

*The LORD has chosen you to be a people  
for His treasured possession.*

Deuteronomy 14:2

# TREASURED

by Deb Burma

A Women's Small Group Bible Study  
from Concordia Publishing House



intro

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How to Use This Study



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This Bible study is designed to be fresh and uplifting, combining a fun topic familiar to a woman's everyday life with the powerful and exciting message of God's love in Christ! The unique format includes a lively leader's PowerPoint and scripted presentation and a follow-along participant's handout designed to promote interactive learning and deepen group discussion. Participants learn God's Word as they listen to the presentation, receive the message visually, and actively participate during the study.

The following suggestions will help guide you as you prepare to lead participants in an exciting time of discovery and growth in God's Word! They are not, however, exhaustive, nor are they designed to be read aloud during your session.

1. Before you begin preparation of the study, spend time in prayer, asking God to strengthen your faith through this study of His Word. The Scriptures were written that we might believe in Jesus Christ and have life in His name (John 20:31). Ask that He would guide and bless your words as you lead the study. Also, pray for group participants by name, if possible.
2. To prepare for each session, begin by reading through the leader's presentation a few times until you are familiar with the topic and comfortable with the flow of the Bible study. Practice giving the complete presentation and look over the participant handout as you practice. Read the Bible passages found throughout the study. Answer the questions in the spaces provided on the participant handout. (Suggested answers and further guidance are given in the leader's materials.) Your familiarity with the combined components of the session will give you confidence as you lead the group.

3. **If you are using the optional PowerPoint presentation:** The script and the slide presentation work together to provide an attention-grabbing, learner-friendly message. (PowerPoint slides are clearly marked throughout the leader's presentation. Simply "click" on each slide as it appears in your script.)

Set up your computer/laptop and screen before participants arrive. The slide presentation can be operated from the computer's keyboard; however, it is easier to lead using a remote control to "click" to each slide in the presentation. Use one if available.

**If you are not using the PowerPoint presentation:** Be mindful of the directions included in the leader presentation. You may have to make adjustments to your copy of the presentation.

4. Have your leader's materials in front of you, and be sure that each participant has a Bible and a copy of the participant handout.
5. As a courtesy to participants, plan to begin and end each session on time.
6. Your role as a leader and presenter is unique to this Bible study format. Participants are guided through the study, following the lead of your presentation, both verbally and visually. Sprinkled throughout your presentation are a variety of interactive questions and other directives. Pause to give participants time to answer these questions, write in words or phrases, or write out Bible verses, as directed, throughout the study. Ask for volunteers to read Bible passages, as directed in the study. By name, thank each participant who reads a passage or answers a question; then invite other input. For example, you may say, "Thank you, Sue. Would anyone else like to read/share?"

7. Many of the questions are reflective, or personal, in nature. Be sensitive to each participant's desire to either openly share or privately answer those questions on her handout. Remember that some of the questions provided during each session, as well as the "Reflections" questions at the end, are discussion starters. Allow participants to ask further questions that relate to the session. However, keep discussions on track with the session. It is important to continue a steady pace throughout the presentation portion of the study. As time allows, invite further discussion at the end of the study, following the "Reflections" questions.
8. Sessions 2, 3, and 4 begin with a review of the previous material as a refresher for all participants before they move into the next session of this four-part Bible study. The review also provides an overview for any participant who may have missed a previous session. You may wish to add or invite comments during the review as they apply to your group. You may, instead, wish to abbreviate the review if your group is holding more than one session on the same day (such as in a retreat setting) and the previous session was just presented.
9. Everyone is a learner! If you don't know the answer to a question, simply tell participants that you need time to look at more Scripture passages or to ask your pastor. Let participants know that you will follow up with a response to their question in as timely a manner as you are able.



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Written by Deb Burma

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# 1

## A Women's Small Group Bible Study from Concordia Publishing House

### Session 1: Participant Handout



*The LORD has chosen you to be a people  
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**BLING BLING =** \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tell others about your favorite BLING BLING:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

God treasures \_\_\_\_\_!

