



She *Stands*

WOMEN'S MINISTRY MODEL

FIVE CORE COMPONENTS

TO EFFECTIVELY REACH WOMEN



She
Stands
WOMEN'S MINISTRY MODEL



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How to Use This Guide

Before you begin, we recommend you take a moment to pray and ask the Lord to give you wisdom and direction as you seek his counsel and leadership for your women's ministry.

The She Stands Ministry Model consists of five core components that make up a women's ministry program, regardless of its size, location or unique circumstances. While the implementation of each core component will vary among individual churches, they must all be present to have a vibrant women's ministry. The sections of the guide include a robust description and rationale of the core components. Ideas for application have also been included within the sections to help serve as launching points for each component.

There are many different ways to utilize this guide successfully. **Here are just two possibilities:**

→ Read it cover to cover.

→ Read specific pages based on current needs.

Whatever your approach, it is imperative that you do not skip to the application section at the end before first understanding why each component is vital to a healthy women's ministry.

We have included resource tools for you at the end of this guide to extend your understanding of each component, as well as to support your growth as a women's ministry leader.

You will also find resources online at sbtexas.com/women that correlate with the She Stands Ministry Model, including articles, training sessions, teaching videos, a resource list, and personal contacts to reach out to the SBTC Women's Ministry Team. From our website, you can sign up for our monthly newsletter and download our women's ministry handbook.

In addition to the information on our website, we also offer the She Stands leadership training conference, Roundtable discussions that bring together women's ministry leaders across the state and opportunities to engage in online communities through the SBTC women's ministry Facebook group. It is our goal at the SBTC to encourage and support you in your leadership role. Our sincere desire is that this guide will help you as you raise up godly women for God's glory.

SBTC WOMEN'S MINISTRY TEAM

sbtexas.com/women



Introduction

“SEEK THE LORD AND HIS STRENGTH;
SEEK HIS PRESENCE CONTINUALLY!”

—1 CHRONICLES 16:11

A thriving women’s ministry plays a vital role in developing the spiritual health of Christian women and in reaching other women for Christ. To understand exactly why this is, one must fully understand what the term “women’s ministry” is and what it is not.

Foremost, a healthy and vibrant ministry to women is more than a social opportunity. It is more than event planning, craft meetings, luncheons and community service. While those things may be valuable pieces to incorporate into your ministry, a thriving women’s ministry is this: women connecting with women, challenging one another to grow in Christlikeness. This type of ministry will encourage women to glorify God, grow in God’s Word, gather with others, give of their spiritual gifts, financial resources and go share the gospel. These core components may be part of a very simple or highly complex women’s ministry, but we believe all of these components must be present for a women’s ministry to be effective.

If you are beginning a women’s ministry in your church, reviving one, or wanting to make sure your current ministry is on the right track, this Ministry Model will provide an important framework. We have broken the core components down for you and introduced them with a simple explanation in the bullet points that follow. Later in this guide, you’ll find a detailed explanation of each component with suggestions for implementing them. Most importantly, as you progress through each section of the guide, you’ll discover why each of these components are vital to a healthy women’s ministry!



→ **She Glorifies** through consistent worship of God, individually and corporately; through prayer, jointly and independently; and through fulfilling her role and purpose as a created woman of God—all to declare God’s worth.

→ **She Grows** through personally studying the Bible to apply God’s Word and equip others.

→ **She Gives** through using her spiritual gifts, time, talents and financial resources to show the love of Jesus inside and outside the church.

→ **She Gathers** through connecting in discipleship and fellowship to build relationships with God and others.

→ **She Goes** through sharing the gospel at home and around the world to fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Women have needs and challenges that are unique to their Christian walks. Together, you and your local church can provide an atmosphere that encourages and enables women to connect with women who then challenge each other to grow in Christ Jesus. We at the SBTC are thankful to have the opportunity to support and equip you as you create, evaluate, or reshape your local women’s ministry. To God be the glory!



She Glorifies

... THROUGH WORSHIP, INDIVIDUALLY AND CORPORATELY;
THROUGH PRAYER, JOINTLY AND INDEPENDENTLY; AND
THROUGH FULFILLING HER ROLE AND PURPOSE AS A
BIBLICAL WOMAN—ALL TO DECLARE GOD'S WORTH.

SHE GLORIFIES GOD THROUGH WORSHIP INDIVIDUALLY AND CORPORATELY

From the beginning of our day until the end, we are created and called to glorify God alone! *"Exalt the Lord our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy"* (Psalm 99:5). The holiness of God should permeate the way we live as well as the way we lead. To be holy means to be set apart and spiritually pure, reflecting God himself. When we focus on God, tuning our hearts and minds to him and his ways, we encounter his holiness. This encounter helps us see God in his greatness and goodness, drawing us to declare his worth by worshiping in our time alone with him and then joining with fellow believers in worship regularly. As maturing believers, we lead by example in setting aside time each day to worship our God, placing him on the throne as the One worthy to direct our lives and encouraging others to do the same.

