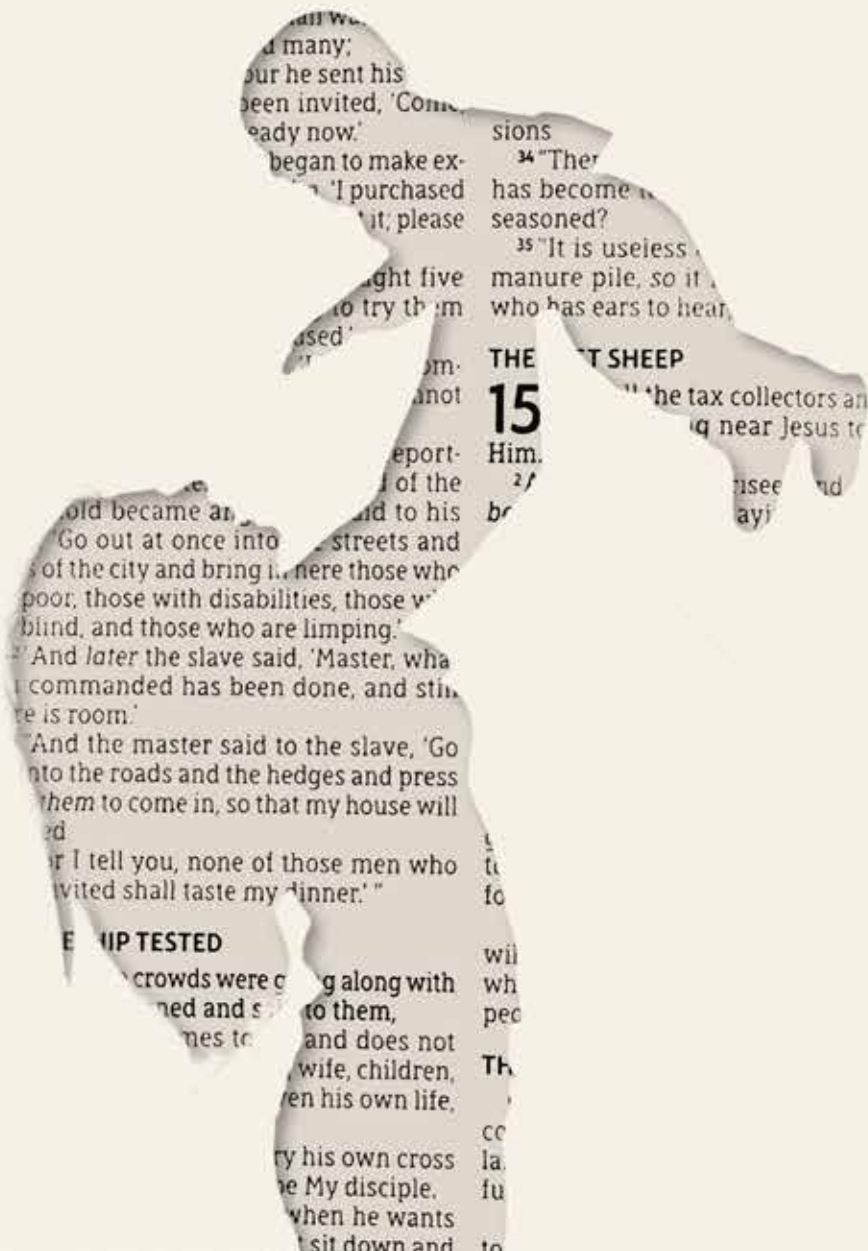


 Precept®

ABIDING MOTHERHOOD

An Inductive Bible Study



Abiding Motherhood

 **Precept®**

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Precept® Bible Studies

ABIDING MOTHERHOOD

AN INDUCTIVE BIBLE STUDY

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WEEK ONE

LESSON ONE

INTRODUCTION

Motherhood is hard and holy work.

