

Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry

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Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry

This is an example of a women's ministry that added a Titus 2 discipleship program to their existing Bible studies and service ministries. Three primary factors led the leadership to this decision:

- An awareness of the need to intentionally equip women to understand and live out biblical principles of womanhood in all of life.
- A desire to enfold women who were not involved in a women's Bible study.
- A growing congregation with many women who wanted friendships with other women.

Additional suggestions for training Bible study leaders and Titus 2 Discipleship Leaders, and for teaching Biblical Principles of Womanhood to teen girls, are in the resource section of the Leader's Guide for this book.

Each church should adapt the following to their structure and needs.

**Midway Presbyterian Church
Powder Springs, Georgia
Women In the Church ~ Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry**

Purpose and Strategy

The women's ministry submitted the following to the Christian Education Committee, who then submitted it to the elders.

This is included in the Titus 2 training notebook.

Midway WIC Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine . . . teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God (Titus 2:1, 3-5).

Purpose

The purpose of the Women In the Church Titus 2 ministry is to support the discipleship ministry of the church by helping women establish covenant relationships with godly women who will encourage and equip them to live for God's glory.

Goals

- For women to be equipped to apply the principles of biblical womanhood to all of life.
- For women to be equipped to spiritually mother other women and to show and tell the next generation the biblical principles of womanhood.
- For some women to become Titus 2 group leaders.
- For all participants to be strengthened in their love for and service to the church.

Foundational Principles for a Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry

Titus 2:3-5 is not simply a suggestion to match older women and younger women. This directive is a part of covenant life. It is a part of the strategy for the Christian education of the church.

The Titus mandate was given to the pastor of the church. Paul instructed Titus to equip older women in the congregation for the ministry of training younger women. This discipleship is to take place within the context of sound doctrine and under ecclesiastical authority. The commitment, oversight and protection of church leadership are biblical and essential.

"Older" women is not just a reference to age. It also involves spiritual maturity. This is a spiritual mothering ministry.

This Titus 2 ministry does not stand alone. It is one component of the women's ministry and of the church's discipleship ministry.

This ministry does not replace existing Bible studies or Circles. Titus groups are informal, small-group topical studies designed to build relationships with godly women and to teach biblical principles of womanhood.

It is important to recognize and celebrate the women who are spontaneously and informally involved in spiritual mothering relationships without participating in this program.

Strategy

1. A Titus 2 committee implements the ministry:

- This committee reports to the WIC Council.

2. Selection of spiritual mothers:

- Names are submitted to the elders for approval and then the committee recruits.
- Women who agree to serve sign the Spiritual Mothering Covenant (below).
- Spiritual mothers report to the Titus 2 committee.

3. Curriculum:

- The *Biblical Foundations for Womanhood* series developed by the Presbyterian Church in America Christian Education and Publications Committee is the curriculum for this ministry.
- These materials are consistent with the doctrinal standards of the church and have been approved by the elders.
- Spiritual mothers agree to use these materials.

4. This is a three-year program:

- The program runs January to January. Rationale: this avoids the “Fall rush” when many church programs begin.
- Women sign up for a year at a time. Rationale: biblical womanhood is counter-cultural. It requires a massive paradigm shift to think biblically about womanhood and to live covenantally as a woman. The first year emphasizes building relationships. In year two, it is expected that women will begin to make the paradigm shift in their thinking about womanhood. Year three emphasizes the application of the principles of womanhood to life and relationships.
- By the end of this cycle it is anticipated that women will be equipped to fulfill the goals of the ministry.
- Year 1: *Spiritual Mothering* (if a group completes this study they may also use *The True Woman*).
- Year 2: *By Design* (if a group completes this study they may also use *Treasures of Encouragement*).
- Year 3: *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood*.