Glorifying God through worship needs to be a foundational part of women's ministry in churches. Providing opportunities for worship means the focus is on God and declaring his worth. Reading God's Word, worshiping through prayer and through praise in song, hearing testimonies of God's work in other's lives, encouraging one another through the Word of God—all as forms of worship—declare his worth. “. . . *speaking to one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord, and giving thanks always for all things to God the Father in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ...*” (Ephesians 5:19).

SHE GLORIFIES THROUGH PRAYER INDIVIDUALLY AND JOINTLY

Prayer is a direct line to God our Father. Jesus modeled prayer and even taught us how to pray, emphasizing it as a vital part of life (Matthew 6:9-13). *“Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus”* (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). We are encouraged to pray persistently, not with repeated prayers but in the spirit of prayer always. This continual attitude of prayer keeps us humble and in tune with God. Expressing a need for him brings him pleasure. Thanksgiving is an absolute in our prayer life, bringing glory to him only! As leaders, we model being women of prayer, provide opportunities for corporate prayer and share the joys of answered prayer.

SHE GLORIFIES GOD BY LIVING AS A WOMAN DEFINED BY THE WORD OF GOD

As women of God, we are given specific direction from God's Word on how we should live. In order to glorify God, we strive to live in accordance with these mandates. *“Teach me Your way O Lord; I will walk in Your truth; unite my heart to fear your name.”* (Psalm 86:11). Below are a few examples from Scripture.

→ **God created us in his image to bring him glory.**

"Then God said, 'Let us make man in our image, according to Our likeness'" (Genesis 1:26). We were made like him by him to bring glory to him. Living in a manner worthy of his intent at creation brings him glory.

→ **God designed us as helpers in submission to God and God-given authorities.**

"Then the Lord God said, 'It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make him a helper suitable for him'" (Genesis 2:18). Man needed a counterpart and companion to complete his task of multiplying, filling the earth, and taking dominion over the earth. Men and women are created equally in God's sight, yet with different roles. For those who are married, the role of the wife includes being submissive to the husband—just as the husband is to be submissive to God. This couple relationship, each spouse fulfilling their role, gives a picture of Christ and his love for the church and brings great glory to God! *"Submit to every human authority because of the Lord"* (1 Peter 2:13). Women—whether single, married, widowed, old or young—were made to be helpers in the church and community, always with a submissive spirit to those in authority. Women will model biblical womanhood when walking side-by-side with others and working together to please God.

→ **One who follows the Proverbs 31 example.**

This passage is specifically about the ideal biblical woman, her characteristics, values and work ethic. A study of this passage independently or as a group can give some guidelines for what a biblical woman looks like and how she conducts her life in different seasons. Only the power of God's Spirit at work in her life makes this example possible, but then it is only God who gets the glory.

→ **God desires that we live to glorify him and teach younger women how to live pleasing to the Lord.**

“Older women likewise are to be reverent in their behavior, not malicious gossips, nor enslaved to much wine, teaching what is good, so that they may encourage younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be sensible, pure, workers at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands so that the word of God will not be dishonored” (Titus 2:3-5). This passage directs the older women to live as mature believers and to teach younger believers how to live. Women who are more mature in the Lord are to mentor those who are younger in the faith on how to be a biblical woman. Women are life-givers in the physical sense and in the spiritual sense. This passage lays out the specifics of sharing life physically and spiritually with those God puts in our path. As a leader, it is vital to both participate in mentoring other women and to provide opportunities for women in your church to do likewise. These life-giving mentoring relationships can serve as a beginning point for replicating biblical women of God.

→ **A woman who desires to please God.**

Above all, a biblical woman is one who seeks the Lord first, whose heart is completely his. Throughout the Bible, we have examples of women following after God and his plan for their lives (Rahab, Esther, Mary, Lydia, to name a few). We are all fallen and sinful, but what a privilege it is that God chooses to use us to fulfill his plan for his glory. Encouraging women to know God personally, through the testimony of others and through practical instruction on time alone with God, will help them desire to please God.

