

# Equip Women to Teach the Word

**Prepare To Be Faithful**



*Find the complete module resources at  
[welscongregationalservices.net/equip-women-to-teach](https://welscongregationalservices.net/equip-women-to-teach)*



## Acknowledgments

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I would like to acknowledge the collective work of WELS Women's Ministry (WWM) Committee, commissioned to pool their substantial experience, spiritual maturity, and wisdom toward equipping women to share God's Word with others. In particular, I'm grateful for the hard work of the following contributors: Rachel and Wayne Halldorson, Ben Kratz, Katie Martin, Marilyn Miller, Dan and Naomi Schmidt, Dawn Schulz, Paula Sulzle, Amber Albee Swenson, Sally Valleskey, Kathie Wendland, and Paul Wendland.

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May "Equip Women to Teach the Word" help churches prepare women to confidently and faithfully share God's Word in different ministry settings. May God bless your use of this training guide to carry out your church's ministry!

Donn Dobberstein,  
Director, WELS Discipleship

# How to Use This Training

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## *Equip Women to Teach the Word*

This unique, Christ-centered training has several remarkable features designed to reach every learning style and level of learner.

**Your Bible** is the actual textbook. Open your Bible. This study guides you through Scripture and points you to Christ in the Word. *All the Scripture verses are in italics.*

**The training workbook** should be studied as you work through the lessons.

- An exceptional feature of this training is the firm foundation in Lessons 1 and 2. Read these lessons regularly—for example, set a goal of six times in six months.
- Take notes as you work through the training. Write down key words, definitions and concepts so they will have a lasting impression.
- There are activities at the end of each section that are intentionally designed for you to practice the skills you just learned. Don't skip them.
- Lessons 1-5 are the training lessons. Lessons 6-9 are areas of life and ministry where women put the training into practice.

**Video presentations** accompany Lessons 1-5. These videos will give you an opportunity to hear other believers talk about the important truths of Scripture. The clips have been professionally edited to add powerful bursts of video that enrich the reading and activities.

The video clips are available at:

[www.welscongregationalservices.net/equip-women-to-teach](http://www.welscongregationalservices.net/equip-women-to-teach)

**The supplemental material** is outstanding. Don't miss the glossary, appendix, links, and more. Keep looking—you'll be amazed!



The STOP sign boxes contain critical information—learn those truths.



The INFORMATION boxes contain information that is helpful.



The NOTES sections are included for you to write important concepts.



The ACTIVITIES will help you put what you’ve learned into practice.

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# Equip Women To Teach the Word

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## Equip Women to Teach the Word

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Excitement and fear come when you anticipate something new or important.

The possibility or anticipation of teaching God's Word might make your heart race a little. Whether teaching Scripture is new to you or not, it is certainly important. Actually, nothing could be more important.

The overwhelming responsibility is hard to grasp. You can't get your head around the enormity of the privilege and you have no idea how to start or where to begin. Every step is important, the path is narrow and the journey takes dedication. It can be paralyzing as you struggle to put one foot in front of another.

But there is hope—and it is here.

### What Is Equip Women to Teach the Word?

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Equip Women to Teach the Word takes you by the hand and walks with you on the path to faithful teaching. Pastors, professors and experienced Bible study teachers will prepare you to teach the Word of God in an organized, step-by-step process. This training prepares you to be faithful. It instills confidence as it anchors you in the Word of God with the support of pastors, teachers, and reliable resources.

### Why Equip Women to Teach the Word?

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You need Equip Women to Teach the Word because you need to be instructed and prepared to faithfully teach Scripture.

This training is designed for mature Christian women who want to follow Paul's directive in Titus 2:3, "*to teach what is good.*" It is rich with guidance for women who are thriving in faith and want to talk about the Word of God. It prepares women to teach in a variety of settings with the support and encouragement of pastors and congregations. It provides the training needed to share the Word of God correctly and humbly—but also with confidence.

For pastors, this material fills a gap when women are well-suited and eager to teach the Word but need additional training. Pastors know what has to happen before Bible study begins and they understand the importance of solid training. This module presents a broad spectrum of scholarly insights in a simple format—it guides women to understand the responsibilities, preparations, and tasks needed to teach God's Word faithfully.

