

WORKBOOK

EIGHT LESSONS

PHYLICIA MASONHEIMER

Every
Woman
a
Theologian

KNOW WHAT YOU BELIEVE.

LIVE IT CONFIDENTLY.

COMMUNICATE IT GRACIOUSLY.

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Every Woman a Theologian Workbook

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BEFORE WE BEGIN

A Note from Phylicia Masonheimer

Dear Reader,

I'm Phylicia. Maybe this is the first time you and I have crossed paths, or maybe you're here because of my website or podcast. Either way, I am so glad that you are here. I want to get even deeper into His Word with you.

The purpose of this companion workbook is to give me a way to walk with you through this material, helping you take this content from head knowledge to heart change. This workbook is crafted to help you process through and bring to life the practical application of every chapter of the book *Every Woman a Theologian*. It is my greatest hope that you work through this material with a group, be it your neighbors, girlfriends, small group from church, or just your best friend.

There are steps you can follow in the back of this workbook to guide you through using this workbook for a group study. What would be even more incredible, though, is if you work through this material as you read the book and *then* you call together a group of women and you lead them through this workbook! Any way you engage will bear fruit. But, like I said before, we want to move from head knowledge to a heart change. We want these new understandings to take shape in our lives.

Alright. Let's get started! I can't wait to do this with you.

*Phylicia
Masonheimer*

A Roadmap to the Workbook

So, right now, I'm going to give you a roadmap to the workbook.

In Each Lesson

Heads up! The exercises and questions in each workbook lesson are written with the understanding that you have already read the corresponding chapter in the *Every Woman a Theologian* book.

- **Opening Prayer:** The only way to begin study is with a prayer—short, sincere, and trusting. The Lord is there listening the whole way through.
- **Vocabulary Review:** Maybe you haven't done this since high school, but there is something so important about defining our words: what exactly are we trying to say anyway?
- **Know What You Believe:** A tailored-to-this study how-to section for your Bible study practices. Have you ever used a concordance? Have you ever even wanted to? Well, get ready!
- **Head Knowledge:** I'll ask some questions that explore the terms we just defined and ask for some details of your own experiences.
- **Heart Change:** I provide more questions that build on your head knowledge and cause you to wrestle with your own understanding. These are not about finding the right answer—these are about a willingness to ask God for more insight into your own life and how to change yourself by the Spirit's power to become ever more like Christ. He's ready whenever you are.

- **Theologian's Questions:** In this section, you'll write a few of your own questions, but you won't leave them here. You'll plan on seeking answers by taking them to other believers or doing further research.
- **Common Ground:** Remember how I said this study could be done as a group? These questions were written for the group experience, though they can be used in one-on-one situations or even individually.
- **Live It Boldly:** Answering questions is great, but what are you going to DO about it? This section focuses on orthopraxy, that is, the right practice of Christianity. This section provides a space for you to work out specific, practical ways you want this teaching to influence and change your life. What, exactly, are you going to *do* about these teachings?
- **Moving Forward:** Space is provided for you to track your progress throughout the study, to record prayer requests and praises, and to plan your times of study for the next week.
- **Thanksgiving:** A space to thank God for His word, this study, and your group (if you are a part of one).

LESSON
ONE

INTRODUCTION AND BIBLIOLOGY

The Very Breath of God

KNOW WHAT
YOU BELIEVE.

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CONFIDENTLY.

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L E S S O N
O N EINTRODUCTION
AND BIBLIOLOGY

Just a reminder: the exercises below are based on the introduction and chapter one: Bibliology in *Every Woman a Theologian* (or *EWAT*).

Opening Prayer

You did it—you're here! Begin your time of study by taking this verse to prayer: "... so is my [the Lord's] word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it." (Isaiah 55:11)

Write a few lines of prayer thanking God for this truth and asking that His purposes would be accomplished in you.

Vocabulary Review

The basics—they really do matter! Let’s start by defining our terms, which are all found in definition boxes in chapter one of the book. The best way to learn these definitions is to write them out one more time.

Theology: _____

Humanism: _____

Bibliology: _____

Canon: _____

Genre: _____

Know What You Believe

How to Use a Bible Commentary

Have you ever read a Bible passage and then thought to yourself, “What in the world was that about?”

Don’t worry. You’re not the only one. Take your confusion as an encouraging sign of two things: one, you are actually paying attention, and two, you’re not letting your own assumptions fill in the holes. But you don’t have to live in confusion. Take a moment to consult a Bible dictionary or concordance—or maybe both! These books are typically heavy reference books with teeny, tiny font. Don’t let that intimidate you. These books are *for you*. Also, there are amazing

dictionary and concordance resources online, so you don't have to worry about the font size anymore!

The purpose of these two types of books is to provide context for the Bible passages that you're reading. They'll give you more information that hopefully will help shed some light on God's word. Bible dictionaries give historical context and Bible concordances give literary context. My favorites are *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance* and *Zondervan Bible Dictionary*.

Any good Bible dictionary will provide you with maps, pictures, and in-depth descriptions. It turns out that knowing something about warfare in ancient times will help you read the biblical books of history with more understanding and appreciation.

A concordance will help you look deeply at the meaning of the particular words in the passage. It will offer cross-references, or other verses that use the same word, to help you understand the meaning of that word in that passage. A concordance is an extremely helpful resource if you're trying to understand the author's original intent with their book, letter, or poem.

