

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

GATHER GROW GO

Women OF THE Heights
A ministry of WHBC

Hospitality: Inviting Others In Vol 1, Issue 9, September 2022

“I don’t think hospitality is about having people in your home; it’s about making people feel at home in your presence.” A friend said those words to me over ten years ago, and they still resonate with me. This friend certainly extended generous hospitality to myself and my small family at that time. She opened up her two bedroom house to me, Brian, and six month old Macy (who came with large amounts of baby gear) for over three months while we had some unexpected delays in getting moved into our next home.

The arrangement could have been cramped and awkward, but the ease with which she invited us in to her life and shared with us what she had was a blessing that Brian and I were touched by.

All Christians are called to practice hospitality. We know that God’s commands

are GOOD for us and others. I’d love to share some benefits I’ve tasted from practicing some basic (nothing fancy and usually imperfect) hospitality:

* **Share Jesus with others**—Having neighbors, coworkers, and our kids’ sports team families over for cookouts, football games, playdates, and backyard fires has been a solid way for us to build connections and form close relationships with souls who

are not yet believers. I’ve learned that asking acquaintances if they’d like to join us in prayer before a meal, or getting beyond shallow conversational

questions in order to show interest in their lives and values, positions us to share our faith over time when there’s an opportunity.

“Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” — 1 Peter 4:9-10

Continued on page 2

* ***Mentor a younger believer*** —The most natural and effective way I've experienced a mentor relationship has been through inviting younger believers to spend time with me in my home amidst all the crazy. The transparency of it has pushed me beyond my comfort zone at times, but my prayer is that my marriage and parenting points to the grace of Jesus in my life. A natural place to find someone in a younger phase of life to invest in, that you likely have things in common with, is through a ministry or hobby that you already share and do together.

* ***Fellowship with believers*** —If you struggle with feeling lonely and disconnected, I encourage you to make hospitality a priority.

It will fill you up and fill up the people you reach out to. The body of Christ is meant to live in community. Satan wants us to believe that we are timid, weird, and alone; but there are followers of Christ all around us who also desire to pray, study His word, live a set-apart life, and help the next generation rise up to take their place in His work. I believe hospitality is required to make these spiritually rich relationships develop and thrive.

The heart of hospitality is inviting people into our lives and sharing something of ours with them for their benefit. It is love in action.

~ *Jamie Hartsell*

“Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.”
Romans 12:9-13

TITUS 2 GROUPS

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 or email woh@whbc.org.

FALL BIBLE STUDIES

Exodus

by “She Reads Truth”

Join us for an 8-week study as we read the inspired Word of God and journey through the book of Exodus, following the Israelites on their journey out of Egypt through the Red Sea, and into the Wilderness.

As we study, we will see how God not only delivered His people from oppression (offering them salvation), but how He also establishes them as a community of His chosen people (giving them an identity) and ultimately, making Himself known to His people (inviting them into worship).

The same God that rescued His people from Egypt is the same “I AM” that sees, hears, and knows us today. No matter our season and no matter the struggles we face, God is working for our good and for His glory as we seek to trust, follow, obey, and worship Him...awaiting our eternal deliverance and our forever, Promised Land!

Facilitator: Jessica Buczek
Mondays, September 12—November 14
6:30-8:00 p.m. at WHBC, Adult Ed room 151
Book cost: \$20.00

Nehemiah:

The Prayer for Rebuilding the Broken Pieces of Your Life

The value of prayer can never be underestimated. We know the necessity of it to grow in our relationship with God, the importance of it in experiencing changes in our hearts and minds to live more Christ-like, and the power of it to transform an inaccurate self-focused, worldly view. But what if we're so broken, we don't have the strength to pray, let alone actually pick up, all the broken pieces scattered around our feet.

Nehemiah demonstrates the power in prayer, the purpose of intense, focused, and waiting prayer so that we have the strength to put the “walls” back together. As well, prayer strengthens us to do the work of restoring the gates that keep the world on the outside, while we worship and grow in Christ on the inside as His “temple” filled with the Holy Spirit.

Teacher: Raelene Searle
Tuesdays, September 13—November 15
9:30-11:15 a.m. at WHBC, Dining Room
Childcare available
Materials cost: \$5.00

“Small Changes for a Better Life”

by Elizabeth George

Meeting on **Wednesdays, 6:30-8:00 pm,**
September 14—November 16

Facilitator: **Sarah Bucher**

“Intimate Faith”

by Jan Winebrenner

Meeting on **Tuesdays 6:30-8:00 pm,**
September 15—November 11

Facilitator: **Erica Kwast**

PLANNING AHEAD—MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

OCTOBER

Fireside in the Word (bonfire and fellowship)

Please join us Friday, October 7, 6:30 p.m. at the home of Cara Van Rynbach for a cozy evening enjoying warmth by the fire, fall treats, and some time in the Word. Sign up [here](#).

NOVEMBER

Service Projects:

Saturday, Nov. 12, 9:00 a.m. In the Kitchen and Dining Room. We'll be ...

- 1) ... preparing frozen holiday meals for the teachers of Centerville schools.
- 2) ... making/writing cards for the holidays.
- 3) ... wrapping Christmas gifts for the family we're adopting. Look for more info about this next month!

Watch for sign-up information in October to attend with a helping hand or two.

DECEMBER

Christmas Tea

Friday December 2, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Come enjoy an evening filled with beautifully, individually decorated tables, scrumptious tea foods, and Christmas festivities.

Cost: \$10.00

TABLE HOSTESSES NEEDED

If you would be interested in hosting one of these tables, please contact Raelene Searle, woh@whbc.org for details. Essentially, it means using your favorite China or other fun table settings for you and seven other women. We'd love to see your creativity!

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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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