



Better Together

A Team Based approach to Women's Ministry



February 23-25, 2023
Atlanta, GA



Thursday, February 23, 2:00 p.m.

Keynote Session 1

Better Together: CALLING

Chris and Karen Hodge

Our calling to be a life-giving leader requires humility and teachability, especially when we are called to lead stiff-necked people. The cry of leading a team like this is, “Show me Your glory!” This session will focus on the life and leadership of Moses as he served alongside his brother and sister.

Key Texts:

Exodus 15:19-21

¹⁹ For when the horses of Pharaoh with his chariots and his horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought back the waters of the sea upon them, but the people of Israel walked on dry ground in the midst of the sea. ²⁰ Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dancing. ²¹ And Miriam sang to them:

“Sing to the LORD, for he has triumphed gloriously;
the horse and his rider he has thrown into the sea.”

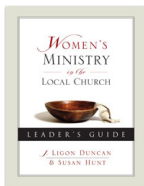
Numbers 12:1-16

Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses because of the Cushite woman whom he had married, for he had married a Cushite woman.² And they said, “Has the LORD indeed spoken only through Moses? Has He not spoken through us also?” And the LORD heard it. ³ Now the man Moses was very meek, more than all people who were on the face of the earth. ⁴ And suddenly the LORD said to Moses and to Aaron and Miriam, “Come out, you three, to the tent of meeting.” And the three of them came out. ⁵ And the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud and stood at the entrance of the tent and called Aaron and Miriam, and they both came forward. ⁶ And He said, “Hear My words: If there is a prophet among you, I the LORD make myself known to him in a vision; I speak with him in a dream. ⁷ Not so with My servant Moses. He is faithful in all My house. ⁸ With him I speak mouth to mouth, clearly, and not in riddles, and he beholds the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against My servant Moses?” ⁹ And the anger of the Lord was kindled against them, and He departed.

¹⁰ When the cloud removed from over the tent, behold, Miriam was leprous,^[a] like snow. And Aaron turned toward Miriam, and behold, she was leprous. ¹¹ And Aaron said to Moses, “Oh, my lord, do not punish us^[b] because we have done foolishly and have sinned. ¹² Let her not be as one dead, whose flesh is half eaten away when he comes out of his mother's womb.” ¹³ And Moses cried to the LORD “O God, please heal her—please.” ¹⁴ But the LORD said to Moses, “If her father had but spit in her face, should she not be shamed seven days? Let her be shut outside the camp seven days, and after that she may be brought in again.” ¹⁵ So Miriam was shut outside the camp seven days, and the people did not set out on the march till Miriam was brought in again. ¹⁶ After that the people set out from Hazeroth, and camped in the wilderness of Paran.

NOTES:

Recommended Reading:



Women's Ministry in the Local Church
By Ligon Duncan and Susan Hunt

Thursday, February 24, 5:45 p.m.

Keynote Session 2

Better Together: COMMUNITY

Chris and Karen Hodge, Meaghan May

Leadership and Community

Leadership was never designed to be a solo act. We are designed to lead in the context of community. This session will look at Moses and the life and leadership wisdom his father-in-law Jethro gives, "The work is too heavy for you; you cannot handle it alone." This session will also include a Q & A about men and women working together in ministry.

Key Text: Exodus 18:10-27

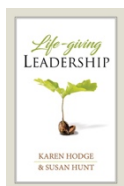
¹⁰Jethro said, "Blessed be the LORD, who has delivered you out of the hand of the Egyptians and out of the hand of Pharaoh and has delivered the people from under the hand of the Egyptians. ¹¹Now I know that the LORD is greater than all gods, because in this affair they dealt arrogantly with the people."¹² ¹²And Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, brought a burnt offering and sacrifices to God; and Aaron came with all the elders of Israel to eat bread with Moses' father-in-law before God.

