



Developing Strategies for Women's Bible Studies and Retreats

Fill yourself with the Word

Deuteronomy 11:18 "Put these words of mine in your hearts and in your soul."

Corporate Worship

Colossians 3:16 *"Let the Word of Christ dwell in you richly, as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs, with gratitude in your hearts to God."*

Corporate Bible Study - with your pastor and church family

Personal devotions and personal in-depth Bible study

You cannot pour out to others what you haven't soaked in yourself.

John 4:14 *"...whoever drinks the water I give him will never be thirsty again. Rather, the water I will give him will become in him a spring of water, bubbling up to eternal life."*

Go to your pastor...to have questions answered and to receive guidance.

Encouragement

Ask "Why?" Why do you want to do this?

1 Peter 2:9 *"But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, the people who are God's own possession, so that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."*

"Good things" are different from "God things." A quote from Robert Koester's book, [Gospel Motivation](#):

God's things relate to our salvation....God's wisdom centers on the death and life of Jesus. It centers on Baptism, on Christ's righteousness, and on the fact that we are free from the law....The desire to hear good things and put them into practice stems from human desires. The desire to hear God's things begins with wanting to hear about Christ, and the desire to do the right thing stems from a desire to live in line with what we have become, God's redeemed children.

Equip Women to Teach the Word

<https://welscongregationalservices.net/equip-women-to-teach/>

2 Timothy 2:15 *“Make every effort to present yourself to God as one who is approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, correctly handling the Word of truth.”*

Lessons 1-5 are a MUST before starting a Bible Class and so helpful when planning a retreat.

Determine focus group (Equip Women to Teach the Word p. 248-249)

Resources

Use the Bible!!!!

People’s Bible Commentaries and People’s Bible Teachings series

Wels.net – Women’s Bible studies written by women for women

“Teach the Word” blog - Sign up at <https://online.nph.net/teach-the-word>

Planning

Proverbs 14:22 *“...those who plan to do good find mercy and truth.”* **Planning is key!**

Bible Study – plan with your pastor’s blessing and help - he is your partner!

Determine who will teach

Reflecting God’s Image, Equip, pages 75-82

See “Helps” on p. 149 of Equip

Spiritually mature woman, always wanting to learn more

A woman who is willing to commit to the dedication it takes to teach others

Select the study to be used - **invest time in this!!!** - “salvageable” is not good enough!

Listen to needs and identify your audience

Learn about your audience - meet people where they’re at

Set goals for your Bible study (see comparison STOP box in Equip, p.111)

Consider style

Review and evaluate with your pastor’s help; then select a study

MUST be doctrinally sound – be discerning!

Acts 17:11 *“Now the Bereans were more noble minded than the Thessalonians. They received the word very eagerly and examined the Scriptures every day to see if these things were so.”*

Shy away from “I think...” **You teach Scripture - not your own thoughts**

Remember: the spotlight is always on God’s redemptive love - everything points to Christ.

1 Timothy 4:16 *“Watch your life and doctrine closely. Persevere in them, because if you do, you will save both yourself and your hearers.”*

What is false doctrine and how do you avoid it? (Equip, p. 151)

2 Timothy 1:5 *“What you heard from me, keep as the pattern of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ Jesus.”*

- Read Equip, pages 115-122. Page 123 offers an activity to help you pick appropriate Bible studies. THIS IS A GREAT EXERCISE!
- Refer to “Stand Firm Against Satan’s Subtle Lies” presented by Liz Naumann and Sarah Sellnow at the 2022 WELS Women’s Ministry Conference

Determine location, date, time; plan logistics
Determine how you will advertise/market/inform

Prepare:

Pray before you begin preparing (sample prayer in Equip, p. 130)
Teaching Like Jesus by Donald Patterson; snippets on pages 259-273 in Equip
Reach different types of learners whenever possible (visual, auditory, step-by-step, hands on, restate)
Prepare purposeful questions
Find the fine line between prepping and finally teaching
Order Bible study materials well in advance

Retreat – planning starts a minimum of one year in advance

Work with your pastor

Organize planning committee based on willingness, along with various and complementary gifts

Study Scripture! THEN pick a theme and theme passage

Determine if ½ day, 1 day, 2 days, 3 days

Pick venue

Schedule for the day...one speaker? two? plenary plus various workshop options?

Speaker selections - womensministry@wels.net or word-of-mouth

Determine honorariums and mileage reimbursement

Meals

Humanitarian project possibility or “breather” breakout

Devotions and/or worship

Budget

Possible totes and/or folders and what might be included

Registration - always offer another avenue of registering in addition to online

As event draws near – communicate, communicate, communicate!

Personal invitations

Notify circuit, district, FIC if reaching out to area sisters

Touch base often with presenters regarding wants and/or needs

Let them know other presenters and topics for the day for “gelling”

Does keynote speaker want anything copied and included in folder?

After registration closes, notify presenters of number of attendees

Determine tech needs for keynote and any presenters

Day of Bible Study or Retreat: fill yourself up with the Word and pray!

Philippians 4:6 *“Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be known to God.”*

Arrive and set up EARLY! Be prepared! Allow extra time!

Be warm, hospitable, smile, welcoming, setting attendees at ease

Gather any signatures needed (release of pictures, etc.)

START ON TIME

Always begin with prayer - fellowship and unity evident

Manage the allotted time well

Close with prayer (perhaps ask for prayer requests)

Follow up

Bible Class

Listen for positive and constructive feedback

After first class, collect any needed emails or phone numbers to share answers to unanswered questions or expound (24 hour turn-a-round if possible)

Experiencing struggles as you teach? Contact your pastor or experienced teacher for help

Remember God's intentions for your gifts (glorify him, serve others, build up the church)

Retreat

Survey/feedback form – printed in daily handouts or QR code or via email the next day

Planning committee review feedback within one week following retreat

Closing prayer - Hebrews 13:20-21

Now may the God of peace - who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, in connection with his blood, which established the eternal testament - may he equip you with every good thing to do his will, as he works in us what is pleasing in his sight through Jesus Christ. To him be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

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