

Women's Thursday Bible Class

God's Distinctive Calling for Women 2022

Lesson eight: The Ministry (service) of Encouragement

Is there a need for spiritual mothering? Is there?

Possibly read the "A Daughter's Story"

Mandate from Scripture - where? _____

Remember word sophonizo- which is translated train in Tit. 2:4 , involves encouragement

Model from Scripture- which women we have looked at. _____

But ultimately WHO?

Mk. 3:14 and Luke 6:40

Word- filled, Word-based ministry

Now for the **Method** - looking at the ministry of encouragement

A. Biblical **definition**: *parakaleo* - called to one's aid - Helper in John 14:26

Many verses -

[Heb. 6:18-20

Where does courage and confidence come from? Heb. 13:5-6

The word encouragement seems to be closely related to exhortation, sometimes consolation, even comfort here maybe Acts 9:31****

Rom. 15:4-6..therefore v. 7

I Thessalonians 2: 3-4, 11-12

I Timothy 2:1. 6:2. 4:13. 5:1

II Timothy 4:2

Titus 1:9 / 2:6, 15

Hebrews 13:22 whole letter is a word of exhortation (same word root - *paraklesis* is, a calling near or for)

3:13

6:18-20

12:5

Another thought: we urge the Word because I Thess. 2:13

Heb.4:12-13

Heb. 4:2. Word profits when united by faith]

A dictionary definition- " to inspire to continue on a chosen course ; to impart courage or confidence to; to embolden; hearten. To give support to"

Seems consistent with what Bible teaches

Carries the idea of urging toward action

B. First and foremost foundation is the finished work of CHRIST- read Hebrews 10:10-15. (Also again the verses in Heb. 4: 14-16 above) says same

Since therefore.....

V. 1-18 context

Access into the presence of God, boldness, joy, prayer

So vertical relationship first.

C. Then discover the 'how do we do it?' Susan Hunt says that a woman's God-given nurturing instincts and helper design makes her especially suited to the ministry of encouragement. Scriptures speak powerfully. Looking at Hebrews 10 - Five Let us's:

1. V. 22 Let us
2. V. 23 Let us
3. V. 24 and Let us
4. V. 25 let us not
5. V. 25 but let us

As you see the day drawing near

Much we have said about encouragement is true for the whole church, not just women. Just focusing here on the woman's role.

Remember - female design to nurture, be a helper

Next week: If you have the book, read Chapter 9- The Power of Acceptance - another aspect of the Method of true spiritual mothering, mentoring, discipleship-
We will be gleaning truths here from the life of Dorcas in Acts

Lesson Eight Discussion Questions

- Why do you think some women distance themselves from other women?

 - Refer to the illustration copied from Spiritual Mothering p. 52 workbook. Explore the idea further of why women are in the cave in the first place. We can often make quick assumptions of why women are uninvolved. How can we help get ladies out of hiding? (create an environment where women feel safe)

 - Read Ps. 72:12; 10:14; 68:5
 - Who in our day, in our world, in our church are the——?
- Victims
Fatherless
Needy
Afflicted
- What we are talking about doing requires prayer, sensitivity, (Holy Spirit), time, commitment, hard work.....a growing in the knowledge of God's truth(so we are wise in our training, teaching, urging.....)

 - How can we give this week more careful thought to how (and who) to encourage?

 - Women gaining the confidence to reach out and serve is often the beginning of creative, nurturing ministries of love and good deeds. " Encouragement by other women is probably the most effective and efficient way to tap the rich resource of the female population of a local church. " - by Susan Hunt
 - Give your thoughts on this statement

 - God's design for a woman to be a nurturer/ helper / encourager is NO Secondary role!!!!!!