

## TEACHER'S PREPARATION

### CORE CURRICULUM FOR A WOMEN'S MINISTRY

This study is part of a core curriculum for developing or strengthening a women's ministry in the local church.

Other books in this curriculum are:

*Leadership For Women In The Church*, Susan Hunt & Peggy Hutcheson

*Spiritual Mothering, The Titus 2 Mandate for Women Mentoring Women*, Susan Hunt

*By Design, God's Distinctive Calling For Women*, Susan Hunt  
*Treasures of Encouragement*, Sharon Better

Whereas each study builds on the other, you can study them in any order. There is a Leader's Guide for each. Call the CE/P Bookstore to order: 1-800-283-1357.

### MEMORY VERSES

The memory verses are printed on page vi in a format that can be used to make bookmarks, refrigerator magnets, memory cards, etc. You may want to laminate them to make them more durable.

**Romans 12:1-2:** "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

**Colossians 2:2-3:** "My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

### TEENAGE GIRLS

Many teen girls are confused about their creation design. They do not understand the privilege and calling of biblical womanhood. It is the covenant obligation of women in the church to teach our covenant daughters what it means to be a Christian woman. They must learn this by observing our

lives, and through instruction from God's Word. You may want to invite teen girls to participate in your study, or you may want to encourage women in the study to be intentional in establishing relationships with girls in the church. Whatever you do, make it a priority to enfold girls into nurturing relationships with women in the church.

If you include girls in the study, below are some ideas:

- Don't underestimate their ability and desire for substantive discussions.
- If they are not vocal during discussions, remember that they are learning. They simply may not have enough knowledge to add to the discussions.
- Frequently ask for their ideas.
- Frequently remind them that their questions are important. Tell them not to hesitate to ask questions even if they think they are the only ones who do not know the answer. It is likely that others want to ask the same question.
- Remember that the most important thing is for them to feel loved and accepted and for them to establish relationships with the women in the group. You may want to pair a teen and a woman each week as prayer partners. Encourage prayer partners to get together apart from the class and go to lunch, or for a walk.
- Frequent verbal affirmation and encouragement are important.
- Enjoy the girls and learn from them.

### RECOMMENDED READING

A book for further reading is recommended on the handout for each lesson. You may want to be sure these are available in your church library. Suggestion: Ask different women to read one of these books and give a three-minute report when you study the lesson in which that book is recommended. This will encourage others to read the books as well. Suggested readings may be ordered from: 1-800-283-1357.

**Lesson 1:** *Female Piety*, John Angell James, Soli Deo Gloria.  
*The Feminist Gospel*, Mary Kassian, Crossway. (This is an excellent and readable analysis of the impact of feminism on the church.)

**Lesson 2:** *Stepping Heavenward*, Elizabeth Prentiss, Calvary Press.

**Lesson 3:** *Redemption Accomplished and Applied*, John Murray, Eerdmans Publishing Co.

**Lesson 4:** *Pilgrim's Progress*, John Bunyan.

**Lesson 5:** *Spiritual Mothering*, Susan Hunt, Crossway.  
*Treasures of Encouragement*, Sharon Betters, P & R Publishing.

**Lesson 6:** *Bringing In The Sheaves*, George Grant, Ars Vitae.  
*By Design*, Susan Hunt, Legacy.

**Lesson 7:** *The Micah Mandate*, George Grant, Moody Press.

**Lesson 8:** *The Little Preacher*, Elizabeth Prentiss, Calvary Press.

**Lesson 9:** *I Promise You*, Lynn Brookside, Servant.  
*Bless This Food, Four Seasons of Menus, Recipes and Table Graces*, Julia Pitkin, Karen Grant, and George Grant, Cumberland House Publishing.

**Lesson 10:** *Jonathan and Sarah, An Uncommon Union*, Edna Gerstner, Soli Deo Gloria.

**Lesson 11:** *Idelette, A novel based on the life of Madame John Calvin*, Edna Gerstner, Soli Deo Gloria.  
*Leadership For Women In The Church*, Susan Hunt and Peggy Hutcheson, Zondervan.

