

## **The Hidden Church Workforce: Women Teaching the Bible with Reverence and Skill**

There is always controversy around the issue of the place of women in the church. But there is little disagreement among Christians that women can and should teach women that the Bible is for them. That a woman can and should love God with her mind. So how might a pastor properly value, cultivate and employ the gifting of women teachers?

**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.

### **I. Introduction:**

- A. My background in Kingdom work in the U.S.
- B. How God brought me into His Kingdom work.
- C. The support I have enjoyed from my husband and pastor.
- D. How God has used my skills to encourage women in Europe to grow spiritually.
- E. Story from my first European Leadership Forum about women's Bible study. The advantages of training women to teach the Bible to other women.

### **II. Article Written by Jen Wilken, a Bible Teacher of Women in the U.S.**

- A. A woman is an example you cannot be.  

The inspiration of spiritual growth shown by a woman to other woman, and the result.
- B. A woman brings a perspective you cannot bring.  

The difference between the way a woman teaches and the way a man teaches.
- C. A woman holds an authority with other women that you cannot hold.  

Things that are received out of a woman's experience that speak loudly to other women. I Corinthians 7

D. A woman sees needs you do not see.

Having the pulse of the women in your church may be a mystery to a man.

E. **Principle:** Something essential and important is missing in the church that does not have a Bible study led by a woman teacher.

F. **Illustration:**

G. **Application:**

1) How does your church meet the spiritual needs of the women of your church?

2) What is stopping you from training an interested woman who loves the Scripture to learn to teach the Bible to other women?

**III. So far, we have talked about why pastors need women Bible teachers. Now we change the subject.**

A. Women Bible teachers need their pastor.

You might assume that women teachers naturally find places to develop and exercise their gifts.

B. A woman Bible teacher needs her pastor to affirm her.

Hearing encouragement from a pastor.

C. A woman teaching Scripture needs her pastor to sharpen her.

Lack of formal training. Example of a pastor's influence and the benefits to him as well as the church.

D. A woman teaching the Scripture needs you to provide a covering for her.

You wouldn't let just anyone teach the men in your church...it is the same for women.

E. **Principle:** The women's Bible study that thrives is one that is promoted and encouraged by the pastor.

F. **Illustration:**

G. **Application:**

- 1) What will you do to ensure the biblical literacy of the women in your church?
- 2) What provision will you make to ensure that your women's Bible study is of good quality?

#### **IV. How to Find and Develop Leaders**

- 1) In your women's Bible studies, who loves to "dig"?
- 2) Challenge them / Cast Vision – teaching Scripture is a "calling".
- 3) Count the cost – Consider the investment of time as you consider your financial investments...what is the return on investment?
- 4) Encourage women to participate by providing childcare, have daytime and evening groups.

#### **V. Conclusion:**