She Glorifies:

Evaluation Questions



1. Is worship a part of your personal time with the Lord as a leader?
2. Is worship incorporated in some way in every event planned for women's ministry?
3. What forms of worship can you add in your personal time and women's ministry events to declare his worth: listen to/sing a song, pray Scripture, give thanksgiving, meditate on an attribute of God?
4. Does your women's ministry regularly disciple women in their God-created role of a woman, so younger women have a faithful and clear picture of what biblical womanhood looks like? What steps can you take to incorporate one of these specific areas of biblical womanhood (bulleted above) in your events?
5. When you plan an event or activity for the women of your church, ask "Does this event motivate women to grow in glorifying God personally and as a group?" "Will this event declare his worth?"



She Grows

... THROUGH PERSONALLY STUDYING THE BIBLE IN ORDER
TO APPLY GOD'S WORD AND ALSO EQUIP OTHERS.

Spending time in God's Word each day is life-giving and life-transforming. That's a big statement, but it's true. As we draw near to the Lord each day over the pages of his Word, he will use that living and active word to accomplish in us what he wills (See below Psalm 119:25, Hebrews 4:12, and Isaiah 55:10-11).

"My soul clings to the dust; give me life according to your word!" (Psalm 119:25).

"For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

"For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven and do not return there but water the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater so shall

my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it” (Isaiah 55:10-11).

As we build and shape the women’s ministry in our local churches, we must focus on the core component of personal Bible study. It is through personal Bible study that we, as leaders, come to know God’s profitable Word and learn to apply it in our own lives. Personal familiarity with God’s Word and its application enables us to point other women to the Scriptures so that they, too, may apply it in their lives and be equipped for every good work.

“All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work” (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

Developing the habit of a thriving, personal Bible study encourages others with heartfelt sincerity to adopt this spiritual discipline (both individually and corporately). Daily time in God’s Word then plays a vital role in daily life decisions and actions. As leaders, we must model this and encourage it in others, allowing God’s holy Word that is true and pure to replace the deception of lies and the void of ignorance with truth.

Women who study the Bible and apply the Word to their lives view life differently from women who don’t. Women with a solid foundation in the Word of God approach life from a deeply biblical perspective that is anchored and rooted in—

- Who God is
- Who they are in Christ (and all that this identity implies)
- Their role and mission as biblical women
- Christ’s forgiveness
- God’s love and truth
- The counsel and guidance of the Holy Spirit

- The hope of the gospel
- The understanding of who mankind is apart from the Father

Looking at life through the lens of these foundational truths of the Christian faith changes the way we see and react to everything. These truths are revealed in God's Word. As we look intently and expectantly to the Bible each day, we get a beautiful, fresh reminder of these truths.

Not only does looking at life in light of God's Word change us, but group study does as well. Studying the Bible in a group setting offers women encouragement and accountability, the opportunity to share and learn from one another's differing perspectives, and valuable insight into the Word. A Bible study group is also a great place for younger or newer Christian ladies to learn from wise women who are solid in their faith and knowledgeable in the Scriptures.

God designed humans for community. Even though the women of a congregation may come from various walks of life, seasons, and stages, we find that as Christian sisters we truly belong together because of our unity in Christ Jesus. He is our common ground when we may have nothing else in common. Our need for community is met as we gather to study the Bible.

This core component of personal Bible study is quite crucial, isn't it? As you rethink your current women's ministry or create a new one, remember to personally become familiar with and apply God's profitable Word. Then point other women to it also. Together, live out the goal of personal and corporate application. Praise God that his Word will equip you all for every good work.

As we think about our local women's ministry, we must consider the following questions:

1. How do we encourage women to connect personally with God's Word each day?
2. How do we promote the importance of group Bible study?

3. How do we make the study of Scripture the highest priority in our women's ministry?

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

In order to answer these questions effectively, we need to create and follow a plan. Here are a few ideas: Adopt and incorporate a Bible-centered attitude in your women's ministry. If your ministry has primarily focused on events, tasks, or fellowship, shift the underlying focus to God's Word. Consider creating events, fellowship, service opportunities, and so forth, with the goal of encouraging women to grow in and apply God's Word.

→ **Offer solid and theologically sound Bible studies:** This is especially important. Unfortunately, "Bible studies" do exist that tell us more about what the author thinks than what the Bible says. If you need help finding a Bible study that is solid and theologically sound, remember to reach out to your pastor or minister of education. You may also reach out to the SBTC Women's Ministry team for help.

→ **Offer studies that appeal to women in their various seasons:** This does not mean that you must only offer "need-based" studies, but it does mean that you should remember what season women are currently in and help them to apply God's Word in their daily lives in the midst of that season. God's Word is living and active, and he will use it to be a woman's daily bread no matter what season she is in. However, helping a woman ask, "What are the implications of this passage to me today?" can encourage her spiritual growth.

→ **Offer studies that help a woman grow from her current spiritual stage:** Notice where your ladies are spiritually and (when possible) choose studies that begin where they are and move them forward in both grace and knowledge (2 Peter 3:18).

