**STUDY GUIDE
“Cultivating Faith that Endures”**

*But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ
unto eternal life. Jude 1:20-21 (NKJV)*

Welcome to Women’s Bible Study!

As we begin our year of study together, let us direct our minds and hearts to diligently seek the Lord in His Word. May our purpose be to not only know and understand Scripture, but to grow in intimate relationship with the Lord as we sit at His feet and attend to His Word.

This year we will study James, 1 Peter, 2 Peter and Jude. Each letter was written to encourage early believers to abide in hope, keeping heavenly perspective as they persevere in faith amidst the trials and deceptions of this world. As we examine our own faith, we invite the Lord to open our understanding and teach us how to cultivate faith that endures. Each week we will study a passage, trusting the Living Word to speak for itself by the power of the Holy Spirit. Through examination and investigation we purpose to know and understand what the Scripture says and what it means. We also seek to listen, consider and prayerfully reflect on the Word of God so we can hear and respond to the things God is revealing to us.

This Study Guide offers tips and tools on how to study Scripture, as well as suggestions and prompts to enhance Biblical understanding and personal reflection in the Scriptures. We encourage you to try various approaches. As you study, record your thoughts in a notebook, on your computer, or wherever is best for you.

Bathe each study time with prayer, inviting the Holy Spirit of Truth to direct your time and guide you into all truth according to the Word of Christ! (John 16:13)

**General Bible Study Tools and Tips**

* Read the passage multiple times. Include various translations.
* Paraphrase to gain clearer understanding.
* Explore related passages and let Scripture interpret Scripture.
* Use a Bible dictionary or concordance to look up the meaning of words/phrases. Online tools like [studylight.org](http://studylight.org/) or blueletterbible.orgare free and easy to access.
* Wait to consult others' interpretations (commentaries, sermons, study notes) until after you have applied your heart to understanding the passage. (Proverbs 2:1-6)
* Meditate (think intently, pray, dwell, chew) on Scripture. Memorize key verses.
* Print out the passage in double-spaced format to have a workable copy. Highlight key words/phrases; record definitions, insights, questions, and related Scriptures.

**Approaches for Weekly Study: Examination and Investigation**

* Read the passage, making note of what draws your attention. Take time to investigate words, phrases or concepts more deeply. Follow the Lord’s promptings.
* Consider what the passage is about and note relevant details. List any questions that arise. Search the Scriptures for answers, and record your findings.
* Read related Scriptures or parallel passages for fuller context and meaning.
* Examine the passage for Biblical patterns and themes. Are there any principles, warnings or commands to follow? Explore as the Spirit leads.
* Make note of what the Scriptures say/reveal about the LORD: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
* If you find a particular verse, topic or portion of the passage you want to explore further with your group, make note to discuss with your table.
* Do not hesitate to connect with your table leader with questions when needed.

**Sample Promptings for Personal Reflection**

* How has the Spirit opened your understanding this week? What wisdom or insights did you glean? Share your discoveries and describe how they impact you.
* Do any particular Scriptures stand out? Take time to pray and meditate on them.
* Did the LORD reveal to you anything about Himself: God the Father, God the Son or God the Holy Spirit? Contemplate what this means for you.
* Did anything challenge, intrigue or encourage you?
* Is the Spirit bringing to your attention any area of concern? Is there something you need to change or take action on?

**Ways to Respond to what God is showing you.**

* Talk to the Lord about what He has shown you. Pray and seek His wisdom on how to respond, then follow His instruction.
* As the Spirit brings conviction, repent and receive the Lord’s forgiveness. Write a prayer of response or commitment to the Lord.
* Memorize special Scriptures the Lord gives you. Take up His Word as a sword!
* Worship the Lord. Remember to praise and thank Him for His goodness!
* If you desire prayer, please ask a leader or the ladies at your table. God calls us to love and pray for one another! James 5:16.

 *But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3:18 (NIV)*