Just remember that these dictionaries and concordances are for anyone who wants to understand the Bible with more comprehensive context—these tools are for you. Use them!

Head Knowledge

Let's explore our terms and talk about your own experiences. I'm interested in where you are—both right now and where you've been before.

What's your personal reaction to being called a "theologian"? Does that title fit you? Why or why not?

Where do theologians begin? Look near the end of the chapter.

Take a moment to remember a time you defended your faith. What was the circumstance (speaking to a fellow believer, or non-believer, or someone whom you did not know their perspective)? How did that feel? How were you received? What went well and what perhaps could have been improved upon?

Consider the different genres of the Bible. Which genre appeals to you the most? The least? Which genre do you want to know more about?

Heart Change

It's time to dig deeper. Read through all of these questions before you get started. Start with the one that appeals to you the most. You're wrestling, not answering questions on a test. Start with the question that has a meaningful link into your day-to-day experiences. You'll know it when you see it.

The Bible was not received as a one-time revelation, but in multiple books across both eras and genres. What aspects does Scripture gain because of the way that it was developed?

The Bible is the *kanon* (or measure) that informs everything else about us; for example, political beliefs, identity, and sexuality. Why do you think that this standard is so often “flipped,” i.e., identity informing the interpretation of Scripture?

What’s the difference between plenary and verbal inspiration?

Theologian’s Questions

What unanswered questions do you have about theology? What piqued your curiosity in this chapter? What caused confusion? Write these questions down so you can find out more by asking them to other believers or pursuing them in further research.

Common Ground

These questions are written for group discussion, but they can be used in individual study or as conversation starters. As we travel from head knowledge to heart change, we start reaching out toward others in conversation, searching for common ground.

Everyone, whether they know it or not, is walking around with a theology. What contributes to a person's theological formation—what influences why a person believes what they believe?

How was Scripture received during the time it was written? In other words, who received these words and how did they receive it? How long was it before the words of Scripture were considered inspired?

What is the significance of the discovery of the Dead Sea Scrolls?

Scripture is infallible, that is, unable to deceive, but teachers are not. What kinds of accountability measures do we need to have in place for the people who teach us Scripture? What are some of the signs exhibited by good teachers—how can we recognize who they are?

The Bible says that morality is not subjective. This has always been difficult for the world to accept. We've been trying to determine our own rules since the beginning. Often, conversations about this can be paralyzed by conflicting emotions from both sides. Look again at Phy's conversation in the introduction. How did she lead into her differing opinion? How can we discuss the idea of objective morality with a hostile culture?

For the Christian, what is the purpose of the Bible?

Live It Boldly

So . . . what are you going to DO about it?

The Bible is God's word given to us. It is alive and living. In a very real way, the Bible is God's voice. So, where is your Bible? Not right now. I mean, right now, it's probably on your lap or table or the arm of your chair. Where do you usually keep it? Could you keep it in a place that reminded you to use it more often?

We have the opportunity to hear the voice of God every single day, if only we are willing to open up the Bible. Consider practical and realistic ways you want to incorporate God's voice into your daily life. Write them here, not as mere goals, but promises to yourself to get to know God more deeply and intimately over the course of the next eight weeks.

Moving Forward

What worked well for you this week?

What obstacles did you have to overcome?

Where can you see some walls coming down?

What is one thing of praise you received this week or learned that brought freedom or joy?

Thanksgiving

God, your character is the canon by which all truth is measured. Your Word does not return to you empty. Thank You for the work Your Word is already doing in my life. Help me to look to You as I lift up these requests to you. Remind me to be grateful for the graces and blessings You've poured out on me.

Scan this QR code for a free summary video from Phy!



DISCOVER WHY THEOLOGY IS ESSENTIAL TO YOUR LIFE

Theology is not relegated to damp libraries and ancient books. It's as alive as the God who's at the center of it. It's all around you, every day, in the questions of your coworkers and the conversations with your cousin and the skepticism of your friend. It filters our inner dialogues and doubts. Its current runs through every political debate, every moral judgment, every new idea. Theology is essential because it touches every single area of life.

This companion workbook to Phylicia Masonheimer's book *Every Woman a Theologian* will bring to life and directly apply the fundamentals of Christian theology in a straightforward, relatable way to help you live a confident faith.

Each lesson takes you through the vocabulary of theology, identifying what you already know, helping you move that knowledge from your head to your heart where real faith takes root, and challenging your faith to become actionable in every aspect of daily life.

“ . . . but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect . . . ” (1 Peter 3:15)

Lessons:

1. Bibliology (Scripture)
2. Theology (God)
3. Cosmology (Creation, Humanity, Sin)
4. Christology (Jesus)
5. Soteriology (Salvation)
6. Pneumatology (Holy Spirit)
7. Ecclesiology (Church)
8. Eschatology (Last Things)



PHYLICIA MASONHEIMER is a national bestselling author, speaker, and host of the *Verity Podcast*. Her blog, *Every Woman a Theologian*, teaches Christians how to know what they believe and live it boldly. Theology touches every area of life, so Phylicia addresses cultural questions through the lens of church history and sound biblical interpretation. She lives in northern Michigan with her husband and three children.

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