

CURRICULUM PLAN
WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY AT CENTRAL BIBLE CHURCH

A Paper
Presented to
Dr. Jay Sedwick
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Needs Assessment

Women's Bible Study at Central Bible Church

About the Ministry

Central Bible Church (CBC) in Fort Worth, Texas is a non-denominational church in the heart of the Dallas/Fort Worth Metroplex with approximately 2,000 members. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, active in-person attendance has declined to less than 1,000. The livestream worship service on Sunday mornings has allowed many people in the Metroplex, around the United States, and even other parts of the world to participate in worship with CBC virtually.

CBC has an active and vibrant group of women. Many women eagerly volunteer in almost every area of ministry—from serving in the nursery to operating the technology and media. CBC also offers an exciting and relevant ministry to women that includes seasonal special events, retreats, serving the teachers and students in the local schools, and weekly Bible study. The focus of this Needs Assessment is the **weekly women's Bible study program** at CBC.

The CBC Women's Bible study serves both English and Spanish-speaking adult women within the broad age range of 25-75 years old. The Bible study meets in-person and online on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-8:15 pm. The calendar year is divided into three trimesters: Spring (January-May), Summer (June and July), and Fall (September-December). The Spring and Fall studies average 10-12 weeks in length, and the summer studies average 6-8 weeks. In 2020 and 2021, the average enrollment in-person and online is 75. This reflects a decline due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Before the pandemic, the average enrollment was 100.

There is a large number of women at CBC who do not participate in Bible study at the church, and only a few of these participate in studies outside of the church. I believe with some research into the reasons why, the leadership can make appropriate changes to the program that would enable us to reach more women with this important ministry.

Needs of the Women at CBC

Physical Needs

- ✓ Food--Dinner/Snack
- ✓ Rest/De-stress
- ✓ Childcare
- ✓ Beautiful Surroundings
- ✓ Joyful/Exciting Atmosphere

Psychosocial Needs

- ✓ Encouragement
- ✓ Friendship
- ✓ Honest and transparent discussion
- ✓ Welcoming atmosphere
- ✓ Mentoring and guidance
- ✓ Fellowship
- ✓ Affirmation
- ✓ Personal Accountability
- ✓ Opportunities to serve

Cognitive Needs

- ✓ Well-written material
- ✓ Challenging & thought-provoking teaching
- ✓ Vibrant discussion
- ✓ Well-informed leaders & teachers

Spiritual Needs

- ✓ Greater Biblical literacy
- ✓ Deep theological discussion
- ✓ Spiritual encouragement
- ✓ Recognition for their contribution to the Body of Christ
- ✓ Direction and wisdom in life decisions
- ✓ Spiritual accountability
- ✓ Help in establishing daily time in God's Word
- ✓ Training for service

The Ministry Setting

Kind of Group: Adult English and Spanish-speaking women of approximate ages 25 to 75. CBC has both English and Spanish-speaking leaders.

Size of Group: The large group could be as large as 200-250 women. This group will be divided into small discussion groups of 10-12 women.

Social-Cultural Characteristics of Group: Women of various ethnicities and income levels. Many women work full-time, some are professionals in different occupations. Some of the women are employed by CBC. Some of the younger women are full-time homemakers with young children at home. The women are married, single, divorced and widowed.

Spiritual Maturity Level of Group: Many of these women have attended Bible studies for several years and have a fairly deep knowledge of Scripture. However, there are many women who have never studied Scripture, and even a few who are not yet followers of Christ. I want to make Bible study accessible to all of these women, so it will be necessary to provide extra training for the leaders in how to shepherd a group with a woman who is not familiar with Scripture. Extra grace and leeway will be given to these women.

Observation Techniques

With such a variation in the characteristics of the women—age, income level, working status, ethnicity, etc.—I will need varied and creative observation techniques to discover how best to design Bible studies and create a teaching environment that will meet their needs.