→ **Remember to offer variety in the studies you do:** Change or rotate the authors, the study length, type, topic, and so on. Women are unique. Not only this, but each woman's own

seasons and stages are ever-changing. Because of this, ladies will benefit from different types of studies and different study strategies. Don't be afraid to step outside the box and try something new.

→ **Identify and invite gifted teachers and facilitators to help lead studies:** Look for a teacher who knows God's Word well and can communicate it effectively to others. Look for a facilitator who may not have the gift of teaching but is gifted at leading and directing group discussion. Studies may require different types of leaders, and women will benefit from various leading styles.

→ **Ask your pastor or minister of education what the church's general upcoming Bible study plan is:** Consider choosing a study that fits this theme so that the ladies who participate in women's studies move in the same educational and spiritual direction as the larger church community.

→ **Make attending women's studies as easy as possible:** Think through these questions: When can most of my ladies meet? Where will we meet? Do ladies need childcare? What is on the general church calendar at the time my study starts/ends? Are there any major scheduling conflicts?

→ **Remember to promote your study well:** Give ample time for ladies to ask questions, think about the topic, make necessary preparations to attend, and purchase any needed materials.

→ **Collect feedback and then evaluate:** Ask your ladies for feedback during classes and meetings as well as input before events.

→ **Do a book of the Bible together:** Reading a chapter a week, and invite discussion and sharing of application. This type of Bible study will encourage learning how to study and apply Scripture individually, without the dependence on a teacher for all learning.

She Grows:

Evaluation Questions



1. Are you satisfied with your current personal level of study and familiarity with the Bible? If not, what will you do to grow here so that you may point other women to God's Word? If are you satisfied with your own level of study and familiarity with the Bible, how will you equip others to grow?
2. Does your current women's ministry have a Bible-centered attitude? If not, what three steps will you take to change that?
3. When it comes to studying God's Word, in what season and stage are most of the women to whom you are ministering? What three steps will you take to create an atmosphere of biblical application in your ministry?



She Gives

...THROUGH USING HER SPIRITUAL GIFTS, TIME, TALENTS AND TREASURES TO SHOW THE LOVE OF JESUS INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CHURCH.

Giving, or serving others, is a characteristic that Jesus modeled. This same trait should be exemplified in women growing in their relationships with Christ. Women can give, or serve, most effectively when they are using their spiritual gifts, talents and time, and financial resources. Women's ministry leaders should seek to develop servant-minded women who give of themselves in order to glorify God and show his love to others. Opportunities to serve, both inside and outside the church, will help women flourish.

INSIDE THE CHURCH

Serving in a church ministry, giving resources to support a ministry, preparing a meal for a grieving family or giving time behind the scenes to prepare supplies for a church event are just a few of the numerous possibilities that exist for serving inside the church. First Peter 4:10 reminds us to use our gifts to serve one another. Women's ministry leaders should work along

with church staff to follow the church vision and mission as they look for ways to serve inside the church. Guide the women to look and listen for the needs of the church body, both members and staff. Further, as women seek to serve in the local church, help them identify their spiritual gifts and talents. This will allow women to serve more effectively by pairing their gifts with the specific needs in the church. Encourage them to commit to serve, to try different areas until they find the area God is calling them to. The reward of each woman giving as the Lord directs is seeing a body of believers working together in service (1 Corinthians 12).

OUTSIDE THE CHURCH

Of equal importance is serving those outside the church walls. The world will not care what the church has to say until they know that the church cares. One of the first steps to reach the community with the love of Jesus is to take an assessment. Pray and ask God to give women fresh eyes to identify needs they see in the community. Ask community leaders for input about their greatest needs or inquire about any needs that are not being addressed. Then compile a list of potential ways in which women can practically serve the community. Sometimes simple, practical ways of serving can be the most impactful. Women will be more eager to participate in projects that align with their passions or spiritual gifts. For example, if a schoolteacher in the church knows about a program for feeding children, she can speak to the validity and impact of serving in that program. Serving in the community will also impact the lives of those being served as they experience the love of Jesus in practical ways.

PRACTICAL STRATEGIES

Once opportunities of service have been defined, help women use their time, talents, and resources to serve both inside and outside the church in the following ways:

→ **Recruit key leaders:** Most areas of service are not meant to be done alone. Ask God to raise up a service project leader who is passionate about demonstrating the love of Jesus to people. Recruit women who have a servant's heart, love the Lord, are respected and can use their influence to help gain the involvement of the masses.

→ **Use a spiritual gift survey:** Surveys are a useful way to help identify people's spiritual gifting, which will give women guidance in choosing areas of service. This information can also be helpful to a women's ministry team in order to best place leaders in various areas of service.

