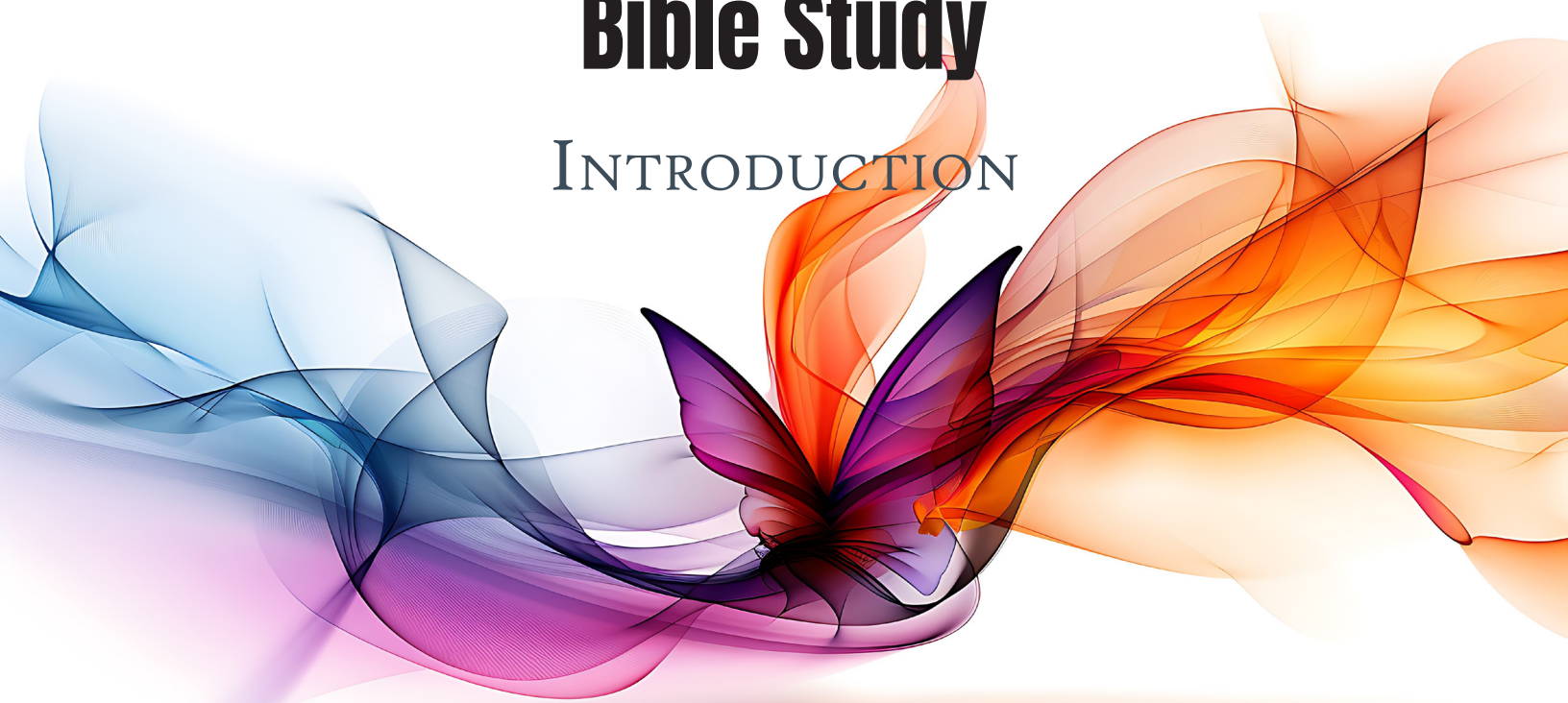




# **Bible Study**

INTRODUCTION



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HE so I Bible Study - Introduction

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# Introduction

*Nearly all wisdom we possess, that is to say, true and sound wisdom, consists in two parts: the knowledge of God and of ourselves. John Calvin*

*Our vocation is not simply to be, but to work together with God in the creation of our own life, our own identity, our own destiny.... We are even called to share with God the work of creating the truth of our identity.... To work out our own identity in God.... The secret of my full identity is hidden in Him. Thomas Merton*

A common exercise for all people is working to define who we are. The question of our identity is not trivial. Who we are drives our life. It provides the foundation, direction and motivation for everything that we do.

We try to define our identity through various factors.

A common factor used for defining who we are is our actions, what we do. Because you teach, then you are a teacher. If you do good things, then you must be a good person. Actions define identity.

