

Lakewood Park Women's Ministry:

Jesus said, "As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you. Abide in my love" John 15:9

Summer can be filled with all kinds of great activity. As we plan our days, lets make a unified effort to include God, and "put on" the character of Christ. Let's encourage each other to walk and talk with Him daily through prayer, Scripture reading, meditation, and listening to Jesus. God is the one who does the work in our lives, but we need to be intentional with the time He has given us; cooperating with His process of growth in us. If you desire accountability, I encourage you to call a sister in Christ and ask to meet together this summer. Life is meant to be experienced together. "A cord of three strands is not easily broken." Ecclesiastes 4:12

Kari Harvey - Women's Ministry Director kharvey@lakewoodpark.org

*RECOMMENDED BOOKS, DEVOTIONALS, APPS, AND PODCASTS FROM SOME LADIES OF LAKEWOOD PARK:

Breathing Room, a 28 Day Devotional for Women by Sandra Stanley

Don't Waste your Life by John Piper

Heaven by Randy Alcorn

It's just You and Me Lord: Prayers for a Woman's Life by Marion Stroud

If You Only Knew: My Unlikely, Unavoidable Story of Becoming Free by Jamie Ivey

New Morning Mercies, a daily devotional by Paul David Tripp

Praying Through Scripture, A Women's Journal by Kim Melinick

Resolved: 10 Ways to Stand Strong and live what you believe by Lina Abujamra

Seated with Christ, Living Freely in a Culture of comparison by Heather Holleman

Streams in the Desert, 366 Daily Devotional Readings by LB Cow man

UnChristian: What a New Generation Really Thinks about Christianity, and Why it Matters by David Kinnaman

Unseduced and Unshaken by Rosalie de Rosset

What your Heart Needs for the Hard Days: 52 Encouraging Truths to Hold on To by Holley Gerth

The Quiet Place, Daily Devotional Readings by Nancy Leigh DeMoss

Apps: First 5 - Proverbs 31 Ministry, PrayerMate, The Bible in 90 Days, On Track Devotions

Podcasts: Revive our Hearts, In Touch Ministries. The MOPS ministry is listening to "God centered mom" podcast this summer and meeting for discussion (Contact Sara Hathaway for more info)

**these are simply recommendations from other women, but not necessarily LPBC sponsored / endorsed*

UPCOMING:



**Let's meet up on the first day of summer!
June 21, 6:30pm: At Ceballos Mexican Grill in Auburn ~ RSVP**

Fellowship at the Cupbearer Cafe at our "Crochet, Knit, Craft Night" 6:30pm: June 12, July 10, Aug. 14

Women's Prayer at the Cupbearer Cafe, 9am: June 9, July 14, Aug. 11



Follow us on FB and Instagram at "Lakewood Park Women".

For those who attend LPBC we have a private Facebook group called "R.E.A.L Women" for prayer requests. Contact Kari Harvey to be invited to this closed group.

A challenge from an anonymous Lakewood Park sister in Christ:

"Pay attention, listen to me"....do you remember your mother saying this to you? Or have you said it to your children? It was often said with emphasis and you perked up your ears. As a child I was encouraged to obey, but in order to obey, I needed to first listen. In my Christian walk, I need to: Listen to His Word and meditate on His Word. Yet, it does not end there! I must also obey and follow what His Word says. Be a doer of His Word. This is my challenge, at the present time.

God said to Peter, James and John at the transfiguration. "This is My Son, My Chosen One. Listen to Him." (Luke 9:5).

Jesus said: "So why do you keep calling Me 'Lord, Lord' when you don't do what I say. I will show you what it is like when someone comes to Me, listens to My teaching and then follows it." (Luke 6:46,47). **Listen. Take Heed. Pay Attention.**



Do I only hear God's Word? Does my mind wander when it is preached? Do I take God's Word lightly? He is telling me to *PAY ATTENTION! LISTEN TO ME!* He does not stop there; I am to follow what He says. *OBEY* it!

Jesus said, "If you love Me you will keep My commandments" and we show that love by loving one another.

Thank you, fellow sisters in Christ, for sharing that Love for the Lord, and for one another.