→ **Cast a vision by sharing identified needs with the women in the church:** Use every opportunity to promote the service project. Have someone from the church or the community share about the potential impact a specific service project will make in the lives of others. Provide training if needed; sometimes women shy away from serving because they do not feel equipped. Stress or anxiety can be reduced by offering a time to train women, answer questions and provide basic information.

→ **Serving should be done in love:** Service projects should be done with a focus to demonstrate the love of Jesus, which often opens the door for the gospel to be shared.

→ **Complete the service project together:** Women working alongside each other, sharing a common experience with a common purpose creates community among the women of the church and is important to their spiritual growth. Women's ministry team leaders should be involved, if possible, even if they are not leading the project.

→ **Celebrate the victory:** Share the victories and success stories with the women in the church. This will encourage more women to take part in the next service project or opportunity.

→ **Set the date for another service project and allow the momentum to grow:** Let the women in the church know

that serving is biblical and that it will be an ongoing part of the women's ministry. (James 2:14-17 reminds us that faith requires action.)

→ **Encourage women to embrace a life of service:** Do not allow fear or the attitude of "we've never done that before" stand in the way of demonstrating the love of Jesus. Serving might seem daunting in the beginning, but with experience, fear will be dispelled, and excitement will infuse the women. Always remember, Jesus came not to be served but to serve. He served by giving his life (Matthew 20:28). We need to follow his perfect example.

She Gives:

Evaluation Questions



1. Are we praying and seeking God first for direction? Seek first the Kingdom of God and his righteousness and all these things will be added to you. Praying brings unity. Do we provide regular opportunities for women to identify their spiritual gifts and to discuss how those gifts can be used inside and outside of the church?
2. Do we connect regularly with other areas of ministry in our church to be aware of service opportunities, areas of need, and potential partnerships?
3. Do we have a balanced focus of ministry both inside and outside the church walls using our spiritual giftedness? (Is our circle of chairs facing inward or outward?)
4. Do we have ministry silos (“But we have always done it this way!”) that do not fit in the overall direction of the church’s mission/vision? Are we afraid of change?



She Gathers

...THROUGH CONNECTING IN DISCIPLESHIP AND FELLOWSHIP
TO BUILD RELATIONSHIPS WITH GOD AND OTHERS.

Women were *created* for community with God and one another (Matthew 22:37-40). Yet finding community can be hard, and nurturing it is even harder. God's design for true community is a faithful few walking in the same direction, sharing life, and sharpening one another in Christ and for his glory. Community finds its beginning, grows and multiplies in the church (Acts 2:41-47). So how do we help foster community among our women in the local church amid busyness, selfishness and living in a social media driven culture?

First, connect women early. Women want to feel accepted, connected, and loved; we all know this. Enlist a team of women to spot new visitors, welcome them, and introduce them to key people in your church like the senior pastor, women's minister, and another woman in their age group. The week after they visit, follow up with a text, call, or card that invites them to come back and join you. Additionally, host a new members gathering where women can meet the women's ministry team, hear about

opportunities to connect and build relationships, and hear the testimonies of a few core women in your church.

Second, connect women in meaningful ways. Create opportunities for women to connect in large settings with women in their own life-stage and one-on-one. Pursue intentionality with each gathering. Do you meet, greet, eat, and leave, or do you foster a more intimate setting for deeper connection? Outside of dessert fellowships, dinners, and worship nights, consider gathering women in groups of four and encourage them to get together over a casual meal, have coffee, or visit once a month in someone's home. This gives women an opportunity to get to know women with whom they ordinarily may not cross paths and develop deeper connections while pursuing intentional spiritual growth together. As a leader, consistently encourage women to pursue opportunities for deeper connection as they settle into your church. Tip: Set the tone yourself; as you grow in Christ and share life with others, other women will follow suit.

Third, connect women from every generation. Women, especially younger women, need and want to connect with women in different seasons of life. Yes, younger women want to learn from older women. Retreats, conferences, and banquets offer meaningful times where women are equipped in the Word and have an opportunity to share life together over an extended period of time. Sharing life together is such a vital component of community. As younger and older women begin to share life with one another, they often form mentoring relationships organically. Spiritual mothering is a vital part of a healthy women's ministry as older women offer such things as prayer support and accountability; act as confidants; are present for life's joys and sorrows; and serve as encouragers, cheerleaders, and godly influences to those younger than they are. They can also speak into relevant issues like marriage, parenting, singleness, college and career decisions, and more, from a biblical perspective and life experience.

Fourth, connect women through discipleship to build their relationship with God. Perhaps the most meaningful relationships that you can help foster among women in your church is their personal relationship with God through one-on-one discipleship.

