

B

THE BELONGING



BECOMING AN

# HEIR

# Heir

/er/ noun greek: kleronomos

1. To be given the power or right to take the portion that has been allotted to you.

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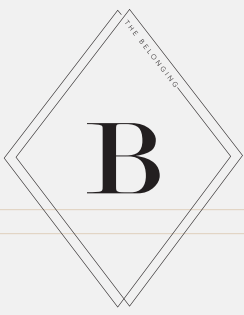
## Note from The Belonging Team

*Hello beautiful sisters,*

We are so excited to share this dream of ours with you all. We have spent countless hours on our knees, hands lifted high, and hearts bowed low asking our Father what he wants for his daughters in this day and time. In these moments, He has spoken. Through words, song, each other, and YOU! We believe He wants to pour His love out on each of you as you pour your love on Him. Our heart is to share as much of what He is pouring out for you as possible. In this magazine, you will find stories, devotions, reflection questions, prayers, scripture, and worship to fuel your faith and strengthen your heart! We are praying that it serves as a valuable resource for women, providing spiritual tools to fortify our connection with the Lord and ignite our journey of faith. It is a compilation of biblical truth, spiritual fortitude, and declarations of who God is and who He says we are. *When we know this, we can stand in confidence in the positions and places the Lord has secured for us, and take our place in His Kingdom!*

Love,

*The Belonging Team*



# THE BELONGING

## What is *The Belonging*?

The Belonging is a women's group affiliated with The AG Church in Willmar, MN. We are a welcoming and inclusive community committed to empowering, uplifting, and inspiring women with the truth and divine purposes of God. Our mission is to remind every woman of her inherent value and worth, affirming that each one has a unique and purposeful place at His table - a place where she truly belongs.

## Our Mission

**To prepare** and provide spaces for women to encounter God's presence finding rest for our souls, nourishment for our spirit, and strength for our God given assignments. (Ephesians 3:12, Psalm 73:28)

**To foster** and create opportunities for community to be built. (Romans 12:5, Acts 2:46-47)

**To grow** in Biblical knowledge and truth. (Psalm 119:105, 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

## Why the name: *The Belonging*?

Romans 12 emphasizes the unity and interconnectedness within the Body of Christ, highlighting the significance of each individual's role. Just as each part is essential for the proper functioning of the body, we, as believers, are intricately linked together in Christ, forming one cohesive family. This unity means that we are not isolated beings but are instead deeply connected, with each person contributing to the well-being of others. Therefore, we belong to each other, and our identities in Christ are intertwined with the collective identity of the Body.

AS ROMANS 12:5 STATES,  
"SO IN CHRIST, THOUGH MANY,  
WE FORM ONE BODY, AND EACH MEMBER  
BELONGS TO ALL THE OTHERS."

*Because what you bring to the table matters  
significantly in the Kingdom of God.*

# IN THE FACE OF THE FATHER

By Sarah Birkbeck

The Lord speaks to me at the wildest of times. Likely because I have four young children and an ambitious, British husband, but who's counting. This particular encounter with the Lord happened at the movie theater while watching Disney's remake of the Lion King. I planned, as I typically do, to take my wild family to the theaters not so I could enjoy the movie, but rather, so I could enjoy a nap. I am all about that multi-tasking life and win, win situations. But this particular day, the Lord had other plans for me.

The Lord really started speaking to me during the scene where the father lion took his cub, Simba, to the top of the hill. Both looking out over the land the father begins to explain to the small son how everywhere he can see with his eyes would one day be his land to have authority over and rule. If you have never seen the movie, the storyline is about a father and son relationship and the role the son takes when the father passes away. Do yourself a big favor and curl up on the couch with or without your kids to watch the remake of this cute animated movie! I bet the Lord will speak to you through it, too!

Sadly, the story quickly takes a turn when the father is killed in a stampede. The dark, evil character, named Scar, who actually orchestrated and caused the father's death, whispers a lie to the son. Scar tells Simba it was all his fault and that he should run and hide for the rest of his life. Enter the blanket of shame and

disappointment that causes Simba to leave his rightful position and ordained purpose, and go into hiding.

This is where the story gets good, Simba, the son who has now lost his father, ran to hide in a land where he meets some friends and learns to live the care-free life, singing the famous song, Hakuna Matata every day (serious road-trip material if you need some). He learns to tame how he was designed to live and feasts on bugs with new peers as he roams the land with those that used to be his prey.

Until one day, the prophetic monkey (you didn't know there was such a thing did you?) calls out to Simba to come to the water and look at his reflection. He says the words to Simba, "What do you see?"

Simba responds confused, "I see nothing."

He looks again and the reflection shifts to his father's face that calls out to him from the reflection in the water, "Simba, I have always been in you, and I have always been with you."

The son, though the lie from the enemy was not reversed, has identity reestablished and gains the courage to rise up and go back to the land he was always designed to rule. He ran toward the enemy to fight and save the people (in this case, the animals) and claim his rightful place in the kingdom, ruling the land always designed for him to have authority over!



If that doesn't make you want to roar, I don't know what will.

James 1:22-25 (TPT) says this, "Don't just listen to the Word of Truth and not respond to it, for that is the essence of self-deception. So always let his Word become like poetry written and fulfilled by your life! If you listen to the Word and don't live out the message you hear, you become like the person who looks in the mirror of the Word to discover the reflection of his face in the beginning. You perceive how God sees you in the mirror of the Word, but then you go out and forget your divine origin."

Notice, in the movie the lie was not corrected, the circumstances of the shameful event hadn't changed. So what changed? The awareness of who he was. He was the son of the king. A king who lived inside of him. **There is an enemy of your soul that wants you to forget who you are so that you do not understand your divine origin.** The enemy knows if he can get you to come into agreement with the lies that he is whispering in your ear, it will take you out of position, off of assignment and out of the will of God for your life. Hidden under the heavy blanket of shame, doubt, or insecurity.

I pray that this simple story encourages you to reestablish your identity in the face of the Father, through His divine words to you in scripture. Be reminded today that He is with you and He is in you and there is a territory that you have been assigned to rule on this earth. Do not let another day go by that the enemy is prowling on your land. **Today is the day to renew your identity and take your rightful position in His kingdom walking in His will for you.**

"For he is the complete fullness of deity living in human form. And our own completeness is now found in him. We are completely filled with God as Christ's fullness overflows within us. He is the Head of every kingdom and authority in the universe!"

Colossians 2:9-10 (TPT)

"WE ARE COMPLETELY FILLED

WITH GOD AS CHRIST'S FULLNESS

OVERFLOWS WITHIN US. HE IS THE

HEAD OF EVERY KINGDOM AND

AUTHORITY IN THE UNIVERSE!"

COLOSSIANS 2:9-10 (TPT)



# Observation

List any keywords or phrases from the passages in scripture that stand out to you.

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What do these passages in scripture reveal about God's character and heart for you?

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# Application

How do these scriptures resonate with your own experiences and beliefs?

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What shame, doubt and insecurities have you "off assignment" in the Kingdom of God?

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What lies from the enemy have you believed?

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What truth in scripture can you find to prove those lies false?

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# Prayer

Ask God to reveal to you any lies you have come into agreement with. What are you sensing is His response?  
Write a prayer based on the truths found in the scriptures listed reflecting who God says you are.

