

How to Give Women the Hunger to Grow

No one grows spiritually until they have a love for the study of the Bible and an understanding of the joy that comes out of communicating with God. In this session, we will practice a method of Bible study that will help us to apply the Bible to personal life with transparency and vulnerability. In the process we will learn what it is to fellowship and laugh with each other as we grow spiritually. We will put simple practices in place that are essential for multi-tasking women in order to keep a godly perspective as we go through our day. What is the result of this? We will be blessed to find that our service grows naturally out of what God is first doing in our own walk with Him.

Ann Pritchard Blaser has led women through Bible Study Fellowship International for thirty years, teaching Scripture classes for women and training leadership groups. Her work now consists of mentoring and advising other women who are teaching and training leaders in Bible Study Fellowship. She is responsible for visiting classes and observing the training and teaching taking place and for giving encouragement and shepherding to the teachers. She is involved in her church through discipling, teaching, and writing training materials. Ann is married to Bill, and they have two children and two grandsons.

Introduction:

“Why is it that some people find God in a way that others do not? Why does God manifest His presence to some and let multitudes of others struggle along in the half-light of imperfect Christian experience?” (A.W.Tozer) Tozer goes on to say that the will of God is the same for all. All believers are called to grow and become mature and be useful to the Kingdom of God. All believers are called to bring glory to God in their lives. Tozer says that “the difference lies not with God but with us.”

He suggests that the one vital quality is spiritual receptivity. Something that is open to heaven, something that urges us Godward...a spiritual awareness that we must go on to cultivate until it becomes the most important thing in life. So the difference between the nominal believer and the one who is vibrant is that they felt an inward longing and then did something about it. They acquired a lifelong habit of spiritual response. You and I must give those we disciple the tools to grow, and also impart to them the vision of what it is to desire God’s manifest presence in our lives.

- I. The Character of God
 - A. Foundational for Every believer
 - B. Game/Copies

Principle: Knowing the character and attributes of God is the foundation for growing wisdom.

Discussion:

- II. Prayer
 - A. Communion with God
 - B. Teaching people to pray
 - C. Prayers that “bounce off the ceiling?”
 - D. Confession
 - 1. Conviction – God’s work in us.
 - 2. Contrition – Our response of sorrow for our sin.
 - 3. Conversion – The turning away from our sin to God
 - 4. We must teach that self-examination is a necessary part of Christian life.
 - E. Job – Job 42:3-6
 - F. Our own motive and plans
 - G. Our prayer life is key to our relationship with God.

Principle: Communication with the Living Lord does not always come naturally and must be taught and experienced.

Discussion:

- III. The Bible
 - A. God is not silent
 - 1. He speaks through the creation
 - 2. He speaks through the Bible
 - 3. This is why each of God’s own must be in a systematic, personal and daily Bible study in order to know Him and to hear from Him. If we do not give those we disciple a love for the Word of God, and an understanding of how to study the Bible, we have missed the mark.
 - 4. Three Step Method – copies available – do together
 - 5. We teach what it is to spiritually “taste” the Scripture.
 - 6. We cannot take people further than we have gone ourselves.
 - 7. We cannot be satisfied to check doing our Bible study off our list of things to do....lack of holy desire. Ps. 42:1
 - 8. Spiritual digestion
 - 9. Self-exhortation

Principle: There is nothing that can substitute for having and teaching a great love for the Word of God.

Discussion:

IV. The Means of Grace (document –copies)

- A. Three dollars' worth of God
- B. Grace
- C. Coming to God expectantly, humbly

V. Self-Life

- A. Mortification – death of self/self interest
- B. Quote: Self can live unrebuked at the very altar. We must invite the cross to do its deadly work within us.” A.W.Tozer
- C. Example:
- D. The whole of life is a sacrament.
- E. Motive is everything.

Principle: God calls His own to pick up their cross and follow Him.

Discussion:

VI. Fellowship/Relationship

- A. Relationship with others is necessary for discipleship
 - 1. Authenticity/transparency
 - 2. Age groups – young people together of mixed ages?
 - 3. Time built in for fellowship
 - 4. Encouragement – facial, body language, verbal affirmation

Principle: Relationship with others is necessary for discipleship.

Discussion:

Closing: