

# TARA FURMAN

Tara Furman lives in Cary, North Carolina with her husband Tim and their two young children. She has been active in a local Bible study for more than twelve years, serving as a women's small group leader and children's teacher. Tara led the Prayer Ministry at her church and has led summer Bible studies in her home and community.

Feeling overwhelmed with all of her prayer needs; the Lord inspired her to begin her own prayer journal. "Intimacy with God, Your Daily Guide to Prayer," is her first published prayer journal.



A stay at home mother, Tara was called by the Lord to share what He has taught her over the years in order to help other women grow in their relationship with the Lord Jesus.

A graduate of "She Speaks", a speaker's and writer's conference, hosted by Proverbs 31, an international women's ministry, Tara is a sincere, caring, and beautiful example of what happens to a person when Jesus becomes front and center. Her passion is for women to know Jesus intimately through prayer and through the study of God's Word.

## KNOWING GOD MINISTRIES

### Our Mission

It's simple, we want to help women know God more fully through a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, specifically through an established, vibrant quiet time and prayer life.

### Our Vision

To see women know Jesus intimately and personally and for every area of their lives to be impacted as a result of this relationship.



## MINISTRY TALKS, TOPICS, AND THEMES

Tara's messages are designed for a variety of women's events. Each message can be presented individually or packaged for conferences and retreats. Tara is also available to develop new messages around a designated theme or passage of Scripture.

### ESTABLISHING A VIBRANT QUIET TIME

Do you ever feel like you're in a rut, just going through the motions of your quiet time? Is your quiet time something you merely check off your list of things to do? In this session, women will learn how to encounter Jesus on a daily basis. They will leave with practical tools to jumpstart their time with Jesus. (Psalm 46:10)

### HEARING GOD SPEAK IN OUR EVERYDAY LIVES

Does God still speak? I thought He only spoke to people like Beth Moore and Billy Graham and preachers and teachers. I didn't know that He speaks to people like me! In this session, your women will learn HOW to discern the voice of God in their everyday lives. This talk is a FAVORITE among people of ALL ages! (1 Samuel 3:9)

### VIBRANT PRAYER

Have you ever thought - I wish I knew how to pray like her? Prayer is God's language. It should be as simple as breathing. In this session, your ladies will learn the fundamentals of prayer. They will learn how to create a prayer closet - the importance of closing the door and spending time in prayer - (alone with Jesus!) They will learn get to practice what is taught before the session is over! (Matthew 6:5-13)


### WALKING WITH JESUS

Enoch walked with God. Noah walked with God. Abraham was considered God's friend. What does it mean to walk with God? How do you walk with God throughout the day? In this session, your women will learn how to integrate Jesus into their everyday lives... into their marriages, their parenting, their work lives, their service, what they cook, and their day-by-day decisions. Another favorite among audiences! (Genesis 5:21-24)

### PRAYING THROUGH LIFE'S STORMS

Life is full of hard places, disappointments and overwhelming circumstances. Quite often, it's during these difficult times that God wants to become real to us. Your women will learn how to find life changing rest and peace in the midst of their storms. They will also learn how to alter their prayer life as well. Your women are sure to leave uplifted and hopeful. If they apply what they learn, they will not be the same. (Isaiah 6)





## **LIVING A FRUITFUL, PURPOSEFUL LIFE!**

We can have a saved soul yet live a wasted life. Our lives find meaning and purpose when we know our Creator. Every believer has a life purpose. Your women will leave with a new sense of perspective and purpose. If they are willing to apply what they've learned, they will have a greater impact for Christ in their circles of influence. (John 15)

## ***GREAT MOTHER'S DAY KEYNOTES:***

### **LEAVING A LEGACY THAT COUNTS**

Modern culture tells us that money, material possessions, and land are the only things that count in life. Is this what the Bible says? This session challenges women to live lives that count before God. Your women will gain new perspective to the things that really matter in life. They are certain to leave with practical ways to apply this session to everyday life. (Psalm 49:16-20)

### **BEING A GODLY WOMAN IN AN UNGODLY WORLD**

Being a godly woman in an ungodly world requires being deliberate which begins inwardly and works it's way outward. This session addresses such practical issues such as friendships, the way we dress, what we watch and read and maintaining proper relationships with the opposite sex. Your women and girls will leave with a new perspective and will be able to quickly apply the lessons learned to their everyday life. (Proverbs 31)

### **TENDING OUR GARDENS**

Do you ever encounter women who have it all together? Their eyebrows are always perfectly waxed; their hair never shows evidence of roots - they seem to be perfect on the outside! But are they really? What are they like on the inside? In this session, your women will learn how to tend the garden of their homes, their lives and priorities. A certain habit changer in everyday life! (Proverbs 31)


## ***CHRISTMAS MESSAGES:***

### **INVITING JESUS IN OUR HOLIDAY FESTIVITIES**

From Thanksgiving to Christmas - your women will learn practical ways to include Jesus in their festivities. And be a "light" to all in the process.

### **KEEPING JESUS THE CENTER OF YOUR CHRISTMAS**

Have you ever felt empty following your Christmas celebrations? Have you ever felt like the guest of honor was missing from your activities? In this session, your women will learn the secret to keeping Jesus the center of your Christmas.







## BOOKING

Thank you for considering me to speak for your event. I am truly honored by your inquiry and invitation.

While it is important for me to be a good steward and sustain this ministry the Lord has given me, it is also vital for me to fulfill my calling to help women know Jesus intimately and personally.


I never want the cost of ministry to get in the way of women experiencing ministry. That said, it takes about \$2,000-\$2500 per week to operate our ministry to women. If my fee is not within your budget, please let me know. I will prayerfully try my best to meet your needs and budget.

We simply ask for the best honorarium or gift you can offer as well as cover our expenses as follows:

- Cost of airfare or mileage: (.51 per mile to and from the event)
- Accommodations and meals
- A book table made available to participants

Thank you so much for your interest. God's richest blessings to you!

For more information, or to schedule Tara for an event, please contact her directly at (919) 616-6997 or email her at: [tarafurman@nc.rr.com](mailto:tarafurman@nc.rr.com)





## THIS WEEK'S TREASURE

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"THESE ARE NOT JUST IDLE  
WORDS FOR YOU — [THE BIBLE]  
THEY ARE YOUR LIFE."  
DEUTERONOMY 32:46-47

## BACK TO BASICS

For years I attended church, yet God was not *REAL* to me. What I did know of Him was kept in a "Sunday morning box." When I joined a Bible study, He stayed in my Monday evening box. Looking back, I was merely going through the motions of "religion." I had no idea that the God of the Universe was pursuing a love relationship with me.

The Bible study I attended was also attended by roughly 500 other women and 60+ leaders. The study was a seven-year study. For each year I attended, I proudly told anyone who cared the number of years I had completed. I lived under an illusion that the number of years in Bible study equated to my Bible knowledge and spiritual maturity. Oh, how I was mistaken! Spiritual maturity comes not from the number of years under one's belt, but by the day-by-day study and application of God's Word.

One year, God revealed His sense of humor when I was asked to join this group of 60+ leaders. What an honor to be a leader! To me these women were spiritual giants. Not because of the Bible facts they knew, but because of the wisdom they exuded in every situation. They demonstrated a genuine kindness and humility towards others that I had never observed before. They were filled with a peace that could not be articulated in the midst of major trials some of them were experiencing. They were each the kind of woman I aspired to be. I had great admiration for these women. Now, I was one of them — however by title only.

Inside this circle of Christian women, I saw their surrender and realized I was merely putting on a charade. Outside the circle, I looked and sounded like the rest of the world. The things I did, the places I went, the language I used, the clothes I wore, and the way I handled difficulties did not reflect the title I bore. I had two personalities: one for my church friends, and another for everyone else.

During the years I was privileged to serve with these women, I began to desperately want what these women had. I found myself leaving the leaders' meeting each week begging God to allow me to know Him the way they knew Him. Then one day, He led me to their secret. It is found in this week's treasure.