*1 Corinthians 7:23a* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

*Deuteronomy 14:2: "His treasured possession."*

"You were not chosen because you were \_\_\_\_\_; you are valuable because you were \_\_\_\_\_."

*Romans 5:8* \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Read *Ephesians 3:16-19*.

How does God strengthen you?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What happens as a result?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

What are the qualities of a Christ-like heart? Look up the following verses, listing several qualities of the heart of Christ: *Luke 23:34; 1 John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:16; Jude 1:21-22; Hebrews 7:26; Philippians 2:1-11; Ephesians 2:14; Mark 6:34.*

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### REFLECTIONS

1. How does it feel to learn that the God of the universe values you as His treasured possession? Explain.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Comment on this statement: "You were not chosen because you were valuable; you are valuable because you were chosen."

\_\_\_\_\_

3. What qualities of a Christ-like heart have you seen evident in other Christians in your life?

\_\_\_\_\_

**You are treasured!**



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# 1

## A Women's Small Group Bible Study from Concordia Publishing House

### Session 1: Leader Presentation



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**Presentation Key:**

*Italicized Text* = Directives (including numbered PowerPoint slides) and suggestions for the Bible study leader as well as answers for the questions that also appear on the participant handout.

**Bold Text** = Words that also appear on the participant handout and/or the presentation slides.

Underlined Text = A blank line on the participant handout (the answer to a fill-in-the-blank statement).

**[1—title slide]**

*(Open with prayer.)*

Look around you right now. Do you see anyone sporting a little BLING BLING? Do you know what I'm talking about? Bling is big! You've seen it, haven't you? It's in the malls and in the magazines; it's on TV, in this room, and all around the community. Where there are a lot of women, there is sure to be a lot of bling bling! Some of you are thinking, "What is this woman talking about? *Bling?*"

I'm talking about jewelry! Big jewelry; fun jewelry. Jewelry filled with stones, beads, gems, glitz, and sparkle. Necklaces of all lengths and colors, and big, beautiful pendants. Lots of BLING BLING!

**[2—slide]**

Jewelry parties are all the rage, aren't they? Some of us may remember when we were little girls and our mothers hosted a party. Maybe she purchased big colorful beads with flashy pendants and we would play dress-up with them. Time went by and styles changed. We became teenagers and said, "Eww, Mom, why are you still wearing those?" Guess what? Now WE'RE wearing bling bling that looks much the same! Bling is back and bling is big. And it's so much fun! Bold, but tasteful, beautiful matching necklace and earring sets. Dazzling bracelets and rings. Gone are the days of having just silver or gold in your jewelry box. The trend now is to have jewelry to accessorize each outfit with the latest colors. Yes, bling is big!

**[3—slide]**

The word **BLING** or **BLING BLING** was added to the Oxford English Dictionary in 2003. It refers to

**[click—text will appear on same slide]**  
**:"loud" jewelry (jewelry that really makes a statement), based on the "sound" it makes:**  
**"B-L-I-N-G-G-G-G!"**

*(Participants fill in the blank line with the definition.)*

Between you and me, I didn't know jewelry made noise, but if it could, I think it would definitely say, "bling." At least THIS one would (*referring to slide*).

Even our small, simple cross necklaces whisper "bling" as they shine and catch the attention of others, because they, too, make a statement.

Do you have a favorite piece of jewelry? Perhaps it has great value, real or sentimental. Maybe it was a special gift, or the perfect "find" at a jewelry party!

**[4—slide]**

*(Tell others about your favorite BLING BLING.)*

Large or small, sentimental, or just plain fun, we love our bling! Maybe that's because women love to accessorize. Jewelry is to women what tools are to men. A man might say, "I think I could use some more power saws. Yeah, and a few more adjustable wrenches. Ooh, that ratchet set looks mighty nice! I know I have ten already, but, hey, a guy can never have too many tools!"

