

Get a Big Vision for Women's Ministry in any size Church

Are you wondering what would be the best long term plan for Women's Ministry in your church? These simple steps will get you going.

1. Get a Prayer Team in Place

Round up those prayer warriors! Encourage women at your church to pray over your church's ministry with women, and don't forget your own time in prayer.

2. Evaluate

Review what your church did last year for women:

- What opportunities did you offer?
- What succeeded? What flopped?
- What unmet needs are you hearing?
- What life changes happened – salvations, commitments to ministry, rededications, other testimonies?
- What are other churches in you community doing? Have you joined them on any of those efforts?

3. Dream big!

Whether it's just you or a handful of women's leaders, sit down and dream about what God might do in your church this year – and don't limit yourself by saying, "we can't do that," or "we don't have the money for that." Brainstorm without restraining yourself – remember that God can do all things! Ask yourself, "What would a great year of women's ministry look like?"

- Will you offer a new women's Bible Study?
- Do you see a certain number of women being involved?
- Would you create new missions or service opportunities for women?
- Will you take a group to a women's event or conference?

Jot down the ideas you have. In addition to those, pick others' brains for ideas for women's ministry. Take notes and expect God to develop a vision for the upcoming year.

4. Combine your lists and prioritize.

Once you have your past year's evaluation and new ideas outlined, determine what's most important in the coming year. Use prayer, common sense, and the help of others if you have it. How does God want to use women's ministry to meet your ladies' greatest needs? What goals do you believe God is setting for you?

Make sure each goal in your list supports your church's overall vision. For example, offering women's Bible studies is a natural fit with your church's plan to disciple others. If something doesn't fall clearly in line with what your church is working

toward, seek your pastor's counsel to make sure it wouldn't detract from your church's overall mission.

5. Determine what's required.

Now that you've identified your top priorities for ministry for the year, what will they require in terms of:

- **TIME** for planning and execution?
- **MONEY** for each idea's planning, promotion, execution and evaluation?
- **PEOPLE** to head up each effort?

6. Begin planning.

Sit down with any other key ladies in your church, and bring your church and local school calendars to your meeting to begin plotting the timetable for various activities. Pencil in your time and season sensitive events first. For the items that remain, get feedback from others. Some ministry items can have softer dates because ideas are still being explored or there's not designated leadership in an area yet.

If there's no leadership or you know you don't have the resources for a certain aspect of ministry, pray and consider waiting until next year. It's OK not to have everything start all at once; in fact, God may have a more staggered approach in mind for your church, so He can work even more effectively.

7. Implement the Plan

With God's help, you're ready for the upcoming year in women's ministry. Whether God has given you a "big vision" for one ministry program or a broader array of efforts, each goal is your opportunity to bring Him glory through women's ministry. As always, let Him work through you - you may be surprised at what He will accomplish.

