

WOMEN'S MINISTRY

fayetteville

January 2020

The Woods in Winter



It is a peaceful morning in my woods. The only sounds are the different birds at the feeders and the dew dripping in the eaves. There is patchy fog in the treetops that seems to muffle sounds...even as it amplifies them. I could stay out here all day, wrapped in a quilt, with my coffee and my Lord. I love the woods in winter. This is Elohim's rest-time for His creation – and for me. The gardens and beds have been put to sleep and the holidays are packed up for another year.

As I look out back towards the woods, I can see all the bare branches swaying in the wind and I know the promise of new life is just below the surface – awaiting spring. But, for now, there is a time of rest and reflection.

Winter in the woods allows me to see things that are hidden in the other seasons by the beauty around me. I can see far back into the woods that are now open and transparent. There is a special beauty in the intricate framework of the bare limbs and branches. Each variety is different in its growth pattern. Some are tall and straight as they reach for the life-giving sunshine, while others are twisted and curving, sometimes even growing down toward the ground before once again turning toward the light. Often, I can see a reason for the twist and turn. Sometimes it is another tree in the way – or an injury to a limb. Other times the reason is not apparent. All this is hidden when there are leaves on the trees! Only in the winter do the forces that shape the tree's structure become evident. Winter in the woods lets me see much that has been hidden.

When I look at the bare trees, I realize they are a picture of our lives. Some have lived a very straight, upright life before Him. I have friends who have traveled before Him all their lives and sought His Light. Their branches are beautiful and upright – to be admired and emulated. Others are formed and molded by adverse circumstances beyond their control, and they must continually twist and fight to seek His life-giving Light. God creates a very special beauty in their twisted limbs. Many of us find ourselves at times heading away from His will only to turn back and search for His Light again and again.

As I grow older, into the winter of my life, I can more readily appreciate what is underneath. As my 'leaves' fall away I know I am not a perfect specimen! My life has not always been spent seeking 'outward' and 'upward'. My focus has not always been on my Lord and on others. I have many branches that have turned 'inward' – toward my own selfish interests. Sometimes, they have also turned 'down' seeking darkness and away from the Light. In this 'winter' of my life, my desire is to be more open and transparent to those around me.... for my growth to be out and up toward His Light.

God's people are like His trees. When we are viewed in the summer of our lives, we make a

beautiful picture of His Love. It takes the winter to show how He has formed each of us in different ways, and how He uses all of us to create the unity of His Church.

I pray for each of you to know and understand that God is creating beauty in your life as you are shaped by His hand in every circumstance.

Thank You, Abba, for the blessings you shower upon me and the understanding You give me as I watch Your beautiful Creation. I long for the day when I will see clearly what now is only a shadow. (1Corinthians 13:12)

Colossians 3:1-4 (NET) "Therefore, if you have been raised with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Keep thinking about things above, not things on the earth, for you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God.

Reflect and Respond

- Where is your focus in this season of your life? (Matthew 6:33)
- What do you see when the leaves have fallen from your 'tree'?
- Do you see winter as a time of discovery? ...or merely a time to be endured?
- Some verses to ponder:
 - Psalm 27:8
 - Psalm 119:10
 - 2 Corinthians 4:16-18

***The Woods in Winter* was written by Cathi Cody -**

Cathi is known by many names: wife to her high school sweetheart, Carl; Mom to her children; Cece to her grands; sister; Master Gardener; and Butterfly Nanny. But the name she values most is Daughter of the King. Her Elohim has given her a love of His creation and blessed her with special places where she may observe His world and be taught by Him. She is passionate about His word and loves sharing it. Her vocation is teaching and her calling for the last 15+ years is to teach women about her Lord and Savior.



Past issues: Fayetteville Women's Devotional eNewsletter

Women's Spring Studies

Begin Tuesday, January 28, 2020

Meeting in the Fellowship FayetteKids Theaters and Classrooms

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

Limited childcare spaces available upon registration & pre-payment.

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

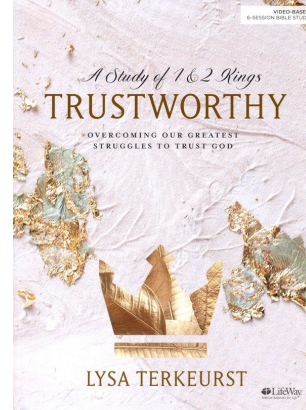
Trustworthy: Overcoming Our Greatest Struggles to Trust God

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.



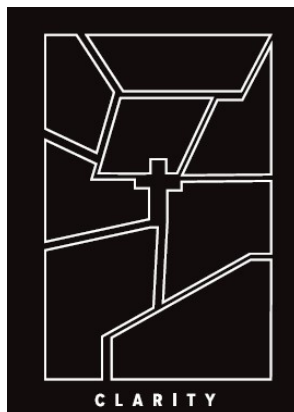
Personal Bible Study 1: How to study the Bible **A Fellowship Core Training Series**

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](#)

Clarity 2020



Commencing with Advent 2019 all Fellowship congregations will begin a teaching series called [Clarity](#). This year-long study, following the Christian Calendar, has been created to help our church see Jesus more clearly and experience Him more deeply. The Fellowship Staff has created a Clarity Book that is currently available for purchase at the Information Desk in the Worship Foyer for \$5.00. We encourage each participant in the series to have their own copy of this great resource. It will parallel the congregational teaching series with devotionals, reflection questions, prayers, daily Scripture readings, and seasonal discipleship activities for families. We invite you to join us in personally engaging with this study throughout the year and encouraging everyone in your small group to do the same.

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!

Discover Fellowship Fayetteville

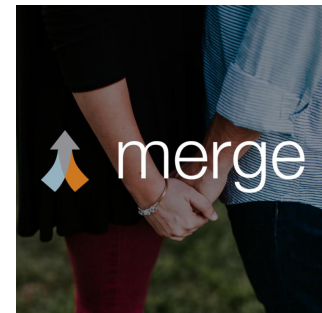
Discover Fellowship is a 9-week membership experience created to help you learn more about our heart and mission, and find out where and how God wants you to get plugged into Fayetteville Community. Register by clicking on the button below to sign up for the next session of Discover that begins January 12!

[Register Here](#)

Getting Married?

MERGE Premarital Workshops

MERGE is an 8-week, premarital experience offered each year in the Spring, Summer, and Fall. 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. Sign up early and be sure to fill out and submit the required online survey.



Spring Session: February 9 - April 5, 2020

Register [HERE](#) for the Spring 2020 Session
taking place on the Fellowship Fayetteville Campus
Registration closes Sunday, February 2

Stay tuned for registration information for additional 2020 sessions!

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 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.

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
479-659-3684

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://www.fellowshipfayetteville.org).