STUDY GUIDE

→ Video Experience ←



TONY EVANS CHRYSTAL EVANS HURST

KINGDOM WOMAN

FOCUS*

EMBRACING YOUR PURPOSE, POWER, AND POSSIBILITIES

→ Video Experience ←

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Kingdom Woman Group Video Experience Study Guide

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WELCOME, KINGDOM WOMAN!

Walking in the way of a kingdom woman is transformational. Beginning now, you can discover your true spiritual destiny by experiencing this dynamic DVD course. It's straightforward, easy-to-use, and most important—fun.

At the core of each session is a video presentation featuring one of the authors of *Kingdom Woman*: Dr. Tony Evans or his daughter Chrystal Evans Hurst. Plus, this package includes a special appearance by Tony Evans's wife, Lois Evans. The Evans family offers inspired teaching that will give you new insights into biblical principles as well as assurance that God tenderly loves each and every kingdom woman.

In each chapter of this book, you'll find the following sections:

The Gathering

Read this brief excerpt to focus on the subject at hand.

Show Time!

Use this section as you view and think about the DVD presentation; it includes thought-provoking questions and biblical input.

So What?

This section helps you apply what you've learned to your life.

Transformation Moments

This brief wrap-up will help you find encouragement and presents a challenge to try this week.

Note: The video presentations and this guide are intended as general advice only and not meant to replace clinical counseling, medical treatment, legal counsel, or pastoral guidance.

Focus on the Family maintains a referral network of Christian counselors. For information, call 1-800-A-FAMILY and ask for the counseling department. You can also find plenty of parenting advice and encouragement at www.focusonthefamily.com.

THE VALUE OF A KINGDOM WOMAN

The Main Point

Regardless of what the culture says, kingdom women are valuable to God.

The Gathering

Getting Your Thoughts Together

To find out more about what a kingdom woman is, read the following book excerpt and answer the questions that appear at the end.



A KINGDOM WOMAN'S STILETTOS by Chrystal Evans Hurst

Kingdom woman. Those words sound like some pretty high stilettos to walk around in all day. The truth of the matter is that I know I'm not that woman. She is someone I strive to become but whose roles and responsibilities seem like a lot to handle. The very definition of a kingdom woman sets a high

bar. After all, where is this woman—who is this woman—who regularly and consistently positions herself under and operates according to God's complete rule over her life? . . .

I desire to be the woman that He created me to be—not the woman whom I think I want to be or the woman the world tells me I should be. It brings me great joy to think of the detailed design and intricate effort that God put forth when making me. I'm so glad that I don't have to aspire to be anyone else other than that woman God wants me to be.

You don't have to seek anyone else's approval for the life God has given you to live. You don't have to apologize for the strength, fortitude, courage, talent, beauty, or intellect your Creator has given you. Ladies, we all are "God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:10).

Kingdom woman. Those four-inch red heels don't look easy to walk around in all day. But first looks can be deceiving. The right shoe made by the right designer and with the right materials can be not just wearable but comfortable! God has designed a plan and a purpose for you. You are not just "fearfully and wonderfully made" (Psalm 139:14); you are created in the image of a radiant, magnificent God who is full of beauty and splendor. So wear His glory well. Walk on His runway.¹

Why is it easy to believe that other women are the true kingdom women and not ourselves? Why do kingdom women look at all of the things they aren't—thin, rich, witty, fluent in six biblical languages—instead of looking at themselves as being created in the image of God?

Show Time!

Viewing and Examining the DVD Content

In this portion of the DVD, Tony Evans turns mannequins into metaphors for Christian living. Mannequins, he says, represent the store, or kingdom, of their owners. They are displayed to lure people off the street and into the department store kingdom. As kingdom women, they are on display for God. They are to model kingdom life and "lure" people into the kingdom of God.



After viewing the presentation "The Value of a Kingdom Woman," use the following questions to help you think through what you saw and heard.

1. Dr. Evans compares kingdom women to mannequins when he says, "The [department store] owners put them on display in order to attract us off the street into a kingdom called Saks. Unless people come off the street and into the store, they won't get the benefit of all that the kingdom has to offer. . . . Ladies, God has placed you on display, and He wants you to be a showstopper for another King and another kingdom."

If someone were to turn you into a department store fashion mannequin right now, which department store would you like to represent?

- Macy's
- David's Bridal
- Dillard's
- · Lands' End
- DICK'S Sporting Goods
- Abercrombie and Fitch
- Goodwill

•	other	

How many people would be attracted to your fashion style enough to go inside the store?

Today, if your spiritual gifts were on display for God, which department in the heavenly kingdom would you best represent? (1 Corinthians 12: 4–11.)

- wisdom
- faith
- miracles
- knowledge
- healing
- discernment
- prophecy
- other

Is it easier to understand your place in the kingdom of fashion or in the spiritual kingdom?

