



THE LIVING ROOM SERIES

NO OTHER GODS

confronting our
modern day idols

kelly minter



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MEET THE AUTHOR KELLY MINTER

Kelly Minter keeps an exhausting schedule as an author, songwriter, worship leader, speaker, and musician—a list that’s likely to keep growing as she continues to discover new talents. Kelly got her start as a recording artist. Her 2001 major-label debut, *Good Day*, garnered critical acclaim, and its follow-up, 2003’s *Wrestling the Angels*, built on that solid foundation and had a number one hit, “This is My Offering.” In 2005, however, Kelly sensed God urging her to stop striving and lay everything down. She let go of her management and label ties in order to pursue God’s new path for her. Since then, she has led worship at a church nearly every weekend.

Kelly is scheduled to release a worship record in fall 2007 with Kingsway; meanwhile, she will appear on a live worship DVD entitled *Worship at the Abbey*. The multi-artist project was recorded at England’s famed Abbey Road in January 2007.

Kelly lives in Nashville, Tennessee, when she isn’t on the road leading worship and speaking at conferences such as LifeWay’s After Eve and Daybreak. She also writes extensively; she is the author of *Water Into Wine: Hope for the Miraculous In the Struggle of the Mundane* (2004, Waterbrook Press) as well as several forthcoming projects. As a songwriter, she has had her music recorded by Point of Grace, Joy Williams, Sonicflood, Sandi Patti, and Margaret Becker.

Jessica Weaver wrote the leader guide for *No Other Gods*. A copy editor in Nashville, Tennessee, Jessica is an active member of Forest Hills Baptist Church where she sings in the choir and teaches children. She lives with her husband, Adam, and their adorable cocker spaniel.



NO OTHER GODS INTRODUCTION

LET ME FIRST START OFF BY SAYING THAT I'M SO GLAD YOU'RE HERE ... ACTUALLY, THAT MIGHT BE A BIT PRESUMPTUOUS ON MY PART. LET ME BACK UP A MOMENT. MAYBE YOU'RE NOT "HERE" YET. MAYBE YOU'RE STILL BROWSING, CHECKING OUT THE COVER, THE TOPIC, THE INTRO. PERHAPS YOU'RE NOT QUITE SOLD. NOT TOTALLY CONVINCED YOU WANT TO SPEND THE NEXT EIGHT WEEKS DELVING INTO THE MODERN-DAY IDOLS IN YOUR LIFE WITH A GROUP OF FRIENDS. YOU MAY BE THINKING ... THAT'S NOT NEARLY AS MUCH FUN AS IT SOUNDS. IN WHICH CASE, YOU ARE PROBABLY RIGHT, THOUGH I WILL TELL YOU THAT THE PROCESS IS FAR MORE REWARDING THAN IT IS "UN-FUN."

A few years ago I was feeling stuck. Stuck with God, people, career, living space, finances, convictions. I constantly cried out to God, "Please deliver me." My prayers were simple, often alternating between the profoundly passionate and the nearly numb. Where was God? Who was He? What was my life supposed to look like? Were true relationships possible? And on and on ... (All this from someone who loved and grew up with God, the Bible, and His church.)

I was not ready for the simplicity of God's remedy; He wanted to be God in my life.

Though somewhat unaware, I had been depending on false gods that were at the bottom of much of my pain. They were taking up room in my heart—room God desired to occupy. Through this process I became desperate to discover who the true God was in all of His glory so as not return to the lesser and baser things. These idols could only offer temporary relief—promising what they could never deliver. How relieved I've been to find that through the dismantling, God has planted, built, restored, and redeemed. He has done nothing short of the miraculous.

The whole idea of false gods was a quick word, though anything but a quick fix. It marked the beginning of a life-changing process for me. A journey that required some tearing down of the things that were taking the place of God in my life. But not for the sake of destruction, but for the promise of the new, the strong, and the life-giving.

If you are still with me, still considering if you want to engage with your life this intimately, wondering if it is worth the journey, let me throw out one more thing ... you can walk this road in a living room. With conversation. With friends. With food. With music. With prayer. No pretenses. No legalism.

Enhancing the experience is also the addition of a Web site complete with blogs, podcasts, book and music recommendations, picture sharing, an online community, forums, and more. Check out www.lifeway.com/thelivingroomseries for the full experience.

Are you with me? Are you committing? (So sorry to use the "c" word here.) Would it at all help if I further persuaded you by introducing four more friends who will be somewhat along for the ride? Meet Carrie, Lauri, Anadara, and Alli. You'll get to know them better in the weeks ahead and on the web, but they're crazy, fun, smart, deep, thinking women. One is about to have a baby, one's been in a movie, and two are touring artists. They love God, and dare I say they are actually somewhat normal? You must be intrigued.

All else aside, it would be one of my greatest honors to walk with you through one of the most profound roads I've ever taken with the Lord. Anything He prompts us to release will only be restored to us in overflowing measures. (Whoever loses his life will gain it.) Through all the pain, loneliness, and difficulty, I have found God to be deeply satisfying, good, and faithful despite my wandering heart. It is my desperate hope you will find Him the same.

If any of this is resonating with you, I hope you will consider this eight-week holistic approach to looking into Scripture and discovering God in the midst of likeminded, yet vastly unique, individuals who might be on a similar journey. Not to mention the food. Carrie, Lauri, Anadara, Alli and I are saying no to bad casseroles, powdered lemonade, and frozen lasagna. Each recipe we've used for our own dinners are scattered throughout the book and Web site, along with favorite quotes, reading recommendations, and play lists. So light a candle, bring your iPod, and don't burn your pine nuts (happens all the time to me). A depth of supernatural revelation hovers in a study that will require your heart and mind, while in a setting that will feed your body and soul. Come sit.

Kelly