

Soul Care for Women

No one would ever replace good with bad, but many of us fail the test of life by settling for good (ministry, giving, service, dedication, godliness...) while neglecting what is unique, perfect, priceless - Him! It's then that those full, flowing streams of our First Love, commitment, discipleship, dry up like winter-filled streams in the summer. Our identity is rooted in God. Therefore the first thought that comes to mind when someone asks who we are shouldn't be: daughter, mother, woman in ministry... but rather - one that is loved by God. His love is our identity, our calling, for above all we are his daughters. Let's remind ourselves together of those foundational, powerful truths that transform, set free, and make our hearts overjoyed!

Jelena Sivulka was born and raised in Serbia, where she got her master's degree in psychology and in theology. She became a Christian 25 years ago and a few years later got involved in ministry with her husband Greg, planting churches, distributing humanitarian aid, and partnering with "Joni and Friends," serving people with disabilities. Jelena has also worked as a counselor in Serbia's schools and a social worker, and she is currently working as therapist in a medical clinic. She is the Founder and Director of the non-profit organization "Hana's Hope." She has been blessed with three children: Benjamin, Sara, and Hana, who has autism.

I. Introduction

- A. Where are we?
- B. What are we doing?
- C. Who do we serve?

Personal reflection: Self-examination

II. Signs and seasons

- A. How we hunger:
 - 1. Sin
 - 2. Lies
 - 3. Idols

Personal reflection: Coming out of hiding

B. How we feast:

1. Confessions
2. God's Word
3. Companions
4. Desiring God

Personal reflection: Ready for knowing God deeper?

III. God's care for our souls

“Stand at the crossroads and look; ask for the ancient paths, ask where the good way is, and walk in it, and you will find rest for your souls.” Jeremiah 6:16

- A. Story of Hagar - the God who sees
- B. Story of women without name – the God who cares
- C. Story of Lydia – the God that honors

Suggested Readings:

Benner, David G., *The Gift of Being Yourself*, Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2004.

Benner, David G., *Desiring God's Will*, Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2005.

Dillow, Linda, *Calm my Anxious Heart*, Colorado Springs, CO: NavPress, 2007.

Nouwen, Henry J.M., *Adam, God's Beloved*: Orbis Books, 1997.

Ortberg, John, *Soul Keeping*, Grand Rapids, Zondervan, 2014

Peterson, Eugene H., *Run with the Horses*, Downers Grove, IL: Inter Varsity Press, 2009.

Thompson, Marjorie J., *Soul Feast*, Louisville, KY: Westminster John Knox Press, 2005.

Voskamp, Ann, *The Broken Way*, Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2016.