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# SCRIPTURE

Read James 1:22-25;  
Colossians 2:9-10

*"For in Christ all the fullness of the Deity lives in bodily form, and in Christ you have been brought to fullness. He is the head over every power and authority."*

JAMES 1:22-25

# THE BELONGING TESTIMONIES



## THE BELONGING FRIENDSHIPS

Angelina Trask

First and foremost, I am a firm believer that we need Jesus. Secondly, women need women in order to live out a godly life, our godly purpose, and to build each other up.

The Belonging women's ministry and events have been so instrumental in connecting and building friendships with so many women in my life. This ministry has poured out so much love and compassion in my life during great times and in times of pain and sorrow. These wonderful women have created safe spaces for us to be transparent and vulnerable, and room for us to get on our hands and knees with each other to pour out our love for God. I am forever grateful for the friendships, the laughter, the tears, the love, and for God placing this dream of a ministry on these women's hearts and bringing it into fruition.

## BOLD

Felicia Schmitz

I attended BOLD in November of 2022 — a word I never identified with, nor was familiar. The narrative of my life had always been fearful and timid. I walked in that night recently freed from fear but unsure of

what this new life would look like. Liz Martin opened with her testimony of being set free from fear and how the Lord took her from fearful to bold! I believe it was in this moment, an invitation was given for others to cross into new land. From the moment I walked in, I heard the Lord speaking something specific and at the end of the night a space was made for others to share individually. Physically trembling with fear, I walked up to Liz and told her I believed the Lord had a word for me to share and I knew I had to do it. It was in this moment that a stake was put in the ground. That night, an exchange happened and an invitation into boldness was accepted. I walked in that night already free from fear but stepped into a releasing from timidity into BOLDNESS!



# Heir DECLARATIONS

“For the Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword. It will even penetrate to the very core of our being where spirit, bone, and marrow meet! It interprets and reveals the true thoughts and secret motives of our hearts.” (Hebrews 4:12)

You must know and believe that the Word of God is the ultimate truth, it never changes. The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit have communicated through the word WHO you are - it is where you find your identity.

**YOU ARE  
NEVER ALONE**

**ISAIAH 41:10**

*“Don’t be afraid for I am with you. Don’t be discouraged for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will uphold you with my victorious right hand.”*

**YOU ARE HEARD**

**1JOHN 5:14-15**

*“And we are confident that He hears us whenever we ask for anything that pleases Him. And since we know He hears us when we make our requests, we also know that He will give us what we ask for.”*

**NOTHING IS IMPOSSIBLE**

**MATTHEW 17:20**

*“I tell you the truth if you have faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, ‘move from here to there,’ and it would move. Nothing would be impossible.”*

**YOU ARE BLESSED**

**EPHESIANS 1:3**

*“All praise to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms because we are united with Christ.”*

**YOU ARE GOD’S  
MASTERPIECE**

**EPHESIANS 2:10**

*“He has created you anew in Christ Jesus, so do the good things He planned for you long ago.”*

**YOU ARE A MEMBER  
OF GOD’S FAMILY**

**EPHESIANS 2:19**

*“You are a citizen along with all of God’s holy people. A member of God’s family.”*

**YOU ARE CALLED BY NAME**

**ISAIAH 43:1**

*“Don’t be afraid, for I have ransomed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.”*





You are an Heir of the Most High God and a joint heir with Jesus. (Romans 8:17) By His grace, God allows you to be a joint heir with Jesus. Jesus' life, death and resurrection made a way for you to share in everything that the Father has available. You are born (again) into a royal family...It gives your Father great pleasure to give you the Kingdom. (Luke 12:32) Jesus says, you will inherit the Kingdom prepared from the foundation of the world. (Matthew 25:34)

As the word of God proves, you must not simply believe and stand on positive thoughts and affirmations, for they are short-lived and temporal. But, fix your eyes on the truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ which gives you your identity, the very truths that are eternal. (2 Corinthians 4:18)

The world and culture seem to be speaking so loudly. You need to be intentional with what you think about and meditate on. The following are promises from the Word of God that will remind you who you are as an heir. Those mentioned are far from exhaustive...

*Beautiful Daughter of the Most High God,  
these promises are for you.*

*As an Heir, they belong to you.*

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**YOU ARE "IN HIM"**

**ACTS 17:28**

*"For in Him, you live and move and exist. You are His offspring."*

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**YOU ARE BOUGHT  
WITH A PRICE**

**1 CORINTHIANS 6:20**

*"For God bought you with a high price, the price of His only Son."*

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**YOU KNOW THE TRUTH**

**1 JOHN 2:20**

*"For the Holy One has given you His Spirit, and all of you know the truth."*

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**YOU ARE HOLY**

**HEBREWS 10:14**

*"And by His One perfect sacrifice He made you perfectly holy and complete for all time."*

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**HEBREWS 10:19-20 (TPT)**

**YOU HAVE ACCESS**

*“You are in God’s family because of the blood of Jesus, and He welcomes you to come into the most holy sanctuary in the heavenly realm-boldly and without hesitation. For He has dedicated a new, life-giving way for you to approach God. For just as the veil was torn in two, Jesus’ body was torn open to give you free and fresh access to Him.”*

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**YOU ARE FREE**

**JOHN 8:36 (TPT)**

*“So, if the Son sets you free from sin, then become a true daughter, and be unquestionably free.”*

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**YOU ARE WORTHY**

**2 CORINTHIANS 5:18**

*“He has made everyone worthy to be heirs of salvation and receive the blessing of eternal life.”*

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**YOU ARE REDEEMED**

**GALATIANS 3:13**

*“Christ redeemed you from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for you.”*

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**YOU ARE RESTORED**

**1 PETER 5:10 (TPT)**

*“The God of all loving grace, who has called you to share in His eternal glory in Christ will personally and powerfully restore you and make you stronger than ever. Yes, He will set you firmly in place and build you up.”*

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**YOU ARE SET APART**

**DEUTERONOMY 14:2**

*“You have been set apart as holy to the Lord your God, and He has chosen you from all nations of the earth to be His own special treasure.”*

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**YOU ARE BEING  
TRANSFORMED**

**2 CORINTHIANS 3:18**

*“So, all of you, who have had that veil removed can see and reflect the glory of the Lord. And the Lord - who is the Spirit - makes you more and more like Him as you are changed into His glorious image.”*

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As you reflect and meditate on these promises be reminded who He has made YOU to be. As an heir, He is calling you to be effective for His kingdom here and now. Glory to Jesus forever!! I hope that you are strengthened in your inner-person as you make these promises yours. Read them often.

Your Sister In Christ, blessings now and always,

*Wendi Freeman*



# THE BELONGING TESTIMONIES

## THRIVE

### Melissa Stokes

Last year was my first year going to the Thrive Conference and it was incredible! I thought it would be a weekend of friendship and growing in my walk of faith, but it was so much more! God met me right where I was at and showed up for me and my family in ways that I could not have imagined. Standing in a room of hundreds of women, who are all going through similar struggles as I do, praising our Savior, is truly powerful. The speakers were amazing and shared such important Biblical truths. They helped me to nurture and cultivate my walk of faith far more than I had expected. To top all of that off, it was a wonderful weekend of growing closer to some of the amazing women in our church. Growing in community with other women who I can do life with is life-changing.



