

# WOMEN'S MINISTRY

## fayetteville

February 2020

## What Motivates You

Motivation has not been my forte lately.

As I suspected, I have found writing this devotional to be challenging and rather daunting. I felt I was being hypocritical encouraging others to be motivated when I have lacked motivation for everything. Some days it's all I can do is get out of bed. I don't get dressed or leave my house for weeks at a time. That being confessed, how dare I have the audacity to tell anyone how they should be motivated.

I hadn't yet finalized my mother's estate when my brother, Rick, my only sibling, died suddenly and unexpectedly. I held his hand as he breathed his last and drifted into eternity. Life as I had known it changed forever.

Since that day, the things I used to enjoy seem quite blasé. I had to be reminded to eat. Walking to the curb to retrieve the mail became a significant task. The smallest of activities were paralyzing chores. I had the focus of a fruit fly and couldn't spend time with God. The only thing I wanted to do was get in my bed and pull the covers over my head, which I did.

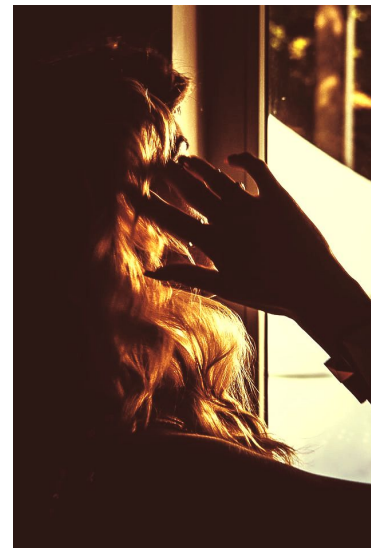
Then one evening I was forced to leave my bed to go to yet another bed: the ER. My pulse was over 189 and would not come down. My heart was working overtime due to grief. Two trips to the ER in one week, which should have been a wake-up call, still did nothing to motivate me. I was stuck so deeply in my grief; I wasn't afraid to die.

In stepped my husband, two sons, and best friends.

They told me how much they loved and needed me. Their unconditional love validated my loss and allowed me to grieve. They saw me at my VERY WORST and loved me through it with their VERY BEST. Each person played a unique role. Words were few but focused and genuine.

The people the Lord sent inspired me to claw my way from the pit of grief. Rick had been my best friend my entire life. They knew it was not going to be a quick fix, but they were willing to be patient. They lent me their faith and hope when mine was too weak to stand alone.

This past year has been difficult. Yet, exceptionally sweet. I have seen God's hand in the smallest of ways. A phone call, text, note, hug, a Sonic Cherry Coke Zero...right when I needed it most. Each tiny act of kindness gave me strength and motivation to take one more step out of the pit.



But let's go back to the original question: What motivates me?

My answer would unequivocally be: I was motivated by the Lord and people who love me. God sending true friends and a loving family to pour out His love and hope gave me the inspiration I needed to “do life” again. They were like manna from heaven, nourishing me in the ways I needed. God continues to heal me as I regain motivation to move forward.

We all go through seasons in the miry pit, but we don't have to stay there. Thankfully, God has a different plan. The key is coming out on the other side having had our faith strengthened, and realizing God is Sovereign and nothing takes Him by surprise.

I know He will give me the opportunity to help pull someone out of their pit the way the people in my life helped me out of mine... no grand gestures, just one tiny step at a time.

### **Reflect and Respond**

- What or who motivates you?
- Have you ever felt such grief or sorrow you almost lost hope and motivation for life?
- Did the Lord send people to lend you their faith and walk along side of you?
- Have you ever been the one sent to help someone? Would you be willing to be that person?
- Some verses to ponder:
  - [Romans 1:11-12 NIV](#) "I long to see you so that I may impart to you some spiritual gift to make you strong — that is, that you and I may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith."
  - [Isaiah 41:6 NIV](#) "they help each other and say to their companions, "Be strong!"
  - [Psalm 30:5 NIV](#) "For his anger lasts only a moment, but his favor lasts a lifetime; weeping may stay for the night, but rejoicing comes in the morning."