It's About Time

One concept that fascinates me is time. As humans we are bound within very strict constraints of time. Most of us have someone we answer to regarding what we are doing with our time, or we're thinking about how we are managing our schedules, or we're stressing over important events that we are waiting on to happen.

God is not bound by time. He exists in every moment that ever has been or ever will be. All at the same time. He is over all, in all and through all. Always.

My daily devotions have repeatedly cautioned me against excessive planning, trying to create and stick to a structured schedule, attempting to force the events of the day into my priorities and perspective, about worrying and fretting over timelines and deadlines. But somehow, I seem to find myself in too much of a hurry to pay attention. So, what is the point of spending time on devotions every morning if my energy and focus are not devoted to this?

Time with God is precious. It is sacred. It is vital. There is no substitute for losing yourself in that intimate,

personal connection, setting everything else aside and letting yourself just be. We are blessed by it and God is honored with the sacrifice of our attention.

So, why is it so difficult? What makes it so hard to bring just ourselves and our most private thoughts to our Lord Jesus? How do we manage to make everything other chore, event, obligation a priority over this? Why would we ever consider relegating God to a lesser status in our lives just because we don't see a convenient way to include Him or fit Him into our busy, hectic, task-filled lives?

Please understand that I am speaking mostly about myself. I have mastered the art of rearranging priorities to meet my own goals. Procrastination is probably one of my most highly developed skills. Any activity that requires my devoted attention, energy and participation is subject to my tendency to put off until I "feel" like doing it.

This is not at all in line with what God wants for us and stands against every reason Jesus sacrificed His life on

our behalf. His action provided us with the most direct connection to the throne room of heaven! We have access to the Holy Father, God of Creation, the Great I Am! Who am I, in this dynamic, to decide my time is more valuable than what He has done for me? How arrogant I must be to treat Him as though He is there for my convenience.

Does any of this strike a chord with you? It is possible that you have trouble seeing beyond your current situation, the limits of your space, the obligations you have made, the burdens of your circumstances or the cost of your past decisions. You may have difficulty seeing how to fit one more thing into a fully packed day. Perhaps you struggle to understand how spending this time with Jesus will have any positive or lasting outcome.

If you've spent time reading God's Word, you're probably aware that His message is pretty clear and direct. Sure, there are some areas that we may struggle to understand, but on the whole, His Word is His love letter of devotion and direction to us. We are His children and He has a ridiculously lavish love for us. Because of this, He yearns for us to know Him, not just about Him, but His character, His power, His grace. He wants to build relationship with us.

If you consider any other important relationship in your life, you remember that it took an investment of your time, energy and attention to make it grow and to sustain it. There was likely some sacrifice involved and a willingness to be available to the other person, even when it wasn't convenient. Relationship with God requires no less.

He has called us to abide with Him. This is a time and attention centered pursuit. The word abide means to remain, continue or stay. Another way of looking at this is to think about dwelling with God. It brings to my mind a sense of permanence and stability. It ignores the need to rush off to another commitment. It invites us to relax, be comfortable, put up our feet and consider that all our other "priorities" may have to wait.

It also has another meaning that I find interesting in the context of a relationship with God. That definition is: "comply with, obey, observe, follow, keep to, hold to, conform to, adhere to, stick to, stand by, act in

accordance with, uphold, heed, accept, go along with, acknowledge, respect, defer to" – according to Google.

According to God, our time belongs to Him, along with everything else we think we have. When He tells us to abide in Him, He is calling us to enjoy the peace of His presence while He works in our lives to teach us what it means to follow Christ. While we abide, remain, and dwell in Him, He is meeting our needs, blessing our souls, comforting our hearts, easing our pain, drawing us closer and changing our view.

I am learning the value of my time is directly affected by the priorities I set. There is just no way to quantify the reward of time spent with our Savior. It is priceless.

BY CJ Eaton



Inspiration Ministries has provided more addresses of ladies who are incarcerated all over the US. If you never heard back from your sent letter and/or if you want to try and connect with a lady this way, please let Kari know. You will be set up with a name, address, and tips with what to say and how to best send letters. For those who have participated, the response has been nothing but pure delight in hearing back from women. This is a great way for us to reach beyond our walls and share the hope of Christ.

