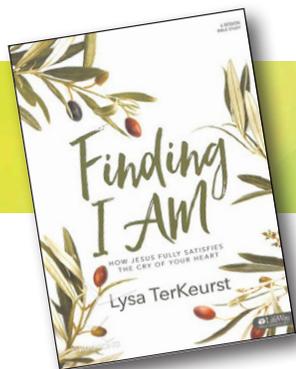


# TouchPoint

The North American Baptist Conference Women's Connection Newsletter

January/February 2019



Women's Connection is featuring *Finding I Am*, by Lysa TerKeurst as our theme study for 2019.

## *Finding I AM*

### HOW JESUS FULLY SATISFIES THE CRY OF YOUR HEART

**W**hat is the deep cry of your heart? The ache in your soul that keeps you up at night? The prayer you keep repeating? Jesus not only cares about this deep, spiritual wrestling, but He also wants to step in and see you through it.

In *Finding I Am* you will join Lysa TerKeurst on the streets of Israel to explore the seven 'I AM' statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Through this interactive, in-depth study you will be trading feelings of emptiness and depletion for the fullness of knowing who Jesus is like never before. Accompanying videos bring the words of Jesus alive as Lysa shares with us biblical truths in the setting of Israel.

As you participate in this study it is our prayer that you will:

*"I want the word of God to come alive to you in this study—to reach the recesses of your heart because I truly believe God's Word to us is life."*

—Lysa TerKeurst

- ~ discover how Jesus is the key to satisfaction by learning the crucial significance behind each of His 'I AM' statements.
- ~ trade feelings of emptiness for the fullness of knowing who Jesus is.
- ~ grow in biblical literacy with this exploration of the Gospel of John.
- ~ gain a better understanding of how Jesus' words 2000 years ago are so very applicable to the answers you are searching for today.

A few things you will want to know:

- The first video session is an introduction to the series.
- Then each week in your personal study time you will study one, or sometimes two, 'I Am' statements.
- There are four days of personal study each week with an optional fifth day which will take the study to the next level.
- And then in the video following your week of study, Lysa unpacks the 'I Am' statement you studied that week.



#### Meet the Author

Lysa TerKeurst is passionate about God's Word. She has studied extensively in the Holy Land and loves to make

connections between the Old and the New Testaments. Her deepest desire is to help others experience Jesus by unpacking Scripture in new and fresh ways that everyone can understand.

Lysa is president of Proverbs 31 Ministries [www.proverbs31.org](http://www.proverbs31.org). She and her team have led thousands to make their walk with God an invigorating journey through

daily devotionals, radio programs, online studies, and speaker/writing training. She has authored over 20 books including her latest *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way*.

Each year, Lysa is a featured keynote presenter at more than 40 events across North America including the Women of Joy Conferences and the Catalyst Leadership Conference. She hosts the annual 'She Speaks' Conference.

To those who know her best she is just a simple girl who speaks about hope in the midst of her own struggles. Lysa lives with her family in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Connect at [www.LysaTerKeurst.com](http://www.LysaTerKeurst.com)



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## Our Vision

To connect with women of the North American Baptist Conference and help them fulfill their calling.

## Our Mission

To connect with women of the North American Baptist Conference, encouraging them in their desire to serve God, and providing them with valuable tools and resources to accomplish what God is calling them to do.

## Our Core Values

**CALLING AND WORTH**  
We value the essential role women play in ministry.

**QUALITY RESOURCES**  
We value God's Word and seek resources that are Biblically sound, applicable and accessible.

**BROADER CONNECTION**  
We value supporting the broader vision of the North American Baptist Conference and developing a connection among North American Baptist Conference women.

**LEGACY & THE FUTURE**  
We value the legacy of women who have gone before us and are committed to engaging the next generation.

# Resources Supporting *Finding I Am* by Lysa TerKeurst

• **Study book** *Finding I Am* which includes a Video and Group Guide and a Leader Guide. The Bible Study eBook is also available.

• **Leader kit** includes one *Finding I Am* study guide and 6 video sessions.

• **Video sessions:** For purchase or rent, there is a video bundle for group use.