¹³The next day Moses sat to judge the people, and the people stood around Moses from morning till evening. ¹⁴When Moses' father-in-law saw all that he was doing for the people, he said, "What is this that you are doing for the people? Why do you sit alone, and all the people stand around you from morning till evening?" ¹⁵And Moses said to his father-in-law, "Because the people come to me to inquire of God; ¹⁶when they have a dispute, they come to me and I decide between one person and another, and I make them know the statutes of God and His laws." ¹⁷Moses' father-in-law said to him, "What you are doing is not good. ¹⁸You and the people with you will certainly wear yourselves out, for the thing is too heavy for you. You are not able to do it alone. ¹⁹Now obey my voice; I will give you advice, and God be with you! You shall represent the people before God and bring their cases to God,²⁰ and you shall warn them about the statutes and the laws, and make them know the way in which they must walk and what they must do. ²¹Moreover, look for able men from all the people, men who fear God, who are trustworthy and hate a bribe, and place such men over the people as chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²²And let them judge the people at all times. Every great matter they shall bring to you, but any small matter they shall decide themselves. So it will be easier for you, and they will bear the burden with you. ²³If you do this, God will direct you, you will be able to endure, and all this people also will go to their place in peace."

²⁴So Moses listened to the voice of his father-in-law and did all that he had said. ²⁵Moses chose able men out of all Israel and made them heads over the people, chiefs of thousands, of hundreds, of fifties, and of tens. ²⁶And they judged the people at all times. Any hard case they brought to Moses, but any small matter they decided themselves. ²⁷Then Moses let his father-in-law depart, and he went away to his own country.

NOTES:

Recommended Reading:



Life-giving Leadership
By Karen Hodge and Susan Hunt

Friday, February 25, 9:00 a.m.

Keynote Session 3

PAUL AND COLLABORATION: Better Together

Jamie Voss and Marcie Tuten

1. We collaborate because we need each other, and it benefits us both (Romans 1:8-12).
2. We collaborate because God designed us for it, and we are all members of the same body (Romans 12:3-8).
3. We collaborate because we are all crucial to the mission, and we are better together (Romans 16:1-16).

Romans 1:8-12

⁸ First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed in all the world. ⁹ For God is my witness, whom I serve with my spirit in the gospel of His Son, that without ceasing I mention you ¹⁰ always in my prayers, asking that somehow by God's will I may now at last succeed in coming to you. ¹¹ For I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to strengthen you— ¹² that is, that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine.

Romans 12:3-8

³ For by the grace given to me I say to everyone among you not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think with sober judgment, each according to the measure of faith that God has assigned. ⁴ For as in one body we have many members,^[a] and the members do not all have the same function, ⁵ so we, though many, are one body in Christ, and individually members one of another. ⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads,^[b] with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

Romans 16:1-2

I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a servant^[a] of the church at Cenchreae, ² that you may welcome her in the Lord in a way worthy of the saints, and help her in whatever she may need from you, for she has been a patron of many and of myself as well.

Romans 16:3-16

³ Greet Prisca and Aquila, my fellow workers in Christ Jesus, ⁴ who risked their necks for my life, to whom not only I give thanks but all the churches of the Gentiles give thanks as well. ⁵ Greet also the church in their house. Greet my beloved Epaenetus, who was the first convert^[a] to Christ in Asia. ⁶ Greet Mary, who has worked hard for you. ⁷ Greet Andronicus and Junia,^[b] my kinsmen and my fellow prisoners. They are well known to the apostles,^[c] and they were in Christ before me. ⁸ Greet Ampliatus, my beloved in the Lord. ⁹ Greet Urbanus, our fellow worker in Christ, and my beloved Stachys.¹⁰ Greet Apelles, who is approved in Christ. Greet those who belong to the family of Aristobulus. ¹¹ Greet my kinsman Herodion. Greet those in the Lord who belong to the family of Narcissus. ¹² Greet those workers in the Lord, Tryphaena and Tryphosa. Greet the beloved Persis, who has worked hard in the Lord. ¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well. ¹⁴ Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas, and the brothers^[d] who are with them. ¹⁵ Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas, and all the saints who are with them. ¹⁶ Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you.

