal has noticed that some treadmill users put a towel over the monitor/dashboard while they run. The assumed reason is that the athletes don't want to see the data about their speed, heart rate, or calories burned so that they can enjoy the run (page 104). In your Christian walk, do you pay attention to statistics, things you can measure such as attendance, daily devotion routine, tithing, or hours given to serve? What value do those measures have? Is there a better indicator of how your relationship with Jesus Christ is growing? If so, what is it?

6. Read Chrystal's prayer on pages 105–106. Then take a few minutes to write a prayer asking God to show you the faith path He has for you. Share a few lines of it with the group if you feel comfortable.

7. Tony Evans uses the story of Zipporah to introduce the concept of interposition (page 107). Zipporah's faith saved her family (page 108). Tony defines the term this way: "Interposition is when you act in obedience in an attempt to deflect God's judgment intended for someone else." What happens when a kingdom woman interposes on someone's behalf? Tell about a time when you or someone you know interposed on behalf of someone else.

8. When is acting in faith in obedience to God (even if it upsets your husband) necessary for a kingdom woman (page 108)? Read Proverbs 14:1; 1 Corinthians 11:3; Ephesians 5:22–33; 1 Peter 3:5–7; and Colossians 3:18. Why is it difficult for women whose husbands aren't being the true head of the family? Do you think God will honor women who, for the right reasons, lead their families toward holiness by submitting to Him? Explain your answer.

9. Rahab's name appears in the Hebrews 11 hall of fame. How does a prostitute rank in that honored list—or as Tony Evans might phrase it, "What made this hooker holy (page 111)?"

10. We've all made sinful choices in our lives at one time or another. Rahab was a prostitute, and yet God was able to use her because she had faith in *Him*, not herself. How does her

example inspire you to keep being faithful in spite of a messy background or your current struggles?

Questions for chapter 8: The Prayer of a Kingdom Woman's Faith

1. What prayers in your life appear to be unanswered today?
2. What is one new thing you learned about the passage in Luke 18, which is the parable of the persistent widow (pages 116–120)?
3. What kingdom-woman qualities did the widow possess? Who are the most persistent people in your life? In what ways do you relate to the widow?
4. Have you ever known someone like the judge? In what way can you identify with him? Most everyone can be worn down by someone who's persistent. In what area of your life are you most vulnerable to being worn down and giving in?
5. On pages 120–122, Tony Evans talks about “Claiming Your Legal Rights.” What rights do you have as a kingdom woman? Are you, like the widow, able to pray with confidence based on your legal standing in Christ? It may seem that praying with confidence in your legal relationship based on Christ is presumptuous. How is praying on the basis of your covenant standing as a kingdom woman different from demanding something from God?
6. Chrystal writes, “I will be honest and admit that prayer is still one of the hardest spiritual disciplines for me” (page 124). What is difficult about prayer for you? If you are a consistent prayer person, share your tips and insights with the rest of the group as a way to encourage them.
7. Review Hannah's prayer in 1 Samuel 1:10–19. In what ways is it unusual? Chrystal says, “Prayer is a conversation, an attitude, a lifestyle. It can take different forms—verbal or written, quiet or loud, kneeling or standing” (page 125). How does prayer take form in your life?
8. Make a list of five things that are most likely to keep you from praying. How can you master one of these five “prayer thieves” so that you have a more consistent prayer time?
9. Tony Evans encourages kingdom women to pray regularly, to pray sincerely, to pray secretly, to pray thoughtfully, and to pray specifically (pages 127–131). Which one of these prayer attributes is the most difficult for you to achieve?

10. Read the Lord's prayer from Matthew 6:9–13. What parts of this prayer will you make your own this week?

Questions for chapter 9:

A Kingdom Woman and Her Personal Life

1. Corrie ten Boom, in her famous book *The Hiding Place*, writes, “There is no pit so deep that [God] is not deeper still.” Corrie was a WWII concentration camp survivor. It would be difficult to imagine a pit deeper than being locked inside Ravensbrook. And yet, Corrie came out of that ordeal with her faith strengthened, not diminished. What’s one “pit” that you’ve been in or a friend or family member has been in, and yet God has helped you or another person climb out stronger?
2. Take the time to read John 15:1–11 from page 136 or from a Bible. Then describe what type of branch you feel like:
 - a. My branch needs more water. It’s shriveled and losing leaves. I am afraid my branch may be cut off.
 - b. My branch is alive, but I wish it would bear more fruit. I need Jesus to prune it.
 - c. My branch is healthy, thanks to Jesus’ thriving vine. I want to help more branches learn how to remain in Him.
 - d. My branch bears fruit, but sometimes the fruit tastes sour. I need to make sure I stay connected to the vine so that my fruit will become sweeter.
3. Like a good marriage, abiding or remaining in Jesus means having a deep relationship, well beyond mere acquaintanceship. “Remaining” is developing an intentional oneness with Him, focused on glorifying God and His kingdom. Sometimes we may think we have fruit in our lives when it’s really only happiness. Why is it dangerous to evaluate the quality of our lives based on happiness instead of on the level to which our lives glorify God? Why is measuring our life based on happiness an easy trap to fall into?
4. Identify one media-related “sucker shoot” in your life. With the group, brainstorm ways you can plan to eliminate its influence this week.

