Endorsements

It is one thing to know facts about God in your head, but quite another to know Him intimately, personally, and in a close heart-to-heart relationship. *I Know His Name* will enable you to develop such a closeness with God by allowing you to get to know Him through His many names used in Scripture. Wendy has an uncanny ability to combine Bible passages, personal stories, and practical application in a way that expands your faith and strengthens your walk with God. If you are serious about taking your relationship with your Creator to a place of deep connection, read and then live out the truths of this book!

—Karen Ehman, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Keep It Shut* and eight other books; national speaker with Proverbs 31 Ministries; wife and mom of three

My dear friend Wendy Blight has taught me so much about prayer and God’s love through her own grace and love for others. There is no doubt that her book *I Know His Name* is going to be a huge blessing to so many and grow His kingdom even bigger.

—Emily Maynard, Author of *I Said Yes: My Story of Heartbreak, Redemption, and True Love*

What a wonderful study! I was so blessed by how Wendy, in such a practical, helpful way, guides us through the names of God, what they mean, and how that knowledge will empower our relationship with the Lord. You too will be blessed!

—Jennifer Rothschild, Author of *Lessons I Learned in the Dark; Self Talk, Soul Talk; and Invisible*; founder of Fresh Grounded Faith events and womensministry.net
I Know His Name

Discovering Power in the Names of God

Wendy Blight

Author of Living So That

Thomas Nelson

Nashville  Mexico City  Rio de Janeiro
Dedication

To my Charlotte Bible Study girls. One of your questions (the day we prayed at the bowling alley) birthed this book. Your zeal to study God’s Word continually challenges me to venture to new and deeper places in Scripture. Your constant prayers, love, and encouragement bless me more than you will ever know.
Acknowledgments

With deep appreciation, I thank the cherished friends and family listed below:

Monty—You are my best friend, and I love doing life with you.

Lauren and Bo—You light up my life with joy and laughter. Being your mom is my most favorite job in the whole world.

Robin Phillips—You said yes to *I Know His Name*. Thank you for believing in me and investing your time and exceptional talents in this book.

Lisa Sheltra—Dear friend and editor extraordinaire. Thank you for pouring hours and hours into this manuscript to ensure its biblical integrity and excellence.

Bobbie Wolgemuth—You loved me like one of your own. You spoke, sang, and prayed precious truths into my life in the midst of your own toughest battle. This past year, you went to be with Jesus. My heart aches that I will never again hear your sweet voice this side of heaven. But I hold fast to the hope that I will see you again.

Erik and Robert Wolgemuth—Thank you for your wise counsel and helping me navigate the business side of what we do.

Lisa Allen—You are a precious gift from God.

My Proverbs Thirty-One OBS family and First 5 Writing Team—You weave God’s truth into my life in such beautiful ways and make ministry so much fun.

HarperCollins Christian Publishing—Thank you for investing in this book and coming alongside me, and so many other authors, to equip women to draw closer to God through His living and active Word.
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Welcome to *I Know His Name: Discovering Power in the Names of God*. I am excited that you have chosen to join me on this adventure through God’s Word. Be confident, my friend, that you will meet God in a fresh way in the pages of His Word and the beautiful messages in this book. He makes a great promise in Isaiah 55:11, and I want you to keep that promise tucked in your heart: “So it is when I declare something. My word will go out and not return to Me empty, but it will do what I wanted; it will accomplish what I determined.” During our time together, we will dive into deep waters and unveil new truths and promises about our God that will transform how we pray and interact with Him from this day forward.

*I Know His Name* can be read individually or with a small group. I encourage a small group setting because it allows for accountability and rich discussions with other women about what you have learned.

You will notice that several translations are used throughout the book, mainly The Voice and the New International Version. Even if you don’t own either of these translations, you will be able to complete the lessons without difficulty. In fact, using various translations while you study God’s Word will only enhance your understanding.

*I Know His Name* leads you through five chapters, combining personal stories with Old and New Testament stories and Scriptures. Each chapter opens with prayer and a memory verse. I encourage you to pray the prayer as soon as you begin the lesson. Remember, the Holy Spirit is your teacher. God’s Word comes alive in our hearts when the Holy Spirit interprets what God is speaking to us. Praying invites God’s Spirit into your reading and learning, and prepares your heart to receive all that God has for you. And please don’t let the memory verses intimidate you. If you can remember the words...
of your favorite tune or the lines of your favorite movie, you will be able to memorize these verses!

Each lesson includes a teaching, a section for Digging Deeper into God’s Word, and a section to Apply It to your own life. There is space for you to write your answers, but I encourage you to get a journal or notebook to use as well. Designate a special time each day to complete your reading and study. Ask the Lord to help you make it a priority. He will be faithful.