Recommended Reading:



Titus 2 Tools
By Susan Hunt

From *Life-Giving Leadership*

Community-building and Peace-making Tool

Spend time evaluating these questions as an individual and then schedule a time to discuss them as a team.

Questions	My answer	My teammates' answers
How are we being proactive in guarding against conflict and division?		
How are we building a community of love that can withstand attacks on our unity?		
How are we teaching a biblical perspective of covenant community?		
How is our team modeling community?		
Would the male leaders, other women, other ministry leaders in our church say that 1 Cor. 13:4-7 describes our team?		
What do I do when I feel disconnected?		
Do I withdraw or do I speak the gospel to myself and act on the basis of God's Word rather than my feelings?		
Do I give others permission to speak truth to me and ask them to pray for me?		
Do I repent when my actions/attitudes are life-taking?		
What is my reaction to a woman who is not using her gifts to serve the church? Am I critical of her?		

Do I recognize that she may be in a season of life where she is using her gifts to serve her family, and this is serving the church?		
How is our leadership team affirming her ministry to her children, or her elderly parent, as one way her gifts are being utilized and developed?		
What is my reaction when it's time for me to rotate off the leadership team?		
Am I possessive about my position/ministry, or do I trust God to develop the next leader?		
Do I rejoice in her willingness to serve?		
What am I doing to develop community life among my servant team?		
Do we have fun together?		
Do we share stories, fears, and dreams with each other?		
What are we as a team doing to develop community with other women in our church?		
Have we provided a way for them to come to us with questions and ideas?		
Do we pray through conflicts until we come to a place of unity?		
If we need help resolving a conflict, whom do we ask for it?		

“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.” — Colossians 3:15

Friday, February 25, 9:00 a.m.

Keynote Session 4

Better Together: COMMUNICATION

Susan Tyner and Paula Miles

From the Life and Leadership of Paul

Paul did not mince words about, well, *words*. In his letters to the church, Paul gives the what-to-do and not-to-do in this new place called “church.” His straightforward teaching applies to how we use our words in leadership, in collaboration, and in serving others. For such a tiny body part, our tongues hold a lot of power—for good or for harm. Many a women’s ministry team has been wrecked by words used in harmful ways. Let’s look at how our words can build a team instead of tearing it down.

Ephesians 4:1-6; 20-32

As a prisoner for the Lord, then, I urge you to live a life worthy of the calling you have received. ² Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. ³ Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace. ⁴ There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; ⁵ one Lord, one faith, one baptism; ⁶ one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

²⁰ That, however, is not the way of life you learned ²¹ when you heard about Christ and were taught in Him in accordance with the truth that is in Jesus. ²² You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self, which is being corrupted by its deceitful desires; ²³ to be made new in the attitude of your minds; ²⁴ and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.

²⁵ Therefore each of you must put off falsehood and speak truthfully to your neighbor, for we are all members of one body. ²⁶ “In your anger do not sin”^[a]: Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, ²⁷ and do not give the devil a foothold. ²⁸ Anyone who has been stealing must steal no longer, but must work, doing something useful with their own hands, that they may have something to share with those in need.

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

I. Family Dialect

II. Hush Your Mouth

III. Speak Up!

Personal Reflection and Confession

- 1) Of which life-taking words do you need to repent and believe the Lord's forgiveness?

Discussion

- 1) What is one of the most life-giving things the Lord has said to you in His Word? How can that be translated into life-giving words for your team?
- 2) How have you personally been shaped by the life-giving words of someone else?
- 3) Discuss some ways you can impact your team by speaking up.
- 4) How do you discern between times of hushing or speaking up?

Recommended Reading:



Heirs of the Covenant
By Susan Hunt

Friday, February 24, 5:45 p.m.