### **What Motivates You was written by Stefanie Brandon with Mary Jane Heger**

Mary Jane (pictured, left) is a Northwest Arkansas native and has been married to her husband Greg for 38 years. She has been a Bible study leader for 16 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.

Stefanie, (pictured, right) has been married to her husband Bill for 35 years. They have lived in Fayetteville for over 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.

# Women's Spring Studies

*It's not too late to sign-up!*

Tuesdays | now through April 28

Choose from morning or evening sessions | 9:00 am - 11:00 am or 6:30 pm - 8:00 pm

**Limited childcare space available upon registration & pre-payment.**

Contact [Halee Campbell](#) with questions regarding kidsTIME.

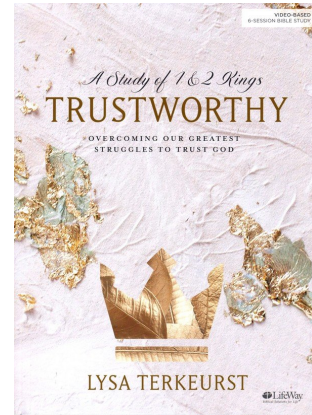
## ***Trustworthy: Overcoming Our Greatest Struggles to Trust God***

**A study of I and II Kings by Lysa Terkeurst**

Are you exhausted trying to keep everything under control because you fear God won't come through? This study will help us loosen the grip we have on trying to control people and circumstances, identify our own trust issues with God, and find relief from fear and doubt about how things might turn out.

*Offered during both the Tuesday morning and Tuesday evening sessions. Purchase your study guide online.*

*Approximately \$16.00 plus tax, s/h.*



## ***Personal Bible Study 1: How to study the Bible*** **A Fellowship Core Training Series**

It was said of Ezra that he "devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord..." The Psalmist declared, "I delight in your decrees; I will not neglect your word." Every believer has the duty and delight of knowing the liberating truth of Scripture. But how do you begin? What do you do? This six-session class will help you get started by teaching basic principles of self-guided, inductive Bible study. *Offered*

*Tuesday Mornings only. Purchase your study guide on the first day of class for \$5.00.*



[Register Here](#)

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## Discipleship Training

As Christians we are called to not only learn about but also live out the teachings of Christ. Discipling or being discipled plays a huge part in being able to do that successfully.

If you are a woman desiring to pour into the lives of other women, then make plans to join us for the next 3-session Discipleship Training scheduled for March 1, 8, and 15.



[Register Here](#)

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# ONWARD



Hey ladies... mark your calendars for Monday, April 20!

Our next ONWARD event for women in their 20's and 30's is set for that evening at Fellowship Fayetteville.

Come meet up with other women in your own season of life and be encouraged!

Watch for more event and registration details in the March issue of our women's eNewsletter.

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## Fayetteville CR

Celebrate Recovery is a Biblical and balanced program that helps us overcome our hurts, hang-ups, and habits. We all have issues that may be interfering with our fellowship with God and others. This includes, but is not restricted to, struggling with addiction. All are welcome!

Visit Celebrate Recovery on Friday nights at Fellowship Fayetteville or find a women's step study to begin pursuing the freedom of real life in Jesus Christ and celebrate the recovery only He can bring through His people and His Word. Click [HERE](#) to visit the Celebrate Recovery website for more information!



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## Service Opportunities

### EC Volunteer Openings

- Fellowship Fayetteville's Early Childhood Team is looking for volunteers to serve once a week cleaning rooms in preparation for weekend services. Pick the day and time and bring a friend to help us keep our rooms clean and our children healthy. Contact [Gretchen Friesen](#) for more information.

### Join the Front Desk Team!

- 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 Mondays or 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 for more information.

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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).*