Personal Experience & Observation

I have attended adult women's Bible studies since my mid-20's. I have led small groups, taught, written curriculum and simply participated as a member. I have witnessed both excellent and poor teaching and leadership. I have diligently studied God's Word with the guide of a deep and challenging study. But I have also been disappointed by shallow studies that take portions of Scripture out of

context and twist its meaning. I have met countless women through my studies and formed some deep friendships. I also mentor two millennial women on a regular basis who openly share their insights into Scripture and their opinions on group Bible study. Organized weekly Bible study with women and deep friendships and conversation with Christian women has been a regular routine for most of my adult life; therefore, I have been able to glean a lot of knowledge and wisdom over the years.

Coffee Visits

From my experience, women enjoy meeting for coffee one-on-one or in small groups. Although this is a slow and inefficient way for gathering large amounts of data and information, it is very effective at getting people excited about a ministry and eliciting their participation. I will prayerfully hand-pick 5-10 spiritually mature women I respect to meet with one or two at a time to share my vision for the women's Bible study at CBC. These are women to whom I will look for advice, guidance and help in improving our ministry.

Although these would not be scripted conversations, some topics I would address are:

- How to spread the word to the women at CBC about Bible study
- Books of the Bible the women want to study
- Format for our weekly times together (small group discussion, large group teaching, worship time, etc.)
- Leader training and meetings
- Recruiting leaders
- Creative learning activity ideas

Focus Group

Currently, the Women's Bible study at CBC has very little participation from Millennial women. These are deep-thinking women who desire authentic and relevant theological discussions. I would plan a focus group with five or six Millennial women, our Women's Ministry Director, the Assistant to the Director and myself. I want to know what specific things are preventing them from

participating, what would attract them to Bible study at CBC and the format that appeals to them.

Survey

I will create an email survey that I can easily send to at least 100 women from CBC. Following is a sample of the survey.

Central Bible Church Women's Bible Study Survey

The Women's Bible Study ministry at Central Bible Church wants to better meet the needs of the women at CBC! We also want to make sure we create engaging and challenging studies for you. You can help us by answering the following questions as honestly as possible. This survey will be kept completely anonymous!

Please Circle the Best Answer

Personal

Age: 20-24 25-29 30-39 40-49 50-59 60+

Marital Status: Single Divorced Married Widowed

Employment Status: Full-Time (outside of the home) Full-Time Homemaker
Part-Time Work from Home (full or part-time) Student

Are you a member of CBC? Yes No

On average, how many times per month do you attend the Sunday morning CBC worship service *in person*?

0 1 2 3 4 or more

On average, how many times per month do you attend the Sunday morning CBC worship service *online*?

0 1 2 3 4 or more

On average, how many times per month do you attend Community Group *in person*?

0 1 2 3 4 or more

On average, how many times per month do you attend Community Group *online*?

0 1 2 3 4 or more

Over the last 3 years, how many Wednesday evening classes and/or Bible studies have you participated in at CBC?

0 1-2 3-4 5 or more

Spiritual

Have you trusted in Christ as your Savior? Yes No

If "Yes," for how long have you been a Christian?

0-5 years 6-10 years 11-15 years Longer than 15 years

If "No," are you open to considering becoming a Christian? Yes No

If you are open to becoming a Christian, would you consider giving your name and phone number below?

Please circle the number which best describes your Spiritual Life.

1=strongly disagree, 2=disagree, 3=agree, 4=strongly agree

Daily Bible reading is an important practice	1	2	3	4
God hears and answers my prayers	1	2	3	4
The Bible is true and without error	1	2	3	4
The Bible is relevant to my daily life	1	2	3	4
I know I will go to heaven when I die	1	2	3	4
I am encouraged when I meet with other Christians	1	2	3	4
The Bible is a book worth studying in-depth	1	2	3	4
My faith gives me hope in an uncertain world	1	2	3	4
I am growing in my faith	1	2	3	4
I am fairly "Bible literate"	1	2	3	4

If you have never participated in a women's Bible study at CBC, why not?

If you have participated in a women's Bible study at CBC...