Keynote Session 5

Better Together: STEWARDSHIP & CELEBRATION

Chandra Oliver and Tatiana Anderson

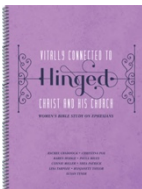
Stewardship Inventory: Chandra Oliver

Each one of us has been uniquely formed and created by our heavenly Father. Part of our “forming” included talents and abilities. Together we will learn, discuss, and consider how our specific talents and abilities are part of God’s life-giving plan for His church. Come prepared to spend time in personal reflection and in group interaction as we continue to cultivate an appreciation for our place in the Body of Christ.

Celebration: Tatiana Anderson

Becoming a life-giving leader is a life-long journey that is profoundly shaped by God’s people and His Providence. We invite you to celebrate these shaping influences and reflect on how they overflow into the team and community you are called to serve.

Recommended Reading:



Hinged: Vitally Connected to Christ and His Church
By CDM Women’s Ministry Team



Word-filled Women’s Ministry
By Gloria Furman and Kathleen Nielson

Stewardship Inventory

Ephesians 4:11-16

“And He gave the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, the shepherds and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, until we attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, to the measure and stature of the fullness of Christ, so that we may no longer be children, tossed to and fro by the waves and carried about by every wind of doctrine, by human cunning, by craftiness in deceitful schemes. Rather, speaking the *truth in love*, we are to grow up in every way into Him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and held together by every joint with which it is equipped, when each part is working properly makes the body grow so that it builds itself up in love.”

<p>Seasoned & Steady</p> <p>Traits:</p> <p>General:</p> <p>Specific:</p>	<p>Cave Dwellers</p> <p>Traits:</p> <p>General:</p> <p>Specific:</p>
<p>Rock Stars</p> <p>Traits:</p> <p>General:</p> <p>Specific:</p>	<p>Question Marks</p> <p>Traits:</p> <p>General:</p> <p>Specific:</p>

WHO are your women? “Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth” (John 17:17).

From the GENERAL . . .

. . . to the SPECIFIC.

Pause & Reflect

“Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing, but rejoices in the truth. Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things” (1 Corinthians 13:4-7).

Are you [as a team, as an individual] cultivating RELATIONSHIPS?

- Are you moving toward your women?

- What will “strategic margin” look like?

- What might “strategic margin” cost?

Are you [as a team, as an individual] cultivating TRUST? How would your women answer the following questions:

- Are you there for me?

- Do I matter to you?

- Can I count on you?

Is there something YOU [as a team, as an individual] need to do in response to what you have heard/learned?

Celebration & Reflection: Leadership Journey

Psalm 9:1 I will give thanks to the LORD with my whole heart; I will recount all of Your wonderful deeds.

Psalm 143:5 I remember the days of old; I meditate on all that You have done; I ponder the work of Your hands.

Psalm 34:3 Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt His name together!

Definition of Leadership: To go in front of or beside another to get them to an intended destination.

Gospel Friends who walk alongside me:

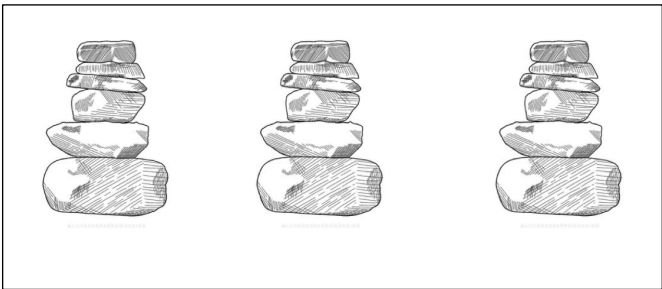
Proven leaders who walk in front of me:

Those who follow me
as I follow Christ:

Gospel Friends
I nurture:

Potential Leaders
I invest in:

Leadership Ebenezers:
A visual remembrance in the highest highs and the lowest lows of leadership that God is our “stone of help.”
Under each stack, write a time, place, or truth He helped you understand.