4. Assignment to groups:

- Each spiritual mother decides the time her group will meet. There are morning, afternoon and night groups. There are some Wednesday night groups that meet at the church since there is child-care at that time.
- The times of the gatherings are publicized and women sign up for a time that is convenient for them. The names of the leaders are not given. Rationale: this is not a personality-driven ministry. The publicity explains that unity in Christ is not determined by common interests or circumstances.

5. Groups:

- Groups meet monthly so that this ministry does not compete with other aspects of church life.
- Groups have six to eight women.
- It is suggested that groups meet in the leader's home, and/or in homes of participants.
- Groups determine whether or not they will vary their schedule in the summer.
- Women who sign up for the second or third year normally remain with their same group. However if they have a scheduling conflict they may switch to a more convenient time.

6. Training the spiritual mothers:

- The committee is responsible for training.
- Leaders study *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood* and the book they will use that year. They are encouraged to read all of the Biblical Foundations for Womanhood books.
- The following materials are in the training notebook and are covered in training sessions:

Purpose and Strategy
Spiritual Mothering Covenant
Guidelines for Titus 2 Leaders
Biblical Principles of Womanhood (see page – of this book)

7. The vision and purpose of the ministry is maintained through:

- A yearly gathering for the combined groups. Testimonies and ideas are shared.
- Two or three gatherings for spiritual mothers throughout the year to share successes and concerns, to pray together, and to give additional instruction and encouragement.
- Testimonies from spiritual mothers and/or daughters at women's ministry events.

8. Teen girls:

The Titus 2 committee works with the Youth Ministry to help teen girls establish relationships with Midway women and to begin introducing them to the concepts of biblical womanhood. There are a variety of opportunities for teen girls such as:

- An occasional Sunday school class for high school girls to teach biblical womanhood.
- A summer seminar on biblical womanhood for middle school girls.
- Three or four gatherings each year for high school girls in homes of Midway women. Women who host the girls tell them about herself and her family through family pictures, stories of a special piece of furniture or dishes, favorite books. She tells about her faith by sharing her testimony, or by telling the girls about women who influenced her life, or how she started attending the church. The hostess plans an activity or craft to teach a skill such as flower arranging, napkin folding, cross-stitching, cake decorating. She does this herself or asks another woman to take this responsibility. She also provides refreshments. At each gathering, a Titus 2 leader gives a brief devotion based on a principle of biblical womanhood. Sometimes the craft/skill coordinates with the devotion. For example, a devotion on hospitality could be followed by a demonstration of table setting. A devotion on encouragement could be followed by teaching the girls to write notes of encouragement. Have note cards available and let the girls spend time writing a note to someone.

Summary of the Process

Step 1: The Women In the Church Council spent several months praying and evaluating the need.

Step 2: The WIC Council submitted a request to the Christian Education Committee to explore beginning a Titus 2 Ministry. This was discussed and then given to the elders for approval.

Step 3: The WIC Council developed the purpose and strategy. This was submitted to the Christian Education Committee and approved by the elders.

Step 4: Throughout the process newsletter articles educated and informed the congregation of the purpose and plan for this ministry.

Step 5: Implementation:

- July – August: a list of potential spiritual mothers is submitted to the elders for approval, then the committee recruits leaders.
- September – December: spiritual mothers are trained.
- Mid-November – December: women sign up to participate. There is a large sign-up board with the times for each group listed. After sign up, the Titus 2 leader calls the women in her group. The women also receive a letter from the committee inviting them to a gathering for the combined groups.
- January: all of the groups meet together at the church. The purpose, goals and procedures are explained. Groups sit together at tables hosted by the spiritual mothers. Each spiritual mother brings items from her home to use as her centerpiece and to introduce herself to her group (family pictures, examples of hobbies, favorite books). She asks a woman in the group to bring items to the next meeting that will help the group get to know her better. Books are distributed and the leaders explain the importance of everyone reading the assigned chapter and coming prepared to discuss it.
- June: the committee meets with the spiritual mothers to evaluate and to see if they will serve another year.

Spiritual Mothering Covenant

This is included in the training notebook.