What one or two things did you like best?

What do you feel could be improved?

What do you consider to be your greatest spiritual need?

How could the women's ministry at CBC help to fulfill this need?

Wrap-Up

I will take notes during the Focus Group and after my Coffee Visits. I will also compile the results from the Survey. After I have summarized all of my findings, I would like to meet with our Women's Ministry Director to discuss necessary changes to our Bible study program in order to better reach and educate the women at CBC.

The active attendance at Central Bible Church is likely more than 50% women. The women are influential in their homes and communities. They are also eager to know God's Word deeply, personally and in a way that can be applied to their daily lives. Such a large and influential group is worth the effort necessary to engage and educate them!

Curriculum Plan

Women's Bible Study at Central Bible Church

HOPE IN SUFFERING A Study of 1&2 Thessalonians

Lesson #1: **Who, What, When, Where, Why?** 1 Thess. 1-5

Unit #1: Greetings & Gospel Evidence

Lesson #2: **Commendable Christians** 1 Thess. 1:2-10

Lesson #3: **Delighting in Discipleship** 1 Thess. 2:1-16

Unit #2: Live Strong & Sober

Lesson #4: **Firm Faith** 1 Thess. 2:17-3:13

Lesson #5: **Hope & Holy Living** 1 Thess. 4:1-18

Lesson #6: **Ready & Waiting** 1 Thess. 5:1-28

Unit #3: Persevering in Persecution

Lesson #7: **Suffer Strong** 2 Thess. 1-3

Lesson #8: **Counted Worthy** 2 Thess. 1:1-12

Lesson #9: **Lawless Man Loses** 2 Thess. 2:1-17

Lesson #10: **Protection & Perseverance** 2 Thess. 3:1-18

Goals & Objectives

Women's Bible Study at Central Bible Church

HOPE IN SUFFERING A Study of 1&2 Thessalonians

Lesson #1: **Who, What, When, Where, Why?** 1 Thess. 1-5

Instructional Objective:

The student will comprehend the reality of the Thessalonian church by locating Thessalonica on a map based on 1 Thessalonians 1-5, and will empathize with Paul and the believers by reading their story in Acts 17.

Unit #1: Greetings & Gospel Evidence: 1 Thessalonians 1:2-2:16

Cognitive Goal=The student will recognize the urgency of sharing her faith with others.

Affective Goal=The student will persevere in her faith because of her joy in being specifically chosen by God.

Lesson #2: **Commendable Christians** 1 Thess. 1:2-10

Instructional Objective:

The student will list areas of her life that do not model the Christian life based on 1 Thessalonians 1:2-10, and agree it is a privilege to be chosen by God by consciously asking Him for help to change these areas.

Lesson #3: **Delighting in Discipleship** 1 Thess. 2:1-16

Instructional Objective:

The student will share the name of someone she can disciple based on 1 Thessalonians 2:1-16, and will acknowledge her responsibility to disciple by reaching out to this woman.

Unit #2: Live Strong & Sober: 1 Thessalonians 2:17-5:28

Cognitive Goal=The student will know she is safe from the wrath of God because of her faith.

Affective Goal=The student will understand the need for holiness in light of Christ's imminent return.

Lesson #4: Firm Faith

1 Thess. 2:17-3:13

Instructional Objective:

The student will draw a picture of the armor of God to illustrate how God equips her to stand strong in her faith according to 1 Thessalonians 2:17-3:13, and will express love for someone by praying a specific Scripture for her.

Lesson #5: Hope & Holy Living

1 Thess. 4:1-18

Instructional Objective:

The student will articulate sanctification by writing the definition based on 1 Thessalonians 4:1-18, and will agree with Scripture by committing to pursue a life of purity and quietness.

Lesson #6: Ready & Waiting

1 Thess. 5:1-28

Instructional Objective:

The student will summarize the Day of the Lord by re-writing other Scriptures related to 1 Thessalonians 5:1-28, and will express anticipation by reminding other believers of their hope in Jesus' return.