GATHER

WOMEN'S GROUP GUIDE

WOMEN'S GATHER GROUPS

We believe that one of God's greatest gifts to us is the opportunity to walk through life with other believers. Life is filled with joys, challenges, responsibilities, and seasons. We were not designed to go through those alone. We need friends who will encourage us, pray with us, and remind us of the faithfulness of our great God.

That is the heart beat behind these monthly gatherings. Our desire is to create a space where women can build meaningful relationships, enjoy Christian fellowship, and grow together in your walk with Jesus. Whether you are a busy mother, a grandmother, single, or navigating a new season of life, we believe there is something special about women of faith gathering together.

Each gathering will include a short, practical devotion from God's Word, followed by some questions designed to promote meaningful conversation.

These studies are intentionally simple and are not designed to be deep theological examinations for opportunities for doctrinal debates.

While we value the study of Scripture and sound Bible teaching, **the primary purpose of these gatherings is not to debate what we know, but to encourage one another in how we live.**

We want to focus on the practical truths of Scripture that help us to be better followers of Jesus, better wives, mothers, and help us to faithfully serve the Lord in our everyday lives.

Our goal is simple. To grow closer to Jesus as we grow closer to one another.

JANUARY
A Woman of Priority

FEBRUARY
A Woman of Precept

MARCH
A Woman of Peace

APRIL
A Woman of Purpose

MAY
A Woman of Purity

JUNE
A Woman of Patience

JULY
A Woman of Praise

AUGUST
A Woman of Prudence

SEPTEMBER
A Woman of Partnership

OCTOBER
A Woman of Perseverance

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

WHEREFORE
COMFORT
YOURSELVES
TOGETHER,
AND EDIFY
ONE ANOTHER,
EVEN AS ALSO
YE DO.

GATHER NOTES

JANUARY | WOMAN OF PRIORITY

JESUS FIRST: MATT. 6:33, LUKE 10:38-42

There is a lot competing for our attention.

As women, days can be filled with what seems like the endless responsibilities of work, children, husbands, church, and appointments. It's sometimes hard to stay centered on Christ when even good things become distractions and crowd out what ultimately matters.

We all remember the story in Luke 10, when Martha welcomed Jesus into her home. She was working to ensure all the details were taken care of. Mary, however, sat at the feet of Jesus and listened to Him. When Martha became frustrated that Mary wasn't helping, Jesus gently reminded her that Mary had chosen the better part.

It's not that Martha was doing something wrong by serving, it had just become a distraction from the ONE she was serving.

Matthew reminds us to "seek first the kingdom of God". Seeking Jesus first does not suggest that we neglect our families or our responsibilities. It just means we bring all of those things under His leadership. We begin with Jesus, rather than trying to fit Him into our day.

With Christ at the center, it doesn't always ensure a quieter life, it does ensure a rightly ordered life.

Even this study is not "something to accomplish"...but an opportunity to GATHER and sit at the feet of Jesus.

1. Read Matthew 6:33 and Luke 10:38-42. What can we learn about centering our lives on Christ?

2. What do you believe Jesus meant when He said that Mary had "chosen that good part"?

3. Martha was serving, but it had become a distraction. What are some good things that can sometimes distract us from our walk with Jesus?

4. What tends to compete for your attention and makes it difficult for you to slow down and spend time with Jesus.

5. In this upcoming week, what practical steps can you take to ensure that Christ is a greater priority in your schedule?

6. If someone watched your life for a week, what would they see that tells them Jesus is first?

FEBRUARY | WOMAN OF PRECEPT

STANDING ON GOD'S TRUTH
PSALM 119:9-11, JAMES 1:22-25

We live in a world full of voices.

We are bombarded with the voices coming from our phones, social media, friends, culture and our emotions. Sometimes these things speak with such confidence that we assume they must be true.

But a woman who is following Jesus knows where ultimate truth is found.

