

Title: Becoming More Than A Good Bible Study Girl

Author : Lysa Terkeurst

Category : Men/Women

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.

1Timothy 4:12 ESV

Lysa TerKeurst is president of Proverbs 31 Ministries and she and her team have led thousands to make their walk with God an invigorating journey through daily online devotionals, radio programs, online Bible studies, speaker/writing training, and more. She has a passion for equipping women to share their stories for God's glory through Proverbs 31 Ministries' annual She Speaks Conference and writer training program, COMPEL: Words That Move People.



In the Introduction of *Becoming More Than A Good Bible Study Girl*, Lysa writes, "I want to help women not only know God's truth but also feel equipped to live it out in their everyday lives. For too many years I was full of Bible knowledge with no idea how to let the truths I knew impact my daily life. I would go to Bible study, leave all inspired, and then come home and have a complete meltdown over spilling bleach on my favourite shirt. Or a kid's bad attitude. Or finding out a friend betrayed me. Or gaining back the five pounds over a weekend that took me two months to lose. How do we apply truth to this kind of everyday stuff?"

I know I am in for a treat when I read the Introduction. Yes, it is like having Lysa walking us through what it takes to become more than a good Bible study believer. The book has 6 parts to it and it begins with working through 6 areas of our lives, starting from the heart, followed by our walk with God, our relationships, our struggles, our thoughts and our calling. You can straight away identify yourself quickly when you read some of the chapter headings, namely:

- Trying to Be Good Enough, When I Feel Like I Don't Measure Up, Beyond Sunday Morning, Devotion Time Blues, Cross My Heart and Close My Mouth, When My Ugly Comes Out, How Jesus Helps Me Get My Groove Back, Learning to Simply Like Me, Finding God in Unlikely Places

I am particular encouraged by the section on 'When My Ugly Comes Out'. Lysa shares that when she is short-tempered and flat-out grumpy, she often don't feel God. She reminds us that the reality is, He is with us and all we have to do to sense His presence is to acknowledge His presence, ask for His help, and make the choice to praise Him despite my feelings.

If this book is borrowed, you may consider Lysa's other titles available in our Resource Library:

- The Best Yes: Making Wise Decisions in the Midst of Endless Demands
- Twelve Women of the Bible (Conference video)
- Unglued: Making Wise Choices in the Midst of Raw Emotions
- What Happens When Women Say Yes to God

Title: the lucky few ~ finding God's best in the most unlikely places

Author : Heather Avis

Category : Marriage / Family

“And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose.” Romans 8:28 ESV

This is a very loaded book. Read with great caution. Why loaded? It looks thin at first glance as I picked up this advance reading copy to read. I wondered who was ‘lucky’ at the end! Mother and author Heather Avis shares with us in great and grand detail the events of her life leading down to God’s calling to the path of adoption. Yes adoption, but adoption of babies with Down Syndrome and ... She has a way with words, depicting the whole adoption process. Not just the administrative part of it, but also the emotional, the spiritual and reflective part of it all. I sometimes wonder how a person can remember so much in detail as they go through life. And so I thought. Maybe I have not been really present. Maybe I have not been really living.

If you want to know what it means to walk in the shoes and hear the thoughts of a woman seeking God’s will through adoption, here is one best book for your consideration. I am sure you are in for a ride just as Heather, her husband Josh and all their families and friends and birth parents and families and church and hospital staffs and social communities went through together. And of course through it all, they saw God at work ~ through thick and thin. Some notable paragraphs taken from the book:

“Being intentional is often uncomfortable. But this is something we signed up for. For every yes that each of my children represent, there is an equally important no to our comfort. And having said those three yeses (adopting babies), we feel so lucky. Lucky, because every time we find ourselves waist deep in discomfort, we also find ourselves leaning on God, experiencing his comfort and peace.” (pg212)

“The truth is, I’m average at best. But I serve a grand God, and I’ve been lucky enough to answer when he calls. He does the rest. When we adopted Macyn, we had no intention of doing so as a way to be encouraging to others. As we stepped toward her and Truly and August, we had no one on our minds but our little family unit and our God. As we threw our yes pebble in the stagnant and murky waters of our lives, we did not think about the ripples the pebble would create. I believe that at some point in our lives each of us has the opportunity to leave our comfortable path and head into the wilderness. Each of us will at some point hold a “yes pebble” in our hands. My hope and prayer for all of us is that we will be willing to toss those pebbles into the murky waters and get our fancy shoes dirty in the mud. My hope is that as we say yes, the ripples of our decisions will begin to form wonderful waves. Waves, my friends, cannot be ignored.” (pg216)