Discipleship is essentially when a more spiritually mature woman comes alongside a younger woman in the faith and teaches her how to grow in her faith to be a mature disciple of Jesus Christ (Titus 2:3-5, 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8, Matthew 28:19-20).

- Through discipleship, women teach other women 'what is good,' like how to study God's Word for themselves, who God is, who they are in Christ, as well as biblical and theological principles and spiritual disciplines.
- Through discipleship, women share their lives with one another as they learn how to apply God's Word to everyday living.
- Through discipleship, women's lives are transformed. As women are discipled, their lives are transformed by the sufficiency of God's Word.

THREE WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

- There are some women who have been wounded by sisters in other churches. Take time to acknowledge their pain, listen and pray together. When the time is right, gently encourage them to take the risk towards letting a wise and mature sister in Christ into their lives.
- Some women find vulnerability difficult because of their past. Remind them that in Christ, there is no condemnation (Romans 8:1), and as sisters in Christ, we have no rivals (Galatians 3:26-28). We are free to share life and grow in Christ together.
- As a leader, how you share life and pursue authentic

vulnerability with your women's ministry team often sets the tone of your ministry to those watching. Pursue community well.

Nourishing connection takes time, prayer and welcoming the "interruptions" that come from caring for one another. Community is messy but worth it. Fostering opportunities for women to connect in meaningful ways and making disciples who make disciples who make disciples is worth the prayer, planning, and intentional pursuit of gathering women for God's glory.

She Gathers:

Evaluation Questions



1. Does your women's ministry offer regular opportunities for women to connect in large, multigenerational settings with women in their own life-stage and one-on-one (mentoring and discipleship)? If so, wonderful. If not, which of these three areas do you need to intentionally nurture this year?
2. Do you meet, greet, eat, and leave, or are your gatherings saturated in opportunities to learn women's names, to hear their stories and to form deeper connections outside of church gatherings? How can you deepen and strengthen these connections next year?
3. Are the women in your church discipling the next generation? If not, consider investing in five spiritually mature women this year and pursue what discipling someone looks like. Challenge them to pray and pursue a discipleship relationship with a younger woman in the faith within the next year.



She Goes

... THROUGH SHARING THE GOSPEL AT HOME
AND AROUND THE WORLD TO FULFILL THE GREAT COMMISSION
(MATTHEW 28:19-20).

As followers of Christ, we have the best news in the world. It is both a privilege and a command to share the gospel with others. The gospel is this: Because of his abundant love, Jesus chose a humble birth, lived a sinless life, died in our place, and rose to conquer death and sin, offering us the only way to salvation. Amazingly, Christ's gift of salvation also comes with peace, hope, purpose for our lives, and an eternal home in heaven with God. Without a doubt, we need to be willing and equipped to share the gospel—the good news of Jesus.

Sharing the gospel, also known as evangelism, should be an integral part of women's ministry. However, this key element is sometimes left out because it seems intimidating. Before being able to share the gospel, some women think they have to know a lot of Bible verses or have all the answers to questions that might be asked. Other women, think they will "mess up" by

sharing incomplete or “out of order” information. As a result of this faulty thinking, many women shy away from engaging in spiritual conversations. Our enemy, Satan, would love for us to believe his lies and remain silent.

As women’s ministry leaders, we have the responsibility and honor of equipping the women involved in our ministries so that they can experience the joy that comes from telling others about Jesus. Women are called to share Jesus at home and around the world—to “go and take” the good news. This call may lead to the other side of town or to the other side of the world. The crucial point is this: We need to be ready and willing. As leaders, we should lead by example and equip the women we are serving to be prepared “to give a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you” (1 Peter 3:15).

We must choose to provide effective tools and opportunities to train women to share Jesus. One of the best tools for equipping women to share the gospel is learning to tell their three-minute stories. A three-minute story, or testimony, includes three parts:

1. My life before I met Christ: Focus on what was missing or needed in their lives, how they searched for meaning in life or recognized their need for Jesus because of the sin in their lives. Help them be succinct by focusing on what was missing or needed in their lives and not the details of their sins.

2. How I met Christ: This is the most important part of their story. It must include the gospel, the key concepts of sin (Romans 3:23), separation from God (Romans 6:23), Jesus’ death on the cross to pay for our sin and his rising from the grave (Romans 10:9-10,13), and Jesus being the only way to life (John 14:6).

3. How Christ has changed my life: Focus on how Jesus has changed them and their life since being saved; for example, “Jesus set me free from anxiety or addiction,” or “He has filled my life with peace and a new sense of purpose.”