The problem with this thinking is that it is backward. Our identity, who we are, eventually defines what we do. This is why a core concept in the Bible is the importance of our heart, or identity. Our being precedes our doing. We choose to act against God's will because at our core we are sinners.

We have a corrupted identity that needs to be redeemed. If we want to change what we do, we need to change our identity. To change our identity, we need to change the factors that we used to define who we are.

The good news of the Bible is that we can change who we are and it points us to the source of our true identity, who we were created to be. We can only find who we were meant to be from God. It is only through knowing God can we discover who we truly are.

The purpose of the "HE so I" study is to guide us into knowing who God is and through that discover who we were created to be.

*"Thus says the LORD, 'Let not the wise man boast of his wisdom, let not the mighty man boast in his might, let not the rich man boast in his riches, but let him that boasts boast in this, that he understands and knows Me.'" Jeremiah 9:23-24*

We have one aim, to discover, understand, and know God. It is through knowing who He is, that He can then show us who He has created us to be.

*"Above all else, guard your heart, for everything that you do flows from it."  
Proverbs 4:23*

Although the ultimate hope of this study is for us to discover and live out of our new identity, it is not the primary focus, but the application. The primary aim of this study is to understand and know God, as much as we are able. He is more than we can ever fully comprehend, but peace, joy, and fulfillment cannot be found anywhere else.

This study will primarily guide and encourage participants to examine their current understanding of who God is in light of scripture. We have all created an image of who we believe God to be, some of it may be correct, but much of it is probably incorrect and incomplete. We want to allow God to define for us who He is, through His word, the Bible.

We approach this study as worshippers, individuals that want to know who He is, so we can accurately glorify Him. He is who He is, so I can become who He created me to be.

### *He is...so I can be...*

As we learn about His identity, we want to align our principles with His, our purpose with His, our perspective with His, and our priorities with His. Our identity and life will better reflect Him as we allow Him to reveal Himself to us and transform us into His image.

Each lesson in this study will focus on an attribute or characteristic of God, as He presents Himself. The lesson will include a guided inductive study of several passages from the Bible, challenge to extend the study by finding additional related passages, and memorization of a Bible passage.

Inductive bible study is used in this study because the Bible is the best tool for understanding what God wants to communicate through His Word. It provides structure, tools, and skills to discover the truth contained in scripture through personal discovery. The process includes the four steps of reading, observing, interpreting, and applying from a specific scripture or set of scriptures. Additional tools, such as a Bible dictionary or concordance, may be used as part of this process to gain further understanding.

*Identity is the set of principles, perspectives, purposes, and priorities that we hold consciously or unconsciously at our core that guide our thoughts, feelings, and decisions.*

As part of the interpretation aspect of the study, since we are working to discover the identity of God, we will take our observations and identify the principles, perspectives, purposes, and priorities of God associated with this attribute.

Principles are identity's truths.

Perspectives are identity's point of view.

Purposes are identity's motivation.

Priorities are identity's choices.