The Lord began showing me that the Bible was not to be a book that sets on a shelf. The Bible was not to be brought out just for show on Sunday morning. The Bible was not to be used as a text book for where I could find the answers to the questions for Bible study so that I could attend with all the blanks filled in. The Bible was not to be treated as just another book with idle words written in it — **the Bible was to be my life.**

Dear friend, did you know there is a God in heaven who passionately loves you and me? On the pages of this study, my desire is that you too may come to know Him in a real and personal way. God is real.

God is available and accessible to us 24 hours a day/7 days a week. He makes Himself known through the pages of the Bible.

If we merely go through the motions of religion or through the motions of Bible study, we will never truly know God. God wants us to **KNOW HIM** – intimately and personally. He wants us to know the reality of His presence in our everyday lives – the Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays etc. He wants us to know the sound of His voice so that we can hear Him when He is speaking to us – to guide us, to direct us, to give us wisdom. The goal of this study is not for us to be religious women spouting off religious jargon. **The goal is to be women who KNOW Jesus personally and are changed as a result of this relationship. Women whose lives bear witness to the reality of His Presence in our families, marriages, places of business, churches, schools, and circles of influence.** If this is your desire too, settle in, grab a cup of coffee or tea, and let's begin our journey together!

## THE TRUTH ABOUT THE BIBLE

### 1. What do you believe to be true about the Bible? (check all that apply)

- A good book full of moral principles for living
- An old, outdated book
- A book written by many different people
- The inspired Word of God – the text of Scripture is true
- An inspired book full of symbolic language and metaphors used to prove a point or moral lesson.

Just yesterday, I read in the morning paper that only 47% of Americans believe that the Bible is true<sup>1</sup>. Sadly, I once had a minister chastise me for being a “literalist.” In order for us to know the truth about God, we must first know the truth about His Word – the Bible.

The Bible is the immutable and inerrant Word of God. “Immutable”<sup>2</sup> means that it does not change or is it able to be changed. ” Inerrant<sup>3</sup> means that it contains NO mistakes. The Bible will one day be totally fulfilled.

The Bible is a unique book comprised of 66 smaller books. It is divided into two testaments: The Old Testament and the New Testament, with Jesus as the bright light that bridges them.

## OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament (OT) reveals the creation of man, the fall of man (when sin entered the world), the flood, the call of Abraham; the Ten Commandments and the Law. The Old Testament records the history of God's relationship with Israel, His chosen people. Throughout the OT, there extends a line of prophecies concerning a Deliverer-Savior, the Messiah, and the institution of a new covenant. The fulfillment of these prophecies is found in the New Testament (NT).

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<sup>1</sup> (Raleigh, NC) News and Observer, p1 A, June 24, 2008. Not sure of the validity of these statistics...

<sup>2</sup> Encarta Dictionary: English; (North America)

<sup>3</sup> Encarta Dictionary: English; (North America)



# NEW TESTAMENT

There is a span of 400 years between the last book of the Old Testament and the period of time addressed by the New Testament (NT). The NT describes the new arrangement of God with men through Jesus Christ. In all Bible translations, it includes 27 books written by possibly 8 different authors over about 50 years' time. The arrangement of these books and their focus is as follows:

1. The four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John describe the life and ministry of Jesus. "Gospel" means "Good News," and Christians sometimes refer to all four accounts collectively as "the gospel."
2. The book of Acts: describes the history and spread of Christianity.
3. The 21 letters: reveal the early development of church doctrine.
4. The book of Revelation: describes John's vision of the second coming of Christ.<sup>4</sup>

The Old Testament is incomplete without the New. The New Testament cannot be understood without the Old. In order to understand Hebrews, you need a thorough understanding of Exodus and Leviticus. In order to understand John 1, you need Genesis 1.

