



Women Of The Word

Welcome

What does Christmas mean to you? Hope? Peace? Joy? Love? Or maybe a little bit of all these things. I have often thought of Mary—a teenage girl in scandalous circumstances. Though Mary and Joseph had been recipients of angelic visits, no one else had. What did their parents think? The neighbors? The town elders? For centuries, the Jews had been looking for their Messiah, but surely none of them envisioned this! Was Mary hopeful? She trusted God and submitted to His purposes for her life. Was she peaceful? Scripture tells us she pondered all these things in her heart. Joyous? Surely, her feelings were a mixture of these and many others. But the love... Mary must have felt such love as she held the Savior of the world in her weary arms, huddled with Joseph in a humble stable. In those moments, everything must have felt perfectly perfect.

Merry Christmas,
Melanie Woltje,
Women's Ministry Team Leader

Mission Statement

FBC Women's Ministry exists to empower our ladies to use their God-given gifts in accordance with God's will.

Women's
Ministry

Guest Article - Brooke Black

As the Christmas season quickly approaches, it is easy to become distracted with the decorations, baking, music, advent calendars, and Christmas shopping which all seem to be cluttering my mind recently. Even serving others in various ministries during the holidays and fun family traditions can be a distraction if our heart isn't in the right place. I often find myself in the mindset of "have to" instead of a "get to."

So how can we keep Jesus as the true reason for the season? Not just celebrating his birth, but his life, death and resurrection, our true hope in all things! As we've been learning about in recent sermons, I am going to try to slow down and think on the ordinary means of grace in light of the Christmas season. Reading of scripture, prayer, observation of the sacraments, and fellowship.

Reading of the scripture, whether it's keeping up with your usual reading and devotion during this busy season, reading an advent devotion or studying the birth of Jesus in the gospels, we can hear from God through his Word. Talking to God through prayer and remembering to thank Him for the gift of the birth of his Son and the true reason we celebrate Christmas. Observing of the sacraments through partaking in communion. Bearing one another's burdens in light of the holidays, serving others through ministries or in your home, and doing life with other fellow believers are ways we can honor God through fellowship. Doing ordinary things can bring about an extraordinary Christmas season. Praying that for each one of you ladies!

Glory to God in
the highest, and
on earth peace
and among those
with whom he is
pleased!
Luke 2:14

JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU



Bible Studies

Sundays @ 5:00 pm - Church - Old Testament Expedition Study - This study is open to men and women to discuss our Old Testament Reading Plan.

Wednesdays @ 9:30 am - Joan Little's Home (26675 P Rd) - Topic Varies

NEW STUDY STARTS THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 3rd!

Respectable Sins - led by Vanessa Wisdom
Watch for more information and book details!



Upcoming Events

Saturday, January 11, 5pm - Bunco night and taco bar - Fellowship Hall

The 2nd Tuesday of each month we meet @ Jhett's @ 11:30.

These dates are subject to change.

Next year our newsletters will be every other month. The next newsletter will be in February 2025. Happy New Year!

First Baptist Church Women's Ministry Team

Team Leader: Melanie Woltje

Brooke Black, Donna Jewell, Erin Lassey, Caitlin Murrow, Vanessa Wisdom

Contact Us: womensministry@fbcholton.com



Spiritual Disciplines: Serving



The Christian life is a life of costly service. All believers are called to serve in a way that is sacrificial. Just like we must intentionally make time to exercise or read our Bibles, we must discipline ourselves to serve. As believers, we serve God, not to earn salvation but because we have been lavished with grace. Service to God is the joyous and grateful response of believers

who have understood how Christ has so sacrificially served them. The Son of God became a man in order to save sinners from death, serving all the way to the point of an excruciating and shameful death. We are called to imitate His example and are compelled by His love to give of ourselves.

Jesus said in Matthew 22 that the greatest commandment is to love God, and the second greatest is to love our neighbors. Our willingness to serve is empowered by our love for God, and love for God is accompanied by love for our neighbor. When we love God, we love like God. The other spiritual disciplines are vitally important for sustaining a life of service because it is through them that our affection for God grows. If we separate service from a deepening love for God cultivated through Bible intake, prayer, and other disciplines, our service will be motivated by guilt or by a desire to gain praise, recognition, or influence. If we ever find these kinds of motivations on our hearts, we must turn to God in repentance and preach the gospel to our own hearts, remembering the length that Christ went to serve us.

We were never meant to live this life alone. God created us to live in community, serving one another as we serve God. Scripture describes the people of God using metaphors such as parts of a body or stones in a building. The individual parts make up the whole and cannot function properly without one another. Every member of the body of Christ has been given at least one spiritual gift for the good of the body. Some teach. Some lead. Every believer should find a way to serve in the local church as a means to build up the body of Christ using his or her own gifts. However, not all types of serving require a specific spiritual gift. Whether or not we particularly enjoy a certain type of service should not necessarily be the determining factor in whether or not we serve in that capacity. While someone with the gift of teaching may be best suited to teach a Sunday school class, a specific gift is not required to wash dishes after a church event.

Additionally, we should serve those in our home as well as our neighbors. Serving in the home could look like teaching and disciplining children, creating a clean and welcoming environment, preparing meals, or working to bring income into the home. Service to those in our home should not be purely out of duty but out of love and a desire to care for those around us. Serving also extends to our neighbors in countless ways. This could mean welcoming others into our homes and sharing the love of Christ with them through hospitality. It could look like making a meal for someone who is struggling or volunteering to tutor students at a local school. As we serve others with a happy heart, we put on display the love that Christ freely offers.

Service benefits others, but it also causes us to grow in spiritual maturity and Christlikeness. As we serve, we can constantly call to mind the way Christ served us, growing in our love and affection for Him, which in turn leads to a desire to serve. We become increasingly like Jesus as we serve sacrificially, empowered by the Spirit within us.



Additional reading... Matt. 25:35-40, John 13:12-16, 1 Cor.12:4-27, Eph. 4:15-16
(Growing in Grace: Knowing and Loving God Through Spiritual Disciplines)



First Baptist Church Women's Ministry Team

Team Leader: Melanie Woltje

Brooke Black, Donna Jewell, Erin Lassey, Caitlin Murrow, Vanessa Wisdom

Contact Us: womensministry@fbcholton.com