

TouchPoint

The North American Baptist Conference Women's Connection Newsletter

Fall 2019

Finding I AM

by Jane Kramer
Steamboat Rock, Iowa
Member of the NAB Governing Board

Our summer community bible study would like to thank our NAB women's connection team for recommending "Finding I AM" by Lysa TerKeurst. This is the second study we have completed as recommended by this team and we have been so blessed!

Maggie Brown, a young mom from our study shared: "The day (page 90) which spoke to me most was regarding John 21, where Peter and Jesus have such an interesting exchange. I have wondered why Jesus keeps asking Peter if he loves Him. I loved how Lysa took us through this passage and revealed some truths that had never dawned on me before. Jesus called Peter away from what he had always known. "Jesus is asking Peter to love Him more than the life Peter has known." And Jesus is calling me to love Him more than the life that I know. Jesus

was in the process of changing Peter from a fisherman into a shepherd. What is Jesus trying to change in me? Who is God calling me to be? And who does he want me to reach out to, not just to "catch and release" like a fisherman but to love and care for like a shepherd?"

Our church hosts a community summer bible study for women each year. We offer sessions on Tuesday mornings and another session that evening. This year 93 women signed up and 89 women completed the study by attending four or more of the six sessions. It was a real joy to me to be co-leading with a young mom Dani Olson. It was so inspiring and encouraging to hear her love for Jesus and her transparency in relating how the lessons impacted her. We have seven ladies at each round table with a table leader at each. The leaders were amazing! And our church women love partnering with women from several other denominations.

The table leaders shared that there was so much great discussion on the lessons this year. We really appreciated the format. After our welcome etc. the women would have 20 + minutes to share what they had learned from their weekly lessons. We then watched the videos (approx. 15 minutes), followed by a time of 20-30 minutes to discuss what they had learned from the video, and then had our closing with prayer. (Usually video discussion occurs a week later and so much is lost during that time.) Loved we could share right away!

So many God-moments happened during our study. VBS was also going on during one week and it was so amazing that an old water pump and tent were used for background in our room we used that week as we



talked about Jesus the Living Water and the Tents of Meeting when Jesus proclaimed, "I AM the Light".

Here are a few more quotes from our girls:

"This particular study really spoke to me at this time as it was a great reminder that Jesus is with us through our trials. What a great reminder to intentionally stay connected with Jesus." (Kay)

"One of my biggest lessons is from the 'Bread of Life' week: to not stop hearing the sound of the wheat being ground."

"At first I thought it was just a nice study. Boy, it didn't take long for layers of the onion to fall off revealing some ugly truths I had down deep! I highly recommend it! And for me the week that Lysa shared about the Living Water – made me really stop and think about how many 'broken cisterns' I go to that run me dry when I can have Living Water with Jesus – such a great word picture." (Tamma)

Thank you from Steamboat Rock Baptist in Iowa to the Women's Connection team for your example and encouragement!



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Our Vision

To connect with women of the North American Baptist Conference and help them fulfill their calling.

Our Mission

To connect with women of the North American Baptist Conference, encouraging them in their desire to serve God, and providing them with valuable tools and resources to accomplish what God is calling them to do.

Our Core Values

CALLING AND WORTH

We value the essential role women play in ministry.

QUALITY RESOURCES

We value God's Word and seek resources that are Biblically sound, applicable and accessible.

BROADER CONNECTION

We value supporting the broader vision of the North American Baptist Conference and developing a connection among North American Baptist Conference women.

LEGACY & THE FUTURE

We value the legacy of women who have gone before us and are committed to engaging the next generation.

Connecting in Alberta



In September, the Women's Connection Leadership Team invited the churches in the Alberta Association to meet with members of our team. We are so thankful to Jana Cleverley at Grace Baptist in Calgary and Christine Okken at McKernan Baptist in Edmonton for hosting us. Their kindness and hospitality contributed greatly to the success of these two events.

In Calgary, Alberta, we invited the women in the area churches to a 'Dessert Celebration' of women in ministry and in Edmonton we shared lunch with women in ministry in the local NAB churches. In both locations we had the opportunity to share with one another what God is doing in our lives and churches. We spent beautiful moments listening and encouraging one another through fellowship and prayer. Our team was also able to share about the overall vision of the NAB and the vital role that women play in it. It was a blessing to see the hearts of women warm up as we talked about participation in the mission of God. We believe God is starting to move the women of the NAB in a new direction!

