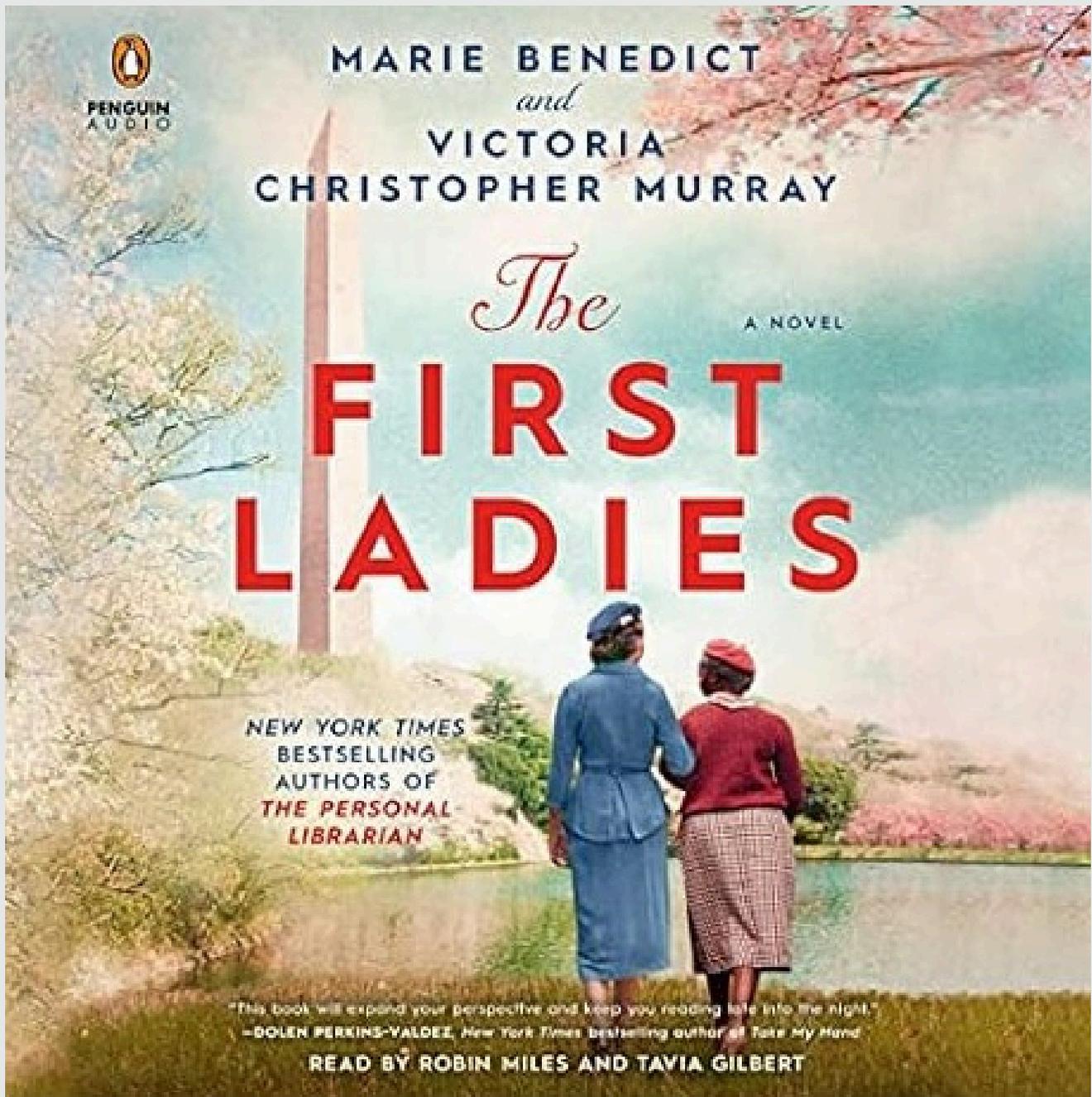


halak + gadol

grow in a righteous walk + grow in greatness

WINTER 2025 BIBLE STUDY



FEBRUARY THROUGH APRIL 2025

SIX SESSIONS, TWELVE WEEKS

MARIE BENEDICT

A CINEMATIC JOURNEY OF RESILIENCE, REDEMPTION,
AND THE UNYIELDING POWER OF FAITH.