Psalm 119 points us over and over to the Word of God. The questions that the psalmist asks are routinely answered by looking to the Scriptures. He says he has treasured God's Word in his heart that he might not sin against Him.

But God's Word is not simply information for us to collect. It is truth for us to live by.

A woman of precept isn't someone who knows the most Bible verses. She isn't the one with the greatest spiritual knowledge. She is a woman who allows God's truth to become the foundation for her life.

James compares God's word to a mirror. We look into it and see ourselves honestly. But James warns us not to simply hear the Word and walk away unchanged. We must be doers of the Word.

1. What voices often compete with God's influence in your life?

2. Discuss the difference between knowing the Bible, knowing the God of the Bible, and being a doer of the Word.

3. Share a time in your life when Scripture changed the way you viewed a situation.

4. What makes it difficult for you to spend regular time in the Word?

5. Is there an area in your life where you are completely aware of its teaching, but yet still struggle to put it into practice?

6. What could you do this week to move from simply reading God's Word to responding to God's Word.

7. Pray to God would give you a greater desire than ever to dive into and then live out His Word.

MARCH | WOMAN OF PEACE

LEARNING TO TRUST GOD
PHILIPPIANS 4:4-9, JOHN 14:27

Peace can be difficult to find when life seems uncertain.

We often worry about our marriages, our children, our finances, our relationships and even things that are out of our control. Someone once said, we often carry tomorrow's troubles before tomorrow arrives.

The Scriptures speak of a peace that passes all understanding. That kind of peace is only found in a settled relationship with Jesus. In John 14, Jesus tells His disciples that He gives them peace. But it is not the kind of peace that the world gives, but HIS PEACE.

Jesus was hours away from the cross as He shared this great truth with His disciples. They were about to face some incredibly difficult days, and He wanted them to experience His peace in the midst of what was to come.

But how do we practically live our lives in the peace that Jesus has provided. Philippians gives us a glimpse into what that looks like. We are told not to be consumed by anxiety, but to bring everything to God in prayer with thanksgiving. Then comes the promise that the peace of God will guard our hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Peace is not pretending that everything is fine. Peace is knowing who holds us when everything is not fine. A woman of peace isn't a woman that never worries. She is a woman that has learned to live in the peace provided by our Savior.

Let's be women of peace that can truly mean it when we say, " I don't know what tomorrow holds, but I am at peace with WHO holds tomorrow."

1. What circumstances tend to steal your peace?

2. Why do we often struggle to fully trust God in the midst of the difficult days?

3. What does thanksgiving have to do with peace?

4. How can our response to the valleys of life influence our families and those around us?

5. What is the one worry that seems to consume you more than all others? Place that in God's hands this week.

6. Pray together that God would allow you to experience the Perfect Peace that is available in Christ Jesus.

APRIL | WOMAN OF PURPOSE

LIVING INTENTIONALLY FOR CHRIST
EPH. 2:10, COL. 3:17, MATTHEW 5:13-16

Have you ever finished a busy day, sat down for a moment and wondered, "What did I really accomplish today?"

It is possible to have a busy life and still lose sight of a purposeful life.

Our world often measures a woman's significance by what she accomplishes, earns, how she looks, or how successful her family appears.

But God measures differently. And regardless of your education level, wealth, or marital status God has a purpose for you!!

You were ***created with a purpose***. Ephesians 2:10 tells us that we are God's workmanship. That means we are not accidents or afterthoughts. We are the work of HIS hands. Whatever your season, your life matters to God.

You are ***called to live with purpose*** according to Colossians 3:17. Notice two words that seem to jump off the page in that verse: "whosoever" and "all". Everything we do, we do as unto the Lord. That doesn't mean our lives are filled with extraordinary activities. It is a life that seeks to honor an extraordinary Savior in everyday activities.

Finally, you can ***communicate your purpose***. Jesus used two simple illustrations to describe the influence His followers should have in the world: salt and light.