*Who will want this?*

- The woman who wants to be well prepared to teach the Word.
- The woman who wants to get better at teaching the Word.
- The woman who wants to stand firm on the Word despite the influence of the world that surrounds her.
- The pastor who wants to prepare and provide solid training for women who teach the Word.
- The pastor who wants to encourage and strengthen women in their faith and keep them faithful to the Word.
- The pastor who wants to provide redirection and additional training for a woman who is struggling as she teaches the Word of God.

**How Is Equip Women to Teach the Word Different?**

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Equip Women to Teach the Word follows the footsteps given in Scripture. It clears away distractions and simply points to God's plan for sharing the Word. This training isn't merely philosophical or encouraging. Women will grow in their faith and knowledge of Scripture as they work through this training and complete the tasks.

- This isn't a to-do list with an obligation of duties to check off as you go. This is Gospel-motivated instruction that inspires you to grow in your own spiritual understanding and desire that growth for others.
- Teachers must sit at the feet of Jesus to become learners before they can lead others. This training provides instruction for spiritual growth, guidance for effective teaching and life as an ambassador of Christ.
- This training reinforces learning Scripture as a life-long process. It sets the pattern and puts the tools in your hand to keep growing.
- Rather than overwhelming learners, this training continually builds understanding and growth at a sustainable pace.
- As a vital and effective training tool it can be integrated across all platforms of ministry.
- This training yokes the pastor and lay-teacher together in a partnership of ministry that serves and blesses the congregation.
- This training explains why each step is important. It guides women into lives of enduring service because they know why they follow the pattern.

## **What Will You Get with Equip Women to Teach the Word?**

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What are your biggest concerns or worries?

- ✓ I would like to do this, but I don't know how to get started.
- ✓ I would like to do this, but don't feel confident. Is there some place to find answers?
- ✓ I want to be well prepared to teach the Word and speak the truth.
- ✓ I want to be able to answer questions correctly and clearly.
- ✓ I want to teach God's Word in the proper context.
- ✓ I want to be clear about the big picture and whole counsel of God.
- ✓ I want to be a faithful teacher that understands the responsibilities of teaching the Word.
- ✓ I want to make sure my teaching builds others up and never hurts the faith of others.

What are the biggest challenges you have with those areas?

- ✓ I'm not sure how to teach and communicate clearly so participants aren't confused.
- ✓ I don't know where to find the resources I need to learn and prepare.
- ✓ I don't have enough time to prepare so I can teach well.
- ✓ My limited preparation time limits my ability to reach various types of learners.
- ✓ I don't know if I will teach doctrine correctly.
- ✓ I don't know if I will be able to recognize and address false doctrine.
- ✓ I want to be well equipped but my pastor doesn't have the time or resources to thoroughly train me.
- ✓ I don't understand the needs and background of those who participate in Bible study, so I am less effective in teaching them.
- ✓ I want to make sure I clearly see what is influencing me.

What problems do these challenges cause?

- ✓ I have a lot of self-doubt which leads me to be self-focused—it robs me of joy and confidence.
- ✓ Preparing to teach the Word is time consuming and exhausting—I get tired and want to quit when it gets difficult.
- ✓ I wonder if I should find other opportunities to serve.
- ✓ I don't have a place to use my gifts.
- ✓ I know women are looking for opportunities to grow in the Word but I don't know if I can teach.
- ✓ I know my Bible study teaching can be shallow and sometimes lacks depth.
- ✓ I feel like my Bible study group is drifting and becoming an isolated group.
- ✓ I have frustrations in serving and sometimes experience difficulty working with my pastor.

Many women are eager to grow in the Word and their love of Scripture often leads them to share it with others. But it is difficult to find the balance of knowing Scripture well enough to teach—yet not wanting to jump in too soon and be unprepared. Where is the narrow middle road?

Right here.

Women do need training and instruction to faithfully teach God's Word. They need to know what they need to know. They need to know why they need to know it. They need to be well grounded in Scripture and be familiar with the basic truths and big picture of God's Word.

Women also need to be assured that God wants to use their gifts to bless the church. They need to be prompted and encouraged to trust the Word and simply be a joyful vessel of truth. They need to know they are needed. They need to know why God has created them with gifts and called them to serve.