## PREPARATION FOR TEACHING THIS STUDY

1. Prayer is the most essential ingredient. Enlist four or five women to pray for you regularly as you prepare and as you teach. You may want to recruit some women who are confined to home. You will be prayed for, and they will have the opportunity to be involved in ministry.
2. You may want to send a note to your pastor and the elders in your church requesting their prayer support. Tell them what you will be studying and ask them to pray for the study.
3. Encourage women who have not previously been involved in a women's Bible study to attend. Put invitations in the newsletter, flyers around the church, and get a telephone committee to call and offer personal invitations.

4. Read the entire book before you begin teaching. As you read the text, have the Leader's Guide close by and look at the Preparation section, Objectives, and handout for each lesson. This will help you to have an overview of the course before you begin. You need to know what will be covered in each session so that the group does not get side-tracked discussing something that will be covered in a later session.

5. There are 11 lessons plans—one for each chapter in the book and one for the Conclusion. If you need 12 lessons, here are some suggestions:

- For the first lesson, have a get-acquainted brunch/dinner. Give out books and emphasize the importance of everyone reading the chapters in advance and coming prepared. Go over the memory verses, and then divide into groups and have some ice-breaker questions. Then have the groups share prayer requests and spend time praying for the study.
- Have a brunch/dinner for the concluding lesson and have women share testimonies of what the study meant to them.
- You may want to spend two sessions on a lesson. For example, with Chapter Three you may want to teach the lesson one week and have your pastor or someone else go into more explanation and be available to answer questions the following week.

6. There are handouts for each lesson. You have permission to make copies.

7. There is a prayer from the book *The Valley of Vision* on each handout. This book is published by The Banner of Truth Trust. It may be ordered from 1-800-283-1357.

## SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHING

1. You will not simply go through the material in the book. This Leader's Guide will help you expand and discuss that material in interactive discussions. The discussions and exercises are designed to help the women process and apply what they are learning, and develop deeper covenant relationships with one another. So it is important for the women to read the assigned chapter, and write their thoughts to the "Personal Reflection" questions at the end of each chapter, before coming to class. Encourage them to have a journal to record their

thoughts. Remind them that they will get more out of the study if they come prepared.

2. Read the objectives carefully, then if necessary, adapt them to match your group. It is important to have clear objectives that correspond to the needs and maturity of your group. Clear objectives will help you stay focused as you prepare and teach.
3. Suggested times are given for each segment of the lesson plan, but you should adapt to your group and your time-frame. As you prepare, carefully think through how much time you will allot to each segment so that you will be sure to get through the entire lesson. Of course there are times when you must be flexible and follow the leading of God's Spirit when unexpected questions or situations arise during the lesson.
4. "United in Love" is the time when women will share their answers to the "Personal Reflection" questions at the end of each chapter. If you have more than ten women, it is helpful to divide into small groups. Suggestions for the small groups:
  - The make-up of the group can change each time or remain the same.
  - You can have the same group leader or change at each class session.
5. You will notice much repetition and review. This reinforcement will help the women expand their understanding and move to a deeper application of the truths they are learning and incorporating in their lives.
6. Teaching tip: Prayerfully and carefully *prepare* your own heart and the lesson. Pray that the core truths of the study will grip your heart and mind and then reinforce these concepts through *repetition*. Pray for wisdom to know your students and to *adapt* each lesson to their needs. Constantly pray for a heart that *yearns* after Jesus so that your students will see this reality in your life and desire the same.

P repare

R epetition

A dapt

Y earn for a deeper relationship with Christ  
for yourself and your students.

## CHILDCARE

It is important to provide child care for all women's functions. Money should be budgeted for this. If your women's ministry does not have the money, pray about requesting that this be a part of the church budget. Many women who are making the choice to remain at home with their children cannot afford to pay for child care, yet they need fellowship with other women. We can support their choice in this tangible way. You may also want to consider having a program for children in the nursery. This does not have to be a prepared lesson. Nursery workers can read good books to the children, have color sheets, use Christian videos and/or tapes of children's songs, and teach a memory verse. *ABC Bible Verses for Children* contains easy-to-prepare lessons that can be used for this purpose (order from 1-800-283-1357). If you have homeschoolers in your church, you may want to consider a program for them so that the mothers can attend your Bible study.

## MEMORY VERSES

---

### ROMANS 12:1-2



"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

### COLOSSIANS 2:2-3

"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."



### ROMANS 12:1-2

"Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—His good, pleasing and perfect will."

### COLOSSIANS 2:2-3

"My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

