

# CONNECTED

Women's Ministry

"Side by Side, Together for the Gospel"

## *"Oh, the Importance of Community"*

By Sue Shepard

Oh, how I have enjoyed my morning times sitting outside on the back patio with my Bible, notebook, devotionals, and cup of hot coffee these summer months! I couldn't help noticing the activity happening all around me in God's beautiful creation – the squirrels scampering up and down the trees, the bunnies hopping through the grass, field and garden, the chipmunks darting across the patio, and the numerous birds singing along with one another and even sharing perches on the bird feeders and those seeds fallen to the ground. At some point, I realized I was observing and getting to be a small part of a community while I sat there!

Oh, how blessed I have been with family, friends, caregivers, and Hospice Teams to come alongside me to walk through the loss of dear loved ones; first, my husband in 2017 and then in 2024, my mom. The love,

encouragement, care, and support did and continues to touch my heart. Though these were difficult circumstances, dear people rallied around and became a community to us in many creative ways. I am forever grateful!

Oh, how good it is to take the time and reflect, remembering the communities God has allowed me to be a part of in the past – at schools (while attending, while teaching), workplaces, moves, mission trips, travel, and various ministries. And God continues with His purpose, His plan, and my character development through many different avenues along this journey with Him. He uses communities to teach us valuable lessons. Woo Hoo!

Oh, how grateful I am to be part of a Bible-teaching church with so many lovely believers in Christ willing to serve and the various events to promote my journey with

Him. Yes, it takes courage to walk through the doors of a church for the first time; And yes, it takes time and energy to get to know a new church family – BUT it is so worth it! I am not sure where I would be in/with my spiritual health if it not be for the church families I found along the way. A healthy church community is so vital to have in your life... Are you a part of one?

As the new School Year begins, so does the Ministry Year at many churches. I encourage you to seek ways you can get involved and serve in your church community. Some ministry opportunities may be announced; some you may need to just ask and express your willingness to be a part of and/or even share a new idea. With prayerful consideration, please join in your community with your gifts and talents!

Oh, how blessed you will be!



## Bible Study Tip

By Beth Dunning

Several years ago, I was challenged to add Scripture writing to my time in God's Word...to write out, to copy portions of Scripture. I cannot begin to tell you the impact that this discipline is having on my personal study. It is slowing me down and helping me to better remember what I have read and written. Also as I write out Scripture, I am finding myself praying God's Word more and more. I love writing out His Word!

Currently, I am writing out 1 John according to where Pastor Tim takes us each Sunday. No, I did not copy the entire book of Job, a recent preaching series! However, there were certain verses that I did write out, versus that especially spoke to my heart.

Two of our women's Bible studies this fall will be Matthew 5, 6, and 7 - The Sermon On the Mount. I am so looking forward to writing out Jesus' words in this portion of Scripture. Will you join me?

## Mark Your Calendar:

Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> - Bible studies begin  
Wed Evenings 6:15-7:30  
Thursday Mornings 9-11am

Sept 8<sup>th</sup> - Fall Kick-off Event  
6:30pm

Details on the following pages

## Pray the Word

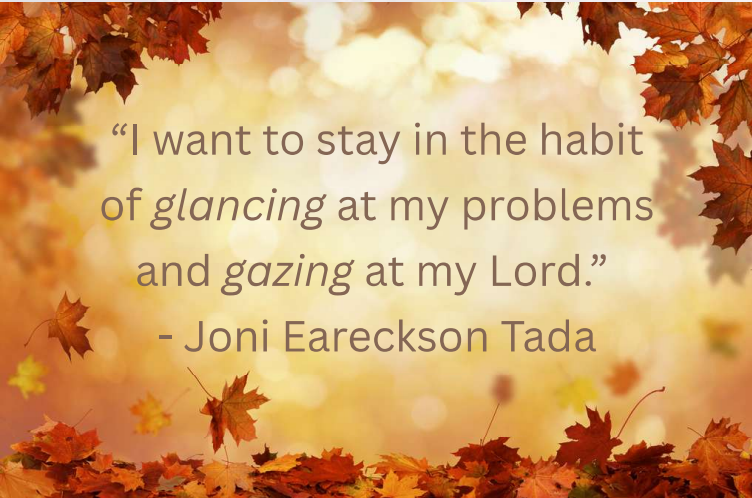
By Erin Long

2 Corinthians 5:19

*"that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to Himself, **not counting their trespasses against them**, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation."*

Recently the Lord convicted me that I had been holding sins against others. This passage came to mind as I was praying for His help, and He used it to free me from the unforgiveness and bitterness I had been holding onto - praise God! Here's an example of how it can be prayed:

"Lord, I am guilty of holding the sins of (NAME) against them. But in Christ, You have reconciled us to Yourself! Help me to forgive (NAME) as You have forgiven me."