This training will light the path from every angle.

Every light and every step will point to Christ.



What's your ideal outcome?

- ✓ I will have more confidence that Bible study is God's work and I will trust the Spirit as he does his work through the Word.
- ✓ My teaching will be faithful, thought-provoking, and have engaging discussion questions.
- ✓ My Bible study group will have a strong connection to our pastor and congregation.
- ✓ I will flourish under my pastor's leadership and he will be blessed by my service.
- ✓ I will be motivated by the Gospel and energized by the Holy Spirit. I will be strengthened for service.
- ✓ I will understand my spiritual gifts and have discernment in seeing the best way to use my gifts in service.
- ✓ Women will have another opportunity to grow in the Word of God and enjoy fellowship with other believers.
- ✓ I will be thoroughly equipped by my pastor as he uses this resource to train me.
- ✓ I will spend less time looking for solid resources and will find them more easily.
- ✓ I will confidently choose good Bible study material because my skills of discernment will improve.
- ✓ I will know God's Word better.
- ✓ My time learning God's Word will strengthen my faith and influence families for Christ. The ripples of spiritual growth will extend to build up groups, congregations, and even society.
- ✓ I will grow in my hunger and desire for the Word.
- ✓ I will be amazed at God's grace and compelled by his love to be his ambassador.
- ✓ I will be better equipped with the Word as I speak extemporaneously, answer questions and respond to comments.
- ✓ I will be equipped to use the sword of the Spirit and make better decisions about whether to use law or gospel.

What would getting that outcome do for you?

- ✓ Bring me joy in the partnership of the gospel.
- ✓ Give glory to God.
- ✓ Allow me to serve in building God's kingdom with faithfulness.
- ✓ Give me a clear purpose and grasp of how to use my gifts.
- ✓ Gain confidence and contentment knowing this is God's work.
- ✓ Enable me to balance the weight of responsibility with confidence in the priesthood of all believers.
- ✓ Bring me fellowship with believers and opportunities to create new friendships.
- ✓ Give me the ability to engage in continued ministry opportunities.
- ✓ Heighten my understanding of others, be sensitive to their needs and have the wisdom to know what Scripture to share with them.
- ✓ Strengthen me to lead, nurture, and encourage other women.

### **By the End of This Program, You Will Be Able To . . .**

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- See the overarching picture of God's redeeming love in Scripture.
- Regularly study Scripture as part of a strong devotional life.
- Treasure the blessings of the church and esteem the Word and sacraments.
- Pray with deep devotion, enriched by Christ-centered resources.
- Examine Scripture as the standard for thoughts, words, and actions.
- Serve and bless others with gifts that build God's kingdom.
- Understand and be aware of women's varying needs and perspectives.
- Respect pastors and appreciate their leadership and calling.
- Evaluate Bible study material with better discernment.
- Prepare and plan Bible study with excellence.
- Faithfully teach the Word effectively with skills that continue to improve.

## The Program

God's women are hungry for his Word.

The world's empty messages cannot satisfy the void in human hearts. But Christ fills the emptiness with love and grace. When believers have tasted the goodness of God and feasted on his rich truth, they return to the Word again and again.

You desire the spiritual growth that comes by studying Scripture, and you see opportunities to nurture and encourage others with the Word. But can you be equipped to faithfully teach others and fill hungry souls with the Word of God?

Yes.

Equip Women to Teach the Word is written for those who desire to faithfully teach God's Word.

With a high and holy view of Scripture as the inerrant Word of God, this training will shape your teaching to flow from the Bible with truth and purity. Learn with your pastor's guidance and grow with other believers as you mine the depths of Scripture. Develop your study skills and enhance your teaching ability with instruction from pastors, professors, and experienced Bible study teachers.

Consider the challenges, concerns or uncertainty you face as a Bible study teacher. Perhaps you don't know what you need to learn but you likely know what specific problems you'd like to address. Think about what you want to get out of this training. Pray for wisdom and an open heart to learn with humility.

### The Top-Three List

Take two minutes and write down the top three things you want to get out of this training. Put a star next to the one that is most important to you.

1.

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2.

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3.

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