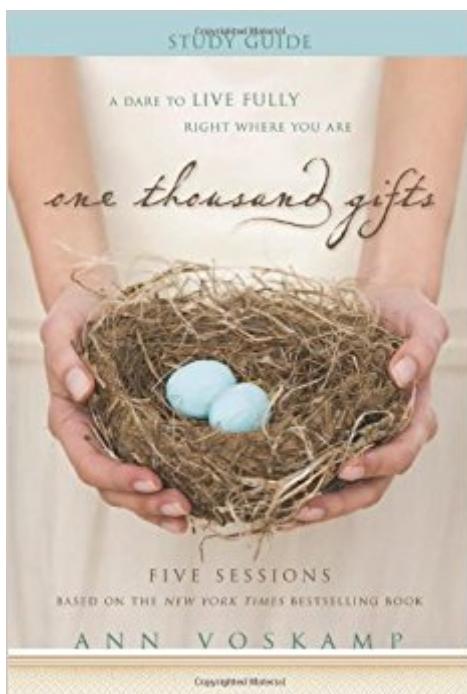


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# One Thousand Gifts Study Guide: A Dare To Live Fully Right Where You Are



## Synopsis

In this five-session small group Bible study (DVD/digital video sold separately), the bestselling author Ann Voskamp helps watchers ponder the questions of finding joy in midst of everything from the typical grind daily chores and deadlines to the calamity every person eventually faces. "How," Ann muses, "do you break the bondage of fear that has white-knuckle control on your life and instead embrace the everyday blessings that immerse you in Christ's fullness? How can you live life with a heart overflowing with delight?" In this study, Ann encourages participants to take on the life-changing discipline of journaling God's gifts to find the good in life in all circumstances. It's only in this expression of gratitude for the life we already have, that we discover the life we've always wanted — a life we can take, give thanks for, and use to serve others. In it, we come to feel and know the impossible right down to our core: We are wildly loved by God. Embark on this personal, honest and fresh exploration of what it means to be deeply fulfilled, wholly happy, and fully alive. Sessions include: Attitude of Gratitude/Grace in the Moment/All Is Grace/Trust: The Bridge to Joy/Empty to Fill. Designed for use with the One Thousand Gifts Video Study (sold separately).

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

Ann Voskamp is the wife of one fine, down-to-earth farmer; a book-reading mama to a posse of seven; and the author of the New York Times bestsellers *One Thousand Gifts*, which has sold more than one million copies and has been translated into more than twenty-one languages, and *The Broken Way*. Named by Christianity Today as one of fifty women most shaping culture and the

church today, Ann knows unspoken brokenness and big country skies and an intimacy with God that touches wounded places. Millions do life with her at her daily photographic online journal, one of the top 10 most widely read Christian sites: [www.annvoskamp.com](http://www.annvoskamp.com)

Ann Voskamp's writing style is poetic and flowing, and I've read reviews indicating that's bothersome. It's more a psalm than a gospel, more a poem than a narrative tale. But it IS her story, of coming through tragedy and trying one way to live and then dropping all her defenses and being open to whatever God gives. Her view, her way of telling what she sees, and her bedrock foundation in Scripture make this a book worth having, even if you don't like her writing style. I know there are folks who have problems with it. For example, her use of the Scriptural analogy of bride and groom to explain the relationship between Christ and His church, for example, apparently gives some people the heebie-jeebies. (I would encourage them to remember just exactly WHERE she found that picture, to begin with.) Apparently, her finding God's fingerprints in her life on every single surface also undoes some people. I don't know what to say to them, except perhaps they might benefit from reading Brother Laurence's "Practicing the Presence." Perhaps the writing style in that book is more suited to their tastes, and the message is about the same: you find what you look for. Worship isn't singing, it's praising and serving and listening to God--things better done in the minutes of mundane life than in the hour or so most folks spend in church each week.

I only half paid attention when I first picked up this book. It even sat in the stack of (I'll get to it later reading) for a while before finally reaching my hands. But from the first chapter, from the first few paragraphs... I had to grab the box of hanky's. I had to hold on tight to the roller coaster of completely human and relate-able stories she uses to open our eyes to the biggest things missing in our lives. She hands us practical every day scenarios and explains how she choose to move from one way of thinking to another. All told I laughed, cried, and underlined, highlighted, star-ed and journal-ed through my whole copy. After which I have delved into the authors blog devouring every article, every thing as well as picking up all the books she has released. The book is decently written though very poetic in it's presentation and imagery. Some people may not be able to relate to it as deeply because of that. Her wording is unique. and it equals the books purpose. If you do enjoy it I would advice to follow her on social medial as she is always posting uplifting tidbits, or handing around printable you can use in your home, etc. enjoy.

I have just watched the first session of the study; glanced at the study guide and I am so excited to

do this with a group. Ann has a profound way with words. This is the new year and it is a great time to go to the deep places of Euchristeo - Grace, Thanksgiving and Joy. Ann leads us there with a gentle calming and rich teaching of God's word. I am so happy with the clean, lovely simplicity of the filming. (I can't be the only one who doesn't like canned/cheesey clip art!) I am a fast paced person and although I like the speed I live at, it also is my downfall. I usually get bored with those who try to slow it down and smell the roses really quickly. If you are like me I want you to know this is slow like a perfect day at the beach - you won't want to go one second faster but just soak it in and do it again. I believe this study will enrich me and take me to a deeper relationship with God, the God who breathed the stars into existence and the same God who loves you and me and will bring healing and abundant life to us daily. That's worth 5 stars isn't it?

Ann is a talented writer, and her style doesn't fit everyone's likes. However she is passionate for the Lord and I definitely learned how to be thankful through this bible study. She helped me see God and be thankful in the little things and big. And to make thankfulness a way of life.

The book "One Thousand Gifts" was beside my bed at a Bed and Breakfast in Scotland and I was so interested in it that the owner of the house said she would like me to keep it. I took it back to Australia with me and 19 women gathered together to watch the DVD teaching by Ann Voskamp, and we also bought the accompanying study guide. Some of us also bought the book "One Thousand Gifts." I have now spent the last three months daily writing all the blessings and things I notice during my day, to thank God for. The discipline of thanksgiving and gratefulness is transforming the way I think, and therefore feel. As Ann Voskamp teaches, as we give thanks we are filled with joy.

I was so touched by this book that I bought 25 additional copies to give away to all 7 of my children, all my nieces, my friends, and inmates in the local jail. Ann Voskamp's style is beautiful and she inspires her reader to new heights of love and gratitude to God. I volunteer in a local county jail and in the 13 years that I have been going there, I have never seen a book so deeply touch the inmates. One girl said that she had never before cried while reading a book, but she cried her way through this one and read it in one day. Thank you, Ann for sharing your gift of expression and your love for the Lord.

One Thousand Gifts is one of the best books I've ever read. I loved it so much that I decided to lead

a bible study for the first time ever. This book and study helped me to see God's gifts no matter what my circumstances may be. I highly recommend it. Truly life changing.

A beautiful well written book which tugs at the heart strings of one's mind and soul. A challenge to be sure to open the eyes of our heart and to live lives of gratitude in all things.

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