

## When Life is Not Great

My heart sank as I read the news: a dear friend's grandchild was/is critically ill.

We walk through the days of our lives grateful for God's goodness, seeing evidence of His love and care all around us. And yet, our journeys take us to a time when life tumbles in. It was good for me to be reminded of the ways God is good even when life is not:



1. We can be assured that nothing happening on this earth is beyond His knowing and having the circumstance under His control. *"I brought you from the ends of the earth; I called you from its farthest corners and said, 'You are My servant.' I did not reject you, but chose you. Do not be afraid - I am with you!"* ([Good News Translation, Isaiah 41:9-10a](#))
2. When we are weak....it is His chance to pour His power into our inner beings that much more. *"My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness."* ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)) God's grace is sufficient for each one of His servants. We can know from His word and His promise that He will bestow His grace upon us and fill us up as we are in need.
3. When life tumbles in.....I am reminded that His thoughts and ways are not mine. I am reminded that He is working, even amidst my non-understanding. [Isaiah 55](#) reassures us that *"....as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts."* He teaches me to let go and let Him. He wants to see me leaning into Him, rather than leaning into my own reasoning. Fact is, God works in ways that are not revealed to me. And when I am puzzled, hurting and frustrated, believing these words is the best thing to do.
4. Now. We ask and pray for...now. And yet we wait. Is that God not answering my prayer? Is God hearing me? Does God see inside my mind and heart?... *"He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end."* ([Ecclesiastes 3:11](#)) In His truth, He explains,...no one can fathom. I must wait with Him. I must listen and hear what He says in silence.
5. Faithful: God is. I am, at times, and I am not, at times. But, with God....He is always faithful. It is a part of who God is. God never wavers. He is the constant even when our circumstances throw us into chaos. Visualize a mountain that cannot be moved. And stand on that.
6. Pain....to be turned into glory to Him? For us to turn to Him in our suffering, God moves in ways we can never imagine. When we cry out to Him, we are seeking Him and inviting Him into our pain. He allows the pain to be shared, He is carrying us even though we feel weak. But never alone. Never alone.
7. God=strong. Me=weak. *"But he has said to me, 'My grace is sufficient for you, for*

my power is perfected in weakness." ([2 Corinthians 12:9](#)) We are weak anytime life does not go our way. We wrestle, grit our teeth, shout, cry out, proclaim aloud our human reasoning, become frustrated and angry. Then come the words: Child, surrender. Give it up. I can do the impossible. "The Lord will fight for you; you need only be still." ([Exodus 14:14](#)) It is in our silence, not trying to control our preferred outcomes, that God acts in profound ways.

Blue skies and rainbows?? Not a true picture of life here on earth. God knows the troubles of our earthly lives and of the evil we must live amongst. Many trials test the very fabric of our inmost beings. Yet.....God is still God. He is still Ruler. He is still good. And He still does good in my life.

### **Reflect and Respond**

- Start thinking of unique qualities God has given you instead of finding fault.
- Would others see you as contented or dissatisfied with your life circumstances?
- How grateful is your heart?



### **When Life is Not Great was written by Jennifer Lawson -**

Jenny is a retired administrator in public schools. She currently works in the private sector as founder of Lawson Life, Academic, and Career Coaching. Having served as missionaries in Brazil, Jenny and her husband Terry love to be involved in global and local mission efforts. Topping their list of fun things to do is hanging out with their five grandchildren!

Contact [Jenny](#) if you would like to become involved with short-term missions.

*Past issues: Fayetteville Women's Devotional eNewsletter*

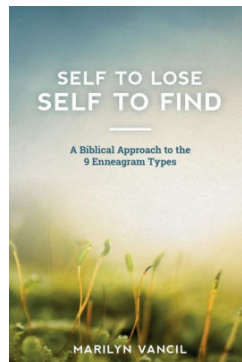
## Women's Fall Studies

Tuesdays | September 10 - December 10

Morning Session 9:00-11:00 am | Evening Session 6:30-8:30 pm

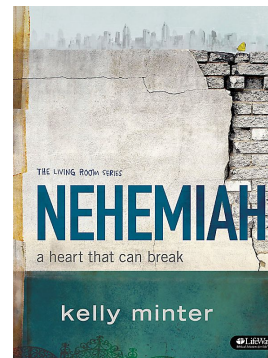
To register for a women's study [CLICK HERE](#)

*(Childcare is available for both sessions upon registration)*



### **The Enneagram Perspective: A Pathway to Spiritual Growth, Compassion, & Self-Knowledge**

The Enneagram is a personality theory comprised of nine different types, or nine different ways of seeing the world. The goal is self-



### **Nehemiah: A Heart That Can Break**

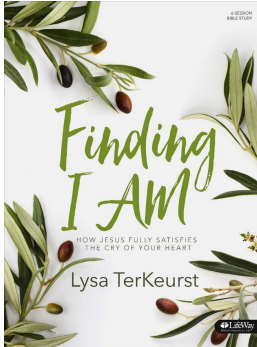
Join us for a video-based study by Kelly Minter through the book of Nehemiah. Nehemiah's heart was so broken for those in need that

awareness and learning how to live out of your authentic self, moving into who God created you to be. As a class, we will be reading the book *Self To Loose, Self To Find* by Marilyn Vancil.