TIPS TO HELP WOMEN AS THEY PREPARE THEIR THREE-MINUTE STORIES

- Always remember that if a testimony doesn't include the gospel, it's just a good story. Make sure the gospel is included and clear.
- To learn to communicate clearly and effectively, without using "churchy" language, it is helpful to have women write out their stories and peer review them.
- Additionally, provide opportunities to practice sharing their stories and to receive feedback. The sharing and feedback will help women develop confidence in telling their stories in a natural, conversational style.

Once the women know how to share their three-minute stories, the possibilities are limitless. Guide them to look for the many possible scenarios in which they can share the gospel. Relational evangelism, which is intentionally developing relationships in order to share Jesus, is one strategy that allows women to discover the people in their lives who do not have a personal relationship with Jesus. Lead women to consider relationships with the many people in their lives: in their neighborhood, their families, at work, school and in their communities. Help them to see others with spiritual eyes, always asking, "Has that person made a decision to accept Christ as his/her Savior?" Another strategy is serving others with intentional acts of kindness. These purposeful, planned acts of kindness can open the door for women to answer the question, "Why would you do this for me?" With either relational evangelism or kindness outreaches, a gospel conversation can easily be entered into, inserting the three-minute story. Women will develop an increased confidence and passion to share the gospel as they see firsthand the impact that Jesus makes on others, and missed opportunities will become a thing of the past.

PRACTICAL IDEAS TO “GO” LOCALLY WITH THE GOSPEL

- Ask women to identify one or two relationships for the purpose of sharing Jesus.
- As a women’s ministry, pray for women to develop boldness in sharing the gospel and for receptive hearts for those who will hear the good news of Jesus.
- Strategically plan women’s events and kindness outreaches that will facilitate opportunities for women to share their three-minute stories.
- Prayer walk streets in your community, praying for the lost and for opportunities to share where you live.

PRACTICAL IDEAS TO “GO” AROUND THE WORLD WITH THE GOSPEL

- Promote projects that support upcoming mission trips or specific people groups.
- Pray for people groups God has called your women to reach with the good news of Jesus.
- Invite women to go on a mission trip and see firsthand the incredible opportunity to share their faith.
- Encourage the women to give sacrificially to mission work through the Cooperative Program.

Here’s the bottom line: As followers of Christ, we are commanded to share our faith. We have hope because we have Jesus, and the people we come into contact with need that same hope. Oh, what joy awaits us when we allow God to use us to connect others with Jesus, the source of hope.

She Goes:

Evaluation Questions



1. As leaders, are we equipped and actively sharing the gospel?
2. What training have we offered/are we offering women to be equipped and confident to share the gospel?
3. What events or activities are we strategically planning that provide opportunities for women to share the gospel?

Conclusion

God has called *you* to do his work of serving in the context of your church. Ultimately, women need to minister to other women. The Bible tells us to do so. In Paul's letter to Titus, God gives instructions for women in the church: Women are given the role of mentoring younger women and teaching them what biblical womanhood looks like. Why? So a woman can live in a way that is consistent with her faith. It is important for us as women (whether mothers or not) to participate in raising up the next generation of godly women, biblically sound influencers, and new leaders.

Women seem to challenge other women in very special ways. This happens across generational cohorts. When a woman sees another woman do a particular thing, be mature in a certain way, or take a step of obedience, those things somehow become more attainable. This illustrates the "iron sharpening iron" idea of Proverbs 27:17. Whether we are encouraging women to use their talents, share their gifts, grow in God's Word, mature in faith, go share the gospel, or otherwise bring him glory, we are being obedient to equip the saints and are making a contribution to the greater growth and maturation of the church.

If you have taken the time to read through this model, you (like us) understand the value and importance of a thriving, spiritually healthy women's ministry. We thank God for that. We pray that this guide will serve as a valuable resource as you build, evaluate, and even reevaluate the women's ministry in your local church. We ask the Lord to bless you greatly as you and the women in your church *glorify, grow, give, gather,* and go.

We invite you to pause and think through how it is that you came to be serving God in your current role. Praise and thank him for his work. If you are rethinking or pivoting your current women's ministry, please pause and pray a prayer of blessing and thanksgiving for the women who came before you, upon whose shoulders you now stand. Ask the Lord to guide you as you steer the ministry in new ways or continue in the current direction. If you are building a new women's ministry, please pause and ask the Lord to direct your steps and lay a wise foundation upon Christ. Ask the Lord to help you remember that Jesus is the focus of women's ministry and his glorification is the highest goal.

Lord, please bless each woman who utilizes this ministry model. We pray that your Son, Jesus, be glorified greatly and that women's lives are touched by the love of Christ. We ask that you give guidance, direction, and wisdom as you help leaders evaluate and direct the women's ministry in their local churches. May the matchless name of Jesus be exalted in all we do. Amen.