Last spring, I led a Belonging Table of women through the Dream Lab Workshop. At the conclusion of the study, it was time to seriously look at what God had put in our hearts and how we could put it into action. I didn't have to look far, I already knew the dreams God had put there, but they'd never gotten further than in my head. I decided it was time to write them down. Here is what I wrote:

## DREAM LAB

### Debbie Keefe

I see... untrained soldiers carrying their armor. They're beat up and abused. They don't know what they have and have no idea how to use it. I see myself as "Sarge," running a bootcamp where I'm training and preparing soldiers for the battles of life where they will face their greatest enemy, Satan. They're learning the truths of God's Word and are developing a strong foundation that will get them through the storms of life. They are dressed for battle!

So what was the next step? As I prayed, "Lord, what do I do with this?," I felt strongly that I was supposed to share my "dream" with a Pastor. When I did, his response was, "Maybe it's time for a mid-week service." Before I knew it, I had the opportunity to teach on Wednesday nights on the Armor of God. Wow God! I am partnering with Him to put my dream into action!

# WORSHIP IS MY WEAPON TO WORTHY

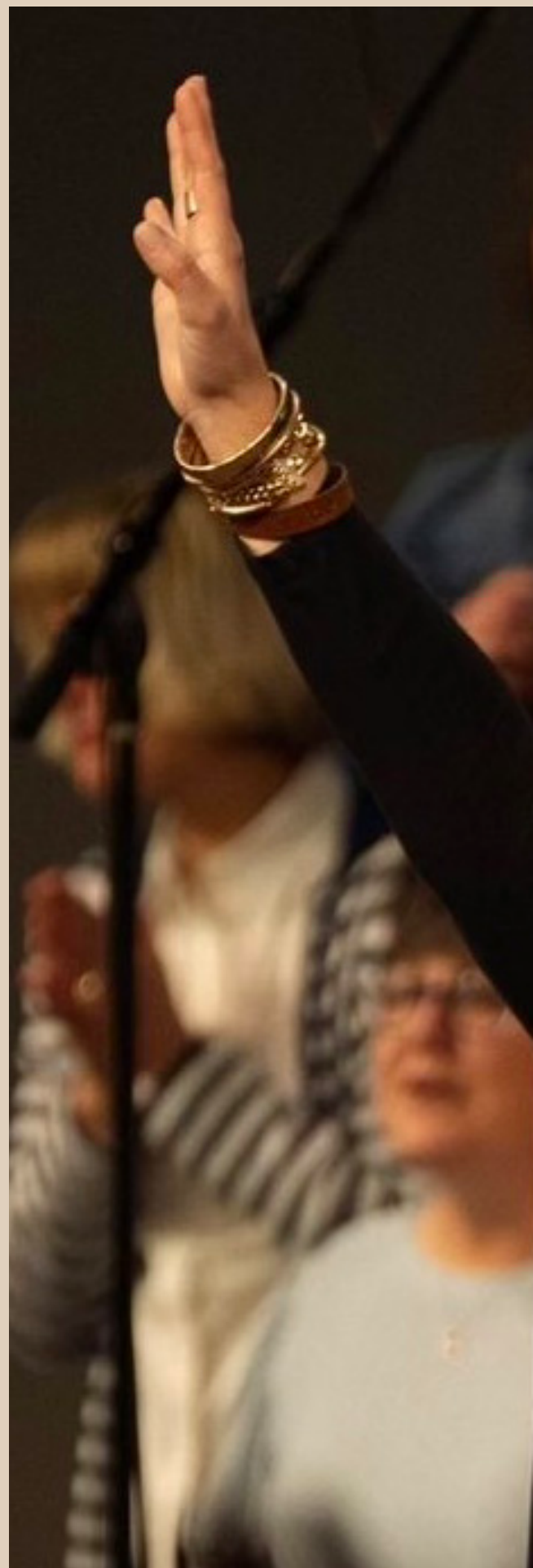
By Nichole Henry

Let me start with: I am NOTHING without you Jesus. When I prepare to lead worship, this is where I start - usually face down on the floor because I truly believe I am NOTHING without Jesus. But then I say, "I am EVERYTHING with You JESUS!"

The battlefield of the mind is where the enemy tries to gain ground and it's a continual battle everyday for our worth - how Jesus sees us and how we see ourselves through the lens of Jesus Christ. Whatever you believe in your mind will be true to you until you challenge that belief system against what the word of God says about you. Then put your faith on that new belief system, for example, to believe that you are fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14), and can do all things through Christ who strengthens you (Philippians 4:13).

Revelation 12:10-11, the enemy relentlessly accuses us day and night before God, jealous that we can walk in complete freedom under the Blood of Jesus, and tries to get us to doubt our worth and believe we are not enough. Jesus paid it all on the cross once and for all for that freedom. Whenever you worship the Lord, it should be a constant reminder to you that the enemy has been defeated as we join in with heaven, continually worshiping the King of kings and Lord of lords, day and night, night and day. (Revelation 4:8)

So next time you enter into worship, Daughter of the King, start at a place of victory even if you feel defeated, because the battle has already been won and as an heir of Christ, we are called worthy and more than enough because of the blood of Jesus. Now let's worship Jesus because He is worthy of it all!



*You saw me at my worst*

BUT KNEW WHAT I COULD BE

*And You stepped down to Earth*

TO PLACE A CROWN ON ME

**PULL ME CLOSE, MAVERICK CITY MUSIC**



SCAN QR CODE FOR  
A WORSHIP PLAYLIST  
THAT WAS CAREFULLY  
CURATED JUST FOR YOU.



*Unlimited Access*





# Unlimited Access

By Alyssa Holtan

When Jesus came into our messy world, He approached us quietly and unexpectedly. He gently entered our brokenness through an unlikely virgin birth as He came to be “God with us.” Still, the significance of this impossible entrance was widely underestimated by most who witnessed His arrival. However, we read in the scriptures how the shepherds came to worship, the wise men traveled to witness, and the disciples became His followers. Each one giving their best response to His profound presence in this world.

And yet, Jesus was constantly pulling His disciples up into more. The miracles He performed, the sermons He preached, and the time He spent were each designed to open their eyes to all that had suddenly become accessible. He used encouragement and rebuke to press them forward. In Luke 8, after the disciples were frightened and Jesus calmed the storm, He questioned them, “Where is your faith?” Later in chapter 22, when this same bunch of guys fell asleep while Jesus was praying, He asked, “Why are you sleeping?” He did not ask these questions because He did not know the answers. He asked so that they might become aware of their answers.

In our present time, we continue to wildly underestimate the access we have because of Jesus. Although many of us are committed to living as worshipers, witnesses, and followers of Christ, our lives still lack the mark of someone who has been with Jesus. We hold back from fully engaging with the unlimited access that is ours because of the perfection of Jesus, who gained it for us. As heirs of Christ, everything that belongs to Him belongs to us. However, sadly, many of us have grown content with partial access. Rather than being at risk of asking for too much, we are at risk of asking God for too little. Is it possible that the underlying questions of Jesus’ heart to the disciples were, “Do you not yet know who I am? Do you not understand what is now fully yours?”

In Matthew 27:50-51 it says, “And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice and yielded up His spirit. And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom.” This was no ordinary curtain hanging up in your grandma’s house. This curtain separated man from the abiding presence of God on earth. When that curtain tore, it was a literal representation that the barrier between God and man had been removed, and our access to Him had been forever restored.

Every struggle area in our life points to an opportunity where we can access more of God. The following ten questions, scriptures, and action steps offer a template for engaging more with the access that belongs to us as Christ's heirs.

