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Women's Devotional eNewsletter | February 2019

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## Offenses and Forgiveness

*"Jesus said to his disciples: "Things that cause people to stumble are bound to come, but woe to anyone through whom they come."*

[Luke 17:1](#)

“Offenses”. Even the word makes you bite your lip when you say it. It isn’t even an attractive word rolling off the tongue. It means to hurt, harm and snub.

Two Biblical characters come to mind when the topic of being offended is discussed: David and Joseph. These men were among the most beloved men whose lives were preserved in the Bible. Yet, their lives were certainly not devoid of trials, tribulations, and that daunting word: offenses. Both of these men were offended by people they were devoted to.



David’s injustices came through his mentor, King Saul and his own son, Absalom, who both, out of envy, tried to kill him. David refused to retaliate because he loved these men. But, he loved the Lord more and chose to leave vengeance to Him. [1 Samuel 18:1-18](#), [2 Samuel 15-19](#)

What about Joseph? He certainly had the “right” to be angry with his brothers. He had been placed in the position to get even with them for betrayal. But instead, he chose freedom. Freedom for himself and his family. [Genesis 37:12-36](#)

Let’s think about our own lives. Those for whom we care deeply, can hurt us deeply. The more we expect from those we care about, the harder they fall when they let us down. We could lick our wounds and let bitterness grow deep, entangling our hearts like a wild, unwanted weed. This is exactly what the enemy wants us to do, and take the bait on the deadly, destructive path to captivity. But there is One who can get us out of that captivity.

The best way to avoid captivity is let God be our defender. We don’t need to defend ourselves. He’s better at it anyway. His timing is perfect and methods more impactful. He will avenge His people. [Romans 12:19](#)

No matter how big or small, it is better to let go of the offense because Jesus has forgiven ALL of “our” sins. [1 John 1:9](#)

Now, I guess we have to turn the tables here. WARNING! This may sting!

Offenses go both ways, even with the best of humanity.

- David offended one of his officers by sleeping with his wife. He chose idleness and carnality over obedience. [2 Samuel 11](#)
- Joseph offended his brothers with prideful boasting of his favored position in his father's eyes. [Genesis 37:5-11](#)

[Ephesians 1:7-8](#) remind us that "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding..."

Offenses are toxic, no matter who is at fault. Therefore, may we choose forgiveness and grace.

***Reflect and Respond:***

- Have you ever been offended or hurt by a friend, family member, the church or business associate? How did you respond? Have you forgiven them?
- Have you ever offended anyone? Did you make an effort to reconcile?
- Take time now to thank our Father for forgiving us and for sending His son to take on our transgressions.



***Offenses and Forgiveness was written by Mary Jane Heger and Stephanie A. Brandon***

Mary Jane (*pictured, left*) is a Northwest Arkansas native and has been married to her husband Greg for 37 years. She has been a Bible study leader for 15 years. She and Greg helped start the Samaritan Fellowship Church in Springdale 13 years ago, and has been serving as Team Leader in the Food Pantry Division there ever since.

Mary Jane's heart is to help women find and grow in their love of Jesus and to help the clients at Samaritan Community Center.

In her leisure she loves to travel with her husband, spend time with her children and grandchildren, enjoy beautiful beaches, and being at the lake with friends and family.

Stephanie, (*pictured, right*) has been married to her husband Bill for 34 years. They have lived in Fayetteville 30 years and have two grown sons. She was a discussion leader for Bible Study Fellowship for 15 years and participated in FBC Women's Ministry for ten years. When her boys were in school she was a part of Mom's in Touch Ministry.

Stef enjoys traveling with her husband, casual writing, and being goofy with family and friends and her dogs. She believes her "calling" is to care for each of her family members as they need her.

*Past issues: Fayetteville Women's Devotional  
eNewsletter*

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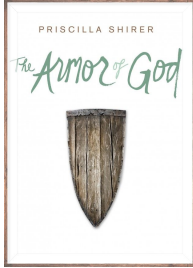
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## Spring Studies Have Begun!

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Childcare is available during both the morning and evening sessions!

***The Armor of God***  
**Tuesdays | thru April 30**



## **Mornings 9:00 - 11:00am or Evenings 6:30 - 8:30pm**

All day, every day, an invisible war rages around you - unseen, unheard, yet felt throughout every aspect of your life. A devoted, devilish enemy seeks to wreak havoc on everything that matters to you: your heart, your mind, your marriage, your children, your relationships, your resilience, your dreams, your destiny.

But his battle plan depends on catching you unaware and unarmed. If you're tired of being pushed around and caught with your guard down, this study is for you.

The enemy always fails miserably when he meets a woman dressed for the occasion. *The Armor of God* by Priscilla Shirer is more than merely a Biblical description of the believer's inventory. It is an action plan for putting it on and developing a personalized strategy to secure victory.

### **Vintage Gals**

#### ***Living Beyond Yourself***

#### **Tuesday Mornings | 9:00 - 11:00am**

This Beth Moore study is a continuation from fall for the Vintage Gals, but new women are invited to jump in for the remaining weeks.

### **Newcomers**

#### **Tuesdays | Evenings 6:30 - 8:30pm**

This Newcomers group is open to any women new to the Fayetteville area who would like to meet other women and make new relationships through the study of God's Word. This group will be joining the Tuesday evening large group to study *The Armor of God* by Priscilla Shirer, and then will break off into their own small group for study time.

Questions about women's studies?

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

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## **Women's Ministry Team**

Want to learn more about Fayetteville Women's Ministry?

Shoot us a question for one of our team to learn how you can get plugged in!

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



**MARGO BODISHBAUGH**  
Shepherding Leader



**MELODY COUCH**  
Discipleship Leader



**LORIE MCMILLEN**  
Tuesday Evening Studies



**MARY BETH SIMPSON**  
Tuesday Morning Studies

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## **Resources**

### **Discipleship for Women | [Learn more & enroll](#)**

As a Christ follower today, we strive to incorporate discipleship into our everyday relationships. It is not just evangelizing, but mentoring:



a spiritually older woman in Christ (discipler) teaches and models how to live a godly faith-filled life to a spiritually younger woman (disciplee). Formats may vary with each relationship, but Christ and the Bible remain at the center with spiritual maturity and reproduction the goal.

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## Service Opportunities

### Weekday Front Office Help

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 team at Fellowship Fayetteville. We are currently seeking office volunteers for Thursdays and Fridays to serve in four hour shifts. Contact: [Ray Wagoner](#), 479-878-2999.

### Serve One

At Fellowship we encourage our members to Worship One/Serve One, meaning attend a corporate celebration service and then volunteer to serve during another service so others may worship. Many team positions are currently available on Sunday mornings. Current urgent needs include Door Greeters (Connections) and Hospitality Team (Worship). Or choose from additional areas to serve including media, worship choir, prayer, FayetteKids, One2One, and prayer. Visit [serve.fellowshipfayetteville.org](http://serve.fellowshipfayetteville.org) to find your fit.

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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. It is 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.

**Spring Session: February 10 - April 7, 2019**

**Summer Session: July 7 - August 25, 2019**

Signup now, and be sure to fill out and submit the online survey.

Register [HERE](#) and search by entering the keyword **MERGE**

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*Connect with us!*



Fellowship Fayetteville Women's Ministry | 479-659-3684  
[fayettevillewomen@fellowshipnwa.org](mailto:fayettevillewomen@fellowshipnwa.org)

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