It is a sacred calling, and one of the most meaningful responsibilities we will ever carry. Some days feel long, lonely, and repetitive. Others feel miraculous and magical—watching your baby take their first step, seeing your teenager walk across a graduation stage, or the day your child has a child of their own. Yet all our days remain grounded in the same truth: as you care for the children God has entrusted to you, He is lovingly caring for you.

This study is for every mother—those knee-deep in diapers and sleepless nights, those guiding children into adulthood, and those longing for a child, preparing to welcome one, or grieving one in heaven. Wherever you find yourself on your motherhood journey, you are welcome here.

In this Bible study, we will explore the purpose and beauty woven into every season of motherhood—the joyful, the difficult, the ordinary, and the sacred. We will turn our hearts toward the Father, learning to abide in Him and remembering that we do not mother better by striving, but by remaining close to the One who loves our children even more than we do.

As we walk with mothers from the Bible, our journey through Scripture will remind us where our true rest, identity, and strength are found. We invite you to come honestly and authentically—with your questions, weariness, hopes, and doubts. Come just as you are, knowing that God is already there, ready to meet you with grace.

Our prayer for you is that in these weeks, you will encounter the tender compassion of our Heavenly Father—who sees every unseen act, understands every ache, and provides mercy for each day. As you draw near to His heart, may your faith be strengthened, your soul be steadied, and your love overflow.

THE METHOD

We believe that relationship with God comes through knowing His Word. Studying the Bible allows us to know God deeply and live differently, being transformed into the image of Jesus.

We approach Bible study with a hands-on method. The Bible is thousands of years old, and it becomes easy to skim over strange stories or familiar verses without true understanding. To help you explore Scripture for yourself, we rely on the Precept Bible Study Method:



Observe: What does the text say?



Interpret: What does the text mean?



Apply: How should the meaning affect my life?

Taken together, these three components help you slow down, discover meaning, and find connections to your daily life.



Welcome to Precept!

Scan the QR code to view a welcome video from one of our Precept team members.

precept.org/essentials

THE METHOD



🔍 **OBSERVE:** What Does the Text Say?

The purpose of observation is to understand what the text says. As you seek to observe Scripture carefully and accurately, the following tools will help.

Begin with Prayer

The Bible study process begins with prayer. Although prayer is often a missing or overlooked element, we cannot overemphasize its importance. No matter how good our method or tools are, true understanding and life change only come through God.

Answer the 5Ws and an H

You will answer straightforward questions like *who*, *what*, *when*, *where*, *why*, and *how* using a particular passage of text. These questions are the building blocks for detailed observation. Answering these questions will allow you to read *on purpose* for the goal of understanding. This exercise will help you note the details of what you are reading so you won't miss anything. No special knowledge or insight is required.

Mark Key Words and Phrases

A key word is one that is essential to the text. Key words and phrases are repeated to convey the author's point or purpose for writing. To mark a key word or phrase, you will visually distinguish it with a symbol, color, or combination of the two. Once marked, you will see at a glance where and how often the word or phrase appears. This step may also include making notes on comparisons, contrasts, or terms of conclusion. Marking may

seem arbitrary in the moment, but it will help you pick up on themes and important points the author wants you to catch.

Make Lists

Making lists is to record all the details about something or someone in one place. Then you can review and reflect on everything you discover about a topic. This is most helpful when a lot of information is scattered across several verses or chapters (for example, the miracles of Jesus or the story of creation).

Identify Chapter Themes

The theme of a chapter will center on the main person, event, teaching, or subject of that section of Scripture. Themes are often revealed by reviewing the key words and lists you developed.



The Method

Scan the QR code to learn more about our Bible Study Method.

INTERPRET: What Does the Text Mean?

While observation leads to an accurate understanding of what the Word of God says, interpretation goes a step further to help you understand what it means. Thorough and careful observation flows into accurate interpretation. As you seek to interpret the Bible accurately, the following tools will be helpful.