*Q: Where are you feeling hopeless?*

**SCRIPTURE:**

"Why are you cast down, O my soul, and why are you in turmoil within me? Hope in God; for I shall again praise him, my salvation and my God." Psalm 43:5 ESV

**ACTION:**

Acknowledge where you are experiencing hopelessness by writing it on a note card. Now raise it to the Lord as you quote Psalm 43:5 and declare the praises of God until you experience your hopelessness shrink.



*Q: Why are you so weary?*

**SCRIPTURE:**

"Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." Matthew 11:28-30 ESV

**ACTION:**

Commit to taking a sabbath this week. As you rest from your work, set aside time with Jesus. Write a letter telling Him all the things that are weighing you down. Then, be still and ask him to speak to you. Write whatever word or words come to your mind as you listen.

*Q: What fear is trying to overtake you?*

**SCRIPTURE:**

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my righteous right hand." Isaiah 41:10 ESV

**ACTION:**

Ask a trusted friend or spiritual leader to meet with you. Confess your fears to them and ask if they will pray with you. As you pray, surrender your efforts to the Lord and receive His strength and His ways of solving the problems you are facing.

*Q: What is the most significant battle you are fighting right now?*

*Q: What has stolen your peace?*

**SCRIPTURE:**

"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. Not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid." John 14:27 ESV

**ACTION:**

Set aside time to take a walk somewhere peaceful. Bring a marker along, and find a rock to write on as you walk. Take a moment to write down the thing or person that is stealing your peace. Then, as an act of surrender, throw that rock as far as possible. As you finish your walk, find something that reminds you of the peace of God and take it with you.

**SCRIPTURE:**

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places. Therefore, take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand firm. Stand therefore." Ephesians 6:12-13 ESV

**ACTION:**

Get ready to get your fight on. Open your Bible to Ephesians 6 and play the song "Fight My Battles." As the music starts, read Ephesians 6:10-20. Stand up and imagine yourself putting on the armor of God. Then, pray boldly against the battles you are facing and declare that victory is yours in Jesus' name.



*Q: What worry is preoccupying your mind the most today?*

**SCRIPTURE:**

“The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”  
Philippians 3:5b-7 ESV

**ACTION:**

Take the time to write another letter to the Lord. This time, share with Him the worries that are distracting you. Next, write a thank you letter, listing five or more ways that God has shown up in your life, and thank Him for it. Declare that you know He will continue to show up as He has before.



*Q: What area of your life does not feel rooted in love?*

**SCRIPTURE:**

“For this reason, I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”  
Ephesians 3:14-19 ESV

**ACTION:**

Play the song “First Love Fire” and spend time abiding in worship. Engage with the song and pray the scripture Ephesians 3:14-19 over yourself and your family.

*Q: Where do you feel most insecure, or where do you need God the most?*

**SCRIPTURE:**

“Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen.”  
Ephesians 3:20-21 ESV

**ACTION:**

Gather some paper and write down your insecurities or needs on separate pieces of paper. Then, take another piece of paper and write, “God is able.” Cover each insecurity or need one by one with the words, “God is able.”

*Q: What temptation is trying to take you down?*

**SCRIPTURE:**

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw near to God, and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Be wretched and mourn and weep. Let your laughter be turned to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and He will exalt you.”  
James 4:7-10 ESV

**ACTION:**

Time to gather that trusted friend or spiritual leader again. Confess where you are feeling tempted. Ask them to pray with you and hold you accountable by checking in once a week.

*Q: Are you brokenhearted or filled with sorrow today?*

**SCRIPTURE:**

“The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.”  
Psalm 32:18

**ACTION:**

Give yourself the space and time you need to heal. His love is patient and kind. He is not in a hurry. Breathe in and breathe out. God is near. God is here. You have access to His presence. You are His beloved. You are His daughter. You are His heir.



HOW TO

# *host a table*

By Heidi Bergeland

*The ministry of The Belonging is one that I have been blessed to take part in since its beginning. I love its mission... to intentionally prepare a space for connection to the Lord and with one another as the body of Christ. One of the best ways that this is accomplished is through The Belonging Table. This is the tangible opportunity where we women can gather in homes with other women to find rest for our souls, nourishment for our spirits, and strength for our God-given assignments and purposes as we work to further His kingdom. Hosting a Belonging Table is one of my greatest joys. What does it look like to host a table? In order to answer that, we need to understand hospitality. It's interesting to note that the words 'host' and 'hospitality' have the same root in the Greek language.*

In 1 Timothy 3:2, Paul lists hospitality as one of the requirements for the early church leaders. However, it is not a spiritual gift, as many assume. In Romans 12:6-8, Paul lists the spiritual gifts of service as prophecy, serving, teaching, exhortation, giving, leadership, and mercy. Hospitality is not a part of that list. However, it does show up in vs 13, when Paul encourages the church to pursue hospitality. It is not reserved just for those who have great people skills or who are gifted in the kitchen. It is something we are all meant to practice. Hospitality is the vehicle to make a place for all of the gifts to operate. When we are obedient to open our homes in hospitality, it gives God freedom to move in that place.

If we look at the word in the original Greek, hospitality comes from the two words, philo-xenos, or brotherly love for strangers. That is at the heart of hospitality. It is not just hosting a group of friends for a meal and a good time. It is not concerned about entertaining or making a good impression. Hospitality opens doors and hearts to strangers and friends alike. It is brokenhearted over the lost, the hurting, and the lonely. I love the example Jesus set for us. So much of His ministry took place in a home, around a table. These intimate moments are where ministry happens.

As I was growing up, my parents also set a wonderful example of hospitality. Ours was the house where everyone wanted to be. There were dinners with neighbors, hotdog roasts with teens, and waffle breakfasts with young moms. Although not every event went smoothly or perfectly, my parents made every event a place for friends and strangers alike to feel welcomed and loved. One example of this was when I was 12 years old. My dad decided, at the drop of a hat, to bring two Japanese businessmen home from work for a home-cooked meal. They had been working on a project with my dad for a week already, and had another week to go, away from their home soil and all that was familiar to them. So Dad called Mom to make sure she was on board, and three hours later, I was sitting across the table from Mr. Yakazami and Mr. Hirohiko. (Yes, I can still remember their names after all these years. That's how big of an impression this experience had on little white suburban Heidi!) They spoke very little English, and we certainly didn't speak any Japanese. Mom did her best to provide a meal that they might be comfortable with, without having the slightest idea of what Japanese cuisine was. That dinner was the most awkward evening, filled with smiles and nods and a lot of "hai, hai" (yes, yes). But those two men from the other side of the world left our home feeling valued and cared about, in spite of the meal. And I was left with a core memory that exemplified hospitality at its finest. It is the act of opening doors and hearts to strangers and friends alike.

So how do we host a Belonging Table? Remember, hosting is linked to hospitality. The only way I know how to host well is to think of it as hosting the presence of God. That is my deepest desire in life. To be a host to God Himself. This means orienting every part of my life around Him. It means seeing Him as a person who lives, not just in me, but in my home, as well. It means having conversations with Him and worshiping Him, not just in my quiet time, but all throughout the day. It also means seeing Him in every guest at my table. When I do that, it changes the atmosphere in my home. It creates a place where God is free to move in the hearts and lives of all who walk through my door. It creates a place where both strangers and friends feel welcomed and loved. Hosting the presence of God makes a place where Jesus brings salvation to the lost, healing to the hurting, freedom to the oppressed, and belonging to the lonely. It is the key that unlocks the door to the move of God in our homes and in the lives of all who enter. This is the heart of the Belonging Table.