As usual, one of the highlights of our luncheon was the "Table Talk." Meaningful

conversations, important connections, and new friendships were born here. Women shared their personal struggles both in life and ministry; we shared our stories of success and accomplishments with many challenges; and then we ministered to one another in prayer, with caring concern, but also with a few laughs!

We ended our time together committing to make efforts to be more intentional in the ways we connect with one another. We are grateful to God and the NAB churches for allowing us visit the Alberta Association and connect women in ministry.

The Women's Connection Leadership Team has been blessed to meet with women in four of the NAB 12 regions (NorCal, British Columbia, Eastern and Alberta). Our desire is to meet with women in ministry in our NAB churches to encourage and hear from them how we can come alongside them as they serve.



Psalm 78:6-8

New Living Translation (NLT)

⁶ so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born—and they in turn will teach their own children.

⁷ So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands.

⁸ Then they will not be like their ancestors— stubborn, rebellious, and unfaithful, refusing to give their hearts to God.

Book Links



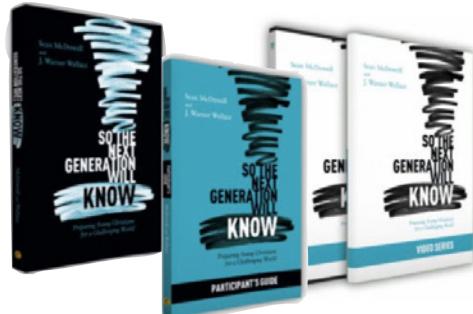
So the Next Generation Will Know – Preparing Young Christians for a Challenging World

Sean McDowell and J. Warner Wallace

Whether you're a Christian parent, youth leader, or educator who works with Generation Z, this book was written for you. As powerful ideas in our increasingly secular culture shape more of this generation, trusted leaders must share what they know about Jesus in ways that will reach them. But how? Backed by the latest research and first hand experience, this powerful book shows how to share biblical truth with a generation that desperately needs to hear it in a way that draws them in instead of pushing them away.

Written by two youth influencers and experts on Generation Z, Sean McDowell, Ph.D., and J. Warner Wallace, So the Next Generation Will Know is an extraordinarily practical and relatable guide for anyone concerned with ensuring the next generation understands and embraces a biblical worldview.

"So the Next Generation Will Know is a clarion call for youth influencers to be intentional and strategic in how they minister to students today. Based on in-depth research and personal experience,



Sean and J. Warner offer practical strategies for parents, youth workers, and teachers to equip this new generation with biblical truth.

If you are looking to have lasting impact on young people today, this book will be your indispensable guide."

—Doug Fields, veteran youth pastor, author of Purpose-Driven Youth Ministry

Taught by the authors, this companion participant's guide to the eight-part video series walks small groups through ways to meaningfully engage with Generation Z, as well as convey the relevance of a Christian worldview in today's culture.



Share Your Blessing Compassion Project

Thanks to all who have been praying for our trips to deliver shoes. We have just traveled to Sierra Tarahumara. One more trip to Sierra Purepecha in December.

— Paco Damien



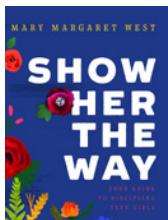
Books to Help You Point Girls to Christ

LifeWay Girls specializes in providing resources that help you disciple middle and high school aged girls. Our Bible studies and books are great for classroom settings, small groups, or even mentoring relationships.



**LifeWay
GIRLS**

Not sure where to start? Reach out to our LifeWay Girls Team at girls.ministry@lifeway.com



Show Her the Way

Mary Margaret West

Where you lead, she will follow.

Today's teen girls are facing more

pressure than any generation before. We want so much to help them navigate the barrage of cultural messages coming at them every day and show them how to filter what they hear, see, and experience through the truth of God's Word. But where do we start?

Perhaps you've felt God tugging at your heart to disciple teen girls, either one-on-one or in the context of a group in your church or community, but all you see are barriers: *How can I disciple someone else if I've never been discipled? How do I know where to start? What do we do when we meet together?* Or if you've been discipling girls for a while, you may be asking how you can take it to the next level.