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine . . . teach the older women to be reverent in the way they live, not to be slanderers or addicted to much wine, but to teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled and pure, to be busy at home, to be kind, and to be subject to their husbands, so that no one will malign the word of God (Titus 2:1, 3-5).

_____ I am a member of Midway church.

_____ I am in agreement with the doctrinal standards of the church (*The Westminster Confession of Faith and the Larger and Shorter Catechisms.*)

_____ As a spiritual mother I will support the work of the church, defend the unity of the church, and submit to the elders of the church.

_____ I agree to use the materials that have been approved by the elders.

_____ (If married): My husband is supportive of my participation in this ministry.

_____ If a woman confides in me about serious problems, I understand that I am not to assume the role of a counselor. I should encourage her to contact the pastor or an elder, and if appropriate offer to do this for her.

Signed: _____

Guidelines for Titus 2 Leaders

This is included in the training notebook.

1. Verses to guide leaders:

- Galatians 4:19 My little children, for whom I am again in the anguish of childbirth until Christ is formed in you!
- 1 Thessalonians 2:7-8 But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

2. At your first gathering share personal and group parameters. This will help prevent unrealistic expectations of the leader and inherent dangers in small groups. For example:

- Tell women if there are times when it is not convenient for them to call you.
- If you are meeting in your home, set the time limits and explain if they need to leave by a certain time.
- There is to be no gossip or dishonoring another person. Explain that if at any time you feel that discussions are becoming critical of others, it is part of your mothering ministry to tell them and to redirect the conversation.
- Explain that if they are dealing with a difficult relationship, your responsibility is to help them reclaim the relationship for God's glory by reflecting God's grace into that relationship. We often cannot change our circumstances, and we cannot change another person, but we can pray for God to change us so that we reflect His grace.

3. You are not to teach a lesson. You are to facilitate a discussion based on an assigned chapter of the book.

- Ask women to be prepared to share one or two insights or questions from each chapter.
- You may want to use the questions at the end of the chapter as discussion points and/or prepare questions to direct the discussion.
- It may take several times to find the right approach for your group. Some groups are fine with simply sharing insights while others need to be more guided.
- Pray, laugh, and spend time building relationships.

4. It may take several gatherings for the women to become comfortable with one another. Be intentional in helping them develop relationships. Suggestions:

- Pray for an atmosphere of love and encouragement.
- Pray together. Share prayer requests and items of praise. You may want to keep a prayer journal. Encourage women to select specific Scriptures to pray for one another and for situations.

- Each time you meet pray for the church. You may want to pray for a specific ministry in the church, or a missionary, or a pastor and his family. You may want to send them a card of encouragement.
 - At each gathering ask someone to be prepared to share about herself, or ask everyone to bring a wedding picture, or a favorite vacation picture, or something that shows a special interest/hobby.
 - Ask women to be prepared to share a testimony, or a favorite Scripture verse or hymn, or a childhood memory.
 - Plan a “sharing a skill day” when someone teaches a craft or skill, or have lunch together, or plan a gathering for the families.
 - Plan a ministry to do together: visit a nursing home, take a meal to someone.
5. Caution: groups should not become inward-focused.
- The church should be blessed because of this ministry.
 - This ministry should build unity in the church.
 - The group should pray for the church and the leaders.
 - The group should intentionally consider ways to minister to and enfold others.
6. Relationship discussions:
- Use *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood*, Part 2, to guide discussions about relationships. Teach the women to identify the relationship and the governing principle.
7. Who talks?
- Monitor how much you talk. You are guiding a discussion, not teaching a lesson.
 - If one or two women dominate discussions, ask specific women to share their thoughts about the topic, or ask that everyone share an insight.
 - Be careful not to promote personal agendas.
 - Be slow to give solutions. Encourage women to go to God's Word to determine how to think biblically and live covenantally. Explain that you will not always have an answer to their questions and problems, but your desire is to help them keep their eyes upon the Lord. Teach women the prayer of Jehoshaphat found in 2 Chronicles 20:
- Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you . . .*
- Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD*
- Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly . . . and said:*
- "O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you.*

Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? . . .