Discipleship/Gospel Transformation: We are all just walking each other Home.

Saturday, February 25, 9:00 a.m.

Keynote Session 6

Better Together: CREATING RHYTHMS OF PRAYER IN AN ANXIOUS WORLD

Vanessa K. Hawkins and Carrie Mills

As imitators of Christ, we are commanded to be diligent in prayer, yet prayer is a discipline that often eludes us. In practice, we can relegate prayer to just a preliminary formality or to the extreme of a desperate, troubled cry. How can we consistently think rightly about prayer? How can we cultivate a regular, consistent prayer life and day-to-day dependence on the Lord despite the pressures and pace of ministry? In this session, we'll take a look at the prayer life of Jesus and consider how to cultivate a cruciform prayer life.

Mark 1:32-39

- I. Being dependent [Mark 1:32-24]

- II. Getting quiet [Mark 1:35]

- III. Remaining focused [Mark 1:36-39]

Recommended Reading:



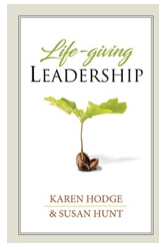
Breathe: The Life-giving Oxygen of the Lord's Prayer
By Karen Hodge

Friday, February 24, 2:00 p.m.

Workshop Handouts

Better Together: CORE VALUES **Susan Hunt and Melanie Cogdill**

Are you looking to start your women's ministry on a solid foundation? Are you trying to revitalize a women's ministry that has withered? Are you looking for a tune-up for a strong women's ministry? This seminar will equip you to understand the theological foundation for a vibrant women's ministry in the context of relationships in the church. The seminar will give you theological whys of women's ministries as well as be very practical in how you apply the theology to women's ministry outreaches, Bible studies, discipleship, and events. In addition, this seminar will address how to build a strong, unified leadership team.



Life-giving Leadership
by Karen Hodge and Susan Hunt



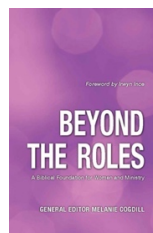
Aging with Grace
by Sharon Betters and Susan Hunt



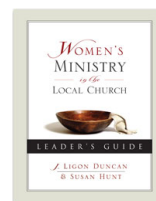
True Woman
by Susan Hunt



Prayers of the Bible
by Susan Hunt



Beyond the Roles
Ed. by Melanie Cogdill



Women's Ministry in the Local Church
by Ligon Duncan and Susan Hunt

Better Together: CORE VALUES (Women's Ministry 101)

Susan Hunt

“Glorify the Lord with me; let us exalt His name together.” – Psalm 34:3

Focus: Equipping women to think biblically and live covenantally. Developing and implementing a Word-based, relationally-driven ministry.

Westminster Larger Catechism A.4: The scriptures manifest themselves to be the word of God, by their majesty and purity; by the consent of all the parts, and the scope of the whole, which is to give all glory to God . . .

Titus 2:1, 3-5 – “But as for you teach what accords with sound doctrine . . . Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.”

BEFORE THE BEGINNING, Ephesians 1

vv. 3-6: The Father chose us in Christ before creation . . . to the praise of His glorious grace.

vv. 7-12: Christ redeemed us through His blood . . . that we might be to the praise of His glory.

vv. 13-14: The Holy Spirit seals, applies and guarantees our redemption . . . to the praise of His glory.

- Covenant of Redemption
- Trinity equal in power and glory, different functions, same purpose: A people who would glorify Him.
- **WSC Q.1.** What is the chief end of man? **A.** Man's chief end is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever.

CREATION, FALL, REDEMPTION, TRANSFORMATION, Genesis 1-4

Five Foundational Principles

1. Genesis 1-3

v. 1. *In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth.* **Foundational Principle #1:** God is our reference point.

v. 3. *And God said, “Let there be light,” and there was light.* **Foundational Principle #2:** God's Word is our authority.

v. 26. *Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.”* **Foundational Principle #3:** God's glory is our purpose.

v. 27. . . *male and female He created them.* **Foundational Principle #4:** Gender distinctiveness is God's plan.