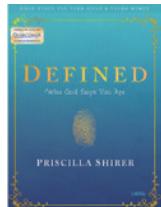
Show Her the Way will guide you along a journey that may have simply begun with good intentions and a heart to serve but has the potential to lead girls into a lifelong relationship with Jesus Christ and a future of ministering to others.

You are called to disciple the next generation of young women. Whether you're a girls' minister, a volunteer leader in your church, a mom, or simply someone who cares and wants to make a difference, let this book serve as a trusted guide to discipling the teen girls in your life.

Defined

When you introduce yourself to someone for the first time, you have an opportunity to define yourself. You disclose your name, profession, and interests. These factors help our culture define us, but are those answers enough? There are bigger questions our culture can't answer: who am I? and why do I matter? And before asking, who am I? you must first answer, who is God?

The Scripture teaches that we are all made in the image of God. We do not define ourselves—the Creator does. We were all created to be known and loved by God. Once the answers are clear, we can move forward and discover all God has called us to be. (8 sessions)



Defined Who God Says You Are

Priscilla Shirer

Girls are constantly trying to answer that question. It can be overwhelming, especially when there are so many influences trying to provide the answer—both positive and negative.

The only way we really know who we are is by knowing the One who has the authority to define us. *Defined* for teen girls—written by Priscilla Shirer—is an 8-session Bible study that will examine spiritual truths from Ephesians and help students have a better understanding of God-given identity through Christ.

There are versions available for teen guys and one for adults.



Jude

Jackie Hill Perry

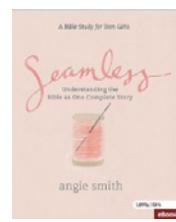
This seven-session Bible study for teen girls will lead students to see God's Word as an anchor in today's ever-shifting cultural climate. Girls will see that we—God's beloved church—must do the necessary work of contending for the faith in a world of unbelief and that as we do, the Lord will keep us from falling into the same deception. *Available for women.*



We Saved You a Seat: Finding and Keeping Lasting Friendship

Lisa-Jo Baker

We saved you a seat looks at the heart of lasting friendships, using Jesus as the ultimate role model. It reminds girls that friendship takes vulnerability, service and forgiveness. It's learning to exercise joy instead of jealousy and encouragement instead of envy. In friendship, sometimes we need to be willing to go first – whether we're the new girl in a circle of friends or we've been a part of the same group since elementary school. *Available for women.*



Seamless

Angie Smith

This study covers major events from the Bible, tying them together into the greater story of scripture. The goal is to lead girls to gain an understanding of God's overarching story that runs from Genesis to Revelation. Each session features people, places, and promises including maps, general Bible facts, word studies, and key information that ties all of Scripture together into the seamless truth of the gospel message. *Also available for women*

Day of Prayer

Monday, November 4, 2019

Baptist Women's World Day of Prayer is a beautiful demonstration of the community shared by Baptist women across the world. There are two essential active ingredients to every Day of Prayer experience: praying and giving.

As we unite with our Baptist sisters across the world we are committing to uphold and support one another in prayer for we know that great and mighty things come into being because of it. We belong together, and this is one way we can stand together in solidarity.

The offerings during the Day of Prayer are essential because they provide the much needed funds for the connecting ministries of the



BWA Women's Department and Continental Unions, including the Day of Prayer projects. We know that when Baptist women come together in Christ, God creates shalom for everyone because we are encouraging each other to be all that we can be in Christ!

For a deeper understanding of the global reach of Day of Prayer, be sure to check out www.facebook.com/

BWAWomen'sDepartment especially on and following the Day of Prayer.

There you will see photos of some of the thousands of your global sisters who participate in this experience along with you. Send your photos to be added to the page as well!

Your event can be held for an hour or two or for a full day or weekend. There are a variety of materials to choose from in this program guide. Use what you feel would be best suited for the women in your context.

See www.bwawd.org/2019-DOP-Extras for promotional poster, photos for use with power point, our theme song sound track, history of Day of Prayer, videos and other resources.



**CONNECT
WITH US**

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