*. . . O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. **We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.**"*

8. Crisis Situations:

- Spiritual mothers should not assume the role of a counselor.
- If there is a crisis situation, or serious problems such as drugs or abuse, a spiritual mother should not try to handle this alone. She should help the woman to think and act biblically.
- A spiritual mother may offer to go with her to the appropriate person (pastor or elder).
- If a spiritual mother is not sure what advice is appropriate, she should tell the spiritual daughter that she does not know and inform her that she will ask for assistance from the pastor or an elder.

Concluding observations from the Titus 2 Committee:

Many of our Titus 2 leaders do not consider themselves to be teachers, but they are mothers in Israel who have a passion to guide other women to spiritual maturity.

We did not know what to expect when the program was introduced. We prayed and planned for seven groups. They were all filled and we had to add a group. By the second year, many women who were only involved in Sunday morning worship began participating. The Titus groups have become a significant entry-point to community life.

The variety of women who participate is thrilling. There are stay-at-home moms, homeschooling moms, professional women, single women, college women and empty-nesters. The Lord's blessing on this ministry has been beyond anything we ever dreamed or imagined. We are grateful to Him for allowing us to be a part of what He is doing in our church.

Letter to Elder's Wives

**Midway Presbyterian Church
Women In the Church**

June 11, 2003
To: Our Elders' Wives
From: The WIC Council

As you probably saw in the *Messenger*, this summer will begin the first phase in starting a Titus 2 discipleship ministry. We are writing to ask for your prayers.

You know even better than we do the need for this ministry. There are women who long for a spiritual mother to guide them, and there are other women who do not even realize they need a spiritual mother. At the same time, we are convinced that there are women among us who are willing to be equipped to meet this need.

Our plan is still in process, and we need prayer for wisdom as we seek the Lord's guidance each step of the way. Tentatively, our plan is:

- This summer we are developing guidelines to submit to the elders for approval.
- Following the Wednesday night study and Saturday seminar, we will ask women to pray about taking a small group of women (2 to 6) and study the *Biblical Foundations for Womanhood* books that have been developed by Christian Education and Publications. These will be informal studies. Each spiritual mother will determine when, where and how often her group will meet. They can meet weekly, bi-weekly or monthly. Then women will sign up for a time and we will match them to someone teaching at that time. We hope these groups will meet in homes.
- We will have more training for the spiritual mothers.

This is a huge step of faith. There are many things to be done so we are not sure of our time frame. We would like to train the spiritual mothers during the fall and begin the program in January, but we want to be sure we have everything in place so that this ministry is built on a strong foundation.

We are all young and we need wisdom. We ask you to pray for us, for the women who will take the study this summer, and for Susan as she teaches the study. Above all, we pray that homes and our church will be stronger in Christ because of this ministry. We are convinced that when women understand and embrace Biblical womanhood, God is glorified and His people are blessed.

You are women of prayer and we thank you for your prayer support.

Newsletter Articles

These articles were written to educate and inform the church about the vision and purpose of the Titus 2 ministry.

June Newsletter Article

Women In the Church

In the book of Titus the church is given the biblical model for women to disciple other women.

You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine . . . teach the older women . . . Then they can train the younger women . . . so that no one will malign the word of God. (Titus 2:1, 3-5)

The WIC Council is committed to this concept. This is the strategy that God has given to His church for women to pass the legacy of biblical womanhood to the next generation.

We have been praying since September that the Lord will show us how to do this at Midway. We are grateful for the many women who are involved in Titus 2 relationships, but we know that there are others who need help in finding a spiritual mother and there are women who would like to be equipped to be a spiritual mother.

The Christian Education Committee and the Elders have given approval for us to begin a Titus 2 discipleship ministry using the *Biblical Foundations for Womanhood* materials developed by the PCA Christian Education and Publications Committee.