**SESSION 1: I AM** – In this introductory session, Lysa introduces the topic of I AM by looking in the book of Exodus where God talks to Moses through the burning bush. First came God's name, then came His promise. (Run time: 18:40)

**SESSION 2: I AM the Bread of Life** – Lysa is in Capernaum during this session and discusses how important bread was in the

life of the Jewish people during this time. She reminds participants that only Jesus Himself can satisfy every craving of our soul. (15:40)

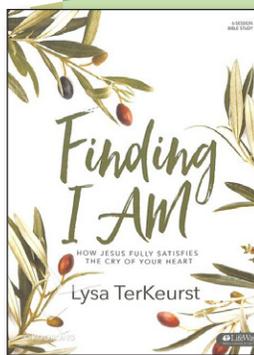
**SESSION 3: I AM the Light of the World** – This third session puts participants at Jacob's well where Jesus encountered the Samaritan woman. Lysa discusses Jesus as the Living Water and how this Samaritan woman became a light to her world by telling others about Jesus. (21:40)

**SESSION 4: I AM the Good Shepherd and I AM the Gate of the Sheep** – Psalm 23 tells us about God as a Good Shepherd. Lysa explores that Psalm and reminds listeners that God promises not to restore our circumstances, but rather to restore our soul. (18:10)

**SESSION 5: I AM the Resurrection and the Life and I AM the Way, the Truth, and the Life** – In this fifth session Lysa overlooks the city of Jerusalem and studies the passage of the raising of Lazarus. She reminds the listener that Jesus longs to bring His resurrection power to us. (20:55)

**SESSION 6: I AM the True Vine** – During this final session we find ourselves in a vineyard learning about God as the Gardener and Jesus as the True Vine. We learn that pruning makes us look more like Jesus and prepares us to bring forth fruit. (17:35)

Free shipping on  
orders of \$50.00  
or more.  
[www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com)



Women's Connection is offering your NAB church **ONE FREE COPY** of *Finding I Am* by Lysa TerKeurst

This copy can be requested by a woman in leadership in your church.

Please contact Heather Senges at [hsenges@telus.net](mailto:hsenges@telus.net)

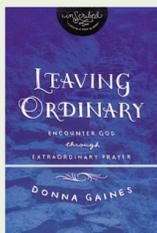
Include in your request:

- Your name
- Your address
- Your phone number
- Church name
- Leadership position in your church



# Book Links

## Old Testament Bible Studies



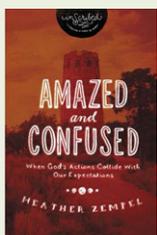
### Living Ordinary

by Donna Gaines

#### ABOUT THE STUDY

20 Sessions • No personal homework

We hear that God desires an intimate relationship with each of us. But, we wonder, can we really be intimate with a Being we're in awe of? Would we even want to? Through the object lesson of the tabernacle in the book of Exodus, discover how to interact with God in that secret place of true intimacy that leads to worship. Your ordinary daily practice of prayer can become an extraordinary encounter with the living God.



### Amazed and Confused

When God's Actions Collide With Our Expectations

by Heather Zempel

#### ABOUT THE STUDY

8 Sessions • No personal homework

Most people have prayed for something or someone in earnest, seeking God's will, only to be left confused by God's response. Sometimes we ask, "Why would a good God allow bad things to happen to good people?" Amazed and Confused proceeds systematically through the book of Habakkuk, exploring the prophet's prayer, his confusion when God's answers seem out of line with his character and promises, and his subsequent journey from confusion to worship.

Books may be ordered from  
[biblestudysourceforwomen.com](http://biblestudysourceforwomen.com)



## Reflecting on the Finding I Am Book

by Lisa Schmidt

I entered Advent this year tired – not physically tired, but tired that I was still so unlike Jesus. I was, and still am, struggling with an often ungrateful heart, an inability to love others well, and a tendency to forget that I am a beloved daughter of God.

In the midst of my struggles, I found a copy of Lysa TerKeurst's study *Finding I Am* sitting on top of the already-overflowing pile of books that I tell myself that I "should" be reading. A few days later, I was talking to a friend and this book came up in conversation out of the blue. A few days after that, another friend "randomly" brought up this book in conversation. I laughed and told God, "Okay, I'll read this book as part of my Advent devotions."

*Finding I Am* focusses on Jesus's seven "I am" statements in the gospel of John: "I am the Bread of life," "I am the Light of the world," "I am the Gate," "I am the Good Shepherd," "I am the Resurrection and the Life," "I am the Way and the Truth and the Life," and "I am the true Vine." As I started Day 1, I was struck by the significance of what Jesus was doing when he made these statements – in the same way that the "Word became flesh," which we celebrate at Christmas, Jesus fleshes out (quite literally) God's "I AM" statements to help us better understand who He is.

