

*Developing*

**A WOMEN'S MINISTRY**



## Why Women's Ministry?

### The Biblical Mandate for WOMEN

*Older women likewise are to exhibit behavior fitting for those who are holy, not slandering, not slaves to excessive drinking, but teaching what is good. In this way they will train the younger women to love their husbands, to love their children, to be self-controlled, pure, fulfilling their duties at home, kind, being subject to their own husbands, so that the message of God may not be discredited.* Titus 2:3-5 (NET Bible)

### The Biblical Mandate for DISCIPLESHIP

*Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in[a] the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.* Matthew 28:19-20a (NIV)

### The Biblical Mandate for SPIRITUAL GIFTS

*We have different gifts, according to the grace given us... If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.* Romans 12:6-8 (NIV)

Also see 1 Peter 4:8-10 and 1 Corinthians 12:4-7 (NIV)

### Three Dynamic Relationships at Work

- 1) You & the LORD
- 2) You & YOUR CHURCH
- 3) You & the WOMEN

### Two Active Concepts at Work

- 1) BE - Fulfill the ROLE...
- 2) DO - Capitalize on the CALLING

## Notes

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## Your Relationship with the LORD

### Who am I supposed to BE?

- o An obedient (not perfect) child of the king - 1 Peter 1:14-16
- o A student of the Word - Hebrews 4:12
- o Committed to prayer - Philippians 4:6
- o A passionate pursuer of a powerful relationship with God. - Matthew 22:35-38

### What am I supposed to DO?

- o Discern God's call - Philippians 3:12-13
- o Understand His priorities for YOU - John 15:7
- o Seek wise council - Proverbs 13:20
- o Ask God to give you His vision

### Pause for reflection...

What purpose, plans and priorities has the Lord called you to?

## Your Relationship with your CHURCH

### Who am I supposed to BE?

- o Submitted to the vision and leadership of your Pastor and his supporting staff - Hebrews 13:17
- o A student of your church's visions, goals, procedures, practices - Hebrews 13:6-8
- o An intercessor for the pastor and staff - Philippians 1:4-6

### What am I supposed to DO?

- o Pray for a clear vision and plan - 2 Thessalonians 1:11-12
- o Prepare and present - Proverbs 16:2-4
- o Communicate effectively - Ephesians 4:15-16
- o Get Permission
  - Meet with the pastor/director
  - Receive permission & guidance.
- o Find support and execute the plan - Romans 12:4-5
  
- o Be prepared
  - Common Values – shared beliefs
  - Vision –An eye on the future for your church as a whole and for the WOMEN
  - Mission Statement (Purpose) – How exactly do we get there?
  - Goals/Priorities – For the short and the long term
  - Do your research

- o Present Efficiently & Effectively
  - Be conscious of time
  - Address potential concerns – MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!
  - Understand unspoken dynamics – church structure, ready ideas, in print, follow up
  - Be a leader
  - Be the change you want to see
  - Resist the urge to criticize what has happened before or what is happening now
  
- o Network within the church
  - Women’s Ministry Network
  - Childcare
  - Media
  - Worship
  - Christian Education
  - Hospitality

### Pause for reflection...

Who will you need to visit with at your church in order to discuss the women’s ministry?

## The Relationship with the WOMEN

### Who am I supposed to BE?

- o A person who shares God’s heart for women - John 13:34-35
- o A student of the women you will be serving - 1 Thessalonians 2:7-9
- o An intercessor for the women you serve - James 5:16