The plan is still in process, but we will begin the first phase this summer by teaching *The Legacy of Biblical Womanhood*. The study will include:

- Learning foundational principles of biblical womanhood.
- Using these principles to formulate a biblical apologetic for womanhood.
- Applying covenantal principles and promises to primary female relationships—daughter, sister (relationships with Christian women), neighbor (relationships with non-Christians), wife, mother, pilgrim (the finishing season).

Our prayer is that there will be some women who complete this study who will be willing to be equipped to disciple between two and six women.

Someone is teaching our covenant daughters what it means to be a woman. Is it the culture or the church? Our prayer is that the WIC ministry, under the authority and oversight of our elders, will be faithful in equipping Midway women to pass on the legacy of biblical womanhood. Please prayerfully consider being a part of this ministry.

This is a huge step of faith for the WIC Council. We need your prayers.

November Newsletter Article

WIC Christmas Event

All women and girls are invited to our annual Christmas Celebration

Home for Christmas

The angel said, "Do not be afraid, Mary . . . You will be with child and give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus." . . . Mary . . . hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, where she entered Zechariah's *home* and greeted Elizabeth. (Luke 1:30-31, 39-40)

Date: December 9

Time: 7:00

Bring: an appetizer or dessert

Please sign up at the WIC table

Midway Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry

*You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine . . . teach the older women. . .
Then they can train the younger women . . . (Titus 2:1, 3-5)*

The WIC Council has prayed and planned for a year and a half to begin this ministry. We are grateful for the support of the Christian Education Committee and our Elders. Many women are already involved in Titus 2 relationships, but our objective is to help women who would like to be spiritually mothered to connect with a woman who has been trained for this ministry.

We ask our church family to pray that the Lord will use this ministry to equip Midway women to think biblically and live covenantally. We encourage women to prayerfully consider signing up to be assigned to one of our spiritual mothering groups.

Purpose

The purpose of the WIC spiritual mothering program is to help women establish covenant relationships with godly older women who will encourage and equip them to live for God's glory.

Procedures

- The WIC Council has a Titus 2 Ministry sub-committee: (names of committee members)
- Several women are being trained to be spiritual mothers.
- Each spiritual mother will decide when, how often, and where her group will meet.
- Meeting times will be announced in December.
- There will be a limit of six women in each group.
- The first opportunity to sign up will be at the WIC Christmas Event, December 9.
- Assignments will last one year, January to January.
- The *Biblical Foundations for Womanhood* series developed by the PCA Christian Education and Publications Committee is the curriculum for this ministry.

December Newsletter Article

Midway Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry

*You must teach what is in accord with sound doctrine . . . teach the older women. . .
Then they can train the younger women . . . (Titus 2:1, 3-5)*

The WIC Council has prayed and planned for a year and a half to begin this ministry. The time is finally here.

We are very grateful for the seven women who have been trained to be discipleship group leaders. They are: (names of leaders).

Each group will meet once a month. The following are the meeting times.

- Second Monday morning, 10:00, home of the leader
- Second Monday afternoon, 1:00, church
- Second Monday evening, 7:30, home of the leader
- Fourth Wednesday night, 7:00, at the church
- First Thursday morning, 10:30, home of the leader
- First Friday morning, 10:00, home of the leader
- Third Saturday morning, 10:00, home of the leader

There will be a limit of six women in each group.

The first opportunity to sign up will be at the WIC Christmas Event, December 9.

Assignments will last one year, January to January.

The *Biblical Foundations for Womanhood* series developed by the PCA Christian Education and Publications Committee is the curriculum for this ministry.

Please pray about signing up to participate in this ministry and decide which time is most convenient for you. The groups are not determined by age. Women of all ages are encouraged to participate. We hope that each group will have a variety of ages. The objective is to help women establish covenant relationships and to encourage one another to think biblically and live covenantally.