## *Hosting the presence of God*

makes a place where Jesus brings salvation to the lost, healing to the hurting, freedom to the oppressed, and belonging to the lonely.



# practical tips

## FOR HOSTING A BELONGING TABLE

### *Invite the HOLY SPIRIT*

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Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you as you pray daily for the needs of every single person who will be at your table. I begin doing this weeks in advance. I like to set my table a few days in advance. Once it's set, I walk around it, praying over every chair and every one who will be seated there.

### *Plan a THEME for your event*

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This is often set by The Belonging leadership, but you may add to it as you feel led. I like to plan my theme a few weeks in advance so I can pick up décor and paper products as I find them. If there is a special slogan or verse, print it out and frame it for all to see. Your guests feel valued when you are intentional with the details.

### *PLAN everything in advance*

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Keep the menu simple, with things you feel confident making. If guests ask to bring a dish, let them! This helps them feel a part of things, rather than just a visitor. Be sure to prep and make as much in advance as possible. Make sure you've lined up all your serving dishes and utensils a few days before. This helps the host to be stress-free on the day of the event, so she can focus on her guests.

### *Strangers become FRIENDS*

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When setting the table, it's helpful to use place cards so there are no awkward moments as people find their seats. I like to place guests so they have a "friend" on one side, and a "stranger" on the other. When planning your seating arrangement, keep accessibility in mind. Are there guests who need a little extra space, or easy access to move about? Setting your table can be as simple as paper plates, or as fancy as fine china. I like to keep the centerpiece low-profile so everyone can have eye contact. I try to consider what will make the guests feel comfortable and special, while keeping the day easy and stress-free.





*EVERY GUEST is important*

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Take the time to greet each guest as they arrive. Show them that you are excited to have them. It's so simple, but so important!

Start the event with prayer. Ask the Holy Spirit to cover every part and every person.

Have an ice breaker to help guests feel at ease. I like to use questions that allow guests to open up about themselves as much as they are comfortable with.

At some point, take a group photo. Share the photo with each one through a text so they can all enjoy the memory of the day.



*A heart of WORSHIP*

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When it's time to worship, enter in. If you feel free, your guests will feel free also.

*A TEAM effort*

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Have a team in place ahead of time to help with ministry. Let the Holy Spirit lead you as you pray for one another. If He directs you in words of wisdom or council, ask to pray for the guest privately, unless they give cues that they are comfortable in the group setting. Make sure everyone knows your home is a safe place.

*CONCLUSION*

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When the event is finished, I like to send guests home with a little gift as a reminder of what God has done. The next day I like to start a group chat to check in on everyone. We often share testimonies or praise reports, as well as further prayer requests. Following up with them builds relationship and helps the work of the Holy Spirit take root.

Belonging Tables are an opportunity for women to gather in homes with other women to find rest for our souls, nourishment for our spirits and strength for our God-given assignments to propel us forward into our uniquely designed purposes as we work together to further His Kingdom.



“Daily they met together in the temple courts and in one another’s homes to celebrate communion.

*They shared meals together with joyful hearts and tender humility.*

They were continually filled with praises to God, enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord kept adding to their number daily those who were coming to life.”

Acts 2:46-47

# THE BELONGING TESTIMONIES



## THE BELONGING TABLES

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### Lillie Brown

My husband and I struggled with infertility for just under four years, with two miscarriages. We had seen multiple doctors, had done all the testing, had three unsuccessful IUI transfers and were told our next step was IVF; something we couldn't afford. When I was invited to attend a Belonging Table, I was nervous about opening up and sharing my story, but it turned out to be one of the most amazing and powerful events of my life. I was prayed over by God fearing women who weren't going to take "no" for an answer. When I left that day, I knew God was going to use this in some way. Little did I know, the following month I would get pregnant with my son. Not only pregnant, but pregnant with no medical intervention whatsoever. God is still working miracles and I just had our second baby! I am forever thankful I said yes to going to a Belonging Table.

My experience with The Belonging was pivotal to me. I went to my first Belonging Table in April 2022. They set such a beautiful atmosphere that I felt safe to be vulnerable. I shared that I was in a million pieces of grief and shame and had been asking God to put me back together the way He desires me to be, like only He can! The Belonging Leadership Team gathered around me and prayed over me declaring that God is healing my heart from all the grief and shame of my pas, and that God has so much more for me that no thing or person can keep from me. They spoke a word of encouragement to me – that one day I would have a great testimony to share and that story is still being written. I believe it and won't He do it?!

## THE BELONGING TABLES

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### Nichole Henry

## THE BELONGING WORSHIP

Sarah Jagow

The Belonging worship events and gatherings provide the opportunity to deepen and strengthen our relationship with Him and our sisters in Christ. Each time I have attended an event I arrive with great anticipation as to what the Holy Spirit is going to do next. He has shown up each time.

Let me share about one of the most profound experiences that I had at a Belonging Night of worship at Stonewall Farms. I had experienced an unexpected shift in my workplace two weeks before the event. This change was overwhelming on every level, including spiritually, for me. Up until this point, the work I was doing was thriving and I could see God's hand in all of it. It was so amazing and fulfilling to be a part of His work everyday. Then one day it was over – I was relocated to a different position.

I was wounded, frustrated, angry and sad. How could I be in the center of His will and out of nowhere He allowed it to be taken away? There were many tears. Yet I knew that He was for me and with me in it all.

We were created to belong. We were never designed to do life alone. God made us to desire a relationship with Him and with others. When we have Him and other believers in our lives we will thrive.

As I arrived to the event, women were visiting with each other. My dear friend, Deb, and I took a moment to catch up on our lives. She shared exciting news of her retirement and her anticipation of what was next for her. I briefly shared about the changes at work and vaguely told her how I was unsure of what God was doing. Worship began in the upper room and the space was filled with a beautiful release of praise to our King. My soul desired to offer Him all of my praise, yet I felt a barrier. A very real divide between me and His presence. I decided that it was best that I sit down and have a conversation with Him right there.

I felt His peaceful presence come to my right side and I heard him say, "You know that you can't do what I need you to do unless you submit to me." *I know. But I am struggling.* I expressed all of my hurt. I sat quietly with Him until I let go of it all. He said, "Deb is going to give you a word." The conversation was so open and clear that it was as if He was whispering in my right ear. I responded

back to Him, "Let me see it!" I got up and began to worship. The barrier between me and my King was gone.

As I worshiped, I was unaware that my friend Deb went over to Liz Martin and shared a message that she had received from the Holy Spirit and it was read from the microphone. It didn't speak directly to me, however I didn't waver in my belief that Deb was going to give me a word soon.

The ladies sat down. Then Deb returned to her seat, sat down, reached back to me with a written note and said, "This is for you."

I shook and trembled. I went to a private place away from worship. This note didn't come from Deb. This note came from the throne of the King. She was just open and faithful in the prompting of the Holy Spirit in writing His words down. The note said:

*Ready in season and  
out of season.  
You have answered the call,  
you have answered my call.  
Know that I have orchestrated  
your circumstances and the  
path of your life.  
As you submit yourself to me,  
with your whole heart right,  
you are my delight.*

"Ready in season and out of season. You have answered the call, you have answered my call. Know that I have orchestrated your circumstances and the path of your life. As you submit yourself to me, with your whole heart right, you are my delight."

