

# **Purpose**

The purpose of our Women's Ministry is to provide a safe place where women can be nurtured, grow spiritually and emotionally, and gain confidence. It is our desire to teach our women how to pray, study God's Word, develop leadership skills and find their gifts, which will lead to their personal ministry.

# Goal

Women play a key role in God's plan for evangelism and discipleship. Educating our women of all ages in God's Word will empower them with the ability to build secure lives on a firm foundation and they will then be bold witnesses to their family, friends and community.



# **Mission Statement**

Our passion is to help our women discover how they can contribute to changing lives for God's glory. To prepare them for works of service so they are able to use their talents, gifts, and Biblical knowledge, and share these blessings with others through a heart centered on Christ.

## Why Institute A Women's Ministry?



"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds"
Hebrews 10:24

Ministering to others is a team effort. Each of us, men and women, has been called to fulfill the great commission. As a church, we cannot afford to ignore the abilities of women, who are half of our population. If we do, it will take twice the time and energy to complete our task.

Throughout history, women have had a profound effect on the church and in the communities in which they have lived. Their unique approach to life has allowed them to attain success by meeting the needs of women, both believers and nonbelievers. Through a women's ministry, women can put their distinctive talents and gifts to productive use. The task at hand is to relate in a relevant way to women in all walks of life.

Women today are vastly different from their grandmothers mainly because of the societal opportunities and challenges they face. Today's women live in a time when they can dedicate themselves to God, family, and career. They can help influence policy and bring about positive changes in society. However, they also face negative influences such as the date rape drug and an increase in sexually transmitted diseases. Theirs is a pop culture, which gives a distorted view of their identity through the negative images and lyrics in today's media along with an acceptance of premarital sex. There are women who are content and uncritical of the changing world they live in. However, there are other women who are thoughtful, introspective and aware of the issues and have a desire to please an unchanging God.

A women's ministry will help both young and old find their place to minister to one another, their church and community. It is the responsibility of the older women in the church to nurture, guide and help our young women see their unique gifts and embrace them. We must challenge them to respect one another and who they are—God's creation.



The time has come for women of all ages and walks in life to come together to develop a women's ministry. Our ministry should serve the purpose of fellowship, making friends and providing opportunities to grow in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Whether young, old, married, divorced, widowed, or single, every woman no matter what season she is in can find encouragement and support through a Women's Ministry.

# **How Does One Begin A Successful Women's Ministry?**

God has and continues to call women to find their place of service within the body of Christ. He is inviting each of us to give away our spiritual gifts through serving others. It is our responsibility as women to evaluate, assess, and recognize our unique gifts and then put them into action.

In Habakuk 2:2, The Lord told a prophet, "Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it." The wisdom of the Lord given in this word should be taken to heart by each of us today. When beginning your local Women's Ministry, it is important to effectively let women know:

- When you will meet
- Where you will meet
- Everyone is welcome
- Everyone has something to give
- You have something to offer
- You care



1. Leadership Development

Everyone has been given at least one gift and all gifts are equally valuable. Encourage everyone to develop her gift and put it to use.

- 2. Organizing the Structure and Management of your Women's Ministry Decide who will be the Group Leader, Secretary, and Treasurer
- 3. Vision and Goals for your group What is your vision for your Women's Ministry and how are you going to attain your goals?
- 4. Communication
  Publicize your vision, mission, and purpose to your church and community.

"Serving him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts (I Chronicles 28:9). "To be of use"... this is the root-meaning of the word serve. There are so many things we can do to serve others.

Every woman should have a ministry within the body of Christ. A few people should not carry the load for everyone. We must reach out to those in our church and community.

# What Women Can Do



### For the church

Organize a women's prayer group Organize and conduct Bible Studies for women Organize women's retreats Organize women's luncheons Organize mother/daughter events Organize refreshments and potlucks for church

Teach Sabbath School Teach younger women how to teach Sabbath School Write Sabbath School lessons Develop crafts for Bible plans

Sing in the choir Give special music Lead a children's choir Distribute/collect hymnals and literature

Telephone ministry **Email ministry** Visit the elderly and sick Write letters of encouragement Write articles, poems or short stories for Infuse

## For the community

Teach children and illiterate adults to read Teach children and adults how to use computers and technology Help with latchkey children Minister to single, pregnant women Minister to women in prison Minister to new mothers Minister to wives/children whose husbands/parents are in the military Volunteer in a soup kitchen Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity Volunteer at your local hospital Volunteer at a convalescent hospital Volunteer at a hospice



### **Websites for volunteer opportunities**

Afghans for Afghans www.afghansforafghans.org

Warm Up America Foundation www.warmupamerica.com

Habitat for Humanity www.habitat.org **Project Linus** www.projectlinus.org The Princess Project www.princessproject.org

The Hugs Project http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thehugspro iect

> **ABC** Quilts http://abcquilts.org/home.html

**Sewing Charities** http://www.dotdigital.com/sewingcharity/

> Chemo Caps http://www.chemocaps.com

#### **Women in the Bible**

This compilation lists only a fraction of the instances of women mentioned in the Bible. Use these scriptures as a study guide to read the entire accounts summarized in this list. In addition, find other accounts of women throughout the Word of God.