Context

Scripture is a beautiful tapestry. When we observe a text, we focus on a small piece of the larger tapestry. We must also pay attention to the weave binding the material together. The context weaves throughout the entire biblical tapestry and binds it together. To discover the context, we will pay attention to the historical and cultural context, the surrounding verses, the theme and structure of the entire book, other passages across the Bible on the same topic, and the overall story of redemption in Scripture. It is important that we never take Scripture out of its context to make it say what we want it to say. Keeping context in mind enables us to discover what the author is saying rather than adding to their meaning.

Cross-References

Cross-references identify commonalities throughout different parts of Scripture. They allow us to trace the thread of common themes, words, events, or people. Studying cross-references helps us to seek the full counsel of the Word of God.

Word Studies

Our English Bibles vary from one translation to another. Different versions may use varying English words or phrases to translate a single Greek or Hebrew word. The tool of word studies helps us to accurately explore the meaning of a text by looking at the original Greek or Hebrew word behind the English word we are studying.

Sometimes interpretation is straightforward with an obvious answer. Other times, it's more nuanced. The Bible requires lifelong study, and the more you explore and meditate on Scripture, the more your understanding will grow day by day.

APPLY: How Should the Meaning Affect My Life?

Once you have seen what a text says and understood what it means, you can begin to consider how it affects your daily life. There are two primary ways we can apply the Scripture we read.

The first is a change of belief. Sometimes what you read will apply to matters of the heart or mind (and often, both). In this case, application takes us from simply knowing random facts to truly believing and living in light of that belief. Secondly, application leads to a change of behavior. Sometimes a text applies directly to something you can do or change externally in your life.

We will guide you through application with questions like:

What would change in your life if _____ were true?

What would be different in your life if you lived like God was _____?

How is your perspective on [current issue] affected by what you just read?

What steps can you take this week to _____?

Without application, Bible study is little more than an interesting academic exercise. This is where it is most important to involve others. Christians need other Christians, and you will find that your experience is richer and more enjoyable if you involve community in what you are learning.

A group discussion guide follows each week of study. We invite you to study alongside a group to help you reason through the Scriptures as you share ideas, discoveries, and prayers within your group.

And most importantly, it is essential that we involve the Spirit. Through Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit, true belief and real-life change begin to take place.

PAUSE AND REFLECT

Before we begin this study, take a moment to pause.

Invite God into this space as you reflect, pray, and gently consider your journey through motherhood so far. Reflect honestly on the following questions, remembering that this is just for you. Note your thoughts in the space provided or in your own journal.

1 // What do you love most about this season of motherhood? Where do you notice joy, gratitude, or life rising up within you?

2 // What feels most difficult or heavy right now? What parts of motherhood leave you feeling weary, unsure, or stretched thin?

3 // When you feel overwhelmed or inadequate, where do you tend to turn? Why do you think this might be?

4 // Where do you feel most aware of God's presence in your motherhood? Where do you feel distant or disconnected? How has your relationship with God been shaped through different seasons of motherhood?

5 // How has becoming a mother shaped or shifted your sense of identity? In what ways does your identity feel sure and grounded, and where do you feel uncertain?

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6 // What are your hopes as you begin this Bible study? How do you want to be different by the end of it—both personally and as a mother?

PRAY

Bring your reflections before God. Be honest with Him about any thoughts and feelings that arise, remembering that He knows you intimately and loves you unconditionally. Share with Him your joys and struggles, your weariness and hope. Bring to Him your questions, doubts, and longings without fear, knowing that nothing is too small or too messy for His care.

We encourage you to write out your prayers to keep your heart and mind focused on God and to be able to look back and see all He has done. You can use the space provided below or your own journal.

When you are finished, allow time for silence, trusting that God is present and attentive. Listen with an open heart, remembering that prayer is not only speaking, but also receiving.