I was absolutely... BLOWN AWAY! This same exact moment, my sister next to me was having her own Holy Spirit moment and conversation. He was giving her proof of His active presence in her life situation too. It was absolutely incredible!

When the worship had ended I connected with Deb. I shared with her what had just occurred. She was also overwhelmed with the movement of the Holy Spirit too. She was just being faithful and doing what He asked her to do.

He is REAL! He is at WORK! He CARES about the details of our lives. When you encounter the LIVING GOD you can not be silent. It is impossible!

# Royal Inheritance

By Liz Martin



Most people would say I am a carbon copy of my mom, which I welcome because I think she is awesome! I have inherited her faith, her looks, daily word count, and my personal fav, her sass, although she says that is from my grandma. I am also a decent reflection of my dad. I have inherited his freckles, his quirky humor, his out of the box thinking and creativity, his addictive personality and hyper focus. Did you know it is a commonly held idea that when babies are born, they resemble their fathers most? In theory, this motivates fathers to connect with their children because they bear his image. So interesting, isn't it?

My kids have already inherited so much from me and their dad. Fellow Mamas, you see it all, they are little unedited versions of us running around. It's hilarious, fascinating and terrifying all at the same time. The best and worst of us on display. Oof. Yet, inheritance is more than skin deep or quirky personality traits. We have a spiritual inheritance, too.

Numbers 14:18 tells us that God "lays the sins of the parents upon their children; the entire family is affected - even children in the third and fourth generations."

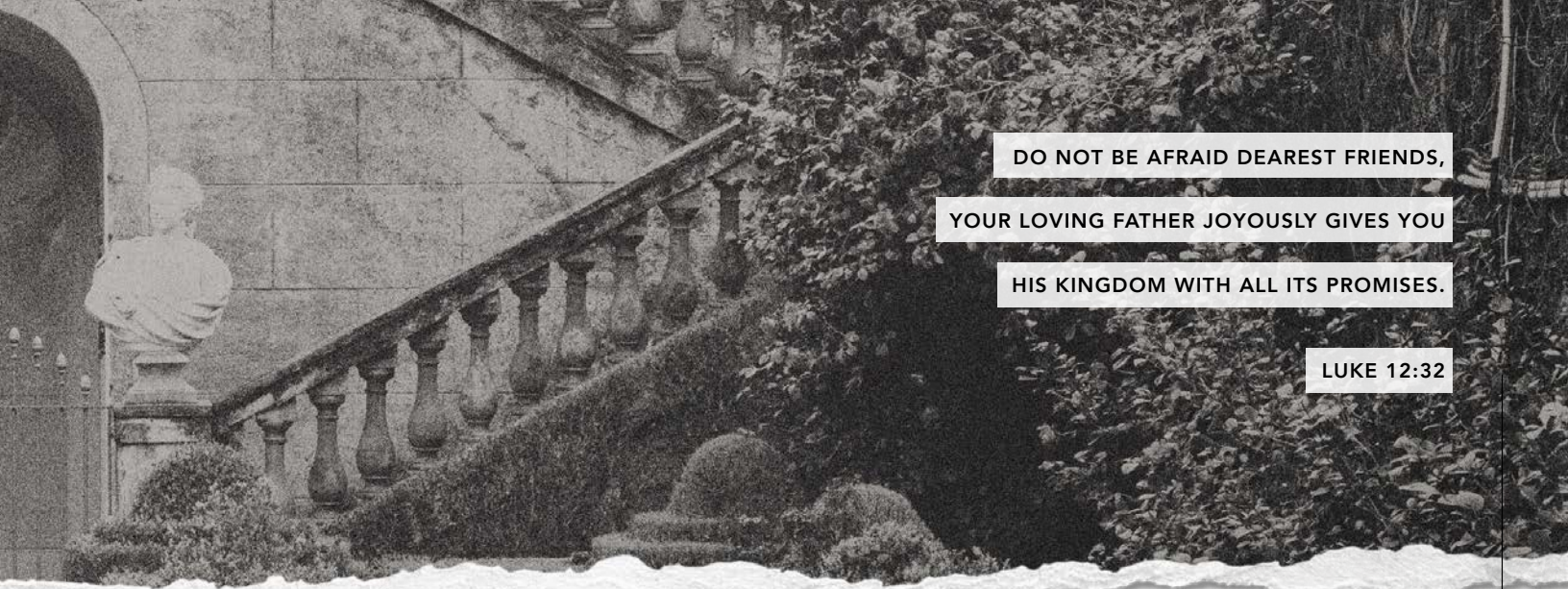
But on the flip side Deuteronomy 7:9 tells us that God "is faithful to keep His promises (we inherit as children of God) for a thousand generations and lavishes his unfailing love on those who love Him and obey his commands."

So spiritually speaking, the results of our broken lives are past on three to four generations and God's promises to the faithful are past on 1,000 generations - got it. The stakes are high and essentially, what is not transformed, is transferred.

In October of 2021, my dad passed away. My parents divorced when I was five and I had not seen him in 11 years. It was a confusing space and our relationship was complicated. I was left with very fractured feelings. The long story is one for another day but the cliff notes version is this:

He was living in another country. The US Embassy identified me as his child, contacted me and thus began a process of cleaning up a giant mess. I inherited a whopping \$200, which I spent cleaning up that mess and shipping his remains back to the U.S. He also left me wondering the same questions I had wrestled with my entire life.





DO NOT BE AFRAID DEAREST FRIENDS,

YOUR LOVING FATHER JOYOUSLY GIVES YOU

HIS KINGDOM WITH ALL ITS PROMISES.

LUKE 12:32

Did he ever value me as his daughter? Why didn't he choose me instead of the life he wanted? Was my position in his heart ever secure?

How's that for an inheritance?

There is a story in Numbers 27 about five daughters. Their father had died and his inheritance was destined to pass them by. They were entitled to nothing. Somehow they found the courage to stand before Moses and ask him for the inheritance that was rightfully theirs. This was unheard of, as women were extremely marginalized. Bold move... I like their style! I also relate to them because they were basically saying, "this is not fair!"

It did not feel fair to have to live a life without my dad. It did not feel fair that I had to pay for his poor choices. It did not feel fair to be called upon to handle his affairs when he never concerned himself with mine. Then, when it was all said and done, it did not feel fair to be left with less than nothing. Not only did I barely have an inheritance, I actually had a deficit and to be honest it was never his traits, things or money I wanted... it was him, and I didn't get that either. Yet there I was with a choice to make, and it did not feel fair to honor him, yet I knew I needed to.

These girls wanted to honor their father, although unlike mine, he earned it. And guess what?! When Moses consulted God about the matter, much to everyone's surprise, God's response was in their

favor! He said, "these daughters are right!" and not only that but He gave the entire nation of Israel a new mandate because of them! In a situation where they had no rights and were going to be left with nothing, their Heavenly Father secured their position as heirs and their inheritance!

From the very beginning, God has been attentive to us. He has been placing value on us. He has been choosing the unlikely and securing our position in His heart and kingdom. He has been offering us everything He is and everything he has.

Galatians 3:26-29 tells us, "For you are all children of God through faith in Christ Jesus... There is no longer Jew or Gentile, slave or free, male and female. For you are all one in Christ Jesus. And now that you belong to Christ, you are the true children of Abraham. You are his heirs, and God's promise to Abraham belongs to you."