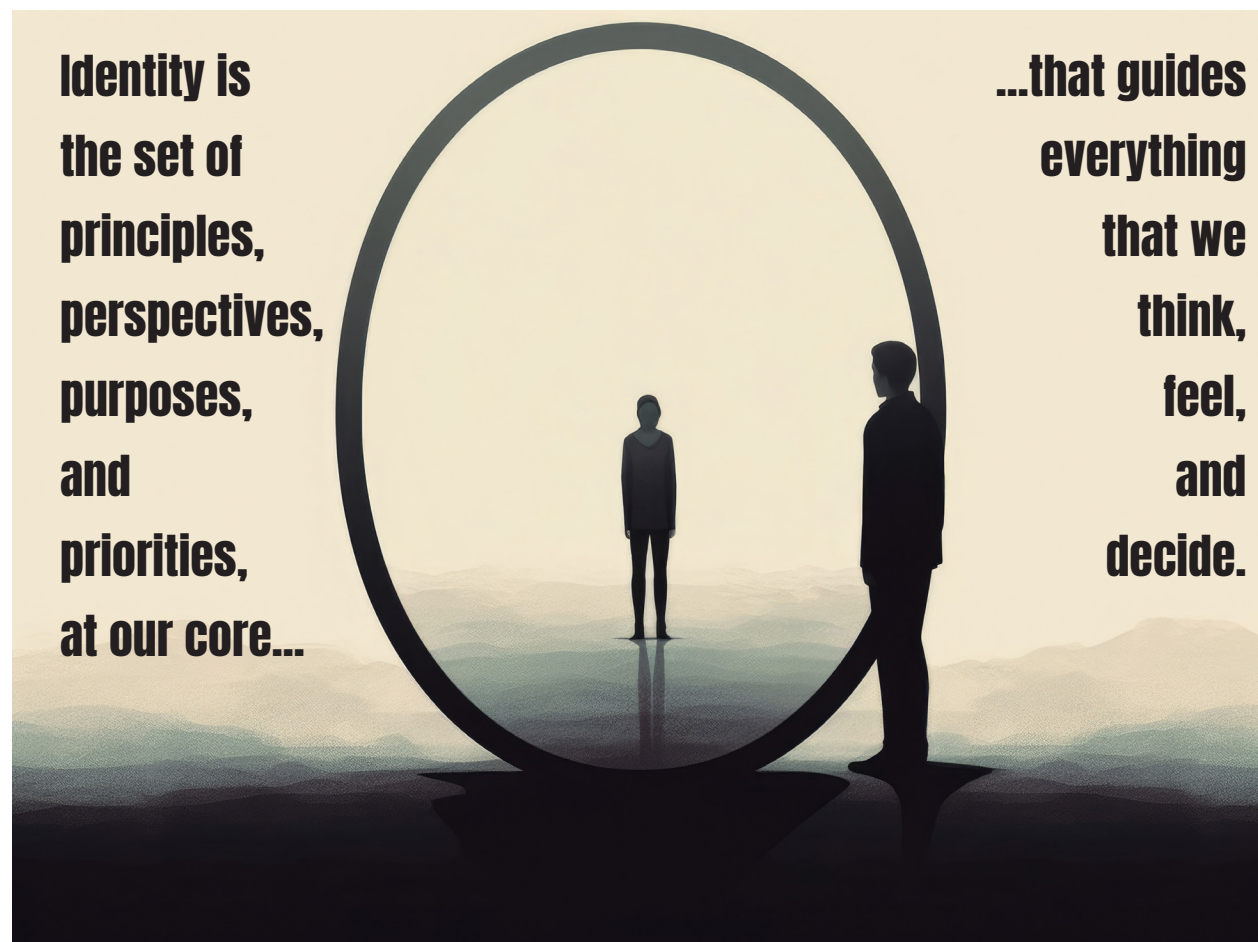
As we discover and discuss these different aspects of God's identity, we can better align who we are with who He is. To transform who we are to be more like Him, we need to transform our principles, perspectives, purposes, and priorities.

An important part of the study is the memorization of selected scriptures. The memorization of all assigned scripture passages is highly recommended for this study, both for the information and the practice of scripture memory. We learn scripture in a unique way when we memorize it, meditate on what it says and means, so God can use it to transform us in a deeper way. For each part of the study, have a partner to whom you can recite the scripture memory. An additional challenge that also comes with benefits is to review the scripture passages memorized from the previous lesson.

Although we like instant results, the transformation of who we are takes time and intentionality. Each day, pray and find scriptures or passages in the Bible to deepen your understanding of the attribute, or name of God for this lesson. The idea is not to search for more knowledge about God, but to let God lead you to find verses or passages that show the truth of who God is to you. The purpose is to grow in knowing God.

Our tendency is to jump into applying this to our lives. This is important but take time to meditate on what you are learning about the identity of God, to let Him reveal Himself to you. Allow some time of quiet to pray and consider what God is showing you about Himself, so you can develop greater understanding of Him.

Once you have allowed time for God to work, consider what He is revealing to you about who





He is. The process of transforming our identity involves three steps: *submit*, *sacrifice*, and *substitute*.

Consider what God is calling you to *submit* to transform within your identity.

What *principles* (truths) do we believe that we need to change?

What *perspectives* (point of view) do we need to reorient?

What *purposes* (motivations) do we need to participate in?

What *priorities* (choices) do we need to give greater importance?

As we submit to God's plan, we then *sacrifice* by choosing to let these go or repent of these aspects of our old identity. This opens the opportunity for God to *substitute* a new way of being as we live into our new identity.

*Submit...*  
*Sacrifice...*  
*Substitute!*

A final aspect of this study is the importance of including others in the process. We are designed to grow in our knowledge and understanding of God with others. As we include others as part of this process, they provide encouragement and accountability when needed. We need others so we can reflect the image of God to them along with seeing how they reflect God to us. Whether it is a close friend or a small group, invite other to join you in the process of discovering who HE is so you can be.

If have any questions as you work through this study, please contact us at [info@redeem-identity.com](mailto:info@redeem-identity.com). We want to encourage and support you as you discover who He is and who He created you to be.