"And do not neglect doing good and sharing, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16).

"The LORD bless you and keep you; the LORD make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the LORD lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace" (Numbers 6:24-26).

Resource Tools

Each of these resources listed are beneficial to all areas of women's ministry, but we have considered the general message of the resource and placed them under our model categories to better assist you. Don't overlook resources because they are listed under an area other than the one you are seeking to develop.

She Glorifies:

- *Disciple Her: Using the Word, Work, & Wonder of God to Invest in Women* by Kandi Gallaty
- *Lord Teach Me to Pray in 28 Days* by Kay Arthur
- *Adorned: Living Out the Beauty of the Gospel Together* by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth
- *True Woman 101: Divine Design: An Eight Week Study on Biblical Womanhood* by Mary A. Kassian and Nancy Leigh Demoss
- *True Woman 201: Interior Design: Ten Elements of Biblical Womanhood* by Mary A. Kassian and Nancy Leigh Demoss



She Grows:

- *Covenant: God's Enduring Promises* by Kay Arthur
- *Experiencing God* by Henry Blackaby
- *The Pursuit of God* by A. W. Tozer
- *Women of the Word: How to Study the Bible with Both Our Hearts and Our Minds* by Jenn Wilkin
- *Word-Filled Women's Ministry: Loving and Serving the Church* by Gloria Furman and Kathleen B. Nielson



She Gives:

- *What's So Spiritual about Your Gifts* by Henry and Mel Blackaby
- *Understanding Spiritual Gifts* by Kay Arthur



Online Spiritual Gifts Survey:

- <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/women-leadership-spiritual-gifts-growth-service>

Understanding Spiritual Gifts:

- <https://www.lifeway.com/en/articles/pastors-spiritual-gifts-help-your-people-discover-their-spiritual-gifts>

She Gathers:

- *Women Mentoring Women: Ways to Start, Maintain and Expand a Biblical Women's Ministry* by Vickie Kraft and Gwynne Johnson
- *Just Open the Door: How One Invitation Can Change a Generation (A study of biblical hospitality)* by Jen Schmidt
- *Flourish* by Passion City Church



She Goes:

- *Concentric Circles of Concern: From Self to Others Through Life-Style Evangelism* by W. Oscar Thompson with Carolyn Thompson Ritzmann
- *Turning Everyday Conversations into Gospel Conversations* by Jimmy Scroggins and Steve Wright
- *Tell Someone: You Can Share the Good News* by Greg Laurie
- *Shoot the Bull* by Ronnie Hill, available at <https://www.ronniehill.com/resources/store>



Leadership:

- www.sbtexas.com/women
- Women's Ministry Guide
- SBTC Women's Ministry Facebook
- <https://lifewaywomen.com/online-bible-studies/>
- *Jesus on Leadership: Timeless Wisdom on Servant Leadership* by C. Gene Wilkes
- *Women's Ministry Handbook* by Carol Porter and Mike Hamel
- *Women's Ministry in the Local Church: A Complementarian Approach* by J. Ligon Duncan and Susan Hunt
- *Women Leading Women: The Biblical Model for the Church* by Jay Martin and Terri Stovall
- *Women Reaching Women: Beginning and Building a Growing Women's Ministry* by Chris Adams and Anne Graham Lotz

- *Transformed Lives: Taking Women's Ministry to the Next Level*
by Chris Adams
- *Leading Women Who Wound: Strategies for Effective Ministry*
by Sue Edwards and Kelley Mathews
- *Just Lead!: A No Whining, No Complaining, No Nonsense
Practical Guide for Women Leaders in the Church*
by Sherry Surratt and Jenni Catron
- *Fresh Ideas for Women's Ministry* by Diana Davis
- *Ministry to Women: The Essential Guide to Leading
in the Local Church* by Kelly King
- *Lies Women Believe: And the Truth That Sets Them Free*
by Nancy Leigh Demoss
- *Called to Lead: 26 Leadership Lessons from the
Life of the Apostle Paul* by John F. MacArthur
- *Comforting Women in Crisis* by Group Publishing
- www.womensministrytoolbox.com
- www.reviveourhearts.com
- www.hopefortheheart.org



If you are beginning a women's ministry in your church, reviving one, or wanting to make sure your current ministry is on the right track, this Ministry Model will provide an important framework. We have broken this down into 5 core components to glorify God, grow in God's Word, gather with others, give of their spiritual gifts, and go share the gospel. These core components may be part of a very simple or highly complex women's ministry, but we believe all of these components must be present for a women's ministry to be effective.



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