

EXCERPT



***Moms at the Well***  
*Meeting God Through the Mothers of Scripture*  
*A 7-Week Bible Study Experience*



April 30, 2024 | \$18, 176 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0678-8

This seven-week Bible study offers a modern-day “well” for mothers—a gathering place to encourage each other, take an honest look at the challenges they face as moms, and experience the God who invites them into a process of spiritual transformation. With this Bible study, participants also get access to videos and discussions questions to use on their own or with a group.

## New from IVP Bible Studies

We surveyed over seven hundred moms to better understand their experiences of motherhood and how those experiences affected their faith. These moms ranged in age from twenty-three to more than sixty years old, with anywhere from one to seven children. Twenty-four percent of them were single, adoptive, divorced, or fostering parents; nearly 40 percent were women of color. To better understand our survey results, we conducted in-depth interviews with more than a dozen women. Each of their stories was unique, shaped by their personalities and histories, and each was inspirational. And yet each of them, along with our survey respondents, expressed different ways that motherhood was difficult—really difficult.

From our surveys and interviews, we learned that moms struggle with worry, escapism, comparison, anger, a desire for control, and even feelings of heartbreak. Perhaps not surprising, moms found it difficult to connect with God amid these struggles. They couldn’t find time to pray or read the Bible. Many felt hopeless about some aspect of parenting, and some even said they found parenting so difficult it caused them to doubt the existence of God. The women in our survey expressed a longing to experience God’s transformational love in the midst of some really tough stuff.

Maybe you share that longing as well. If so, you are not alone, and these studies are for you.

Because loneliness in mothering was reported by the majority of the women who took our survey, we’ve designed the studies in this book to be enjoyed with a friend or small group. We think of the studies as a way for moms to gather at the well.

In ancient times (and in many places in the world today) women spent large parts of their day at wells, drawing water for their families. They needed water for drinking, cleaning, and watering their animals and crops. Getting this lifesaving water took work. Wells were usually located outside of town: every morning women walked the path to the well, balancing a large clay jar on their head or shoulders. They drew water from the deep well, then carried the even heavier jar home. But the difficult work had its upsides; it provided a social time as friends and neighbors walked together, took turns drawing water, and enjoyed each other’s company.

We have our own wells, places where moms gather regularly: at playgroups and playgrounds; on sidelines and in bleachers; in break rooms and waiting rooms; at band concerts and PTA fundraisers; and in our living rooms and church basements for Bible study and prayer. When these “wells” are healthy, we are seen and heard, encouraged and challenged. We find the water we need to get us and our families through the next day.

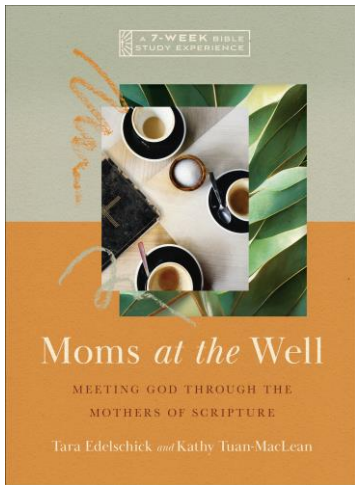


Tara Burns, print and online publicity  
800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or [tburns@ivpress.com](mailto:tburns@ivpress.com)

Krista Clayton, author interviews  
800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or [kclayton@ivpress.com](mailto:kclayton@ivpress.com)



[ivpress.com/media](http://ivpress.com/media)



EXCERPT



## **Moms at the Well**

*Meeting God Through the Mothers of Scripture—A 7-Week Bible Study Experience*

April 30, 2024 | \$18, 176 pages, paperback | 978-1-5140-0678-8

These wells are also great places to meet God. This shouldn't surprise us: God was always meeting women at wells. The Bible uses several different words to describe places to get water: *wells*, *springs*, and *fountains* are present from Genesis to Revelation, and God shows up at them all. God found Hagar at a well when she fled abuse. God orchestrated Rebekah's marriage to Isaac when she came to draw water from a well. And Jesus waited for the Samaritan woman at a well. Whether our biblical sisters were fleeing abuse, taking care of their families, or hiding from their scornful neighbors, God met them where they were. Women spent much of their day at wells—ordinary days, painful days, and even days of crisis. So naturally God showed up at wells.

Think of this book as a way to gather with other mothers at a well and drink in God's life-sustaining water. Each study is designed to be practical and user friendly for busy and tired moms, and each includes several sections: a group study, five daily devotionals, and a sabbath activity to enjoy with your whole family.

As you work through each study, we encourage you to notice where the Holy Spirit nudges you to pause, listen, and pray. Many of us are tempted to think, talk, and problem solve, rather than ask God for insight and help. To help you stop and listen, reflection sections often include an invitation to pause and ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you. As you do, we think you'll be surprised by how consistently God shows up—revealing truth and showering you with love and grace.

Whether it takes you seven weeks or seven years to walk with God through these studies, we pray that you will be richly blessed. As you gather at the well and dig into God's Word, may you experience Jesus drawing near, inviting you on a journey of spiritual transformation. We urge you to accept his invitation and follow him. We have, and it's changed everything.

-adapted from the introduction



Tara Burns, print and online publicity  
800.843.4587 ext. 4059 or [tburns@ivpress.com](mailto:tburns@ivpress.com)

Krista Clayton, author interviews  
800.843.4587 ext. 4013 or [kclayton@ivpress.com](mailto:kclayton@ivpress.com)



[ivpress.com/media](http://ivpress.com/media)