5. Read the story of Mary and Martha from Luke 10:38–42. Was Martha’s goal to serve Jesus a bad or unworthy goal? How can you differentiate between the “good” things in your life and the “best” things?
6. Tony Evans writes, “Essentially, Martha was accusing God of not caring about her working so hard in the kitchen (page 139).” Do you think it’s important to refrain from blaming God for our problems? Why or why not?
7. What are at least two benefits of being a Christian single woman? What does Tony say about the value of a single Christian woman? (See pages 140–143.) How may that differ from society’s views?
8. According to Tony Evans, can we expect God’s blessings when we’re trying to build a kingdom of our own? In addition to Psalm 37:4, are there any Bible verses that support this statement? [Possible answers: Matthew 6:33: Seek ye first . . .].
9. Chrystal has learned that trials have a silver lining. Your misery today can be turned into a ministry tomorrow. What’s one way you can use the wisdom learned through a past trial or unpleasant season in your life to encourage someone else this week?

Questions for chapter 10: A Kingdom Woman and Her Family Life

1. In the early 1960s, film stars Elizabeth Taylor and Richard Burton (both married to other people) began a highly publicized “romantic” relationship. At one point while they were out of the country creating scandalous newspaper headlines, the US considered banning them from returning. But return the couple did, making adultery appear exciting and glamorous. In 1969, California became the first state to frame no-fault divorce legislation. The rest of the states quickly followed. The language for the no-fault was taken from no-fault car collision law, and ironically today divorce is as commonplace as car wrecks. What are some of the social fallouts of the quick-and-easy divorce culture we now live in? Do you see Christians in your community holding to a higher standard of commitment than the culture at large? What do you want your family marriage legacy to be?
2. Do you believe Satan is actively seeking to create chaos in the world? Do you believe as Tony Evans does that “[Satan] tries to stir things up so you cannot find order, peace, and

harmony in your kingdom woman progress”? Why or why not? What other elements do you think contribute to a sense of chaos in our world today?

3. In what ways will aligning yourself and your marriage under God’s authority bring you blessing? What obstacles in your life make alignment difficult? If you’re single, what can you do to make sure your standing with God is aligned?

4. Chrystal laments on page 158, “Can someone testify with me that the hardest thing in the world for a godly woman to learn to do in her marriage is to keep her mouth shut?” *Hmmm*. Why is keeping silent so difficult at times? Why is keeping silent in marriage situations in particular even more difficult?

5. Read Psalm 37:4 aloud. Chrystal believes that her willingness to honor her husband’s desires sparked God to make “sure that the sofa [she] wanted was conveniently available” (page 159). Do you agree with her assessment? Does that mean every time someone obeys the Lord that he/she will receive a material blessing? In what other ways does God bless those who are obedient to Him?

6. What does Tony Evans mean on page 160 when he says, “Order has nothing to do with equality?” Do you agree with his interpretation of 1 Corinthians 11:1,3? Why or why not? Why do you think this is such a sensitive issue? What teachings have you heard—either directly or indirectly—that address the roles of men and women in marriage?

7. Read 1 Peter 3:7. How does being a “joint heir” make you feel? What is the significance of being equal with your spouse and yet having a different function? What is the role of submission for women according to 1 Peter 1:1–2? (See page 161–162.)

8. Tony gives an illustration of an eighteen-wheeler truck sharing the road with a Kia compact. What do you think was the point of this illustration? Do you feel more like the Kia or an 18-wheeler?

9. Why does God want kingdom women to have children? (See page 164.) What should our goals be when we’re raising our families? Which goals are toughest for you to accomplish?

