

# Organizing Your Women's Ministry

## WOMEN'S MINISTRY AT LIFEWAY

### LifeWay Church Resources seeks to:

- ☞ EQUIP women in your church to enrich the lives of other women and their families through Christ;
- ☞ ENABLE a woman to discover her God-given gifts for ministry, search out the needs in her church and community, and match those needs with her gifts of service;
- ☞ LEAD women to accept Christ as Lord, to become women of deep prayer, and to become women who study the Bible and base their entire lives on the Word of God.

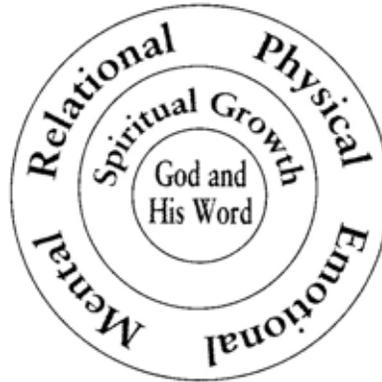
### LifeWay Church Resources and the Mississippi WMU Department accomplish this by:

- 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 disciples.
- 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, Mississippi Baptist Convention and beyond.

### HOW TO BEGIN AN EFFECTIVE WOMEN'S MINISTRY

- **PRAY.** Spend time in prayer 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.** Share your vision with your pastor or other staff member.
- **FORMULATE A PURPOSE STATEMENT.** This must support the overall purpose of your church.
- **ASSESS NEEDS.** Survey or interview women to find out what their needs are and how they would like to become involved in ministry. Determine what needs are and are not already being met through other ministries in the church.
- **DETERMINE PRIORITIES.** Using your assessment as a guide, decide what to include as you begin your ministry. Start small and continue to grow and build your ministry as needs change. Biblical discipleship studies, prayer, praise, and worship are foundational to all other ministries with women.
- **SECURE FACILITIES AND CHILDCARE.** Atmosphere is an important part of encouraging women to attend and return. For mothers with children still at home, child care is essential.
- **PROMOTE AND PUBLICIZE.** Make sure women know what you are offering by publicizing in 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.** Plan a special event to kick off the ministry.
- **EVALUATE.** Continue to assess and evaluate all aspects of the 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 various times throughout the week in large and small groups. Spiritual growth must be the ultimate goal of each of the spokes: 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.

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