

STARTING POINT

for your work in WOMEN'S MINISTRY

The discipleship process is critical to any local church. An intentional plan to engage women with a discipleship pathway, strengthens the local church. Women's discipleship results in church growth, restored marriages, renewed relationships, increased mobilization and an increase in church leaders.

5 Easy Steps that you can take to be intentional about discipling the women in your church equipping them to go and make disciples.

Step 1: Pray and Build a Leadership Team--Follow the Guidance of the Holy Spirit:

- Pray for God to bring forward women to serve as the leaders of the women's discipleship program.
- By faith, go to where the Holy Spirit is leading; observe women serving other women and extend an invite to join the team.
- Invest in Leadership Development of yourself and the team.
 - o **Priority:** Priority is an annual women's conference that provides a time of equipping while networking with other leaders.
 - o Connect with Associational leadership (Networking with local women's ministry/missions leaders).
 - o **IBSA Leadership Development:** Resources to develop your leaders include: EDGE On-line Courses; Cohorts; Training Opportunities and Webinars.
- Schedule regular meetings with the pastor or other key church leaders to listen and learn. Ministry to women is specific and needed but it should complement other ministries within the church. Women are integrated into all aspects of the local church.

Step 2: Come and See—Connection Opportunities that build relationships and pray for women who do not have a relationship with Christ:

- Gather Input: What are the needs/interests of women already attending church?
- Assess the demographics of the community that you are trying to reach. IBSA and Associational leadership can connect you to tools to help with this assessment.
- Purpose/Planning-Every connection opportunity should connect women to their next step in the discipleship process. Connection opportunities provide opportunities to build friendships to come alongside women helping them to identify and take that next step.



Step 3: Follow Me—Get Women involved in bible study:

- Offer multiple opportunities for women to get involved bible study.
 - o Short-term Bible Study (Book Study)/ Sunday School/Life Groups: Assess your Audience: Select a study or curriculum that will meet the needs and spiritual maturity of the women you are engaging.
 - Options: Get familiar with studies, authors, amount of personal study required through the week, and delivery style of the study. (Try not to stick to just one author and allow trusted organizations to lead you to trusted authors.)
 - o Logistics: Secure meeting space; identify needed equipment or on-line requirements; consider childcare; books for participants; etc.
 - o [IBSA Lending Library](#): Utilize this resource to secure bible study leaders' kits to be used in your local church.
- Facilitating a bible study (Tips for the bible study leader).
 - o Pray together. Pray for unbelievers by name. Let the women share who they are praying for to come to know Christ as savior.
 - o Intentionally build relationships with the participants
 - o Encourage women to talk sharing their views and feelings.
 - o Memorize God's word.
 - o Share the gospel and be intentional to offer the opportunity to respond.

Step 4: Abide in Me— Disciple Making Culture:

- Implement an Intentional Discipleship Pathway.
 - o First Steps for New Believers: Who will you connect them with? What will they study?
 - o Discipleship Groups: Establish small groups consisting of believers with the goal of spiritual growth and replication. Participants will know God better, develop biblical literacy and gain a biblical worldview.
 - o Education and Training on Specific Women's issues: What are the issues facing your women? Don't be afraid to go there. Authenticity and vulnerability are key factors to building an effective ministry.

Step 5: Go and Tell—Women sent out as Missionaries to reach those who don't know Christ:

- Move the women outside the walls of the church to become part of their communities.
- - o Plan service projects giving women opportunity to serve together.
 - o Implement Cooperative program and missions education.
 - o Engage them with an unreached/unengaged people groups.
 - o Be intentional to create a culture that sends out of missionaries.

Jesus called out to them, "Come, follow me, and I will show you how to fish for people!" Mathew 4:19 (NLT)

Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Mathew 28: 19-20 (NLT)

Donna Video

<https://vimeo.com/channels/embraceministry/222830222>

Resources for the Leader/s:

Books:

