

Women's Thursday Bible Class

God's Distinctive Calling for Women 2022

Lesson Two:

Review last week's high points- Titus 3:3-5 - how things are to be done in the church

So why do this study now?

-Read from Women Ministry in the Local Church -

So confusion, comingling of world and Bible, needs some clarity

Working definition of spiritual mothering- **when a woman possessing faith and spiritual maturity enters into a nurturing relationship with a younger woman in order to encourage and equip her to live for God's glory.**

Can you think of some examples of this in the Scriptures?

But even these are not our ultimate reference point.

Look up these verses that broaden our perspective of God's relationship with his people.

Is. 49:15-16. El Shaddai - His attributes of strength and tenderness

Is. 66:10-14

Mat. 23:37

These are mothering, nurturing capacities. Combined with our "Helper" verses last week, we see how God models and mirrors what we are created to be in our female design. Don't you think it is exciting to see how God has created us distinctly female to have this role? It adds so much value and significance!

"Our femaleness gives us the capacity for mothering ,and our faith by the Spirit produces certain characteristics of mothering". i.e. fruit of the Spirit

So gender distinctive discipling!

1. Luke 1:26-56 - Mary /Elizabeth model- Discuss how Mary responded. Why do you think she went to see Elizabeth?

1. Ruth 1-4 - Naomi and Ruth- quick review; definitely bonded. Why was Ruth so determined to follow a seemingly hopeless, bitter woman?

What is true of us, His people, -those who are called by His name, who are created for His glory? Read Is. 43: 1-7

I Cor. 10:31

How do we? Reflect back praise to Him and reflect back His characteristics

Trust and Obey!

Breakup into discussion groups.

Next week: read Chapter 3 in Spiritual Mothering if you have the book. We will be looking more in-depth at the command given in Titus 2:3-5.

Remember be looking for practical ways you can put truth into practice.

Lesson Two Discussion Questions

1. From the passages that use the mothering metaphor for God, did you have any particular thoughts? Mothering characteristics: strength excellence tenderness generosity desire to nurture and protect, comfort ,compassion affection, sacrifice. Do we need this kind of nurturing from one another? Do you see how they , when we give and /or receive them, can help us flourish?
2. After Mary's life changing encounter with the angel, she responds, " I am the Lord's servant. ...may it be to me as you have said." How can Mary's definition of herself and her life purpose help us ? Can you honestly say that God and his Word are your reference point and that you want God' s glory to be your life purpose?
3. What can we glean from our short investigation of the relationship between Mary and Elizabeth, and from Naomi and Ruth ?
4. Discuss this statement: when a woman is absorbed with God's glory, she will interpret her life according to his truth. What are some things that keep us from being absorbed with God's glory? Are there ways that we can help one another?

Optional only if we have time in class:

1. What are some of the expectations that women commonly have today?
6. List any hurts, disappointments, failures, surprises, etc. that may have or are a struggle for you. [By faith, we can look at that list above and interpret everything in light of His will for you. He has given you a platform to reflect the Glory of His grace . Pass this on to the next generation!]
7. Change is a challenge. Are you in a changing season or have you been in the present season for awhile? Can you be specific about what your challenges and struggles are or have been?