

*becoming* **MORE** *Beautiful*

*workbooks*



# Post-Quarantine Bucket List: To Be Loved

A BIBLE STUDY AT HOME  
FOR SINGLE WOMEN

If you've seen the romantic comedy—Coming To America—you'll probably remember the scene where Prince Akeem (Eddie Murphy) dances with Lisa McDowell (Shari Headley) as Jackie Wilson's "To Be Loved" plays in the background and the Prince sings loudly for his neighbors to hear.

Happy endings. Isn't that what we're all hoping for? To be loved. Isn't that what we all want?

The elephant in the room – our love life and the love the future might hold.

No one knows when they'll meet the person they are meant to marry (or remarry), and no one knows how long their season of singleness will last. But living out your singleness in obedience to God matters now and will matter when or if you marry. There are many things in life we may regret, but obedience to God is not one of them.

Love is about so much more than a romantic partner but refusing to acknowledge the elephant just gets bigger. In her book, *Passion and Purity: Learning to Bring Your Love Life Under Christ's Control*, Elisabeth Elliott says, "The love life of a Christian is a crucial battleground. There, if nowhere else, it will be determined as to who is Lord: the world, the self and the devil, or the Lord Christ."

Who does your love life (past or current) reveal as to who is Lord? If we know that this profound quote is true, what makes us keep dating the same way expecting different results?

Do you need to pivot your dating to be Christ-centered? Have you decided that you are ready to try love again? It can be very hard to open up to love again after you've been hurt. What's wrong is when you choose to never love—the way God intended—missing the opportunity for something beautiful—to be loved and married for His glory.

Being alone during the quarantine has been an unexpected gift because we are a culture that has become addicted to noise. It is refreshing to turn down the volume of our lives to spend time in God's presence.

Lynn Whitfield says, “the stillness to get out of our way and feel God's presence is difficult because our instinct is to never be alone.”

What is uncomfortable about being alone?

Jacob's life was forever changed when he was left alone. His experience of an amazing encounter with God is highlighted in Genesis 32:22-30: That night Jacob got up and took his two wives, his two female servants and his eleven sons and crossed the ford of the Jabbok. After he had sent them across the stream, he sent over all his possessions. So Jacob was left alone, and a man wrestled with him till daybreak. When the man saw that he could not overpower him, he touched the socket of Jacob's hip so that his hip was wrenched as he wrestled with the man. Then the man said, “Let me go, for it is daybreak.” But

Jacob replied, "I will not let you go unless you bless me." The man asked him, "What is your name?" "Jacob," he answered. Then the man said, "Your name will no longer be Jacob, but Israel, because you have struggled with God and with humans and have overcome." Jacob said, "Please tell me your name." But he replied, "Why do you ask my name?" Then he blessed him there. So Jacob called the place Peniel, saying, "It is because I saw God face to face, and yet my life was spared."

Why does God want you alone to Himself? What is God wanting to wrestle with you about?

What needs to happen in your life to be desperate enough for God that you will not let Him go until He blesses and changes you for His glory?

As states move toward phased re-openings, perhaps your longing for true love has been realized and worth placing on your post-quarantine bucket list. But just as phased re-openings have been implemented for our safety, dating that leads to marriage are embedded with phases to help protect us from harm. Rushing ahead of dating phases in search for true love is a sure risk of a broken heart.

Many women in pursuit of forever love are tempted to give their boyfriend husband privileges. It is easy to find ourselves in the recount John shares of a woman Jesus meets alone at the well. Jesus knows that she has been thirsty for love and has a life-changing conversation with her:

Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” (John 4:13-18)

Why is going outside the will of God to get a man become normal for many Christian women?

Is it wise to have a boyfriend to stay the night even if sex is not involved? Is this considered a husband privilege? Why is it?

There are some relationships that we are going to have to leave behind in the “new normal” or do differently post-quarantine if we want to please God more than we want to please ourselves or others.

After God offers himself as the living water, the woman at the well left her water jar and went back to town letting others know she had met a man who told her everything she ever did.

Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, “Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?” They came out of the town and made their way toward him (John 4:28-30).

Are you ready for love? Or do you feel uneasy about risking your heart for love? Ecclesiastes 3:1,8 says: There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens...a time for love.

Our dreams of romance and true love are beautiful desires that God has placed in our hearts and should never be ashamed of whether we are loving our singleness or not.

Don't dismiss 2020. Let's make the second half count by positioning ourselves for godly love with the backdrop of not losing sight of why we're getting into relationships and getting married in the first place: to glorify God.

**“So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God” (1 Corinthians 10:31).**

What are your top three goals for the second half of this year?

Goal: To be loved

Why:

How:

- 
- 
- 

Goal:

Why:

How:

- 
- 
-

Goal:

Why:

How:

- 
- 
- 

Whether you are single and not dating, dating, or engaged, it is important to understand God's desire for the progression of a healthy relationship.

What are the phases of a worldly dating relationship?

What are the phases of a godly dating relationship?

When you're in love and considering marriage, what is the most challenging phase in your dating relationship? Why?

Flee sexual immorality. Every sin that a man does is outside the body, but he who commits sexual immorality sins against his own body. Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's (1 Corinthians 6:18-20).

Why is glorifying God in your body and spirit not an option?

How can you apply Romans 12:1-2 to your life: Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

Write a letter or start a journal to yourself about your wanting to be loved and your desire to be in a godly relationship that leads to marriage. Be honest to write about what if love and marriage doesn't happen. End with a prayer to God about making your singleness beautiful by glorifying Him regardless of your relationship status.



