



WOMEN'S MINISTRY AT VALLEY BAPTIST CHURCH—AUGUST 2025

Our theme for women's ministry this year has been, **"Side by side, Together for the Gospel."** I have prayed over this theme, that those of us at Valley would live out this beautiful Biblical principle. I have thought about how wonderful it is to have brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ as my co-workers in our mission to spread the Good News of Jesus and disciple one another. But I have missed one key part until recently. And this key part has encouraged me so much, I want to share it with you.

In John 14, Jesus is talking with His disciples prior to going to the cross. He tells them He is going away to prepare a place for them and that someday He will come back and take them to Himself. But what about in the meantime between Jesus' ascension into heaven and the glorious day of His return? He promises to give His followers the Holy Spirit to live in them. And that promise is for us today as well. Let's look a little closer at a *very special*

word that helps us understand a bit more what this means for us who live in the space after the cross but before His Return.

In verse 16, He tells them the Father **"will give you another parakletos..."** (Don't ask me how to pronounce that!) Before I give the definition of this very special Greek word, let me show you the different ways it is translated in our English versions of the Bible: **Counselor, Helper, Comforter, Advocate, Intercessor-Counselor, Strengtheners, Standby.** So many translations! So this must be a very special word if, in our English language, we don't have a single word that fully encompasses its meaning. Using resources on the Blue Letter Bible app, I have found that this word literally means, **"called to one's side"**! The Holy Spirit's job is to be our helper and comforter, our advocate before the Father. He strengthens us and never leaves us. **The Holy Spirit**

truly is with us, "side by side, together for the Gospel!"

This summer I have been s-t-r-e-t-c-h-e-d in learning and applying this truth. God has put me in places where I feel so inadequate in and of myself. But He has used these verses to remind me that the Holy Spirit is with me. Whether it's teaching a Bible study, mentoring a young woman, parenting my children, loving my husband - anything that is His will - He shows up!! And He does for you too, if you are in Christ. I pray that this would be an encouraging truth for you as God stretches you in service for His Name, that you would confidently go forth in whatever He calls you to do, knowing that **He walks with you, side by side, together for the Gospel.**

With love, Erin

John 14:16-17a "And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Counselor to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth." (CSB)

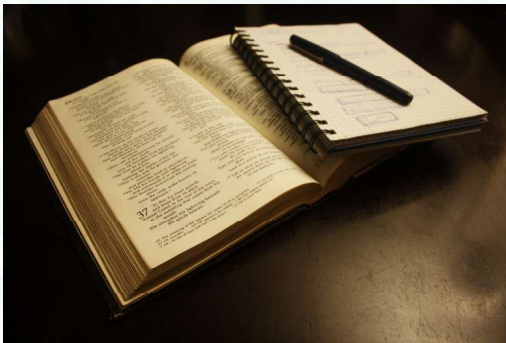
Bible Study Tip

Things I Continue to Work on to Help Me Spend Time in His Word

By Sue Shepard

SPACE in my schedule daily -

- Discovering the time of day that works best for me so I can be consistent, focused and faithful to spend this quality time in His Word
- Early AMs? Lunch hours? Mid-afternoons? Evenings?
- Set aside all electronics to minimize distractions and interruptions.



PLACE in my home -

Discovering where it is best for me to study:

- Desk in extra bedroom? Dining room table? Coffee shop? Downtown library? Patio table? Park?
- Gather my necessary “tools” and try to keep them in the same location (Bible, writing utensils, highlighters, spiral notebook, 3-ring binder with paper and dividers, journal, Post-It notes/tabs, and “good ole” index cards to write down Scripture that jumps out to meditate on and perhaps memorize.
- When I have completed a study, how will I organize my final compilation of notes? File folders? 3-ring binder? Where will I store for future references?
- Do I file these notes by Books of the Bible? Topically? Alphabetically?

FACE this study time with “book-end prayer” (At the start and at the end)

- I ask God to lead and guide me as I read. “Help my heart to be transformed through better understanding of the Scripture, His attributes, and His promises. May I be obedient to Him and honor Him throughout my life with my words and actions.
- An opening prayer from Scripture: “Open my eyes, that I may behold wondrous things out of your law.” Psalm 119:18
- I offer a prayer of thanks when I am done with this special time with Him.
- A closing prayer from His Word: “Oh give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; His steadfast love endures forever!” 1 Chronicles 16:34

Enjoy the journey of being faithful in studying His Word and discovering what routines works best for you!

Pray the Word



Isaiah 50:4 “The Lord GOD has given me the tongue of those who are taught, that I may know how to sustain with a word him who is weary. Morning by morning He awakens; He awakens my ear to hear as those who are taught.”

As we feast on and delight in God’s Word, let us pray Isaiah 50:4 back to Him:

Lord, may my tongue always give evidence that I have been taught by you. And as you teach me, please help me to know how to sustain my weary and hurting sister with your Word. I love that You promise to awaken my ear morning by morning ...oh Lord, I long to hear what You want to teach me!

