



CROWN HIM KING

*A Study on the
Kingdom of God for
Well-Watered Women*



MEET THE AUTHORS

Gretchen Saffles is the founder of Well-Watered Women and the author of *The Well-Watered Woman: Rooted in Truth, Growing in Grace, Flourishing in Faith*. She is passionate about encouraging and equipping women to drink deeply from the well of God's Word, and she longs to see women grasp the fullness of the gospel in everyday life. Gretchen loves going on adventures with her husband and three kids, traveling to new places, daydreaming of wildflower fields, baking chocolate chip cookies, painting, reading good books, and teaching women to know and love Jesus. On any given day you can find her with a cup of coffee in hand, a message stirring in her soul, and a God-sized dream in her heart.



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Lauren Weir is the Content Editor at Well-Watered Women. She is also a wife and mother with a heart that beats to communicate the goodness and glory of God. Her love for God's Word and discipleship led her to pursue a Master of Biblical Counseling degree from Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, and she utilizes her training to both counsel and teach within her women's ministry at Harvest Church in Memphis, Tennessee. Before joining Well-Watered Women, she was co-owner of Words Worth Noting, a ministry dedicated to providing biblical resources and cultivating life through the beauty of Scripture.





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FOR WELL-WATERED WOMEN

By Gretchen Saffles with Maggie Combs and Lauren Weir



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WHAT TO EXPECT IN *Crown Him King*

- ◆ Seven weeks of Bible-centric study on the kingdom of God throughout Scripture
- ◆ Five days of study each week plus a weekend reflection
- ◆ A daily Crown Him King application section to take what you learned in God's Word and apply it to your current circumstances
- ◆ A weekly memory verse with an opportunity to review it during your weekend reflection
- ◆ A clear understanding of how to identify the kingdom of God throughout Scripture



This symbol reminds you to take a moment to pray and posture your heart in humility before the Lord before you read your Bible. Whether you write out a brief prayer confessing sin or lack of desire to meet with him, or you simply pause to be still and remind your soul that he is forever God, remember that you're about to meet with the God of the universe. Let that sink in, then begin your study. If it helps, memorize and use Psalm 119:18 as your guide.



This symbol marks the questions related to the concept of the King's power, that God has always been and will always be the Ruler of everything. His power has no limits and his rule has no end.



This symbol marks the questions related to the concept of the King's people, that humans are created by God, in his image and for his glory, to be in relationship with him as worshipers and his subjects.



This symbol marks the questions related to the concept of the King's place, that God created the world and is the ultimate Ruler of all. God owns everything and is sovereign over every speck of dust and stroke of the clock.



This symbol indicates each day's application section, where you'll ponder how the reality of the kingdom of God applies to your life.



This symbol marks each weekend's reflection time, where you'll meditate on the truths you learned in that week's study.

WEEK ONE

CROWN
HIM
KING
OF CREATION



MEMORY VERSE

The LORD has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.

PSALM 103:19

A LETTER FROM Gretchen

Dear Sister,

Does it ever feel like the kingdom of this world is falling apart at the seams? Leaders you once trusted are exposed for moral failures, unexpected cancer diagnoses are given, the stock market crashes and so does your bank account, an unpredictable storm ravages homes and lives, the betrayal of a loved one shatters your trust—and you're left in a haze of grief and uncertainty wondering, *Is God still in control?*

I grew up in a church where we sang hymns about the kingdom of God such as “This World is Not My Home” and “A Mighty Fortress is Our God,” proclaiming with fellow believers that “God’s kingdom is forever.” As a young teen, I regularly belted the 90’s Christian hit “God Is In Control” into my hairbrush microphone. I had no doubt in my mind that my eternal home was with my King and this world was just a temporary home, but deep down, I had no clue what the kingdom of God really was or how it impacted my daily life.

As the years progressed and I experienced more heartache and hardship, I became disillusioned with this fallen world and wrestled all the more with how to live for the kingdom of God while on earth. The battle against sin in my heart often led to despair, keeping me from living for the King’s purposes. The more tethered my heart became to the comforts of this world, the more I resisted the authority of the King.

