

# Organizing

## Your Women's Ministry

LifeWay seeks to **equip, enable, and lead women** by:

**SERVING** the churches who already have a strong women's ministry and helping churches who want to begin and build growing women's ministries.

**ENCOURAGING** women in your church to bring unchurched and non-Christian women to a personal relationship with Christ and His church, discipling them, and equipping them to become disciplers.

**PROMOTING** ministry that will equip women to reach out and meet the unique needs of other women in the name of Christ.

**PROVIDING** churches with Bible-based spiritual growth and discipleship resources, leadership training, and a structure of networking that will strengthen, enrich, and equip women's ministries across the Southern Baptist Convention and beyond.



### Why Have a Women's Ministry?

1. To help churches grow numerically and spiritually.
2. To help women feel accepted when they join your church.
3. To open the door to meaningful relationships.
4. To encourage women to discover, develop, and use their spiritual gifts.
5. To minister to today's woman.
6. To provide vision and networking for both inreach and outreach ministries.
7. To offer "woman-to-woman" understanding.
8. To offer "woman-to-woman" lay counseling.
9. To encourage spiritually older women to mentor (teach) spiritually younger women.
10. To follow Jesus' example of ministry to and with women.
11. To help women fight spiritual battles.
12. To affect families as women's lives are drawn closer to Christ.

### How to Begin an Effective Women's Ministry

**PRAY** with others who have a heart for reaching and discipling women in your church and community to discover where God is already at work.

**SHARE** your vision with your pastor or other staff member.



**FORMULATE A PURPOSE STATEMENT** that supports the overall purpose of your church.

**ASSESS NEEDS** by taking a survey or interviewing women to discover women's needs and how they would like to become involved in ministry.

**DETERMINE PRIORITIES** using your assessment as a guide. Start your ministry small and continue to grow and build as needs change. Biblical discipleship studies, prayer, praise, and worship are foundational to all other ministries with women.

**SECURE FACILITIES AND CHILD CARE** to create an atmosphere that encourages women to attend and return. For mothers of preschoolers, child care is essential.

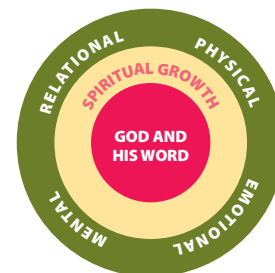
**PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE** through church newsletters and bulletins, direct mail flyers or brochures, public service announcements on radio and TV, news releases in local newspapers, and phone contacts.

**LAUNCH MINISTRY** with a special event.

**EVALUATE** all aspects of your ministry. Variety and flexibility are key issues in keeping the ministry fresh and vital for the women in your church and community.

### A Balanced Approach to Spiritual Growth in Women's Ministry

All ministry must be centered on God's Word and our relationship to the God of the Word. This takes place on Sundays in Bible study and discipleship training as well as at various times throughout the week in large and small groups. Spiritual growth must always be the ultimate goal when addressing needs that are: relational (social, family, communication, witnessing, service, fellowship); physical (health, nutrition, addictions); emotional (self-esteem, depression, crisis counseling); and mental (decision-making, time management, finances, leadership skills). There must be a balance between growth and service opportunities available for women. They must be challenged to put what they have learned into practice and use it to serve the Lord.



*Excerpted from Women Reaching Women.*

*For more information on beginning, growing, and maintaining your women's ministry, see Women Reaching Women and Transformed Lives on page 33.*

## Adult Leadership Diploma Plan for Women's Enrichment Ministry

Answering God's call to serve Him involves preparing ourselves for the tasks He puts before us.

One solution to the challenge to be prepared and mature in today's changing world is the *Christian Growth Study Plan: Preparing Christians to Serve*. For information about this plan or to request a *Christian Growth Study Plan Request Form 725*, call 1.800.968.5519. Information about this plan, as well as an online catalog, is also available at [www.lifeway.com/cgsp](http://www.lifeway.com/cgsp). To earn the Adult Leadership Diploma for Women's Enrichment Ministry, complete one from each of the four categories:

- 1. The Administration of Adult Ministries:** *Transformed Lives* OR *Women Reaching Women* OR Women's Enrichment Ministry Leadership Conference sponsored by your association, state convention, or LifeWay Church Resources.
- 2. Understanding Adults and Their Families:** *Search for Significance* OR *Making Peace with Your Past* OR *Building Relationships* OR *Breaking the Cycle of Hurtful Family Experiences*
- 3. Teaching Adults:** *Teaching Adults: Guide for Transformational Teaching*.
- 4. The Adult Leader's Role in Ministry, Witnessing, and Reaching People:** *WiseCounsel: Skills for Lay Counseling* OR *Witnessing Through Your Relationships* OR *Meeting Needs, Sharing Christ* OR *The Kingdom Agenda* OR *HeartCall: Women Sharing God's Heart* OR *The NET: Evangelism for the 21st Century*.

## Women in the Church: Missions, Evangelism, and Enrichment

The ultimate goal for any ministry involving women reaching women should be to help a woman prayerfully develop her Christian lifestyle.

That includes ongoing spiritual enrichment through personal Bible study, hands-on missions involvement, and the practice of verbally sharing her faith.

The three circles in the above illustration represent national Southern Baptist organizations that have a unique focus on equipping women to develop such lifestyles. Woman's Missionary Union, LifeWay Christian Resources, the International Mission Board, and the North American Mission Board are faithfully providing resources and involvement opportunities that can work together in the local church. Joining together, these three entities want to help the local church equip women who will live lifestyles that demonstrate a strong biblical foundation for all they do, a commitment to God's global mission, and a passion for sharing Christ with others.

### Resources for Women in the Church



### WOMEN'S MINISTRY LEADERS

#### Chris Adams

Women's Ministry/Ministers' Wives Specialist,  
LifeWay Church Resources

#### Debra Berry

Ministry Consultant for Women/Collegiate,  
Woman's Missionary Union

#### Jaye Martin

HeartCall Women's Evangelism,  
North American Mission Board

#### Paula Hemphill

Women's Mobilization Consultant,  
International Mission Board