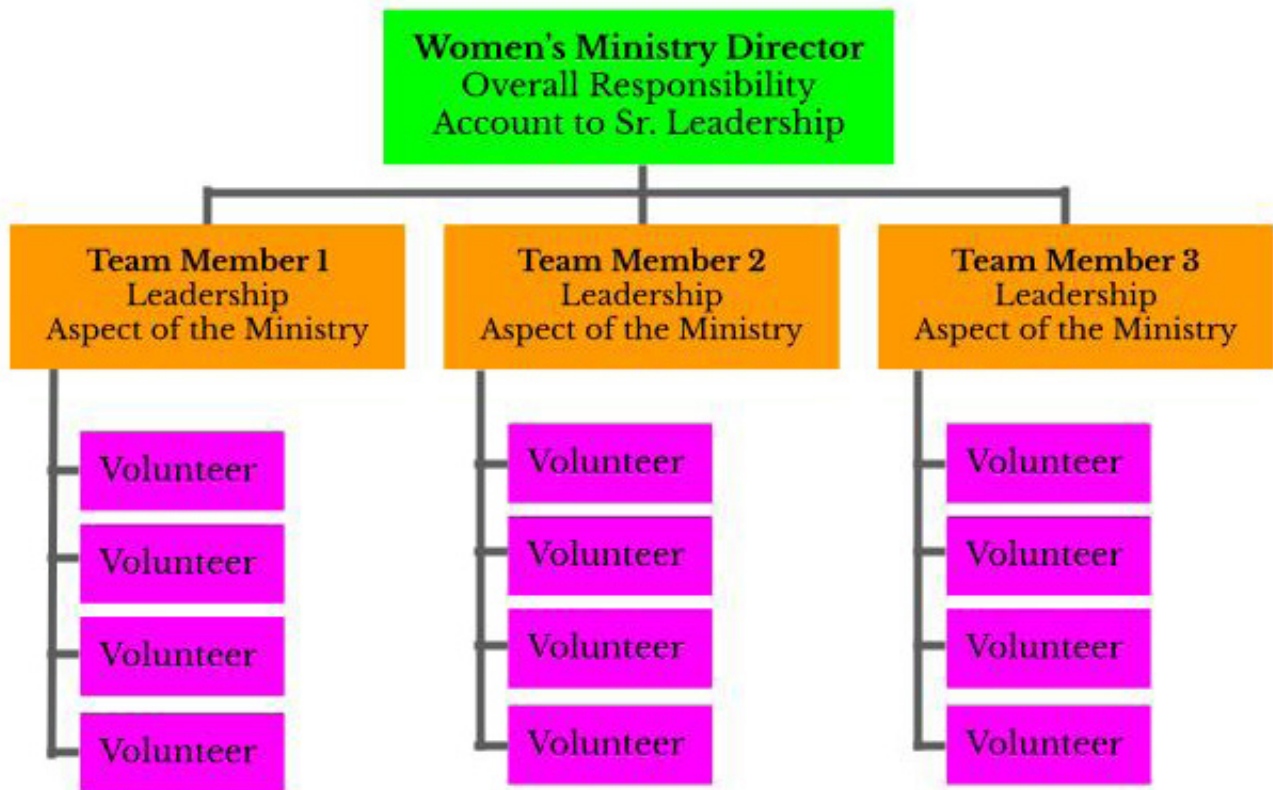
### What am I supposed to DO? Who am I ministering WITH?

- o PRAY for your team! Mark 11:23-25
  - Discernment – for things you may not see correctly
  - Revelation – for things you may not see at all
  
- o ASSEMBLE a Women’s Leadership Team - 1 Peter 4:9-11
  - Look for who is already leading
  - What are your strengths and weaknesses?
  - Should represent a peer group
  - Look for – a diversity in ages, gifts, personalities with a nice cross section of roles and experiences
  - Avoid those that have personal agendas and those that are not team players, not teachable, loyal, or are too busy to serve
  - Be sure to include those who will be faithful to pray
  - Size
  - Team should provide personal accountability, financial accountability, and opportunity to establish & fine tune purpose statements and plans

- o LEAD the Women's Ministry Team - John 13:14-15
  - Transfer the Vision
  - Communicate, communicate, communicate
  - Encourage an atmosphere of freedom, trust, & respect
  - Seek evaluation of the ministry from team members
  - Provide guidelines, guidance, & direction
  - Develop the team. Always have an eye on growth & development
  - Lead "Jesus – style"

## Consider Team Structure

From "Designing a Women's Ministry – Part One" by Jean Marrapodi





# Consider Administrative Details

From Immanuel Baptist Church, Chelmsford, MA



## Pause for reflection...

Write down the names of two or three women that you can invite to pray with you.

What type of information do you need from the women of your church to know how to serve them effectively?

Think about your strengths and your weakness. What strengths do you bring to leadership? (Example intuition, empathy). How do you feel that God is stretching you?

How would you define a Godly leader?

A Women's Ministry Team provides accountability. What accountability do you already have in place in your life?

Building a ministry to women often begins with one woman. What area of leadership do you feel God nudging you to investigate? If you could only start with one thing or one area, project, event, or specific area of women's ministry, what would it be?

Name women leaders that you may have already identified.

## What am I supposed to DO? Who am I ministering TO?

### 1) Understand the women you are serving

#### o Collect information

- Surveys - K.I.S.S./ C.A.K.E.
- Focus Groups
- Informal Discussions
- Church Demographics

- o All kinds of women = all kinds of needs
  - Marriage, career, singlehood, young moms, working moms, single moms divorce, widows, grief recovery, chronic illness, financial, abuse, retirement, empty nesters, homebound...