Salt makes a difference wherever it is applied, and light makes a difference where it shines. While a woman of purpose doesn't seek the spotlight, she does simply allow the light of Jesus to shine through her.

1. When you hear the phrase "woman with a purpose" what comes to your mind?

2. What female Bible character would you describe as a woman of purpose? Why?

3. What are some of your everyday responsibilities that sometimes seem insignificant? How can you approach these responsibilities differently in light of Colossians 3:17.

4. What does Paul mean when he says, "whatsoever you do, do it heartily as unto the Lord, and not unto men." (Col. 3:23)?

5. What are some practical ways you can be salt and light to the people closest to you?

6. Rejoice, you were created on purpose for a purpose.

MAY | WOMAN OF PURITY

GUARDING THE HEART: PROVERBS 4:23, PHILIPPIANS 4:8, 1 THESSALONIANS 4:3-5

Purity requires constant attention. Just as a clean house can quickly become messy, our hearts and minds can be influenced by the culture around us.

Purity is more than avoiding sin. It is cultivating a life that pleases God. Purity isn't about being perfect, it's about pursuing a life that honors our Savior.

Proverbs 4:23 speaks of the protection of your heart. What takes root in our hearts eventually impacts our attitudes, decisions, and actions. Bitterness, jealousy, pride and unhealthy desires can grow quietly if they go unaddressed.

We cannot always control what happens around us, but we can choose what we allow to take root within us.

Paul speaks of the purity of your thoughts in Philippians 4:8. Our thoughts influence how we feel, speak, and behave. Social Media, entertainment, and comparison can easily distract us from honoring Christ.

What enters our mind will eventually influence the direction of our lives. Finally, a woman of purity guards the presentation of her body. Paul's words in 1 Thessalonians 4:3-5 make it clear that our bodies belong to the Lord. Purity means honoring God's design for sexuality, and refusing to allow sinful desires to control our lives.

God's standards are not meant to rob us of joy. They reflect His love and desire for what is best.

Purity is a daily pursuit. Each day, we choose what we will allow into our hearts, what we will dwell on, and how we will conduct ourselves.

1. What comes to mind when you hear the word purity? Why is purity more than outward behavior?

2. How do social media, entertainment, and relationships influence our thought life?

3. What can we do to redirect unhealthy thoughts?

4. What is one area where you want to pursue greater purity this week?

5. How can the friendships we choose influence our desire to live a pure life?

6. How can we teach and model purity for our kids and grandkids?

JUNE | WOMAN OF PATIENCE

RESPONDING WITH GRACE: COL. 3:12–13, JAMES 1:19–20, GALATIANS 5:22–23

A pastor once warned to be careful when praying for patience, for the Scriptures tell us that "tribulation worketh patience".

Have you ever prayed, "Lord, give me patience," only to find yourself in a situation that tested every bit of patience you had?

Patience is easy to talk about, but difficult to practice!!

Notice the Practice of Patience in Colossians 3:12-13. Paul describes patience as something we "put on". Just as we intentionally choose what clothes to wear each morning, we must intentionally choose to demonstrate patience. This is especially important in our homes. Our spouses and our children will benefit from watching us practice patience. A patient woman chooses to extend grace instead of immediately expressing frustration.

Secondly, there is the Power of Patience from James 1:19-20. One of the greatest demonstrations of patience is learning how to control our reactions. We were taught in science that for every action, there is an equal and opposite reaction. But how many disagreements could have been avoided if we listened more carefully, spoke more thoughtfully, and responded less emotionally.

Finally, there is the Production of Patience found in Galatians 5:22-23. When we have the fruit of the Spirit, we possess ALL of them, including patience. We don't develop patience by trying harder, we grow in patience when we reckon ourselves dead to our rights, and yield to the Jesus that is living His life in and through us.

A practical tip for when you find your patience tested this week... Pause, Pray, Proceed.

