

BIBLICAL

a four-week Bible study for women

DISCERNMENT

heidistjohn.com

Hello, women of the Word!

Welcome to our first-ever podcast companion Bible study! I'm honestly humbled to be able to do this with you for the next few weeks. *Thank you* for joining me!

I'm sure the studies will morph as you and I grow together, but my prayer for these studies will remain the same: that you might see that God's Word is relevant to your life right now. God cares about what is happening around us—and He is inviting us on an extraordinary, life-changing journey: to know Him.

For the next four weeks, I'm going to ask you to commit to doing two things consistently:

- 1) Pray. As you go through this simple Bible Study, ask God to open your eyes and grow you up in Him. Set time aside to get alone with God in prayer.
- 2) Invite others to join you. Maybe it's your best friend. Maybe it's a neighbor. Maybe it's your coffee group. Ask the Lord to show you who those precious women are that need to be encouraged and grow with you as you grow in Christ.

Here's how this first study will work. I've designed a very simple, Truth-packed four weeks for you... simple, because I'm hoping it will help you get into a *habit* of studying God's Word for yourself.

All you need to do is listen to the podcast—then open your Bibles and follow along with me as I teach about biblical discernment and why we need it. **Leaders will have access to leader guides upon registering and applying to be a group leader.** Study guides are available in the show notes.

The study podcast will air on Mondays for four weeks. Choose one day to listen and study—and the rest of the week, follow along with a simple daily reading and prayer time. Like all my podcasts, this one will be about 15 minutes long—but I hope you'll take a few more minutes to spend with God as you answer a few important questions by diving into the Bible. It's a life-changer!

Please invite four friends to join you! It might be one or eight or twelve—and invite God, too. His Word never changes. His truth is for Today and His wisdom is yours for the asking.

On the journey with you,

heidistjohn

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

a four-week Bible study for women
heidistjohn.com

WEEK ONE STUDENT GUIDE

MAIN SCRIPTURE: I Kings 3:1-14

Podcast URL: <http://heidistjohn.com/podcast/podcast-bible-study-biblical-discernment-week-one>

 Write out the definition of *discernment*.

 Write out the definition of *biblical discernment*.

 Why do we need discernment today?

 **Example: Culture says "abortion is a simple a "choice."**
Look up the following verses and discuss what they say about God's heart for unborn children:

Jeremiah 1:5

Psalms 139:12

Psalms 139:14-16 (read and discuss)

Psalms 24:1

Genesis 5:1-2 None of us has the right to deny that same gift to an unborn person. It is an honor to carry that powerful force of another life within our very bodies- a life made in the very image of God!

As you can see from a quick study of the Bible, God is not silent on the issues we are facing today. His Word is relevant.

 As you read the story of Solomon's prayer for wisdom, consider your own circle of influence—your family, your co-workers, your children. Can you relate to Solomon's desire to do better than his father? How should we be praying about our role in the culture today?

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

a four-week Bible study for women
heidistjohn.com

WEEK ONE - STUDENT GUIDE

MAIN SCRIPTURE: I Kings 3:1-14

Notice that Solomon asks for a "discerning spirit" so that he can govern well, and he also asks for help in knowing the difference between right and wrong.



What is the generally believed about TRUTH in the culture today?

For the Christian, the ultimate expression of truth is found in the Bible, in Jesus who said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life..." (John 14:6)



>>optional: a deeper study of truth<<

The Bible teaches us that truth is that which is consistent with the mind, will, character, glory, and being of **God**. In simpler words: Truth is the self-expression of God. This is the biblical definition of truth. Because the definition of truth flows from God, truth is also theological, meaning it can not be found apart from knowing God.

Here's a fun new word to discuss:

on·to·log·i·cal {adjective}
relating to the branch of metaphysics dealing with the nature of **being**:
"ontological arguments"

According to the dictionary, truth is also ontological: in other words— **it is the way things really are**. Reality is what it is because **God declared it so and made it so**. Therefore God is the author, source, determiner, governor, arbiter, ultimate standard, and final judge of all truth.



So what does God say about truth? Read these verses and discuss:

John 14:6
Psalm 119:160
John 17:17
Psalm 25:5



What happens when we stray from God's truth?

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

a four-week Bible study for women
heidistjohn.com

WEEK ONE - STUDENT GUIDE

-  If Solomon asked for wisdom in knowing the difference between right and wrong, how should we respond when we are not sure what is right?
-  What are some new areas that we are struggling to define "right" and "wrong" in the culture today?
- male and female
 - parental authority
 - the authority of Scripture in the church regarding marriage and family
- _____
- _____
- _____
-  Why is it a big deal that there has never been anyone as wise as Solomon since he lived?
Because God said there would never be another as wise as Solomon. Like all things God says, this is true! God keeps His word.
- Why can we trust God's Word? Look up the verses below and write your answers.
- Proverbs 30:5 - God is a shield to those who put their trust in Him
 - 2 Samuel 22:31 - God's Word is **perfect**. His Word is **tried**. God is a **protector**.
 - Psalms 9:10
 - Psalms 22:4
 - Psalms 118:8
 - 2 Corinthians 3:4-6
-  Read God's response to Solomon's request for wisdom in 1 Kings 3:10-11. What does it tell us about God's desire that we seek Him *first* for wisdom and understanding?
-  Would you say you are a woman of prayer? Why or why not?
-  What is our real struggle, based on Ephesians 6:12?
-  How does this apply to situations in your life right now?

BIBLICAL DISCERNMENT

a four-week Bible study for women
heidistjohn.com

WEEK ONE - STUDENT GUIDE



Do you agree that we are living in a time of biblically illiterate Christians and a time of great deception? Why or why not? What evidences to you see around you?

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Take some time to come before the Lord in prayer and ask what Solomon asked: that God would give you a “wise and discerning heart.”

Think about the godly people in our life and their testimony of God’s wisdom and faithfulness. Ask God to show you how to walk the way of wisdom.

FATHER.

I RECOGNIZE THAT APART FROM YOU, I CANNOT HAVE THE WISDOM I NEED TO NAVIGATE THE WORLD TODAY. I ASK FOR YOUR MERCY AND GRACE TODAY. HELP ME TO SEE IF THERE IS ANY SIN IN MY LIFE THAT I NEED TO CONFESS TO YOU. GIVE ME EYES TO SEE THE THINGS THAT KEEP ME FROM HEARING YOUR VOICE AND WALKING IN WISDOM.

LORD, PLEASE HELP ME SEEK YOU BEFORE I SEEK ANYTHING OR ANYONE ELSE.

GIVE ME A WISE AND DISCERNING HEART. GIVE ME A HEART TO SEE BEYOND WHAT IS SEEN BY HUMAN EYES. IN EVERY AREA OF MY LIFE.

IN JESUS NAME.

AMEN