VICTORIA

CHRISTOPHER MURRAY

WINTER 2025

Bible

STUDY

A NOVEL

BOOK SELECTION: THE FIRST LADIES

BY MARIE BENEDICT & VICTORIA CHRISTOPHER MURRAY

FEBRUARY 7 THROUGH APRIL 30

NEW YORK TIMES
BESTSELLING
AUTHORS OF
THE PERSONAL
LIBRARIAN

Discussion Topics for Our Bible Study

- Calling and Purpose
- Faithful Friendship and Partnership
- Boldness in Faith and Action
- Faith in the Face of Opposition
- Faithful Stewardship of Influence
- Faith in Action

"This book will expand your perspective and keep you reading late into the night."
—DOLEN PERKINS-YALDEZ, New York Times bestselling author of Take My Hand

READ BY ROBIN MILES AND TAVIA GILBERT

DISCUSSION TOPICS AND TIMELINE



FEB 07

**SESSION 1: SETTING
THE STAGE
CHAPTERS 1-3**

Calling and Purpose

FEB 19

**SESSION 2:
FRIENDSHIP AS
MINISTRY
CHAPTERS 4-7**

Faithful Friendship
and Partnership

MAR 05

**SESSION 3:
JUSTICE AND
ADVOCACY
CHAPTERS 8-11**

Boldness in Faith
and Action

MAR 19

**SESSION 4:
OVERCOMING
ADVERSITY
CHAPTERS 12-15**

Faith in the Face of
Opposition

APR 02

**SESSION 5:
LEADERSHIP AND
LEGACY
CHAPTERS 16-18**

Faithful Stewardship
of Influence

APR 16

**SESSION 6:
REFLECTIONS AND
APPLICATIONS ENTIRE
BOOK**

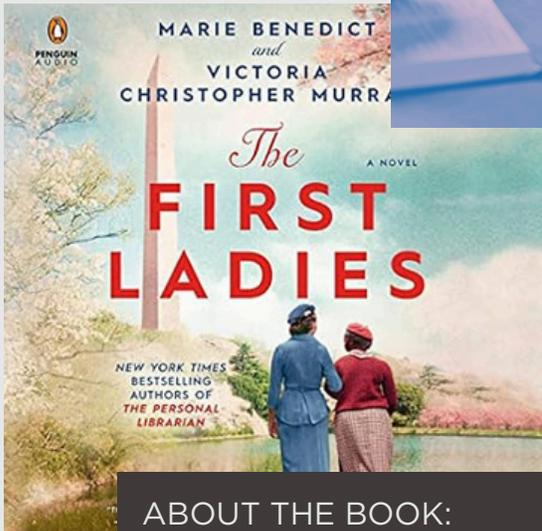
Faith in Action

WINTER 2025 BIBLE STUDY



EXPLORING FAITH, RESILIENCE, AND HOPE THROUGH PARABLE OF THE SOWER

Join us for an inspiring and thought-provoking Bible study centered on *The First Ladies* by Victoria Christopher Murray. Together, we'll explore the extraordinary friendship between Mary McLeod Bethune, a civil rights pioneer and educator, and Eleanor Roosevelt, a trailblazing First Lady. Their partnership, rooted in shared values of justice, faith, and education, helped lay the foundation for the modern civil rights movement. Through their story, we'll reflect on themes of faith, friendship, courage, and using our influence to make a difference. Come and discover how these remarkable women's journeys connect to our own callings as followers of Christ.



ABOUT THE BOOK: A GLIMPSE INTO THE JOURNEY

The First Ladies tells the remarkable story of Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt, two women from vastly different backgrounds united by a shared commitment to justice and equality. Mary, the daughter of formerly enslaved parents, rises as an educator and activist despite systemic racism and opposition. Eleanor, navigating her role as First Lady while facing personal challenges, becomes an outspoken advocate for civil rights. Together, these formidable women forge a partnership that inspires a nation, holding hands through triumphs and trials as they fight for a better future. This powerful novel offers a window into their unique friendship and their unwavering faith in the transformative power of education and justice.