1. What situations or relationships tend to test your patience the most?

2. Why do you think we are often less patience with our families than we are with strangers?

3. James encourages us to be quick to listen, and slow to speak. Which of these is more difficult for you and why?

4. How can an impatient response impact the atmosphere of our homes?

5. What are some practical ways we can pause and respond wisely when we are frustrated? Discuss the sequence of pause, pray, and proceed.

6. What is one situation in your life right now where you need to demonstrate greater patience?

JULY | WOMAN OF PRAISE

CHOOSING GRATITUDE: PSALM 100, 1 THESS. 5:16-18, PHILIPPIANS 4:4

We are sometimes experts when it comes to complaining. It just seems to come so easy.

We complain about the weather, our schedules, the laundry, the traffic, or something that just didn't go our way. Sometimes we become so focused on what's wrong that we overlook everything that is right.

The truth is, everyday gives us a reason to pout or to praise. When we have hearts of gratitude, we will be more likely to be women of praise.

The psalmist speaks of the Priority of Praise in Psalm 100. Praise should be a regular part of our lives, not something reserved for Sunday worship.

Praise begins when we focus more on God's blessings than the burdens we carry!!

Paul speaks of the Persistence of Praise in 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18. We are instructed to be thankful in all situations. That means we can find reasons to thank God even in the midst of pain!!

When marriage is challenging, children are struggling, finances are tight, and life isn't going as planned, we can still thank God for His presence, His promises, and His provisions.

A woman of praise does not wait for her circumstances to change before she chooses to be thankful.

Finally, there is the Power of Praise in Philippians 4:4. Paul wrote these words while in prison. He reminds us to rejoice in the Lord, not in our circumstances.

Praise may not change your circumstances, but it sure can change your perspective!!

1. Why does it seem that complaining comes more naturally than expressing gratitude?

2. Psalm 100 reminds us to enter God's presence with thanksgiving. What are some everyday blessings we tend to overlook?

3. What is the difference in being thankful for a difficult situation and being thankful in a difficult situation?

4. Can you think of someone in your life that has consistently demonstrated an attitude of gratitude. How has this person influenced you?

5. Who is someone in your life who consistently demonstrates a thankful heart? How has that person influenced you? How can you leverage that to influence others?

6. Where is one area in your life where you need to replace complaining with praise?

AUGUST | WOMAN OF PRUDENCE

CHOOSING WISDOM: PROVERBS 14:8, PROVERBS 22:3, JAMES 1:5

We have all made a decision that seemed like a good idea at the time, only to look back and wonder, "What was I thinking?"

Whether it was something we said, something we purchased, or a situation we wish we would have handled differently, we have all experienced the consequences of unwise decisions.

A woman of prudence doesn't just ask, what should i do, she asks, what is the wise thing to do.

One writer said, "Wisdom is not simply knowing what it right, it is choosing to do what is right."

Proverbs 14:8 speaks of the perception of wisdom. A prudent woman considers the outcome before she makes a decision, rather than simply responding to what seems right at the moment.

Solomon goes on in Proverbs 22:3 to speak of the protection of wisdom. One of the blessings of wisdom is that it helps us recognize potential problems before they become painful consequences. A woman of prudence understands boundaries and avoids unnecessary temptation. Wisdom does not wait for trouble to arrive before taking action.

Finally, James 1:5 speaks of the prayer for wisdom. What a promise! God invites us to ask Him for wisdom. Instead of relying on our emotions, opinions, or advice from others, may we first seek wisdom from our Lord. A woman of prudence recognizes that she does not have all the answers, but she knows the One who does.

1. When you think of a woman of prudence (a wise woman) who comes to your mind? Why?

2. Why do we sometimes find it so difficult to slow down and consider the outcomes before we make decisions?

3. What are some areas of life that we as women especially need to consider our way as instructed in Proverbs 14:8?

4. How can we best model being a woman of prudence for our children, grandchildren, or others over whom we have influence?

5. Is there a decision or a situation in your life right now where you need God's wisdom? Pray together over this decision/situation.