He has leveled the playing field.


He values us. (Romans 5:8, John 3:16)

He chooses us. (John 15:16)

He loves us as our Father and calls us His children! (1 John 3:1)

If I'm honest with myself, the disappointments I have collected from my dad have at times become a reflection of how I see and trust my Heavenly Father.

God crowns us as royalty & call us daughters  
because we bear His image.



He has  
seated us  
next to  
his Son,  
Jesus, as  
co-heirs  
in his  
Kingdom.

So many of us know the truth, sing the songs, live the life, but sometimes, if we are honest, we are waiting for the other shoe to drop. For our Heavenly Father to disappoint us, leave us, choose someone else. We wonder if He is going to set us aside and if our position in His heart is secure. And if He fails us, we wonder what will we be left with... but God has been securing our position and telling us our worth all throughout scripture and He has seated us next to his Son, Jesus, as co-heirs in His kingdom. Everything He is and has is ours. Wow! We have not been set aside but set apart as daughters but not just any daughters, the daughters of the King of kings.

I love the way Romans 8:14-16 puts it in The Passion translation.

“The mature children of God are those who are moved by the impulses of the Holy Spirit. And you did not receive the “spirit of religious duty,” leading you back into the fear of never being good enough. But you have received the “Spirit of full acceptance,” enfolding you into the family of God. And you will never feel orphaned, for as he rises up within us, our spirits join him in saying the words of tender affection, “Beloved Father!” For the Holy Spirit makes God’s fatherhood real to us as He whispers into our innermost being, “You are God’s beloved child!”

And since we are His true children, we qualify to share all his treasures, for indeed, we are heirs of God himself. And since we are joined to Christ, we also inherit all that He is and all that He has.”

God crowns us as royalty and call us daughters because we bear His image. We resemble our Heavenly Father. His royal image is forged in us through the cross. He fully accepts us and He has secured our position in His heart and kingdom because we are priceless to Him. Yet ladies, the crown He places on us is not for adornment, beauty, or status. It represents an identity, an authority, and a responsibility in that very position He has prepared for us. There is a weight to that crown. When we understand this, not only can we humbly and boldly approach His throne of grace (Hebrews 4:16), like the daughters in Numbers 27, but as heirs of Christ, we are rewarded with what God says is rightfully ours, we are awarded a royal inheritance.

SO I SAY TO MYSELF, THE LORD IS MY INHERITANCE;  
THEREFORE I WILL HOPE IN HIM.”

LAMENTATIONS 3:24

“DO NOT BE AFRAID DEAREST FRIENDS, YOUR LOVING  
FATHER JOYOUSLY GIVES YOU HIS KINGDOM WITH ALL  
ITS PROMISES.”

LUKE 12:32

# SCRIPTURE

## *Observation*

Read Galatians 3:26-29;  
Numbers 27:1-11;  
Romans 5:8; John 3:16;  
1 John 3:1; Romans 8:14-16;  
Lamentations 3:24;  
Luke 12:32; Matthew 25:34

List any keywords or phrases from the passages in scripture that stand out to you.

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What do these passages in scripture reveal about God's character and heart for you?

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*The King will turn to those on his right and say, "You have a special place in my Father's heart. Come and experience the full inheritance of the Kingdom realm that has been destined for you from before the foundations of the world."*

## *Application*

How do these scriptures resonate with your own experiences and beliefs?

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How do your questions, disappointments and insecurities reflect how you see God?

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## *Prayer*

Ask God to show you how He has secured your position in His heart. What are you sensing is His response? Write a prayer based on the truths found in the scriptures listed reflecting who God says you are.

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MATTHEW 25:34

# Story of *grace*

By Kay Levesque



“The final question I was asked in that competition was,

*“When you look in the mirror, what do you see?”*

I answered,

*“I see Christ. I see a child of God – a daughter of the King, and an heir to the throne.”*

As heirs of God, we have access to every aspect of His character and gifts. Understanding our identity is crucial. Through life's ups and downs, God teaches us about Himself and our position in Christ, empowering us to live boldly for His glory. I pray that as I share some of my story, you will see we can embrace the names of God and walk confidently in our inheritance as His daughters and heirs.

When I was 15 years old, God revealed to me that I had an idol (object of worship) of “vanity” (excessive pride in or admiration of one's own appearance). I prayed earnestly that God would remove this, and anything else, that was taking His place.

In my junior year of high school, strange welts began to appear all over my body. I was eventually diagnosed with chronic urticaria (hives). Doctor trips resulted in blood tests, allergy tests, food elimination plans, and medication, but nothing worked. Prednisone could control severe symptoms – like my windpipe closing from internal hives. I tried natural remedies and was anointed by the elders of my church. The doctors were stumped and suggested, “You'll probably outgrow them.”

After a year and a half of dealing with the hives, I still had not “outgrown” them. In the struggle, I found peace in God's sovereignty (supreme authority), learned lessons on grace and true beauty, and realized the only identity that mattered was that I was His. I developed such an understanding of “real beauty” that despite having hives, I popped some Prednisone pills and competed for the first time in the Miss ND pageant as a way to earn scholarships.

After two years, I was discouraged and weary. Sitting in my living room, tears streaming down my cheeks, I pleaded with God for relief. Suddenly, a book caught my eye - “The Names of God.” I turned to the first name – Elohim, Almighty creator. I read Jesus' response in John 9 to a blind man's suffering. His blindness was not a result of sin, but that “the works of God could be displayed in his life.” I wept as the realization struck me: perhaps my hives had a purpose beyond my understanding, to reveal Elohim's sovereignty and goodness – not just to me, but to those watching my journey. As I embraced this perspective, I found not only spiritual and emotional healing but physical healing as the hives vanished as mysteriously as they appeared, leaving behind a profound testimony to God's faithfulness.

About 7-8 months later, having finished my first year at Minot State University, I met my future husband, Sean. Life was good and my faith was strong. However, strange bumps started appearing on my face and eventually spread to cover my entire face. A dermatologist diagnosed them as flat warts. I was horrified! Worse yet, the recommended treatment ended up burning my skin.

I felt angry and resentful towards God, questioning why God was allowing this after I had spent two years struggling with hives! While God could handle my anger, He could not use it. He required a surrendered heart. Over time, through prayer and Scripture, I learned to give way to His plan. After six months, my burn healed without scarring, but the warts remained. I learned some mad make-up skills to conceal the warts and even competed again for Miss ND.

As I continued to struggle with my flat warts, I felt a strong urge during my prayer time to visit my sister's church in Minneapolis and have her pastor, Lowell Lundstrom, pray for me. It seemed like a random and crazy idea – so it had to be God.

Without making an appointment with Lowell, Sean and I obediently set out on the 8-hour drive to Minneapolis. We attempted to schedule an appointment when we arrived, but he had no openings in his calendar. I wasn't too worried... I'd just talk to him at church the next day. However, talking to Pastor

Lowell at his large church turned out to be more challenging than I expected. We waited in line, but he left before we reached him.



Disappointed about not meeting Pastor Lowell, I angrily prayed, “God, I took a leap of faith... and you didn't deliver.” While I stewed in the passenger seat on the way back to North Dakota, God calmed my heart by reminding me that obedience is what matters, and He saw my step of obedience.