2. Genesis 2:18: The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

The Hebrew word translated helper is *ezer*. In the Old Testament, it often refers to God as our Helper.

- (Defends) Exodus 18:4
- (Sees and cares for suffering) Psalm 10:14
- (Supports) Psalm 20:2
- (Protects) Psalm 33:20
- (Delivers from distress) Psalm 70:5
- (Rescues) Psalm 72:12-14
- (Comforts) Psalm 86:17

Ligon Duncan, *Women's Ministry in the Local Church*, p 115: "The distinction between male and female is something that is part of a human's (and especially a Christian's) being a bearer of the image of God . . . Mankind, without living out the God-given distinction of male and female, relating to one another as God intended them to relate, cannot give adequate expression to this aspect of what it means to be created in the image of God. **This truth needs to be explained and understood in the discipleship of the local church.**"

3. Genesis 3: Fall, Redemption

- Genesis 3:15 – "*And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.*" (Covenant of Grace)

Foundational Principle #5: His presence is the promise of life.

- Genesis 3:20 – Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

Eve: sounds like Hebrew word for "life-giver."

1 John 5:12 – "*Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.*"

- Woman's creation design: _____
- Woman's redemptive calling: _____

The True Woman

The New Woman

Authority

Purpose

- How can such a reversal happen? The gospel. Genesis 3:21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.

4. Genesis 4: Life outside Garden – Transformation

v. 1: "*I have gotten a man with the help of the LORD.*"

v. 25: "*God has appointed for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.*"

5. The Way of Cain vs. The Way of Christ

v. 9 Then the LORD said to Cain, "*Where is Abel your brother?*" He said, "*I do not know; am I my brother's keeper?*"

v. 16 Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden.

v. 17 Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch . . .

HOW can we walk together, under God’s authority, for His glory?

John 17:22-23 – “The glory that You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one even as We are one. I in them and You in Me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that You sent Me and loved them even as You loved Me.”

2 Cor. 3:18 – “And we all, with unveiled face, beholding the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from one degree of glory to another. For this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit.”

6. Helper/Life-giver vs. Hinderer/Life-taker (*See verses from #2)

<u>Helper/Life-giver</u>		<u>Hinderer/Life-taker</u>
Exodus 18:4	Defends	Attacks
Psalms 10:14	Sees, cares for oppressed	Indifferent, unconcerned for oppressed
Psalms 20:2	Supports	Weakens
Psalms 33:20	Shields, protects	Leaves unprotected
Psalms 70:5	Delivers from distress	Causes distress
Psalms 72:12-14	Rescues poor, weak, needy	Ignores poor, weak, needy
Psalms 86:17	Comforts	Causes discomfort

7. Jesus’ great imperative to His church: Matthew 28:18-20

- Titus 2:1-5 – Some discipleship is to be gender-specific.
- Teach: The content of gospel. Train: Relationships that reflect the gospel.
- 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 – “We were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.”

Discipleship is informational, relational, transformational

Woman’s helper design and life-giving mission can be summarized as community and compassion. The life-taker is divisive and destructive.

- Jesus’ great imperative to His church: Matthew 28:18-20

BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES FOR WOMEN’S MINISTRY IN THE CHURCH

- (1) 1 Timothy 2:9-15 – Ecclesiastical submission
- (2) 1 Timothy 3:11 – Covenant Compassion
- (3) 1 Timothy 5:1-16 – Covenant Community
- (4) Titus 2:3-5 – Gender-specific discipleship
- (5) 2 Timothy 3:1-9, 14-16 – Scripture

How are these principles reflected in your Women’s Ministry?