10. What is one thing you can do this week to better align your life under God’s rule?

Questions for chapter 11: A Kingdom Woman and Her Church

1. Are you a member of God's Army or more like a member of the Secret Service? In what ways is making a commitment to church activities difficult for you in this season of your life?
2. What does Tony Evans mean on page 171 when he says, "The purpose of the church, *ecclesia*, is to manifest the values of heaven within the context of humankind"? Give one or two practical examples.
3. Read Titus 2:3–5. What are some of the roles of kingdom women in the church? Which roles do you see yourself as being gifted, or which roles would you enjoy trying out when the right season comes along?
4. Part one: How much money do you spend on spiritual development tools such as books, retreats, etc. How many hours a month do you set apart for special prayer times? Part two: Truth time—which of the three examples below best represents your hair budget and time spent in the salon? (This isn't counting shampoo and styling products or even manicures or facials.) Have some fun with this one. It's merely intended to get you thinking about external versus internal beauty priorities.
 - a. I'm a Cheapo-Clips girl. I spend \$20 every two months for a haircut, no styling. So I'm only out \$120 and a few hours a year—but if I can find a friend to cut it for free, that's even better.
 - b. I get my hair done at Veronica's. She's been cutting my hair for more than five years. She's worth the \$50 every six weeks, including tip. I spend around \$430 per year and up to 18 hours sitting in Veronica's chair.
 - c. I need my hair straightened, permed, or my extensions tended to every two months. I spend three to four hours in a salon and pay nearly \$160 every trip. My hair styling costs me around \$960 a year. Do the math and I sit for at least 18 hours a year while my hair is treated.
 - d. Hey, a girl's got to have color! Hair maintenance is so important that I can't even begin to put a price on it. Let's just say it's none of your business how much money I spend on my hair or how long I'm at the salon. (And Cheapo-Clips girl—don't you dare say anything to my husband about free, or I'll pull your hair out so you won't ever need a haircut again!)

5. Would your husbands—or if you're single, the people closest to you—say you're more beautiful on the outside or the inside? Or, as Tony would phrase it—do you look like a dollar but have only the value of a quarter? (See page 173.) If you don't like the answer he/they would give, what are you prepared to do about it?
6. What phase of life are you in? Are you an “older” woman, done with child raising for the most part? Or are you “younger” and in need of a mentor? How can the older women in your community reach out to the younger women? What value does your church place on woman-to-woman discipleship? (See page 177.)
7. What's the difference between a kingdom woman's actual age and her spiritual age? Tony Evans says (page 175) that “The more mature a woman becomes, the more secure she is in herself and her relationship with God. That frees her to build others up, help others out, and not pass along a piece of gossip when it crosses her path.” What are other traits of a mature kingdom woman? Which of those traits do you want in your life?
8. The Bible (see Titus 2) challenges kingdom women to put the home as her first priority. What cultural “voices” do you hear telling you otherwise? In your own life, what are the most common difficulties to maintaining a home while nurturing children and caring for a husband? If a kingdom woman is single and childless, what should be her first priority?
9. What's the point of Chrystal's “apple tree” analogy on page 182?
10. Make a list of five ways you help other women now or could help other women. Make a plan to either deepen a spiritual bond with a woman you currently interact with or seek a ministry to younger or less experienced women.

Questions for chapter 12: A Kingdom Woman and Her Community

1. Share a reason why you think Rosa Parks is a good role model for kingdom women. Did the account in chapter 12 give you any new information about Rosa?
2. Read Esther chapter 1. Would you want to be queen in Persia during Xerxes reign? Why or why not? In what ways could Vashti be considered a heroine? Read the first few verses of chapter 2. What was the main characteristic Xerxes was looking for in his new queen?

3. Esther was raised up for “such a time as this.” Describe the “times” that we have now. What types of kingdom women leaders do we need today? (I know that like Esther, all of you want to volunteer to go to a day spa for a year’s worth of treatments as “training”!) What qualities of Esther’s would transfer well to leadership in the twenty-first century?
4. It’s easy to identify good qualities in other people. What qualities do *you* have that God could use? Tell about a time in your life when a certain skill or experience you had suddenly became a key to opening a ministry door or a way to help someone. (See page 190.)
5. Read the story of the Samaritan woman in John 4:1–42. She was a social outcast, and yet Jesus showed her amazing truth. She recognized that she needed something more and that Jesus was that something more. In what ways can you relate to this woman?
6. On page 192, Chrystal writes, “The kingdom woman is the woman who is willing to abandon her own agenda, plans, and hang-ups to act on what God says. She is willing to leave the water pot at the watering hole and take action. My sister, the time is now. The people in your community need you now.” There are deep needs in the community. There is an urgency to share God’s kingdom news with others. What are the obstacles in your life keeping you from giving outward? Or, if you are committed to community ministry, share about the needs you are able to meet through God’s grace. What encouragement can you offer others?
7. Read Judges 4. Deborah and Jael made a formidable pair. With the help of the Lord, together they defeated the Canaanites. Why are these kingdom women distinct in the history of judges? What had happened to all the kingdom men? Do you think that God uses women only when the men fail? (See page 196.) Why or why not?
8. The New York mannequin models in front of Macy’s did their best to remain focused and avoid becoming distracted (page 196). What kind of preview model do you want to be for God’s Kingdom? When other people scrutinize you, are they seeing a steadfast kingdom woman or a woman who is distracted from her tasks? If you’re distracted, what are some things you can do to recapture your focus this week?
9. Read Luke 1:26–38. Tony Evans claims that “the single greatest impact ever made in history came through a kingdom woman” (page 197). Mary chose faith over fear when she said, “May it be to me as you have said.” You’ve now read 12 chapters about being a kingdom

woman. What is the one thing you've heard God telling you in this course? What is God calling you to do? Can you say to Him, "I am Your servant. May Your word to me be fulfilled?"