As we merged onto the freeway leading back to ND, I noticed a man on his cell phone pacing on the side of the road next to his broken-down car and I couldn't believe my eyes. It was Lowell! Sean made a quick (illegal) u-turn and I hopped out, told him the whole story, and he prayed for me. I got back in the car, pulled down the rear view mirror – and still had flat warts... but I cried knowing I was healed. I marveled that God saw and cared for me enough to orchestrate a miraculous circumstance in response to my obedient step. Not because He had to – but because He wanted me to know him as El Roy: The God who sees. The next morning, the warts were gone. I had personally experienced Jehovah-Rapha: The God who heals.

With this newfound awareness of God's work in my life, I competed for a third time in the Miss ND pageant and won. The final question I was asked in that competition was, “When you look in the mirror, what do you see?” I answered “I see Christ. I see a child of God – a daughter of the King, and an heir to the throne.”

Little did I know then, that God would use that year of traveling the state and speaking to prepare me for a future calling. The crown provided a voice I wouldn't have otherwise had.

In 2012, God shattered my world by raising my awareness of the evil of sex trafficking. Unsure of what to do, but knowing I needed to do something, I prayed, asking God how a stay-at-home mom, homeschooling three kids could make a difference. God said, “You remember who I am and who you are... and you live as an heir.”

Several years later, Sean and I were called to launch Love2Hope, a nonprofit that seeks to educate churches and communities about human trafficking, inspiring change. God's hand has been evident as doors have swung open, and thousands have been educated and mobilized. I have learned so much more about God on this journey as I daily rely on Jehovah-Jireh: Our Provider.

Our work with Love2Hope led us to Willmar where I now lead Parent Life, a ministry of youth for Christ that ministers to pregnant and parenting teen moms.

Human trafficking isn't an easy topic, and ministry work is hard. It's heavy, and the stories are painful and haunting. The world can feel dark, and people are so lost. How do I continue to engage this topic, continue learning and teaching and serving? I remember. I remember that I am a child of God, a daughter of the King, an heir to the throne. My father is the almighty creator, the God who sees, the God who Heals. He is my provider. And all of His power and gifts, all of who He is, is available to you and me. So look into that mirror... and see an heir.

*Grace*  
*(greek: Charis)*

*kindness, life, favour*

## What is your Story of Grace?

Hebrews 12 tells us that Jesus is the author and perfecter of our faith... He is writing a narrative in each of our lives that will tell a story of His grace and faithfulness. Telling the story God has written and the victories that God has won brings the lies of our enemy out into the light and abolishes shame in us and in others! What stories has God already written in your life? Where do you recognize his hand at work? Look closely, they are there!

Here are some questions we have curated to help guide you as you look to see the God graces in your own life and the stories you have to tell!

|  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| WHO HAS GOD BEEN TO YOU?   |  | LIST EVERY GOOD GIFT YOU HAVE IN YOUR LIFE                                       |  |
| DO YOU BELIEVE IT CAME FROM GOD? YES / NO  |  | WHAT CHALLENGE/S WERE YOU FACING BEFORE YOU RECOGNIZED GOD'S GRACE IN YOUR LIFE? |  |
|  |  |  |  |
| WHAT WAS A BREAKING POINT IN YOUR STORY?   |  | HOW DID GOD INTERVENE IN YOUR STORY?   |  |
| WHAT PART OF HIS CHARACTER ARE YOU CONFIDENT IN NOW IN WAYS YOU WERE NOT BEFORE? |  |  |  |



*Abba Father, great and awesome God.*

You are perfect in all of your ways and worthy of my trust. Thank you for filling me with your peace and joy as I put my trust in you. Thank you for being my way maker, for ordering my steps and opening doors before me that no man can shut.

Thank you for my sound mind, body, and emotions. I am whole in You. Thank you, that because of your presence in me; I am an atmosphere changer, bringing Your light and Your hope into a dark world. I ask for your divine wisdom in my relationships, my finances, and all of my decisions today. Thank you that by your grace, I am your daughter, your heir, a joint heir with Jesus.

Give me ears to hear as one who is being instructed and fill my mouth with words to refresh the weary. Fill me with fresh revelation of your love for me, then give me divine encounters that I might share it with others. Help me to see others as You see them. Help me to see myself as you see me. I ask for your Grace, to keep in step with your Spirit today, that I might walk worthy of your call on my life. I ask all of this in the power and authority in the name of Jesus.

*Amen (So be it)*



## STORIES OF GRACE

If you are ready to share your story,  
contact Jan VanEps at [janve11@icloud.com](mailto:janve11@icloud.com)



# OPPORTUNITIES TO *Connect*



## *Single Moms Group*

Wednesdays at 5:30 - 8 p.m.

Mustard Seed Moms exists so that no single mom walks alone. Join us on Wednesday nights for a meal with your kids (programming for kids is provided), Bible study, and fellowship. Open to all single moms.

\*Meal served from 5:30 - 6:15 p.m.; small group from 6:30 - 8 p.m.



## *Coffee Talk*

Wednesdays at 6:30 - 8 p.m.

Coffee Talk meets September through May, offering a variety of Bible studies on different topics that affect all women. Each week, there is time for learning, building relationships, and prayer. It is a great opportunity to learn and grow together as a family of sisters in Christ.

## *Ladies at the Lake*

July 12, 2 - 6 p.m. at Eagle Lake

*'He leads me besides still waters, He refreshes my soul.'* Psalm 23

Need a little rest and relaxation? Come to a lake day and refresh! Bring your friends and meet some new ones! More information to come.



## *Stories of Grace*

Saturday, Sept. 21, 9 - 11 a.m. - Sharon Schneider

Saturday, Oct. 19, 9 - 11 a.m. - Lori Aslesen

Saturday, Nov. 16, 9 - 11 a.m. - Bethany Swecker

Stories of Grace is a monthly gathering of women to tell and testify of how God's grace has met them in their story. You will be encouraged and challenged to see God in your own story which changes the entire narrative! Join us in the Encore building.

**Thrive 2024**  
women's conference

# WONDER

OCT 11-12, 2024  
MAYO CIVIC CENTER (ROCHESTER, MN)

EARLY BIRD TICKETS BY MAY 31, 2024  
\$20 TICKETS FOUR FIRST TIME THRIVE REGISTER ATTENDEES

CAROLYN HAAS @carolynhaas  
NATALIE RUNION @raisedtostay  
HOSANNA WONG @hosanna.wong  
SUSIE LARSON @susielaarsen  
AMBER GERSTMANN @ambergerstmann

BTGTHRIVECONFERENCE.ORG  
@MNBGTG

BRIDGING THE GAP PRESENTS

# Single Moms 2024 RETREAT

May 31 - JUNE 1, 2024

Lake Geneva Christian Center  
Alexandria, MN

LOIS BREIT  
DAVE SIMERSON  
KALI ALONZO  
WORSHIP

mnbtg.org/retreat @mnbtg ASL Interpreting Services will be provided.





SHOP



PURCHASE HEIR-THEMED APPAREL, STICKERS, MUGS  
WEBSITE: [JUBILEE CO DESIGNS' ETSY SHOP](#)



PURCHASE HEIR-THEMED SWEATSHIRTS AND HATS ONLINE  
WEBSITE: [RAMBOW.COM](#) // STORE CODE: WILLMARAOG // AVAILABLE TO ORDER THROUGH APRIL 30









THE BELONGING

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