You may have grown up in church singing hymns about the strength and hope we have in God, or you may have grown up believing God is nonexistent, unloving, or uninvolved in the lives of his people and the state of this world. The struggles of your heart against sin may leave you feeling utterly defeated, wondering if you truly have any place in his kingdom. No matter your background, what you believe about God and his kingdom and the kingdom of this world shapes how you live, causing you to either follow the ways of the Servant King or succumb to the perishable ways of this world.

Defining and identifying the kingdom of God from Genesis to Revelation has shown me that God does indeed have a much bigger plan for these days we live on earth. Though we live in a fallen world that is ravaged by sin, God is still King, and one day his power will destroy sin and he will eternally rule over his people in his place. This truth impacts everything, from the thoughts of our hearts to the actions of our hands.

My prayer is that you walk away from each day of this study magnifying the King of kings with a desire to live under his rule. The kingdom of God is both a comfort and a conviction to the people of God. We’re comforted as we look to our sovereign, almighty King, and we’re convicted as we repent of our sins and submit to his reign. May we seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, believing with full assurance that his kingdom is forever.

Crowning him King of kings,

Gretchen
Saffell

A NOTE FROM Lauren

Dear Sister,

It's as simple and as startling as this: I have the privilege of personally knowing the King. This King who created his people for his own possession. This King who waged war when his people came under the dominion of sin. This King who didn't withhold his own life to ransom us back to himself. Christ the King exchanged his honor, left realms of glory to be clothed in human flesh, to endure our sin and shame inherent since the exit from the garden. My relationship under his loving and powerful reign changes everything about my life. As I embrace the ways of his kingdom—poverty of spirit, meekness of posture, purity of heart—he bestows his honor. As I submit to his merciful rule by opening his Word every day and seeking to align my heart with his, he cultivates the fruit of peace and righteousness. And I find my heart evermore in need of personal fellowship with the King himself as I endure the sin-exposing, heart-wrenching trials of this life that are preparing me for the glory of belonging to his unrivaled kingdom forever.

Lauren Weir

A NOTE FROM Maggie

Dear Sister,

The hardest obstacle I've had to face in growing to spiritual maturity is understanding the judgment of God. I remember struggling through tears upon tears as a young teenager with the idea that God could see into the sin-soaked depths of my heart and love me anyway. I understood the King's righteous rule, but I also feared it to my bones because I didn't understand his rescue. Breakthrough only came when I finally recognized that it was my pride that held me back from accepting the depths of his grace. Even now, as I read the stories of God's judgment in the Old Testament, I find the old fears festering. So I must remember my King. The One who rescued his people, including me, through his sacrifice on the cross and the unleashing of his power to defeat death. The One who healed me by his wounds and redeemed me with blood from his own body. Jesus Christ the righteous, who is my advocate before the Father. So I need no longer fear his judgment—now I can enjoy peace with my Holy God, growing in righteousness myself, until the day I am united with him forever.

Maggie Combs





HEART CHECK

Do you consider yourself one of God's people? Why or why not?

What characteristics come to mind when you consider the kingdom of God?

Where in your life do you tend to depend upon the kingdom of this world?

What comes to mind when you hear the phrase "God is in control"?

Are there circumstances in your past or present that have led you to doubt either God's power or his kindness as he rules?

When your heart is wrestling with sin, where do you turn for help?

Crown Him King

WRITE A PRAYER ASKING THE LORD TO REVEAL THE NATURE OF HIS KINGDOM TO YOU THROUGH HIS WORD. MAKE A COMMITMENT TO SEEK RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD AS YOU STUDY.

DAY TWO | WHAT IS THE KINGDOM OF GOD?

WEEK 1
DAY 2



Take a moment to pray for humility and insight before you read God's Word.

When you hear the phrase “kingdom of God,” what words or images come to mind? If someone were to ask you what the kingdom of God is, what would you say?