The questions in the Apply It section are intended to help you practically apply what you are learning. When you answer them, think about what you have learned, the ways God has spoken to you, and what He asked you to do in response to what you have heard.

A five-session video study is also available in both DVD and downloadable formats (sold separately). If you or your group chooses to utilize the video teaching in addition to this book, be sure to complete the book chapter before watching the video.

On our adventure together, we will unveil God’s character, name by name, including:

- **Elohim**: The One Who Created You
- **El Roi**: The One Who Sees You
- **Jehovah Nissi**: The One Who Stands Guard Over You
- **Jehovah Rapha**: The One Who Heals You
- **Jehovah Shalom**: The One Who Gives You Peace
- **All-Consuming Fire**: The One Who Is Jealous for You (An All-Consuming Fire)
- **El Elyon**: The One Who Is the God Most High
- **Abba Father**: The One Who Is Your Father
INTRODUCTION

As you open your Bible, know that God breathed each and every word; then men inspired by God’s own Spirit wrote them down. Although written by human hands, each word is divinely inspired, thereby reliable, infallible, and true.

It’s not about increasing our head knowledge. We are studying God’s Word so that we can know Him better and so that God can change our hearts and our lives! So, friend, surrender your heart and your schedule to Him and join me for a great adventure!
“Bible study field day!” we exclaimed as we piled into a few cars and headed out for a fun day of bowling and fellowship. Our morning was filled with lots of laughter and, yes, a little bit of competitiveness. But that all changed in one moment when one of our sisters received a call that her husband had been taken to the hospital for emergency surgery. She rushed out the door with two of our friends, and a few of us called out that we would join her after we prayed. We gathered in a circle, and I opened our prayer with the words “Jehovah Rapha,” which means “God the Healer” in Hebrew. Eyes closed, hands clasped, tears falling, we stood united in heart and Spirit and prayed for God to heal my friend’s husband. Unbeknownst to me, one woman had opened her eyes, elbowed the woman next to her, and whispered, “Why is Wendy praying to another God? Does she believe in another God that I don’t know?”

The day my friend shared this conversation, it was an eye-opening moment. I realized that in the years I had been teaching Bible study, I had never shared the fact that Scripture contains hundreds of names for God and that those names speak to the vastness of His character and how He works on our behalf. I knew then that I needed to share that knowledge with as many people as I could. Because, friend, the more deeply we explore our God, the more we move from simply knowing about Him to truly knowing Him.

Some of you grew up knowing and believing in God, and He is familiar to you. Others of you are new believers to whom God is a bit of a mystery. But what matters to me is that you are here, and I believe with all my heart that God drew you here.

I am so grateful to come alongside you on this journey of unveiling God. I hope you feel prompted to ask lots of questions, because questions are good! God has a divinely appointed message for you
and questions He wants to answer for you. Be assured that He will meet you wherever you are and unfold great and marvelous truths about Himself and His creation.

I pray that the pages of this book will empower you to experience God in fresh new ways. To uncover life-changing revelations regarding His splendor and majesty, His sovereignty and power, His love and protection, and His faithfulness and goodness. You may be familiar with these words and understand their meaning. But it’s my desire that through our time together, you will study them, savor them, believe them, claim them, pray them, and live confidently in them every day of your life.

Friend, God delights in us and created us for inconceivable joy and fulfillment! Listen to His invitation: “Taste of His goodness; see how wonderful the Eternal truly is” (Psalm 34:8a). May He engage all our senses with every turn of the page.

As we unwrap the mysteries of God’s Word, we will experience the fullness of His goodness and the sweetness of His presence in every facet of our lives. Together let’s digest each and every truth, soaking in them until they become part and parcel of who we are, what we think, and how we act.

Are you excited about our adventure? I know I am, so let’s jump right in!
Prayer:

O God, I’m so excited for this journey on which I’m about to embark. I’m thirsting not only to know more about You, but also to know You more. God, through the power of Your Holy Spirit, help me to discover who You truly are. Open my eyes to see, my ears to hear, and my heart to understand eternal mysteries that only You can reveal on this exciting adventure. Give me the discipline to do my work, the perseverance to continue when I want to give up, and the mind to practically apply all that I learn. Enable me to taste and see that You are good. Show me marvelous things from Your Word. Reveal Your majesty, show me Your glory, and draw me so close to Your heart that I feel, down to the marrow of my bones, that You are the All-Consuming Fire! I ask all this in Jesus’ Name, Amen.
Part One: In the Beginning

Memory Verse: In the beginning, God created **everything**: the heavens **above** and the earth **below**. Here's what happened.
—Genesis 1:1

The Word declares that our God is a personal God and a loving and forgiving Father. He demands justice, yet extends grace. He is kind and compassionate and allows for free will, but mandates that this free will has consequences when wrongly exercised. However, because of His grace, in the midst of those consequences, God extends mercy and promises to never leave us or forsake us.