"I want to stay in the habit  
of *glancing* at my problems  
and *gazing* at my Lord."

- Joni Eareckson Tada





# 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](https://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

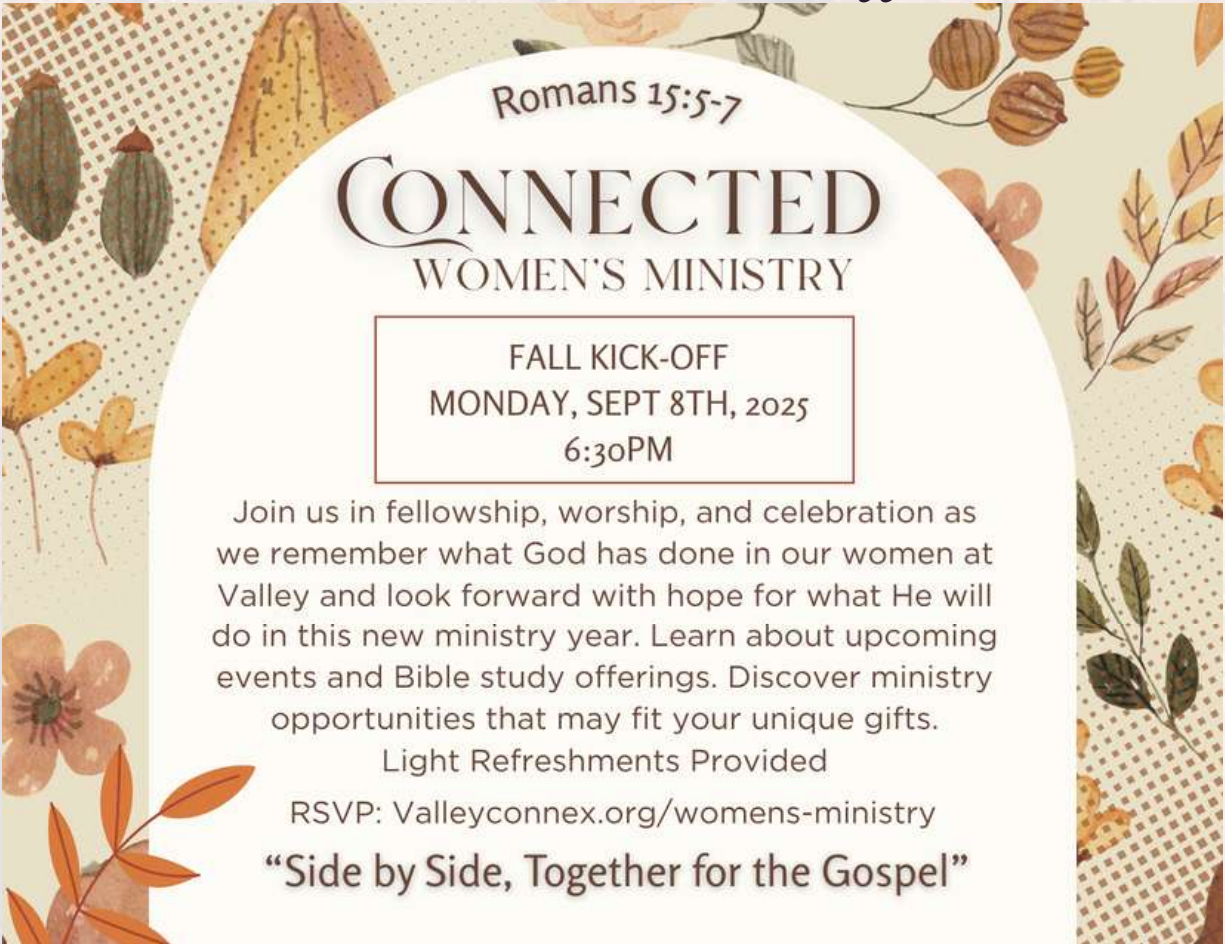
How are the people in the church to behave? What happens when we hear teaching that is not the truth? Timothy, a young pastor, was told the answers to these questions in this letter written to him by Paul. This letter contains some doctrine, but also very practical instructions for how people in the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



# Fall Kick-Off



## Romans 15:5-7

May the God of endurance and encouragement grant you to live in such harmony with one another, in accord with Christ Jesus, that together you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God.

*Serving you in love,  
the Connected Women's Ministry Team*

Paula Weber - Co-Coordinator, Erin Long - Co-Coordinator, Beth Dunning, Sue Shepard

Newsletter: Sherri Jansen

Valley Baptist's Connected Women's Ministry Team is devoted to helping women live out the Gospel through their God-given design and purpose. Our passion is to see women grow in knowing and living out the Word of God through biblical study, prayer, special events, mentoring, and serving others in the love of Christ.