2. Dr. Evans defines a kingdom woman as "a female who consistently positions herself, places herself, and operates under the rule of God in her life." Is that different from the way you've been defining your walk with God? If so, how? What do you think about Tony's definition?

3. Let's look at Tony Evans's main text for this session, Genesis 1:26–27.

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him: male and female he created them.

Are women created in the image of God in the same way that men are created in His image? Is there anything in this passage that implies women are somehow created in an inferior way to men? What does it mean to be "created in the image of God"?

4. Is the concept that God fashioned Eve from Adam's rib—that she is an *ezer kenegdo*² helper and not a subordinate (translate: secretary, assistant, second-class citizen, cook, cleaner, child raiser, dish washer)—a new concept to you? What have you

previously been taught about a woman's role in marriage or the church? Tony Evans states in the presentation, "There is no difference in equality of being, value, or dignity between the genders." Is that a liberating thought for you? In what ways?

5. Tony Evans asserts that undisciplined men are "dissin" God when they treat women as less than essential and equal partners. God holds women in such high regard that He will not even listen to a man's prayers when he does not honor his wife as an equal heir in God's kingdom. First Peter 3:7 says, "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them with respect, . . . as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life so that nothing will hinder your prayers." God champions women to the extent that He will withhold blessings from the husband who disrespects his wife. Have you ever seen this principle at work? How does having God as a champion make you feel?

- 8
- 6. What was your reaction when Tony Evans spat on the onehundred-dollar bill?
 - Bring out the disinfectant!
 - Isn't it illegal to deface legal tender?
 - Ben Franklin just rolled in his grave.
 - I thought Tony's mom (or Lois!) had taught him better manners!

•	other		
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What was Tony trying to convey with that object lesson?

7. Read the following excerpt, and reflect on the questions at the end.



GOD IS EVERY KINGDOM WOMAN'S FIRST HUSBAND

by Tony Evans

Eve's first calling was to God—to fulfill His purpose for her life, which in her case was to help Adam. Her role as helpmate was not just a role

of companionship; it also included a significant role as collaborator in the dominion mandate.

Yet many women today—either because of divorce or a lack of kingdom men to even marry—do not have an Adam to help. If you are one of these women, take courage and pride in your calling, because God alone is your purpose. You have been made for Him. As He said in Isaiah,

"For your Maker is your husband—the Lord Almighty is his name—the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; he is called the God of all the earth. The Lord will call you back as if you were a wife deserted and distressed in spirit—a wife who married young, only to be rejected," says your God. (54:5–6)

Whether you are married on earth or if God is your Husband (Isaiah 54:5), your worth is far above any treasure. One of the most important truths you need to believe concerns your worth. You are significant. You are valuable. You are worth more than jewels. As a kingdom woman who fears the Lord, guard your value by first making sure you view yourself according to the value God has given to you. You are to do all you can to ensure that others treat you with dignity. You are to be treated as a treasure, not as someone to be trashed or used.

I understand that there are situations where you may not be able to con-

trol how you are treated, but that doesn't mean you have to acquiesce to it. You do not have to internally accept someone else's denigration of you. It should not affect your view of who you are. As Eleanor Roosevelt said, "No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

You are first and foremost a kingdom woman created for God's work. Your life, through His sustaining strength, ought to be one of great purpose, spiritual power, and possibilities.⁴

Based on this excerpt, what would you say is the primary purpose of a kingdom woman?

So What?

Helping It All Make Sense

Kingdom Woman Meets Antiques Roadshow

In the DVD session, Tony Evans tells the story of a woman who was selling a table for six hundred dollars. After recounting its value, she raised the price to one thousand dollars.

Now let's imagine that you're on the PBS program *Antiques Roadshow*. You've been waiting at a crowded convention center for two days for your turn to meet an official *Antiques Roadshow*

appraiser. Suddenly your name is called. You flush with excitement and step up on a dais covered in plush green carpet. The other people waiting turn toward you, gaping in anticipation. An intelligent-looking, impeccably dressed gentlemen begins to inspect you. You fear he may actually check your teeth!

First, he asks the usual questions: "How old are you?" "Where did you originate?" "Why are you here today?"

Like a fashion model, you pivot and turn so he can examine your person from all angles.

Then comes the speech where the appraiser lists your flaws: (Fill in what you believe to be your greatest shortcomings. List the mean things people have said to you over the years. List people in your life who may be disappointed in you because you haven't lived up to their expectations: your parents, your children, your coworkers, your friends, your teachers, or even your husband. In general terms, list the sins you've committed and the bad habits that you think stain your character.)

Now comes the interesting part of the show (the part that keeps this sleeper of a program on the air). It's finally time for the appraiser, after listing all your defects, to declare your true value.

He says, "Yes, there are certainly flaws, and one would expect that of someone derived from Adam and Eve's lineage, but ... in this owners manual"—he pulls a small Bible out of his pocket—"it verifies you were created in God's image ... " He begins to read from several passages and then declares, "Your

worth is far beyond rubies. You are a priceless treasure. You are a daughter of God!"

