



Welcome to Gracepath and “I Have Issues!” We are so glad you are here. I definitely want friends with me in this journey to deal with my issues!

About these issues, I have them for sure. Don’t you? For instance, I’ve struggled with my **identity**—if I’m okay, and if YOU think I’m okay, and if GOD thinks I’m okay. Or, there are my **performance** issues – I WANT to do everything right but I just never can get there. And what about **trust** issues and **intimacy** issues . . . and **issues I don’t even know are issues**? You get the idea.

How do we begin to deal with our “issues” in a real and significant way? Interestingly, Proverbs 4:23 tells us to diligently guard our hearts because the issues of life actually flow out of it. So this semester, we are going to go to God and His Word and trace our issues back to their roots—our hearts. In fact, WE won’t even try to deal with our issues but actually will take them, and our hearts, to God and let HIM begin to deal with them. We’ll just cooperate with Him in the process. Bonus! We’ll do all that with friends – who, by the way, also have issues – and we will love each other as we go through the whole process together.

One of my favorite aspects of this study is the **HOMEWORK**. We’ll be using a simple method of Bible study, called the **Inductive Bible Study Process**, which will enable us to actually dig out and discover truth from the Scripture on our own. We’ll meet in our groups and discuss what WE discovered before we come together to hear what the teacher discovered. Trust me, this process makes our interaction with God’s Word so much richer and more personal, plus it will be a process that we will continue to apply in our future personal reading and study of the Bible! You’ll find in the introductory material a full explanation of this process and how to begin to use it. No grades so no perfection needed – just learn as you go!

Now, as we step out on this journey, step one is just acknowledging “I Have Issues.” Oh, I **DO** . . . and so do **YOU**! Let’s see how God will change, grow and even heal our hearts this semester! (We are certainly opening ourselves up for Him to “get all up in our business.”) I’m praying for you and hope that you will pray for me – we are, after all, in this together!

Love you all!

Cindy