2. **Read 2 Timothy 3:16. (To find 2 Timothy, you can look in the table of contents or thumb through the pages towards the back of the Bible in the NT.)**

**Who wrote the Bible?** \_\_\_\_\_.

3. **Turn a few pages forward and read 2 Peter 1:20-21.**

**Fill in the blanks.**

*For prophecy never had its origin in the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, but men spoke from \_\_\_\_\_ as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.*

Perhaps forty different authors held the pen, but God divinely inspired every word written in the Bible over a 1,500 year period.

Another sign that the Bible is written by God and not man is that people like to make themselves look good. However, in His infinite wisdom, God made sure we saw the weaknesses, vulnerabilities and failures of those who walked with Him. When you study the lives of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Moses, David, Paul, Peter, and many other greats in the Bible, you will see they had many disappointing moments. Personally, this is very encouraging!

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<sup>4</sup>Excerpts taken from Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible*; Moody Press Chicago 1986

# WHY WAS THE BIBLE WRITTEN?

## 1. Read Romans 15:4 out of the New Living Translation version of the Bible.

*“Such things were written in the Scriptures long ago to teach us. They give us hope and encouragement as we wait patiently for God’s promises.”*

**From Romans 15:4, why was the Bible written?**

1 \_\_\_\_\_ 2 \_\_\_\_\_

The Bible is our handbook for living. Together with Jesus and the Holy Spirit, it is God’s revelation of Himself to men/women. It is also God’s love letter written to His creation, detailing how to be right with Him – a holy, righteous God. *It was written to teach us* how God handled people and situations in the past so that we would know the direction to take for today. *The Bible was also written to offer us hope and encouragement*, knowing that God is still the same. He never changes. What God did yesterday, He can do today.<sup>1</sup> I marvel at how an old book can give us such guidance for the present.

## 5. Read Hebrews 4:12 in the NLT.

*“For the Word of God is full of living power. It is sharper than the sharpest knife, cutting deep into our innermost thoughts and desires. It exposes us for what we really are.”*

***What do you learn about the Bible from this passage of Scripture?***

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

God’s Word is more than just letters on a page. It’s full of real power. The stories come alive when you apply them to your own life. The Bible is living and active and relevant for our lives today. It was written to guide and direct us. Unlike any other text, the Bible has supernatural effects for those who receive it and apply it by faith. The Bible is meant to invade every facet of our being from our mind, our will, and our emotions all the way to the motives of our heart.

## 6. Lastly, turn to the center of the Bible. (You should find yourself in the book of Psalms.) Read Psalm 107:19-20.

**a. When the people were in distress, Who did they cry out to?** \_\_\_\_\_

**b. How did He heal them?** \_\_\_\_\_

Many a day, I come into my Bible reading/prayer time, also known as a quiet time, with pressing needs; decisions to make; directions needed for guidance; hurts or insecurities that run deep; and in need of comfort. As I sit quietly in God’s presence, reading His Word, an answer or an encouragement will oftjump off the page and address whatever it is that I am facing. Peace inevitably washes over me like

<sup>1</sup> Malachi 3:6 says, that “the Lord never changes.” Hebrews 13:8 says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.”



a warm, soft, cozy blanket. My fears are quieted, my anxieties are eased; I have wisdom for the needed direction. This is what is meant by: *“He sent forth His Word and healed them.”* What I sense the Lord has spoken to my heart, I then record it in the Listening section of my prayer journal. (We will expand more on this in weeks to come.)

7. **In what area of your life do you need healing? (Is it an insecurity, a fear, a problem, a disease, a broken heart, or just practical direction for guidance?)**
8. **Will you cry out to God and allow Him to heal you with His Word, like the Psalmist directs? (Before just saying “yes,” realize that healing comes from spending time with God in His Word. A more accurate question is: Are you willing to invest the time in a relationship with Him so that He can heal you?)**

Dear sister, if you answered yes, prepare to meet your God. Prepare to hear His voice spoken over your life and your circumstances like rain on a parched land.

9. **After reading today’s Scripture passages, has your perception of the Bible changed?**

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## REVIEW QUESTION

Take a few moments to meditate on our study today.

Were there particular Scripture verses or statements that spoke to you personally?  
(Do not feel the need to fill in all answer spaces.)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.