WHY THIS BIBLE STUDY?

The First Ladies tells the remarkable story of Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt, two women from vastly different backgrounds united by a shared commitment to justice and equality. Mary, the daughter of formerly enslaved parents, rises as an educator and activist despite systemic racism and opposition. Eleanor, navigating her role as First Lady while facing personal challenges, becomes an outspoken advocate for civil rights. Together, these formidable women forge a partnership that inspires a nation, holding hands through triumphs and trials as they fight for a better future. This powerful novel offers a window into their unique friendship and their unwavering faith in the transformative power of education and justice.

WINTER 2025 BIBLE STUDY

Session 1: Setting the Stage, Chapters 1-3

Date: February 7

Themes: Calling and Purpose

Key Events: Introduction to Mary McLeod Bethune and Eleanor Roosevelt, their early struggles, and their developing callings.

Biblical Connection: Esther 4:14 - "For such a time as this."

Discussion Questions:

- How did Mary and Eleanor discover their callings, and what obstacles did they face?
- How does their faith influence their decision to pursue their respective missions?
- How do we identify and respond to God's calling in our lives?

Session 2: Friendship as Ministry, Chapters 4-7

Date: February 19

Themes: Faithful Friendship and Partnership

Key Events: The blossoming of Mary and Eleanor's friendship, built on shared values and mutual respect.

Biblical Connection: Ecclesiastes 4:9-10 - "Two are better than one..."

Discussion Questions:

- How does their friendship reflect biblical principles of support and encouragement?
- How do Mary and Eleanor's differences enhance their partnership?
- What lessons can we learn about the role of friendship in ministry and justice?



“IF I HAVE A LEGACY TO LEAVE MY PEOPLE, IT IS MY PHILOSOPHY OF LIVING AND SERVING.

Session 3: Justice and Advocacy, Chapters 8-11

Date: March 5

Themes: Boldness in Faith and Action

Key Events: Mary's activism and Eleanor's controversial stance on civil rights despite opposition.

Biblical Connection: Micah 6:8 - "To act justly and to love mercy..."

Discussion Questions:

- How do Mary and Eleanor exemplify courage in the face of injustice?
- How does their partnership mirror biblical examples of advocates for justice, like Moses and Aaron?
- What risks are we willing to take to stand for what is right in our own communities?

Session 4: Overcoming Adversity, Chapters 12-15

Date: March 19

Themes: Faith in the Face of Opposition

Key Events: Eleanor faces threats due to her association with Mary, and Mary continues her work despite systemic barriers.

Biblical Connection: Romans 8:31 - "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Discussion Questions:

- How does faith sustain Mary and Eleanor through adversity?
- How can we balance courage with wisdom when facing opposition?
- What biblical figures faced similar challenges in pursuing justice or reconciliation?



“WE ARE ALL ENTITLED TO LIVE OUR LIVES WITH LOVE.”

Session 5: Leadership and Legacy, Chapters 16-18

Date: April 2

Themes: Faithful Stewardship of Influence

Key Events: Mary and Eleanor’s collaborative efforts in education and civil rights and their lasting impact.

Biblical Connection: Matthew 25:21 - “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Discussion Questions:

- How did Mary and Eleanor use their platforms to serve others and advance justice?
- What does the Bible teach about using our gifts and influence for God’s glory?
- How can we build a legacy that honors God and inspires others?

Session 6: Reflections and Applications, Entire Book

Date: April 16

Themes: Faith in Action

Key Events: Reflect on the partnership between Mary and Eleanor and its role in shaping the modern civil rights movement.

Biblical Connection: Hebrews 11 - The “Hall of Faith.”

Discussion Questions:

- How does this story inspire you to act in faith and pursue justice in your own life?
- What qualities of Mary and Eleanor’s friendship and partnership resonate with biblical teachings?
- How can we, as a community, emulate their faith, courage, and advocacy for justice?