Fall 2025 Bible Studies

☺☺ The purpose of Connected Women's Bible Studies is to provide opportunities for women to know God more fully through the study of His Word. We will provide studies that are built on a foundation of Scripture, useful for helping women learn to study God's Word for themselves, and consistent with the whole counsel of God. Our conviction is that studies are to be a place where women's hearts are transformed by the renewing of their minds through the Word in an environment that encourages fellowship and growth in love for God and others. ☺☺



3 options to choose from - Beginning on September 3rd and 4th
Register online at valleyconnex.org/womens-ministry

**"The Sermon
on the Mount"**

**Wednesdays
6:15-7:30pm**

We will be studying Matthew 5-7 using the Bible as our text along with our beloved "Dwell Method: Slow Down, Go Deep, One Passage a Week."
(This is what we have been doing on Wednesday nights since last year - we just have a name for it now!) No book is required - just a Bible, a notebook, and a pen. Sept 3-Nov 12

Facilitated by Erin Long and Tabitha King

**"The Sermon
on the Mount"**

**Thursdays
9am-11am**

We will be studying Matthew 5-7 using the Bible as our text and will provide helpful guided questions. No book other than your Bible is required.

Sept 4-Nov 13

Facilitated by Paula Weber

**"The Church"
(Precept Study
on 1 Timothy)**

**Thursdays
9am-11am**

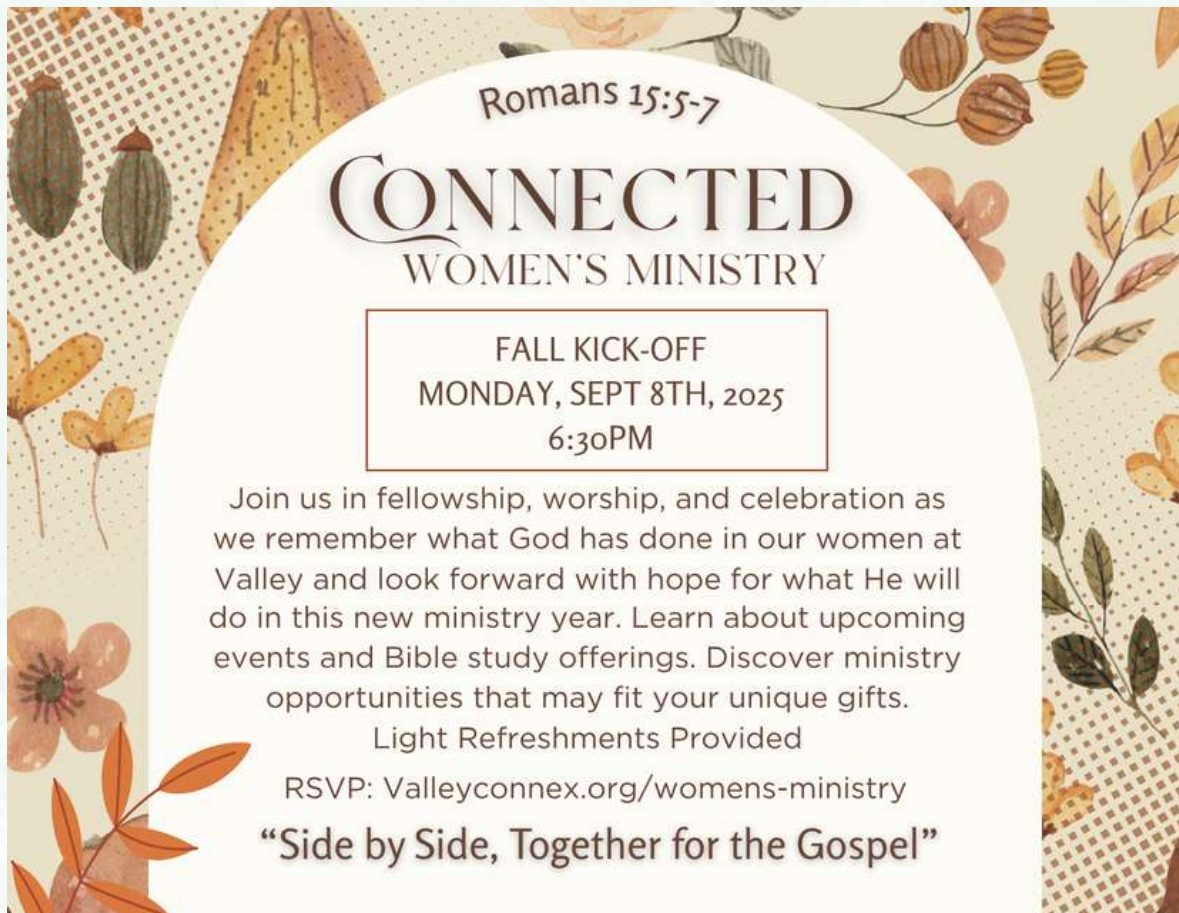
How are the people in the church to behave? What happens when we hear teaching that is not the truth? Timothy, a young pastor, was told the answers to these questions in this letter written to him by Paul. This letter contains some doctrine, but also very practical instructions for how people in the church are to live. **The deadline to order a book is August 12, 2025**

This inductive Precept study includes 5 days of homework, about one hour each day, to do in preparation for group discussion.

Sept 4-Oct 23, Room B147

Facilitated by Debbie Knitter

Upcoming Event:



Mark Your Calendar:

August 12th - Deadline for book orders for 1 Timothy study

Sept. 3rd and 4th - Bible studies begin

Sept 8th - Fall Kick off Event

The Christian's most significant task is not arguing, reasoning, defending, or preaching the good news, but embodying it.

- Corrie ten Boom

Connected Team at a Glance

Paula Weber and Erin Long,
Co-Coordinators

Beth Dunning

Katie Land

Sue Shepard

Newsletter:

Sherri Jansen

1 Thessalonians 2:8

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.