Read Mark 1:15 and Matthew 4:23. What do these passages reveal about the kingdom of God?

“Kingdom of God” is a phrase often tossed around like a game of hot potato. No one quite knows what to do with it or how to define it, so we pass it on quickly to the next person. We hear and say phrases like “Jesus is King” or “live for the kingdom” but don’t quite know what that means or how this really applies to daily life—the moments we wash the dishes, watch the news, or wait in the carpool line. Each December, we sing praises to the newborn King who “rules the world with truth and grace” without truly grasping how the birth of Jesus was a part of God’s original, eternal kingdom plan. Christ came as a baby born of a virgin, but at the same time, he came as a triumphant King—in a way unlike what his people expected. His unlikely entrance has a greater purpose that we’ll come to understand as we embark on our study of the kingdom of God.

The concept of the kingdom of God unfolds throughout all of Scripture, beginning in Genesis 1 and ending in Revelation 22. Like an unbreakable chain, this framework helps us understand who God is, who we are, and what his eternal purposes are as revealed to us in both the Old and New Testaments.

Theologian Graeme Goldsworthy defines the kingdom of God as being three-part:

“The kingdom of God is God’s rule over God’s people in God’s place.”¹

The rule of God represents his power and reign over all people, places, and things. The kingdom of God is established upon who God is, what he has done, what he is doing, and what he will do in the lives of his people to bring about his eternal purposes.

Theologian Patrick Shreiner piggybacks on this definition by describing the kingdom using three easy-to-remember *Ps*:

“The kingdom is the King’s power over the King’s people in the King’s place.”²

Though the phrase “kingdom of God” isn’t used in the Old Testament, the framework for this foundational teaching is seen readily from the very beginning, starting with the creation account. Before we undertake our study of the kingdom narrative that unfolds in Scripture, let’s first break down this overarching definition of God’s kingdom that will guide us through the story of the Bible.

THE KINGDOM OF GOD IS:



GOD’S POWER (RULE): God has always been and will always be the Ruler of everything. His power has no limits and his rule has no end.

 Read the following verses and write down what they reveal about God’s power and rule:

Job 11:7-9

Luke 1:37

Psalm 22:28

Psalm 47:8

Psalm 147:5



GOD'S PEOPLE: Humans are created by God, in his image and for his glory, to be in relationship with him as worshipers and his subjects.

🌿 Read the following verses and write down what you learn about God's people:

Deuteronomy 7:6

Romans 5:8

1 Peter 2:9–10

1 John 3:1



GOD'S PLACE: God created the world and is the ultimate Ruler of all.

🌿 Read the following verses and write down what they say about God's place:

Genesis 12:7

Deuteronomy 1:8

Joshua 1:13

Romans 4:13

Revelation 21:1–3



God created the world and is the ultimate Ruler of all. He owns everything and is sovereign over every speck of dust and stroke of the clock. In the kingdom, God's rule over his people in his place refers to God leading his people into the promised land. In the Old Testament, this referred to the land of Canaan, but stretching into the New Testament, this refers to the ultimate promised land when God's kingdom will be consummated at the return of Christ! As we continue to study the kingdom of God, we'll gain a better understanding of God's place.

If you're feeling overwhelmed in trying to grasp a basic definition of the kingdom of God, take heart! Throughout this study we'll dive deep, but we'll also fly high and see Christ as King and his kingdom established.

Crown Him King

The concept of the kingdom of God offers us unshakable hope. Even when it feels as if the kingdom of this world might crumble as nations war against one another and divisions become more prominent, we trust in our King and live for the kingdom of God that cannot be shaken. We rest in God's power, we treasure the incredible fact that we are his people, and we look forward to the day when we're with him forever in his eternal kingdom. Until then, we wait, but not as a people who are hopeless or directionless. We feel the same angst that the people of God felt as they waited for the first coming of the Messiah, King Jesus, and we anticipate his coming again to ransom his people and reconcile his kingdom.

In what difficult circumstance do you need to remember that God is powerful, you are one of his people, and your eternity is secure in his kingdom?