Let's face it. Some women can never have enough bling! I can imagine some of you saying things like: "Ooh, that will look great with my brown blazer!" "Love those beads—I don't have a thing that goes with them but I think I'm going to get them anyway, and then I'll buy an outfit!" (That's what we call backwards accessorizing: jewelry first, clothes later!) "Did you see those pearls and diamonds? You know, I could use another 'girl's best friend!'"

Yes, bling is the thing! But there's another BLING in the room right now. I see it. And you see it, don't you? It's loud and it's bright. There is a glow here, and it is coming from. . . YOU! Yes, you! All of you! Don't worry; it's not

time to powder your noses. I'm not talking about the lights above us or the sunshine streaming in the window. The glow is coming from inside you! Girls, I'm here to tell you today that each of you SHINES brighter than any bauble around your neck! You are priceless; you are valuable beyond compare to the One who gives you your glow. While the world may "treasure" the bling you wear,

**[5—slide] God treasures YOU!**

*(Ask participants to fill in the blank on their hand-out.)*

He thinks the world of you! Do you know how valuable and treasured you are to Him?!

I heard someone say, "You've gotta use ch-ching to get the bling-bling!" In other words, there is a price to pay if you want to buy the bling! Guess what? God paid a much greater price for you! He hand-selected you and purchased you to be His own dear child. His love for you is so great, He spared nothing to save you!

**[6—slide]**

Write down these precious words from **1 Corinthians 7:23a**. "You were bought with a price." The ultimate price: God purchased you with His own Son's blood. Jesus' death, and resurrection paid for you, saving you from sin, death, and the power of the devil. YOU are God's treasure.

Let's be silly for a moment. If there was a little price tag hanging from your ear, much like the tags on the bling at the store, what do you think it would read? Maybe it would say something like this:

**[7—slide] "Not for sale."**

You are too highly valued; you already belong to the Lord.

*(pause)* Or maybe it would say,

**[8—slide] "Sold to the Highest Bidder: God."**

Our heavenly Father gave up His Son to purchase you. You are His prized possession. You are priceless!

Let's take a moment to read what the Bible says to God's chosen people, the Israelites, in **Deuteronomy**

**14:2;**

**[9—slide]**

these words are also for you, who are in Christ: *(Look up the verse and read it together.)*

**[click to add text to slide]**

"The LORD has chosen you to be a people for His treasured possession."

He bought you at a price. He loves you with an everlasting love.

**[10—slide]**

You are treasured.

How does it feel to know that you are priceless . . . worth far more than all the bling bling in this world? Do you feel highly valued and valuable, treasured by your very Maker and Redeemer?

I hope so, because you ARE treasured. But maybe you don't feel all that priceless right now. Perhaps it's easier to see that sparkle of value in others, and you see yourself like this:

**[11—slide]**

EWWWW! An ugly, plain old lump of coal. This is how you looked when God chose you. Lovely looking, weren't you?! This is way worse than a bad hair day! You see, ladies, you were not only stained in sin and surrounded by darkness, but that darkness filled you like coal in the depths of a mine because you were conceived and born in sin. When God staked His claim on you, He rescued you. He lifted you out of the depths of the darkness of your sin.

Dr. Reed Lessing, professor at Concordia Seminary, gave this message to the youth at a National Youth Gathering:

*(Ask participants to fill in the blanks on their hand-out.)*

**[12—slide] "You were not chosen because you were valuable; you are valuable because you were chosen."**

The world would see a lump of coal as dirty, inside and out, and worthless if not for its use as a fuel source or even the “punishment” in a naughty child’s Christmas stocking! But God saw your sparkle, even then! God chose you just as you were.

**[13—slide]**

Read of God’s amazing love in Romans 5:8 and write it on your handout.

