

“And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works.” — Hebrews 10:24



## OUT FORTHE SUMMER

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We made it through winter. The sun has come out, school is out, and the shorts have come out of the drawer. We're entering into the "fun" part of the year of pool-time, play-time, and vacation-time. With this, it's easy to put God aside a bit, however unintentional it may be.

While we live in constant change, from seasons, friendships, houses, jobs, and families, one thing that never changes is God and our access to Him through prayer.

Saul (Paul in the Greek), as a faithful and observant Jew, *"a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the law, a Pharisee; ... as to righteousness under the law, blameless"* (Philippians 3:5-6) lived a life of prayer. As one described above, his daily life would have included no less than saying 100 prayers a day. It didn't/doesn't matter what is happening in the life of an observant Jew, they never neglect to acknowledge God's presence and work in their life, moment by moment.

When Paul faced the worst in his life, the Bible records His commitment to not question what God was doing in the

circumstances. In fact, the Bible records him constantly praying through all trials, including as he was left in prison and as he neared death. He never cut off his communication with God, never angrily blamed God as unkind or unfair, and never looked to any other source to bring him through whatever was happening.

As Paul sat in a prison, out of sight of his faithful friends, out of sight and out of mind of leaders who had the power to free him, but refused to see him, Paul prayed. He didn't protest to guards of unfair treatment. He didn't yell and rage at those who were treating him unjustly. No, Paul simply turned to the One who is in full control with a grateful and prayerful heart.

Some of the greatest encouragement we receive in the New Testament is from the letters Paul wrote *while* he sat in a prison cell. He didn't let his circumstances change the message of God's love, the Messiah's death, and the promises that await those who stayed faithful to God.

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## TITUS 2 MOMENT

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I don't know about you, but Covid left me feeling disconnected. We had only been members at Washington Heights for about a year when everything had to shutdown. I felt like I was only beginning to get to know some of the ladies of the church. I had recently been part of a small group women's study in the Fall of 2019 and was making some connections. Having left my home of 26 years, one thing I had really missed was connections.

When the Titus 2 group opportunity came up, I signed up right away. Here was something I could do on a regular basis that fit my schedule! The leaders explained the goal would be 6 – 8 ladies coming together once a week for 90 minutes. We would read a book in our own time, then meet to have a short devotion, discuss the book, and then pray together. I loved the idea of a small group setting where I could hopefully develop friendships and feel like I belonged. And that's what I have found.

These past few weeks have been some of the sweetest in my life. We are six different women in six different seasons of life. But we all have one common goal—to grow in our walk with God. We have been able to share our different perspectives from the book we are

reading. We have been able to encourage each other. We have been able to be vulnerable with each other in a safe place. We have cried. We have laughed. But the sweetest times are when we pray.

We walked through the book “Uncommon Woman” by Susie Larson. It's a book about her experiences and how she learned to have a godly response versus a fleshly response. She gave very practical examples and applied biblical truths. Things happen to us. Not everyone is going to like us. This world is broken and disappointments happen because of sin. But the *Uncommon Woman* will have her focus on God. The *Uncommon Woman* is going to find joy and peace in Him in everything. The *Uncommon Woman* is going to forgive. The *Uncommon Woman* knows her worth is in her Savior.

I would ask that you would take some time this summer to prayerfully consider joining a Titus 2 Reading Group this Fall. Titus 2 is a great way to build new bonds and strengthen old ones.

~ Kristin Richards

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***We are called in Titus 2 to teach and train**—the ways in which we do this are as multi-faceted as the women themselves. To reflect the creative and varied ways in which we can inspire each other, the content of this column will range from the philosophical to the practical. We hope the thoughts and life-hacks shared here will be an encouragement to you!*

*The Titus 2 Moment is brought to you each month by the women of the Titus 2 Groups: Women Reading with a Purpose (a ministry of WHBC). If you want to know more about these groups, please visit [whbc.org](http://whbc.org) or email [woh@whbc.org](mailto:woh@whbc.org).*

How does one stay faithful? By staying connected to—faithfully to—the only One who can direct our life through all trials, joys, and daily living. It doesn't matter what circumstance you are in, or if you've lapsed in a healthy relationship with God for awhile, all you need to do is pray—and continually, daily, keep praying—and God will set your heart to the path He has for you. Don't let hurt, anger, frustration, busyness, or anything else keep you on the outside of a healthy relationship with God. Just like the daily efforts, conversations, etc. in a healthy marriage, our relationship

with God will only be as healthy as how much time we actually spend with Him each day.

Choose daily, no matter what season you are physically or spiritual in, to nurture greater intimacy with the One who created you for fellowship with Him.

Raelene

1 Thess. 5:17 *"Pray without ceasing."*

## SUMMER FELLOWSHIP AND GAME NIGHT



Don't forget to bring **snacks** and **games** for the Ladies' Game Night to follow! The last Game Night was a blast! You won't want to miss this night of learning and playing together as Women of the Heights! **Drinks** will be provided.

Join us for **Ladies' Night Out** in the Garden with Barb Burkard! **Friday, June 17 at 6:30 p.m.** in the Dining Room of WHBC .

Women of the Heights welcomes you to an opportunity to get together and "Dreamscape" as you learn and plan to enjoy your personal garden. You can bring your questions, hear (and see) tips, and get gardening advice from Barb! [\*\*REGISTER HERE!\*\*](#)



## PLANNING AHEAD—MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

### **Summer Women's Bible Study on PRAYER!**

With busy summer schedules, we know that a long study with homework is difficult to commit to. This study will be "bite-sized," single-theme lessons focusing on different areas of prayer. Tuesdays, Jul. 5th—Aug. 23rd, 9:30 –11:15 a.m. Attend as you are able! Childcare will be provided for children up to 6th grade, but you **must** register them ahead of time. [Click here](#) for registration.

### **Summer Fellowships and Game Nights:**

Join us for an evening of inspiration from one of our ladies on various topics, followed by an evening of snacks, fellowship, and games! **Fridays, 6:30 p.m. to ???**

**June 17th**      Sharing from Barb Burkard with *gardening tips*—then game time! (*more info on page 2*)

**July 8th**        Sharing from Sandy Entner: *Writing notes of encouragement*—then game time!

**August 12th**    Sharing from Lisa Poe: *Recipe ideas and cooking tips*—then game time!

### **Expanding our Women of the Heights Leadership Teams**

We are looking for ladies interested in joining the **Board**, **Leadership Team**, and **Serving Helpers** for expanding the opportunities we can offer to the women of WHBC.

#### **Responsibilities for Board Members:**

~ Attend a once-a-month meeting as a team (presently scheduled for the first Thursday evening of each month),

~ Oversee (with Director's guidance and team's help) one to two events per year, and

~ Commit to attend and help at all (as reasonably possible) the Women of the Heights events throughout the year supporting the other team members.

Additionally, we always welcome women willing to help alongside a Board member preparing for specific events (**Leadership Team**), or as a **Servant Helper** who provides help at an event only.

Please contact **Raelene** at [woh@whbc.org](mailto:woh@whbc.org) if you would like to discuss volunteering in any of these important areas of ministry.

### **Women's Ministry BOARD MEMBERS**

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If you are interested in serving on the Women's Ministry Board, the Leadership Team, or being a Serving Helper volunteer at an event, please contact the Director or one of the Board members.



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