6. James 1:5 encourages us to ask for wisdom from God who has promised to give it. Read James 1:6-7 and discuss how to accomplish the challenge James gives.

SEP | WOMAN OF PARTNERSHIP

GROWING TOGETHER: TITUS 2:3-5, ECCLESIASTES 4:9-12, HEBREWS 10:24-25

We were not made to do life alone! Whether it is raising children, navigating marriage, or facing difficult situations, we all need encouragement and support from people we know and trust.

God created us for relationship. The Christian life is meant to be enjoyed with other believers in our lives to help us grow.

A woman of partnership understands that we really are better together!!

We have all heard about the greatness of the "Titus 2 woman". Paul reminds us that we have a unique opportunity to influence others through our example. Every believing woman has something to offer regardless of her age or season of life.

Some of you have walked through difficult seasons in a marriage or with rebellious children. Those younger wives and moms can learn from your experience. Your wisdom must be shared, not stored.

Solomon again speaks of the strength of partnership in Ecclesiastes 4. When life brings challenges that leave us feeling discouraged, overwhelmed, or alone, we need godly friendships that help us through those times. A friend that will pray with you and be truthful with you is invaluable!!

Finally, the writer of Hebrews speaks of the encouragement that happens when we gather. This is one of the purposes of these women's groups. As we gather, share our experiences, read Scripture, and pray together, we have opportunities to strengthen one another. The best friendships don't just make life more enjoyable, they help us to become more like Jesus.

1. Who is a woman that has had a positive influence on your walk with Jesus? Have you shared that with her?

2. Why do women sometimes hesitate to develop close friendships with other women?

3. Ecclesiastes 4 reminds us that two are better than one. Can you share a time when someone's encouragement helped you in a difficult season?

4. What qualities do you believe are most important in a Godly friendship?

5. What are some practical ways you can support women who may feel lonely or overlooked?

6. What is one thing you can do today to strengthen an already Godly friendship?

OCT | WOMAN OF PERSEVERANCE

STAYING FAITHFUL: HEBREWS 12:1-3, GALATIANS 6:9, PHILIPPIANS 3:12-14

Certainly we have all felt like giving up!! Sometimes the weariness of daily responsibilities seem to pile up and even the most faithful Christian can become discouraged.

But the Christian life is not a sprint, it's a marathon that requires endurance, determination, but ultimately a deep dependence upon the Lord.

A woman of perseverance understands that faithfulness isn't always easy, but it's always worth it.

We recently preached from Hebrews 12 on the race we must run. We must remove every weight that would prevent us from running well. The weights that the writer of Hebrews speaks of are not necessarily sinful things, but things that seem to get prioritized over better things.

We must also repent of wickedness. The writer speaks of "the sin". I am convinced that each of us has a bend towards some sin. This is not to be taken lightly, but repented of and overcome by the power of God.

Paul speaks of the resolve to remember in Galatians 6:9. Sometimes doing the right thing becomes tiring. But we must not grow weary in well-doing. We may not see the immediate results, but our faithfulness is never wasted when it is offered to the Lord.

Finally, Paul tells us in Philippians 3:12-14 of the reward we must reach for. Paul understood that spiritual growth is a lifelong journey.

Our ultimate goal isn't a perfect marriage, perfect children, or a perfect life. It is to know Christ more deeply and faithfully pursuing His calling. A woman of perseverance does not allow yesterday's failures to keep her from being faithful today.

1. What are some responsibilities or circumstances that sometimes cause you to become weary or discouraged?

2. Why do we often feel like we have to rush to accomplish the tasks of the day? Why does it seem like we are constantly in a hurry?

3. What are some of those "weights" that can distract you from faithfully following Jesus?

4. What are some areas of life where you can sometimes find yourself "weary in well doing"?

5. What is one area of your walk where you need renewed determination to remain faithful?

6. Pray together that you will finish the race God has for you well.

GATHER NOTES

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MOUNT PISGAH
BAPTIST CHURCH