- Genesis 24:57 Rebekah is asked if she will marry Issac; her family values her opinion and she is able to make choices about her life. She also shows herself as faithful by trusting in God.
- Genesis 25:22-23 Rebekah talks with the Lord.
- Genesis 30:14-16 The two sisters, Rachel and Leah, work within a bad situation and exercise their own version of control over time spent with Jacob.
- Exo 15:20 Miriam, a prophetess and the sister of Moses and Aaron, led the women in praising through song and musical instruments.
- Exo 35:25 Women dedicated their time and talent to completing the tabernacle of God.
- Deu 31:12 All the people, men, women, and children, and thy strangers were to hear, learn, and fear the LORD. Everyone was responsible for observing God's law.
- Jdg 4:4 Deborah was a prophetess and a Judge in Israel.
- Jdg 5:24 Jael the wife of Heber the Kenite showed that she was brave, wise, and quick in thought and action.
- Rth 1:4 Orpah and Ruth were faithful wives to Naimoi's sons and they enjoyed a happy family relationship with their in-laws.
- 1Ki 3:16-28 Bathsheba aided in King Solomon's wise ruling by showing the love of a true mother.
- 2 Ki 11 Athaliah ruled as queen of Israel for six years. She attempted to murder the entire royal family to gain the throne and was later killed in a similar fashion.
- Neh 8:2 Ezra read the law to all the men and women so they would know and follow the law.
- Est 1:9 Queen Vashti entertained the women while King Ahasuerus entertained the male guests.
- Est 1:10 Vashti refused to parade for the king and his guests, a decision that cost her the position of queen.

By: Anika Sandy-Hanson

- Est 2:11 Esther had the wise and loving guidance of her Uncle Mordecai who helped her to become queen and to save and avenge the entire nation of Israel.
- Job 2:10 Job's wife was used to tempt him into cursing God, but he continued to honor his maker.
- Pro 31:3 Women can be a stumbling block (or an asset).
- Isa 3:12 The nation is so weak that children and women will rule over them.
- Jer 7:18 The entire family, men, women, and children, participate in worshiping idols and in sinning against God.
- Mat 14:21 Jesus fed five thousand men and an unknown number of women and children.
- Mat 27:55 Jesus showed great love for the women of His day and they showed great love for Him, listened to His words and ministered/tended to His needs.
- Mat 28:5 The women were the first brave ones to go to Jesus' tomb and thus were the first to see the angel and hear of the Messiah's resurrection.
- Luk 1:28 Mary is visited by an angel and is given the good news of her role in human salvation.
- Luk 24:10 The women were told about Jesus' resurrection and shared the good news with the disciples.
- Act 1:14 The disciples, men and women, prayed fervently together.
- Act 8:3 Saul attempts to dampen the fervor of the young church by punishing all brethren, both men and women.
- Act 8:12 Phillip baptized men and women into the faith.
- Act 16:13 God opened Lydia's heart to believe Paul's message and she caused her entire household to be baptized.
- Act 17:4 Paul and Silas converted Jews, prominent Greek women, and Greek men.
- 1Co 14 Paul writes to the churches in Corinth instructing them on orderly worship and on commanding their women to be silent in church; instead of asking questions during services they should ask their questions at home.
- Phi 4:3 Clement is among the women exhorted as fellow laborers in the work of God.

- 1Ti 2:9 Women and men are instructed to be in moderation and to focus on inward beauty and on the spirit.
- 1Ti 5:2 We are to view the body of believers as family, older men as fathers, older women as mothers, and young women as sisters (or daughters and young men as brothers or sons)
- 1Ti 5:14 Young women should focus on God and family to avoid temptation
- 2Ti 3:6 The author suggests that young women avoid being weak-willed and falling for men who are sinfully-minded and dangerous to the church.
- Tit 2:3 Older women and men must set good examples for the younger brethren.
- 1Pe 3:5 The matriarchs of the Bible are known for their sober dress and behavior as well as their respect for their husbands.
- Rev 14:4 God and the Lamb have identified these men as being virgins and having kept themselves from women.