For me, the most impactful chapter during this study

was looking at Jesus' statement: "I am the true Vine." TerKeurst writes: "We run at a breakneck pace to try and achieve what God simply wants us to slow down enough to receive. We receive from Him everything we need to produce the fruit, therefore we must remember to stay connected to Him." This hit me pretty hard. I am not the Vine, Jesus is. I don't produce the fruit, He does. My role is simply to abide in Him – to stay, to remain, to wait. Advent is a season of waiting, not passively, but expectantly and with anticipation, for God to show up.

I exit this Advent season and head into the New Year with a greater sense of who God is and who I am because of who He is. He has reminded me through this study that although I am far from perfect, God is, and that is more than enough. As TerKeurst writes: "Our relationships are not sufficient. Our circumstances are not sufficient. Our finances are not sufficient. Our willpower is not sufficient. Our confidence is not sufficient. But He is and has been and forever will be sufficient." Amen and Amen.

\* \* \*

*"I'm a wife and a mom to a nine-year-old boy. I attend Oak Hills Church in Folsom, California with a heart for where God is at work in our lives, our community and around the world."*

*Lisa is the Administrative Assistant - Missional Initiatives and Leadership Formation at the NAB International Office.*

*"until Christ is formed in you."*

Galatians 4:19

## Prayer: a Renewed Passion

*Prayer is one of the most fulfilling aspects of Christian spirituality. It's time set aside to simply listen to God, to place our lives in His hands, and to pray in response to the desires of His heart.*

– First 15 [dailyfirst15.org](http://dailyfirst15.org)



by Jean Ewing,  
Women's Connection  
Team Leader

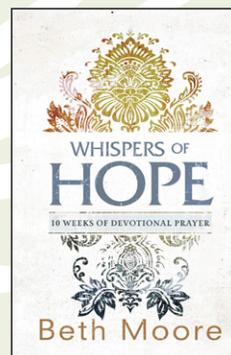
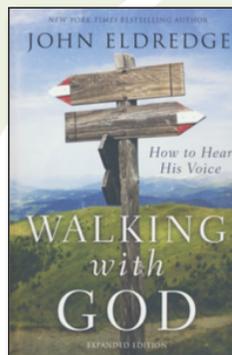
As the new year began, Dan Hamil, executive director, reminded

the North American Baptist family that we are a people of prayer. His encouraging video challenged us to recommit to a being a person of prayer. Dan shared that it is through prayer that God works in our lives to shape us, mold us and form us into the very image of Christ. (January 3, 2019, Explore NAB)

This challenge led to me evaluate my often-lackadaisical approach to prayer. I have forgotten that prayer is more about relationship with the Father than the words I say. It is really more about opening my heart to God in that secret meeting place where my relationship with Him can go deeper and where He can show me His plan for transformation in my life.

I also have been encouraged by the IF Equip's 20 Days of Prayer to get back into a rhythm of prayer. For 20 days an email appears in my inbox to guide me in praying with a purpose. A daily themed focus includes a scripture passage, a sample prayer, some prayer prompts and audio reading of the

scripture. During the 20 days the focus is on praying for our own hearts, those who are closest to us, our local churches and the worldwide church. Go to [ifequip.com](http://ifequip.com) to join the 20 day experience.



Lastly, I am reading a book recommended by a friend, *Walking with God* and working my way through a devotional by Beth Moore, *Whispering Hope*.

*Our deepest need is to live in conversation with God. To hear his voice. To follow him intimately. This is the single most life-changing habit that a human being can adopt, because it brings us back to the source of life. Yet most Christians have never been taught how to have a conversation with the Creator.*

In this revised and updated edition of his classic *Walking with God*, John Eldredge opens his personal journals to tell a year's worth of stories about walking and talking with the Lord. By putting words to the things God has shown him through some amazing experiences, Eldredge helps readers shed light on the miraculous truths that God is showing them right now.

Some of John's stories will help readers recall lessons they didn't know had been forgotten, some will open up new horizons, but they will all help readers tell and interpret their own story: the story of their intimate walk with God.

In *Whispers of Hope*, author Beth Moore addresses how to pray without ceasing and pray effectively by walking readers through an easy to remember and apply method of prayer, coupled with seventy daily devotionals, and followed

by prompts to put this prayer method into practice. In turn, readers will better understand how devotional reading and prayer are central to a stronger relationship with God.

May God stir a desire in your heart to be more deeply connected to Him in prayer in these early days of 2019.

**Listen to Dan's video challenging us to pray, and read Kent Carlson's article "Prayer as a Spiritual Discipline," at [nabconference.org/prayer](http://nabconference.org/prayer).**