The following exercise is taken from
Breathe: The Life-giving Oxygen of the Lord's Prayer (Lawrenceville, GA: CDM, 2022), 39.


Walking Each Other Home


Walking each other Home is a sacred and holy Covenant privilege. Write one or two names in each box. Specifically, write down names of women who serve with you now or can be partners with you in women's ministry. Spend time praying for your gospel friends, spiritual mothers, and those who are following you as you follow Christ.


Discipleship/Gospel Transformation: We are all just walking each other to our heavenly Home.

<p style="text-align: center;">Gospel Friends Women who walk alongside me:</p> 

<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual Mothers Women who have spiritually nurtured me:</p> 

<p style="text-align: center;">Those who follow me as I follow Christ:</p> 

<p style="text-align: center;">Gospel Friends Women I walk alongside:</p> 
--

<p style="text-align: center;">Spiritual Daughters Women I spiritually nurture:</p> 
--

The following exercise is taken from
Breathe: The Life-giving Oxygen of the Lord's Prayer (Lawrenceville, GA: CDM, 2022), 37.

Covenant One-Anothering

Interdependent sisters are committed to covenant “one-anothering.” Read through these characteristics and some of the following passages. Circle the commands you need to pray about cultivating in your women’s ministry. **Pray through the verses and commands as a women’s ministry team.**

- Love one another (John 13:34)
- Honor one another above yourselves (Romans 12:10)
- Live in harmony with one another (Romans 12:16)
- Build up one another (Romans 14:19; 1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Be likeminded towards one another (Romans 15:5)
- Accept one another (Romans 15:7)
- Admonish one another (Romans 15:14; Colossians 3:16)
- Greet one another (Romans 16:16)
- Care for one another (1 Corinthians 12:25)
- Serve one another (Galatians 5:13)
- Bear one another’s burdens (Galatians 6:2)
- Forgive one another (Ephesians 4:32; Colossians 3:13)
- Be patient with one another (Ephesians 4:2; Colossians 3:13)
- Speak the truth in love (Ephesians 4:15, 25)
- Be kind and compassionate to one another (Ephesians 4:32)
- Speak to one another with psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs (Ephesians 5:19)
- Submit to one another (Ephesians 5:21; 1 Peter 5:5)
- Look to the interests of one another (Philippians 2:4)
- Bear with one another (Colossians 3:13)
- Teach one another (Colossians 3:16)
- Comfort one another (2 Corinthians 1:3-5)
- Encourage one another (1 Thessalonians 5:11)
- Exhort one another (Hebrews 3:13)
- Stir up [provoke, stimulate] one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24)
- Show hospitality to one another (1 Peter 4:9)
- Employ the gifts God has given us for the benefit of one another (1 Peter 4:10)
- Clothe yourselves with humility towards one another (1 Peter 5:5)
- Pray for and confess your faults to one another (James 5:16)



Women's Ministry Resource: Box Talk Guidelines

What is a box talk? It is a "show and tell" for women. It is a creative way to get to know one another.

What do you do?

You place objects into a container (a box, bag, basket, etc.) that are representative of you and your life, and then you show the objects one at a time and tell why you included them. A box talk should be short and concise, giving a glimpse into who you are and what you love. It should be a catalyst for further conversations. The guidelines below are intended to help you as you prepare.

The purpose of box talks:

- To nurture community among women in your church by helping them know one another better.
- For the woman who does the box talk to have the opportunity to learn to speak concisely, intentionally, and purposefully. This is an important aspect of discipleship.

