

Redeeming Eve Groups 2011-2012

Ruth Lloyd: Marriage

Target: Young Mothers

Description: Group full from last year. Will focus on marriage for first part of year, but may change mid-year.

Claire Atkins: *Faithful Women and Their Extraordinary God* by Noel Piper

Target: College and G & C Women

Description: Piper's book is a collection of short biographies of five women who walked with the Lord in times and circumstances different from our own. The point of these studies is not to gain mere biographical knowledge. Rather, I hope that seeing how God worked in the lives of these women will lead us to a greater awareness of His presence in our own.

Jan Wells: Ephesians for the 21st Century Woman

Target: Multigenerational

Description: Goal (s) of the study: (a) To help women understand and find security in the Father's deep love for them, (b) To give women scriptural strategies for a deeper walk with Christ by helping them to critically examine and appreciate who the Lord has made them to be, and (c) to encourage women to live in the power of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the Lord's calling for their lives

Our culture expects the young 21st century woman to be independent, fit and beautiful, self-sufficient, able to perform in the market place, in her profession and at home in ways that generate accolades and awards for her efforts; she seeks and receives credit for who she is and what she has from the culture around her. She is competitive and capable, driven toward excellence and perfection in all realms of her life. Cultural pressures impact the strongest of Christian women in ways that sometimes have them doubt their own salvation, make them question God's wisdom in creating them to be the women they are, and make them question God's purpose for their lives. The Ephesians study will answer those doubts, affirm who they are created to be, and will help them reconnect with God's purpose for their lives.

Older women are not immune from cultural pressures either. They directly or indirectly feel the impact of the same 21st century cultural pressures. In some ways, the pressures they feel are even more intense, as they find that society's expectations for women today are far different than society's expectations when they were a young woman. Ageism intensifies these pressures, and they begin to question their value to society and to the church. The Ephesians study will help affirm the value of older Christian women, will help them understand their connectedness to the body of Christ across the age span, and will refresh their motivation to serve Christ and the church with the unique gifts God created in them.

Stephanie Reeves: Raising Children/*Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver

Target: Mothers with Young Children

Description: I would like to focus on spiritual growth of the individual and how this fits in with the demands of a young family. The book we will start with is *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World* by Joanna Weaver. I'm also interested in bringing children up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

Jennifer Mallard: Learning Contentment Through Difficult Circumstances: Trusting God in the midst of infertility, adoption, or chronic illness

Target: Anyone struggling to be content with circumstances that may never change. However I would hope to give a place for those who especially have the above-mentioned trials to come together for support and comfort. I do not see the proposed group as a place to work on difficult marriages or parenting struggles that are chronic...but those in these types of trials could come to this group to learn contentment with things that are very difficult and may never change.

Description: The goal in my mind would be to learn to trust God more in the midst of, and learn contentment through these types of trials. I would hope that each woman would be encouraged by the study of themes such as: God's sovereignty/control over all and His "big picture" of working all for good, thinking Biblically, God's nearness to and love for the brokenhearted, gratitude, and having joy in the midst of the trial.

I would hope we could reach this goal by the study of pertinent Scripture passages that I have found helpful as well as a book. If the group is composed of a variety of trials, I would choose "Loving God with All of Your Mind" by Elizabeth George. If the group was primarily ladies in the midst of infertility struggles, I would choose "Hannah's Hope" by Jennifer Saake for the study book.

I also would hope that our sharing one with another our struggles and how God has helped us or is helping us would bring mutual encouragement. I would love it if we could support one another through sharing and prayer.

Sheila Parry: Basic Sewing

Target: Beginner Sewing

Description: Sewing for Beginners. Using and sharing the talents with which the Lord has Blessed me, my love of and experience in sewing and dressmaking to awaken a spirit of creativity and joy of sewing. Using the time together to share and encourage each other in Our Walk with the Lord.

Rebecca Byrd: Creative Art

Target: Details to come

Description: Starting in January; details to come

Bonnie Whitney: Cooking

Target: For the "Absolute Zero Knowledge" cook (new bride, the young unmarried Grad & Career gal), or the "Show Me Something New" cook who has cooked for years, but relies heavily on Campbells Cream of Mushroom Soup!

Description: My Grandma was a cook from the Old Country. She made everything from scratch: breads, pies, cakes, roast turkey with stuffing and roast potatoes, homemade soups from a rich stock. She spoiled me, and when I got married, I wanted to cook just like my grandmother. To this day when I cook, I try to use basic ingredients and avoid pre-packaged foods. I'd love to share some methods I've learned and teach you not to be afraid to try something new. Each month we'll try a recipe or two, cook together from beginning to end, and have great fun sharing our lives as we cook together! I want us to build relationships as we share our lives informally while working on our recipes. To grow spiritually as we purposefully sit

down with one another each time we meet, opening our hearts to one another and praying for each other.

Sandy Currin: Gratitude

Target: Any Woman

Description: Gratitude! Why is it so hard to be thankful women in the midst of our daily living? Is there a connection between gratitude and joy? Is it really possible for “the joy of the LORD to be our strength” (Ne 8:10)? Join together with us as we study the connection between gratitude and joy and learn how to make them practical to our daily living.

Kelly James: Encouragement and Prayer for Moms of Children Birth through Teens

Target: Mothers of Children Birth through Teens

Description: I love being a mom! It's the hardest job I've ever had, yet the most rewarding! My desire is to provide a safe place for moms to voice their needs, frustrations, joys, and questions surrounding their calling as a mother. We will devote a chunk of time to praying for one another during each gathering. While not requiring any outside reading, we will turn to the scripture each time to give us wisdom and guide our prayers for one another. I will draw on several devotional and parenting books I've found invaluable over the years, as well as my own life experience. We'll also discuss ways our children can provide opportunities-not obstacles- for ministry.

Janet Hawkins: Living with God-Centered Vision

Target: Any Woman

Description: “Having a personal vision can give focus and direction to our busy lives. In this group, we will discuss the importance of developing a personal vision statement. Through this study, we will break apart and apply the Leadership Edge personal vision statement as an example. “By God’s grace, to step forward as God’s woman in my spheres of influence to serve His purposes for His glory.” Each meeting we will look at supporting scripture, share opportunities and pray together as we strive to step forward as God’s women in our spheres of influence.”

Connie Walker: For the Young Professional Woman: Learning to Balance Faith, Career, and Life-in-General

Target: Young Single or Newly Married Women

Description: I can probably be most effective in guiding younger women who are either single or fairly newly married and who are facing the difficult questions of how to balance faith, career, and life-in-general—questions I faced years ago when I first met Jesus and have had to deal with ever since.

I would envision meeting once a month, probably on a weekday evening for dessert and discussion. Mondays are a good possibility, as shepherding groups typically don't meet then. The location could be at my home in Durham, or, if the group is divided between Durham and Chapel Hill, we could alternate locations. All this is to be determined.

The first meeting or two would be largely taken up with getting to know one another and our particular situations. Then I would like to consider reading and studying together a book that I had the privilege of translating, called *Woman: Her Mission and Her Life*. It was written by a famous 19th century French Evangelical minister named Adolphe Monod. While a few of the applications are dated and not applicable, the book is solidly biblical and untainted by the spirit of our age. It is a classic work. This would supplement our ongoing sharing about our lives and faith journeys.