If you have questions, please see one of the Titus 2 Ministry Sub-committee members: (names of members).

Letter to Participants

**Midway Presbyterian Church
Women In the Church**

January 2004

Dear Sisters,

We are thrilled that you have signed up for the Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry. You are an answer to our prayers. We spent much time asking the Lord to lead the exact women He wants to be a part of this ministry and asking Him to guide in the “matching” of spiritual mothers and daughters. We have asked Him to knit hearts together and to be glorified in all we do.

Enclosed is a list of the groups and group leaders.

For our first gathering, all the groups will meet together:

Thursday, January 22
Fellowship Hall at church
7:00
Tea and Dessert

- Please bring a teacup to give to another woman in your group. Attach your name and a Scripture verse. It can be a new cup or a “cup with a history.”

Please pray for this ministry. Pray that the women who have signed up will grow in our love for the Lord and each other, and that our families and our church will be stronger because we are seeking to be women who think biblically and live covenantally.

For God’s Glory,

The Titus 2 Ministry Committee

Preparation for January Gathering

To: Titus 2 Leaders
From: The Titus 2 Committee

1. Your table

- Bring items from your home to use as your centerpiece – and then plan to take about five minutes to tell your group about yourself using these item.

2. Things to discuss around your table

- Determine your personal parameters and be prepared to share them with your group (ending time, when not to call, availability etc.).
- Decide if you want to give additional assignment for first gathering (ask someone to plan to share about themselves, etc.)
- Give each woman a copy of the form below and ask her to bring it to your February gathering.
- At the end, you will have 10 or 15 minutes to:
 - Be sure everyone knows date, place, directions, beginning and ending time of your gathering.
 - Answer questions
 - Ask their expectations, needs, etc.
 - Share your hopes and prayers

3. Checklist

- Call women on your list about next Thursday – remind them to bring teacup.
- Bring table decorations.
- Be prepared to share your parameters and any additional assignment.
- Make copies of the “Getting to Know You” form.
- Pray – a lot!

4. We will have copies of *Spiritual Mothering* for you to give each woman in your group.

January Gathering Schedule

7:00 Committee be at doors to greet women as they arrive

7:20 **Committee Member - Welcome**

- Praise for how “matching” worked out
- Introduce Minister responsible for Christian Education (he will explain how this ministry fits in with total CE ministry)
- Introduce WIC President (she will explain the WIC Council's vision and passion for this ministry)

Minister - Greeting

WIC President - Greeting

Committee Member

- Explain teacup theme
- Our gratitude for the spiritual mothers
- Committee give teacups to spiritual mothers
- Teacup exchange (each woman give her teacup to the woman on her left)

Committee Member

- Explain table decorations (bringing their home to you)
- After they get dessert, their spiritual mother will use the decorations to tell about herself
- One of you will be asked to bring items and tell about yourself at one of your gatherings
- This will help build relationships with one another

Committee Member

- Blessing
- Give instructions about going to dessert table

8:00 **Committee Member**

- Purpose of ministry, parameters, etc.

8:20 **Fellowship time around tables**

8:45 **Committee Member - Closing Prayer**

Getting to Know You

This form was given to women at the January gathering, to be completed and returned at the first gathering of individual groups in February. The second page includes an overview of the ministry and an assignment.

. . . love one another deeply, from the heart. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God (1 Peter 1:22-23).

He died for us so that, whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with him. Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing (1 Thessalonians 5:10-11).

. . . confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective. (James 5:16).

We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us (1 Thessalonians 2:8).

Please complete the following information and return at your first group gathering.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

If married, husband's name _____

If you have children, please list their names and ages:

Why did you sign up to be a part of this ministry? What do you hope to gain and give?

Do you have a specific prayer request regarding:

- Practical discipline (meal planning, money management, etc.)
- Spiritual discipline (personal devotion, church attendance, etc.)
- Relational discipline (selfishness, temper, impatience, etc.)