*(Look up the verse and read it together; write it down.)*

**[click to add text to slide]**

**“While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”  
Romans 5:8**

God didn’t wait for you to try to clean yourself up or get your act together. He chose you and saved you from your sin when He washed you clean inside and out, through the miraculous work of His Holy Spirit in your Baptism or when you heard God’s Word proclaimed—that’s when the Holy Spirit first worked faith in your heart through the Word.

Yes, God loved you and chose you just as you were, but He didn’t want you to remain that way, a simple piece of coal. His Holy Spirit **began** its transforming work in you in the waters of Holy Baptism and through the power of His Word, and He **continues** His strengthening work in you today.

**[14—slide] Read Ephesians 3:16–19.**

**Ephesians 3:14–19:** *“I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of His glory He may grant you to be strengthened with power through His Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.”*

**[15—slide] Read Ephesians 3:16-19.**

**[click—the following question will appear on the same slide]**

**How does God strengthen you?**

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*(He strengthens you with His Spirit, living within you, giving you faith.)*

**[click—the following question will appear on the same slide]**

**What happens as a result?**

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*(Christ dwells in your hearts. You are “rooted and grounded in love” that you may know Christ’s love for you, and you may be “filled with all the fullness of God” Ephesians 3:19.)*

In Ephesians 3:19, Paul prays “that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.” Through the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ lives in you. And the Spirit continues its work, strengthening you and making a complete transformation in you, changing you to have a heart like Christ’s.

**[16—slide] What are the qualities of a Christ-like heart?**

Let’s look to Jesus Christ Himself!

Look up the following verses, listing several qualities of the heart of Christ.

**[click again—the following list of Scripture references appear on same slide]**

Luke 23:34; 1 John 3:16; 1 Timothy 1:16; Jude 1:21–22; Hebrews 7:26; Philippians 2:1–11; Ephesians 2:14; Mark 6:34

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*(His heart is pure, forgiving, peaceful, patient, humble, compassionate, loving, and merciful . . .)*

Do you know what you are becoming through God’s amazing transformation process? Ladies, if you like bling, this is the ULTIMATE BLING!

Do you know what precious gem is formed from coal? It’s not cubic zirconium! It’s the real thing. It’s “a girl’s best friend,” as we’re told. The hardest element, the most precious of all minerals, the costliest of all gems. Yes, it’s a diamond!

### [17—slide]

As God’s dearly loved daughters, hand-selected, chosen and treasured, you are DIAMONDS in the making!

How does coal become diamond? In our next session, we will explore God’s amazing transformation process as He continues to work in our lives, powerfully changing and molding us; strengthening us so we may reflect His image in Christ to a world in need of a Savior. Now we will consider these reflection questions as a group. Please free to respond as you are able and as you feel comfortable doing so today.

## REFLECTIONS

### [18—slide]

1. **How does it feel to learn that the God of the universe values you as His treasured possession? Explain.**

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*(Answers will vary. Women may express feelings of being deeply loved, unworthy, joyful, humble, hopeful, and more!)*

### [19—slide]

2. **Comment on this statement: “You were not chosen because you were valuable; you are valuable because you were chosen.”**

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*(Answers will vary. You may mention that it’s difficult for us to comprehend God’s unconditional love, that He chose us while we were still sinners. What comfort to know that God DID choose us, and THAT is what gives us our value!)*

### [20—slide]

3. **What qualities of a Christ-like heart have you seen evident in other Christians in your life?**

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*(Recall the qualities of a Christ-like heart. Encourage participants to give specific examples of Christ’s love)*

*in action, as evidenced through other Christians in their lives, i.e., “He showed forgiveness”; “She was patient.”)*

**[21—slide] You are treasured!**

*(Close with prayer)*

Lord, thank You for choosing us as Your treasured possessions! Please continue to fill us with Your fullness, working Your Holy Spirit in our hearts, that we would be continually strengthened and transformed, gaining a heart more like Christ’s, for His heart is pure, forgiving, peaceful, patient, humble, compassionate, loving, and merciful. In His name we pray. Amen.

SAMPLE



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