## 2) Don't be overwhelmed! Do what you can.

### Pause for reflection...

What are some of the dominate concerns of the women of your church right now?

How do you typically respond when another woman weeps in your presence? What skills would you like to develop in the area of offering a compassionate, listening ear?

## 3) Consider Your Ministry Options

- o Regular general sessions
- o Bible Studies - foundation for many churches women's ministries
  - Consider church structure
  - Location/Time
  - Selecting a study
- o Small Groups
  - Help & Healing - Chronic Pain, Grief Recovery, Abortion, Divorce, Depression, Weight Loss, Caretakers
  - Life Seasons
  - Moms - MOPS, Whole Heart, Moms In Touch, Babysitting Swap
  - Book Clubs
  - Prayer Circles
- o Mentoring
- o Special Events
  - Christmas Tea
  - Mother's Day Brunch
  - Girls Night Out
- o Conferences/Retreats
- o Special Interest/Other Opportunities
- o Other opportunities
- o Outreach - Cleaning Projects, Fundraising for Missions, Matthew 5:14-16
  - Serving one another – Meals, Helping Hand
  - Prayer, Cards of Encouragement



#### 4) Get Started

- o Kickoff
- o Marketing – If you organize it, will they come?
  - Internal – Flyers, Brochure, Bulletin, Newsletter, Mailing, E-Mailing, Announcements, Ladies' Room!
  - External – Invitations, Mailing, Flyers, Press releases, Public service announcements, Announcement during church services

#### 5) Break Through Barriers

- o Communications
- o Schedules
- o Mobility
- o Cross the generational divide – access the generation “end-points” while you can!
- o Relational opportunities – the older women won't mentor!
- o Service opportunities

#### Pause for reflection...

What opportunities do the women in your church have for receiving Titus 2 guidance?

Who are some of the godly older women in your congregation? How can you bring those older women together with younger women?

Who would you consider a spiritual mentor in your life? How did the relationship develop? If you don't currently have a mentor, who do you admire?

What opportunities to the young moms have for Bible study at your church? What would you like to see happen in the future?

Christian women with painful pasts are the best people to reach out to other women with painful pasts. How do you see women's ministry reaching out in your church?

What are the top three forms of effective communication for the women at my church?

## What am I supposed to DO? Who ministers to ME?...

### o Women Ministry Leaders "Support Team"

- Churches in your area
  - Engage in leadership and accountability and support with leaders at your own church or at others.
  - Partner with other church leaders for ideas, prayer, or combined effort
  - Participate/organize a "leader's" lunch for prayer & support
  - Personal Mentor
- Print Resources
  - Connecting Women by Linda Lesniewski
  - The Influential Woman by Vicki Kraft
  - Building an Effective Women's Ministry by Sharon Jaynes
  - Designing Effective Women's Ministries by Jill Briscoe
- Online Resources
  - <http://www.womensministry.net/> (Jennifer Rothschild)
  - <http://www.shespeaksconference.com/index.htm> (Lysa Terkheurst)
- Conferences & Training
  - Not necessarily women's ministry training. Leadership training works too
  - ASK your Pastor or the person you report to. "Keep me in mind"

## Pause for reflection...

What churches in your area have an active women's ministry? What one question would you like to ask the leader of that ministry?

## Words of Wisdom

### Overcome Fear

- o Don't wait for the fear to go away.
- o Fear is a constant companion for most of us in some area of our lives.

### Take Initiative

- o Know what God has called you to do
- o Then DO IT!

### Resist Discouragement

- o Discouragement will come
- o People are people and work is work
- o Persevere
- o Avoid overload – watch self-sufficiency, take breaks (plan), combat busyness,

### Resist perfectionism

- o Shed old patterns of thinking
- o Replace these thoughts with biblical realities

"If what I do succeeds, God accomplished it through me and I'll give him the praise and glory. If what I do fails, then I'll evaluate the experience, learn from it, and seek God's guidance for the next step."

## Resist the “maintenance mentality”

- o Be willing to change – time, location, leadership
- o Be willing to let go
- o Keep up with technology or have someone around you who does.
- o Keep things fresh

## Pause for reflection...

Do you have any fears related to developing a women’s ministry? What are they?

Are you currently facing discouragement? In what way have you been encouraged as a result of this workshop?

What churches in your area have an active women’s ministry? What one question would you like to ask the leader of that ministry?

What areas of ministry in your church, if any, need reevaluating?

## Closing Thoughts...

### BE

Who you are matters more than what you do (Mary vs. Martha)

### DO

God always gives a directive that WE have to “work out” – Phil 2:12-13

Pray.  
Plan.  
Provide.  
Follow-up.