Guidelines to keep these talks interesting and lively:

1. Choose five to seven items that represent who you are. Pray about these items and choose them carefully. Pray for wisdom to know which parts of your life will help you connect to the women in the group.
2. Use items that tell something about yourself, and let the item do the talking. A couple of sentences of explanation are sufficient. Individual women can talk with you afterwards about specific points of interest.
3. Use photos sparingly since it is difficult for everyone to see the photos and awkward to pass too many photos around. Other items such as a favorite book, or something that depicts a hobby or vacation spot, something that recalls a special moment in your life or a future dream, or an item of clothing that recalls a special memory, make a box talk stronger. For example, an old spoon that belonged to your grandmother who taught you to cook and to pray for the people who would sit at your table communicates many messages. Be prayerful and creative as you select items to show.
4. Though your box talk is not a testimony, consider including a single aspect of your testimony, or a specific spiritual lesson you learned from someone, or an event in your life that impacted your spiritual growth.
5. Decide the best order to show the items and then list them in that order. Write 1 or 2 sentences beside each item. Do not emphasize details (too much information is too much information!).
6. Your container can be part of your story (your beach bag because you love the beach) and not a literal box.
7. A box talk should not exceed 5 minutes. It is important to plan carefully because it is very easy to think you have talked for 5 minutes when it has actually been 25.

- PLEASE, do not mention time. References to "they only gave me 5 minutes" or "I think my time is up but..." take Time and deflect from your box talk.



Better Together: CULTIVATING LEADERS

Cheryl Mullis and Teri Anderson

Think for a moment about your “team.” What is the purpose of your team? Who is on your team? Why are they on your team? How does your team function? What expectations do you have for your team? As leaders, we intuitively know that building teams is a vital part of ministry. We build teams who plan events. We build retreat teams. We build Bible Study teaching teams. Casting vision, planning together, and sharing the load are good and healthy parts of teamwork.

What if team-building is also a way to cultivate leaders, preparing and equipping them to come alongside women in a life-changing way? What if discipleship is the end goal in cultivating leaders not just filling roles to get the job done? How might the gospel inform us as we *refocus* our understanding of leadership development? What will it look like to *rebuild* our teams in a way that promotes the spiritual growth of our leaders? How might God *renew* us as we lead in this way?

Introduction:

Cultivating Leaders

Creating Healthy, Vibrant Teams

Part 1

Refocus: Seeing a Need and Casting Vision

- Nehemiah 1: The Need
- The Response
- The Mission

Connections:

- What can we learn from Nehemiah? What does he model? How is he cultivating leaders?

Reflection (Implication & Application) Part One

Part 2
Renewal/Cultivating Community

- The Big Picture

- The Gospel

Reflection (Implication and Application) Part Two

Part 3
Refresh (Rebuild)/Characteristics to Cultivate

- Cultivating Grace

- Cultivating Honesty

- Cultivating Humility:

- Joyful Leaders: Galatians 5:22

Rejoice (Implications & Applications)

Recommended Reading:



Beyond the Roles
Melanie Cogdill, Gen. Ed.

Better Together: CREATING COMMUNITY **Shea Patrick and Courtney Denton**

We were created to be in community with one another—loving, serving, and growing—but serving God with a bunch of other sinners on a leadership team can sometimes be difficult and leave us feeling tired and discouraged. How do we continue to grow in the gospel as a team as we lead other women to grow in these same truths? Join us as we learn together how to cultivate a life-giving, unified leadership team that grows us in the gospel and encourages others to do the same.

Why?

- I. Whose idea is it anyway?
 - A. God's design
 - B. We need each other (gifts and graces)
- II. The People Are the Point – Not the Plan
 - A. Relationship and Discipleship
 - B. Blesses the Body

How?

- III. The Work of Building Community
 - A. It will cost you
 - Not about you
 - “One-anothering”
 - B. It will bless you

Discussion:

- 1) What are some barriers to Christlike community that your team has experienced?
- 2) Thinking about the “one-another” commands throughout Scripture, what is a specific one you can implement to build community on your team and how?
- 3) How do you display valuing people while also getting things done?

Resources:

Relationships: A Mess Worth Making by Tim Lane & Paul Tripp

A Place to Belong by Megan Hill

Life-giving Leadership by Karen Hodge & Susan Hunt

Recommended Reading:



True Woman
By Susan Hunt