Do you ever wonder what our world would be like if everyone knew our God in this way? I do ... often.

The notion that God has continued to impress upon my heart is this: if we are to introduce others to the God whom we know and love, then we must know Him better. When I first had this thought, hard questions followed. **Wendy, how well do you really know Me? My heart, My character, My names, and the attributes those names represent?**

I must confess—I did not. When I first started reading the Bible, I noticed that the writers referred to God by other names now and then. But I did not pay much attention or question why, and often I could not even pronounce the names! As I studied the Bible more, I learned that each name **meant** something; sometimes the name pointed to an aspect of God’s character, and other times it pointed to how He relates to His people. Over time, I could recite many of those names and pray them eloquently, but I really didn’t understand all of them or know where each name originated.

So I immersed myself in the pages of His Word once again, this time inviting God to unveil Himself to me in a fresh way. I
prayed, “Show me who You are, God, and why I should care. Reveal to me why You are worthy of being called the One True God; why I should unabashedly love and serve You and You alone. Decipher Your names. Make known Your character. Help me know You better so I can live and walk in the image in which You created me.”

As I poured myself into the Scriptures, God answered my prayers. And the more I approached God’s Word with an open heart, the more I fell in love with God’s wonderful names—the names that reveal the vastness of His character. The names that affirm the work He does on our behalf.

Friend, the more deeply we explore our God, the more we are able to move beyond simply knowing about Him to truly knowing Him. And as that love grows and our relationship strengthens, God settles into that special place—reserved solely for Him—that He created in our hearts. We become a living, breathing vessel through whom God can work in this world. He transforms our hearts, and through our changed hearts God can change the world.

Our newfound knowledge will give us privileged access into God’s heart and open new ways for us to experience Him in quiet time, prayer, and worship.

So let’s turn our attention to Elohim (pronounced el-o-heem), the God who created us.
We find our first name of God in Genesis 1. In an English-language Bible we see the word *God*. But in the original Hebrew language, the word was *Elohim*. The word *el* is a generic word for god. It refers to our God as well as other, pagan gods. The writers of the Bible added the word *im* to the end of this generic name. This is like adding an “s” to the end of a word in English; it makes the word plural.

So the noun *Elohim* is plural, but it is always used with a singular verb. What does this mean? It means *Elohim* signifies one triune God, not many gods. This unique use of the plural *Elohim* to refer to one, individual god is unique to the God of the Bible. No other God has the name *Elohim*.

Why is this significant? Because it indicates a unity and diversity within the nature of God. The Hebrew language often pluralized nouns to express greatness and multiple attributes. With the name *Elohim*, this unity and diversity captures the doctrine of the Trinity—one God in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

Though the exact meaning of *Elohim* is not known, the name itself incorporates the idea of strength and power and speaks to the supremacy of God as He reveals Himself through His creation. We find it in the opening words of Genesis 1: “In the beginning, God created *everything*; the heavens *above* and the earth *below*...” (Genesis 1:1a).

**Digging Deeper**

*In the beginning God created*. Our universe does not exist by accident. God acted freely and intentionally with each word He spoke. He executed each stage of creation’s design. Just look around you—the glorious beauty that lies before you has been carefully crafted by a living, personal, creative God! *Elohim* purposefully placed earth in its exact location and deposited each one of His created people on...
that earth at a specially ordained time and place in order to accomplish His purposes!

**Read Acts 17:24–27.** How do Luke’s words confirm the truth that God is Creator?

Throughout Scripture, God’s Word affirms and confirms that He is the Creator. Read the following verses and share what you learn about *Elohim.*

1. Psalm 8:3–9

2. Proverbs 3:19

3. Isaiah 40:26

**Apply It**

Our God has done great and unsearchable things beyond our comprehension. He brought into existence every natural wonder the eye can see: every twinkling star, every delicate snowflake, every drop of rain, every billowy cloud, every crisp cool day, every roaring sea, every clap of thunder, every bolt of lightning, every majestic
mountain—all gifts shaped and fashioned by our Creator. Elohim’s invisible qualities echo throughout our world: “From the beginning, creation in its magnificence enlightens us to His nature. Creation itself makes His undying power and divine identity clear, even though they are invisible; and it voids the excuses and ignorant claims of these people” (Romans 1:20).

Elohim dictates the rising and the setting of the sun. He sets the boundaries of the sea. The stars rise and fall at His command. Nothing, absolutely nothing, has been or ever will be that His hand has not created.

Take some time today to thank God for His creation. Look outside your window. Remember the sights and sounds from any of your trips to the mountains or the beach. Praise Him for all He has created for your enjoyment and pleasure! Write your prayer of praise in the space provided.