Bridges on the Journey
Choosing an Intimate Relationship with Jesus

Gigi Busa
Ruth Fobes
Judy Miller
Vollie Sanders
“Creative, insightful, experiential—this study has been designed with great care. It can take you deeper into the heart of a real pilgrimage with God.”

— PAULA RINEHART, author of *Strong Women, Soft Hearts* and *What’s He Really Thinking?*
A Woman’s Journey of Discipleship

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NAVPress

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Bridges on the Journey: Choosing an Intimate Relationship with Jesus
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A Woman’s Journey of Discipleship was written by five women who have experienced firsthand the joy of discipleship and have longed to see God ignite this same passion in others. This three-book series is designed to launch women on their journeys with Jesus, capturing their hearts to follow Him and equipping them to disciple others.

A Woman’s Journey of Discipleship is more than a Bible study series; it is a process through which women learn how to walk daily with the Lord and pass on to others that same discipling vision Jesus gave His disciples. Our prayer is that women’s hearts everywhere would be ignited to follow Jesus Christ and in turn disciple others, leaving a legacy of spiritual generations. Our hearts are expressed in this verse:

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.
(1 Thessalonians 2:8)

Will you join us on this great adventure?
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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INTRODUCTION

The revelation of God is whole and pulls our lives together. The signposts of God are clear and point out the right road. The life-maps of God are right, showing the way to joy. The directions of God are plain and easy on the eyes.

(Psalm 19:7-8, MSG)

You are about to embark on the journey of a lifetime. This lifelong adventure will lead you to become more like Christ, loving Him, following Him, and reflecting His love to those around you. As you progress on your journey with Jesus, you will discover Him transforming your mind, emotions, will, and spirit. As you continue to follow God, He will ignite in you a passion for a ministry of discipling others.

A Woman’s Journey of Discipleship is laid out as a sequential process covered in three books: Bridges on the Journey, Crossroads on the Journey, and Friends on the Journey. However, each book stands alone and can be used separately.

Bridges on the Journey introduces you to your life in Christ
Crossroads on the Journey invites you to go deeper in your walk with Christ
Friends on the Journey equips you to invest your life in others
BRIDGES ON THE JOURNEY

God invites you into a relationship with Him. To begin this relationship, you must cross the bridge of trusting in Jesus and His salvation. After this initial step of faith, you will encounter other bridges that, as you cross them, will help establish your new relationship as God’s child. *Bridges on the Journey* will help you form habits and attitudes that will result in intimacy with God, spiritual growth, and fruitfulness as you learn to follow Him daily.

CROSSROADS ON THE JOURNEY

The second book in the series invites you to take the next step on your journey. New steps often lead to a fork in the path: *Which way should I choose?* *Crossroads on the Journey* will help you use the Bible as your foremost resource for making daily life decisions. You will have opportunities to develop lifelong convictions to grow even deeper in your relationship with Christ and learn how to pass God’s love on to others.

FRIENDS ON THE JOURNEY

Jesus taught His disciples by example, setting the pattern for His followers. Through your life and ministry, you can learn to encourage and equip others, who will in turn invest their lives in future generations. This final book in the series is intended to empower you with God’s vision and passion and give you the skills for a lifelong ministry of discipling others.

WHAT TO EXPECT IN BRIDGES ON THE JOURNEY

All of us are on a spiritual journey. Along the way, many of us will ask deep questions such as “Why do I exist?” and “What is the purpose of my life?” In *Bridges on the Journey*, some of these profound questions will be answered as you come to realize how God is seeking a personal relationship with you and that He has created you to be loved by Him.
"Bridges on the Journey" is designed to help you establish your relationship with Jesus Christ. You will learn how to experience a daily, intimate relationship with Him that will encourage you on your journey. You will also come to understand more of who Jesus is and why He came to earth. As you get to know Jesus better, you will discover more about yourself and about God’s relationship with you as His child.

You will also be invited to experience the joy of relating to others in the family of God. Learning, sharing, and growing together are exciting parts of the journey. As you become confident of God’s love for you and His purpose for you in His family, you will enjoy security you may never have experienced before.

"Bridges on the Journey" includes the following components:

- **My Daily Journey** is a record of your daily discoveries about God and yourself and a place to share what God has been saying to you each day. My Daily Journey starts at session 3.
- **Our Journey Together** is a time for group members to share recent highlights from their My Daily Journey pages along with lessons learned on their journeys.
- **Reflections on the Journey** are personal stories from ordinary women about their encounters with an extraordinary God. Their experiences will encourage and motivate you to keep going.
- **The Travel Guide** leads you to a deeper understanding as you explore and experience what the Bible says about your life.
- **Learning the Route by Heart** invites you to memorize God’s Word systematically and allow it to change your life. Bookmarks with each week’s memory verses are provided toward the end of the book. Through consistent review of the verses, you will strengthen the vital habit of Scripture memorization.
- **Next Steps on the Journey** gives the assignment to be completed before the next meeting.
- **My Journey Friends** is a record of your fellow group members’ names, phone numbers, and e-mail addresses to help you keep in touch with one another. Please take the time during your first meeting to write down this information in appendix A.
Although both the My Daily Journey and Travel Guide sections invite you to spend time in God’s Word each week, they have different purposes. The Travel Guide gives you information about your life with God. The My Daily Journey section helps you build your relationship with Him. As you listen to God speak to you from His Word and respond to Him each day in the My Daily Journey section, you will get to know Him better. This practice can continue throughout your life even when you are not doing a formal Bible study.
God invites us to journey with Him. Each of our spiritual journeys will be unique. Regardless of where we started the journey, God was already with us, calling us to be His followers and disciples. In this session, you will be invited to know Him in a deeper way than you may have in the past. You will also have the opportunity to learn from one another as you share your stories with each other.

**OUR JOURNEY TOGETHER**

In your group:

- Share a little about yourself and your spiritual journey.
- Write the names of your group members on the My Journey Friends pages (see appendix A).
- Taking turns, read the introduction to this book aloud (pages 8–11).
Read Psalm 139:1-4,13-18 (nlt):

O Lord, you have examined my heart and know everything about me. You know when I sit down or stand up. You know my thoughts even when I’m far away. You see me when I travel and when I rest at home. You know everything I do. You know what I am going to say even before I say it, LORD. . . . You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body and knit me together in my mother’s womb. Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex! Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it. You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion, as I was woven together in the dark of the womb. You saw me before I was born. Every day of my life was recorded in your book. Every moment was laid out before a single day had passed. How precious are your thoughts about me, O God. They cannot be numbered! I can’t even count them; they outnumber the grains of sand! And when I wake up, you are still with me!

1. From the Scripture you just read, what do you observe about God’s knowledge of you?

2. These verses in Psalm 139 indicate how God has been with us on our journeys for a long time, even before we recognized Him. Think for a moment about your first memory of God. Tell the group about that memory.

3. Consider where you are now on your spiritual journey. Share about where you’d like to go with God as you continue your journey over the course of this study.
Next Steps on the Journey

Complete the following assignments before the next meeting:

• Read and complete “Session 2: The Bridge to a Relationship with Jesus.”
• Memorize 2 Corinthians 5:17.