The audience erupts into enthusiastic applause.

(Take out your Bible and read the verses in their entirety or use the key phrases listed beside the Scripture reference. Fill in the reasons below that you have worth and value in God's eyes.)

- Psalm 8:5—"crowned [you] with glory and honor"
- Psalm 139:13–16—"fearfully and wonderfully made"
- Proverbs 31:10—"She is worth far more than rubies"
- Isaiah 1:18—"Though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow"
- Isaiah 58:10–11—"The LORD will guide you always"
- Jeremiah 29:11—"plans to prosper you ... to give you a hope and a future"
- Jeremiah 31:3—"I have loved you with an everlasting love;
 I have drawn you with unfailing kindness"
- Zephaniah 3:17—"[God] will rejoice over you with singing"
- Luke 7:47—"her many sins have been forgiven"
- Luke 12:6–7—"You are worth more than many sparrows"
- John 3:16–17—"For God so loved the world ... whoever believes in [Jesus] ... will have eternal life"
- Romans 5:8—"Christ died for us"
- Romans 8:37–39—"[nothing] will be able to separate us from the love of God"
- 1 John 3:1—"See what great love the Father has lavished on us"
- 1 John 3:16—"Jesus Christ laid down his life for us"

How did this exercise help you confirm your value in God's eyes? How did reflecting on the Bible verses influence the way you think about yourself as a kingdom woman?

Transformation Moments

Taking the Next Step at Home

Read the following Bible passage (Proverbs 31:10–31, ESV) and excerpt, and then reflect on the questions at the end.

"The Proverbs 31 Woman"

An excellent wife who can find?

She is far more precious than jewels.

The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.

She does him good, and not harm, all the days of her life.

She seeks wool and flax,

and works with willing hands.

She is like the ships of the merchant;

she brings her food from afar.

She rises while it is yet night

and provides food for her household

and portions for her maidens.

She considers a field and buys it;

with the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.

She dresses herself with strength

and makes her arms strong.

She perceives that her merchandise is profitable.

Her lamp does not go out at night.

She puts her hands to the distaff,

and her hands hold the spindle.

She opens her hand to the poor

and reaches out her hands to the needy.

She is not afraid of snow for her household,

for all her household are clothed in scarlet.

She makes bed coverings for herself;

her clothing is fine linen and purple.

Her husband is known in the gates

when he sits among the elders of the land.

She makes linen garments and sells them; she delivers sashes to the merchant.

Strength and dignity are her clothing, and she laughs at the time to come.

She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.

She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness.

Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her:

"Many women have done excellently, but you surpass them all."

Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her of the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.

The wife described is a kingdom woman fully engaged, and her worth is "far more than rubies." Single women can also follow her example in principle, especially in the community sphere.

Read the following *Kingdom Woman* book excerpt titled "The Proverbs 31 Kingdom Woman."





THE PROVERBS 31 KINGDOM WOMAN

by Tony Evans

The Proverbs 31 woman is the hallmark of kingdom women. I like to call her a woman for all seasons. She is strong, intelligent, capable, giving, resourceful, efficient, spiritually minded, and much more.

I know that sounds like she is a perfect woman, and you may feel that her standard is set too high to actually reach. But the Proverbs 31 woman is not the model of a perfect woman. Neither is a kingdom woman called to perfection. Let's use a stay-at-home mom as just one example. A kingdom woman is not someone who can multitask perfectly while also homeschooling three very different children, serving on four church committees, carpooling eleven neighborhood kids back and forth to soccer, keeping her home spotless, coaching the spelling-bee team . . . making her husband have the best night of his life each and every evening, and maintaining a size 6 figure well into her fifties—all while cooking only organic, nongenetically modified foods and making every meal from scratch.

That woman doesn't exist. And we didn't put this book together to make you think that you should be her either. In fact, from my experience pastoring a church for nearly four decades and spending thousands of hours counseling both women and men, the issue is often that women are trying to do too much—and all at once.

Women, you can be a Proverbs 31 woman and more—but that doesn't mean you do it all at the same time. One of the most important principles for you as a kingdom woman is that your life flows through different seasons. Each of these seasons carries with it different time constraints, blessings, and demands. To try to do all things without being cognizant of the season you are in is the surest way to burnout and even bitterness. The primary foundation of being a kingdom woman doesn't include a million different things done a million different ways. The primary foundation is actually simple and straightforward. It is located at the end of Proverbs 31. After listing everything that this particular woman did, the verse says,

Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting;

but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.

Give her the reward she has earned,

and let her works bring her praise at the city gate. (Verses 30–31)

What sets a kingdom woman apart from any other women boils down to her fear of God. Her reverence determines her actions, thoughts, words, and priorities. Without that, the demands of life would overwhelm any woman.⁵ A kingdom woman's value is intrinsic; however, her ability to serve God well is dependent upon her willingness to "fear" Him and allow Him to prioritize her tasks.