*(Offered Tuesday mornings only)*

he left the comfort of his Persian palace to help them. This study challenges women to let God break their hearts for a hurting, lost world and move them in compassion to lead people to Jesus.

*(Offered Tuesday mornings only)*



What is the deep cry of your heart? The ache in your soul that keeps you up at night? The prayer you keep repeating? Jesus not only cares about this deep, spiritual wrestling, but He also wants to step in and see you through it.

Join us on Tuesday evenings as we explore the seven I AM statements of Jesus found in the Gospel of John. Through this interactive, in-depth study we will be trading feelings of emptiness and depletion for the fullness of knowing who Jesus is like never before.

*(Offered Tuesday evenings only)*

*Sign up today - Space is limited!*

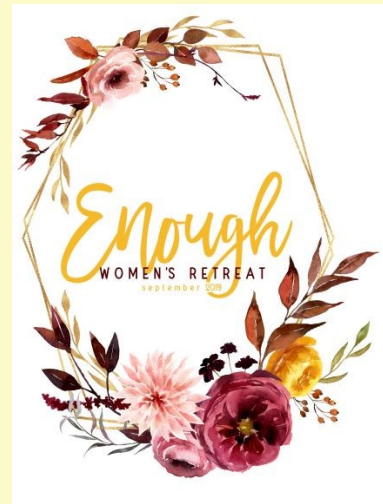
## Fellowship Women's Retreat

**September 27-28**

**5:00pm Friday to 5:00pm Saturday**

**@ New Life Ranch**

**[Register Here](#)**



## DISCOVER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

AUGUST 24TH | 9AM -3PM | LOCATION: FELLOWSHIP FAYETTEVILLE

Spiritual leadership is not just for the few, but for *every* believer when you commit to following Christ. Whether you've never led before, or have been leading for years, this event will ignite, restore, and release you as a spiritual leader. Reach out to others in your sphere of influence and bring them with you for this special one-day, community-wide equipping event. Admission is **FREE** but registration is required.

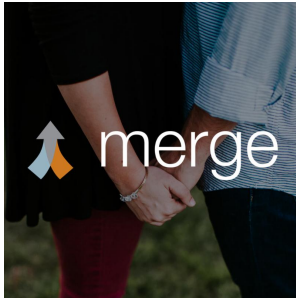
**Sign up [HERE](#) today.**

\*Childcare is available (\$10/per child) until August 14.  
Childcare registration will be available through a link in your event confirmation email.

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# Getting Married?



## **MERGE Premarital Workshops**

**MERGE** is an 8-week, premarital experience offered each year in the Spring, Summer, and Fall, only on the Fellowship Fayetteville campus. These workshops are designed to provide engaged and seriously-dating couples a unique opportunity to learn, seek wisdom, and receive counsel on marriage from a Biblical perspective. Cost is \$85 per couple and space is limited. Signup early and be sure to fill out and submit the required online survey.

### **Fall Session: September 29 - November 17, 2019**

Register [HERE](#) for the Fall 2019 Session  
Registration closes Sunday, September 22

### **Spring Session: February 9 - April 5, 2020**

Register [HERE](#) for the Spring 2020 Session  
Registration closes Sunday, February 2

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## Service Opportunity

If you have administrative skills and enjoy being around people, we would love to put your talents to use as a member of our front office volunteer team at Fellowship Fayetteville. We are currently seeking a front desk volunteer to commit to serving weekly for a **four-hour shift on Wednesdays**, plus one or two "floating" volunteers who can fill in for other weekly volunteers when they are unavailable. Contact: [Ray Wagoner](#), 479-659-3615 or [Vicki Kennedy](#), 479-659-3684.

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## Women's Ministry Team



**MARGO BODISHBAUGH**  
Shepherding Leader



**MELODY COUCH**  
Discipleship Leader



**LORIE MCMILLEN**  
Tuesday Evening Studies



**MARY BETH SIMPSON**  
Tuesday Morning Studies

Want to learn more about Fayetteville Women's Ministry?  
Reach out to one of our team members to learn how you can get plugged in!

[fayettevillewomen@fellowshipnwa.org](mailto:fayettevillewomen@fellowshipnwa.org)

479-659-3684

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Connect with us!



*Please forward this email on to your friends and encourage them to subscribe to our monthly Women's Devotional eNewsletter. To sign up or make changes to eNewsletter subscriptions from Fellowship Fayetteville visit **[subscribe.fellowshipfayetteville.org](https://subscribe.fellowshipfayetteville.org)**.*