

The background is a solid teal color with faint, stylized leaf patterns in a darker shade of teal. The leaves are arranged in branches, with some pointing towards the top right and others towards the bottom left.

A QUICK GUIDE FOR

Ministry  
to Women

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# Ministry to Women

National Women's Ministries Department  
of the General Council of the Assemblies of God



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## Session One

# WHO ARE THE WOMEN WE MINISTER TO?

**Emily** is a nail tech and a single mom of active little boys. She struggles every week just to put food on the table.

**Amanda** is a twenty-three-year-old single woman who is about to graduate from college. She is fearful about repaying her student loans and the next important steps for her future.

**Marge** just retired and is struggling with depression. She wonders if her life has any value and what is the purpose of living. She is fearful of the future.

**Jane**, an active church member, has been married for twenty years—and no one knows her marriage is falling apart.

**Sarah** is a CFO for a major corporation. She struggles under the weight of enormous responsibilities; Monday she has to report the game-changing drop in revenue to the board.

**Allison** was just diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer, the same disease that took her mother's life when she was just thirty-five years old.

**Kristi** faces the one-year anniversary of the deaths of her husband and son, both killed by a drunk driver.

**M**any women today—such as the women in these examples—either don't have a biblical worldview or are overwhelmed by life's issues—or both. Women must

receive the hope and healing that Jesus offers before they can reach out to others.

## **A BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF MINISTRY TO WOMEN**

As women come into our churches, receive healing, and form healthy relationships, they will be more compassionate in reaching out to other women—increasing the church’s capacity to minister effectively.

Today, more than ever, it’s important for women to receive healing within their church community. The following passage from Ezekiel describes congregations that don’t focus on the concept of healing within the church body. Ezekiel 34:1–10 shows us the condition of sheep who are not shepherded well:

*The word of the LORD came to me: “Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel; prophesy and say to them: ‘This is what the Sovereign LORD says: Woe to you shepherds of Israel who only take care of yourselves! Should not shepherds take care of the flock? You eat the curds, clothe yourselves with the wool and slaughter the choice animals, but do not take care of the flock. You have not strengthened the weak or healed the sick or bound up the injured. You have not brought back the strays or searched for the lost. You have ruled them harshly and brutally. So they were scattered because there was no shepherd, and when they were scattered they became food for all the wild animals. My sheep wandered over all the mountains and on every high hill. They were scattered over the whole earth, and no one searched or looked for them.*

*“Therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: As surely as I live, declares the Sovereign LORD, because my shepherds did not search for my flock but cared for themselves rather than for my flock, therefore, you shepherds, hear the word of the LORD: This is what the Sovereign LORD says: I am against the shepherds and will hold them accountable for my flock. I will remove them from tending*

*the flock, so that the shepherds can no longer feed themselves. I will rescue my flock from their mouths, and it will no longer be food for them.*

In her book *Shepherding a Woman's Heart*, Beverly White Hislop, quoting from this Ezekiel passage, mentions that the sheep are: *scattered, plundered, victims of famine, afraid, objects of scorn, and without hope of rescue.*<sup>1</sup>

This passage further cautions Christians to: *feed the healthy, strengthen the young and the weak, heal and bind up the injured, and search and care for the lost.*

This is exactly the goal of a healthy ministry to women in the local church.



## *A healthy ministry to women will:*

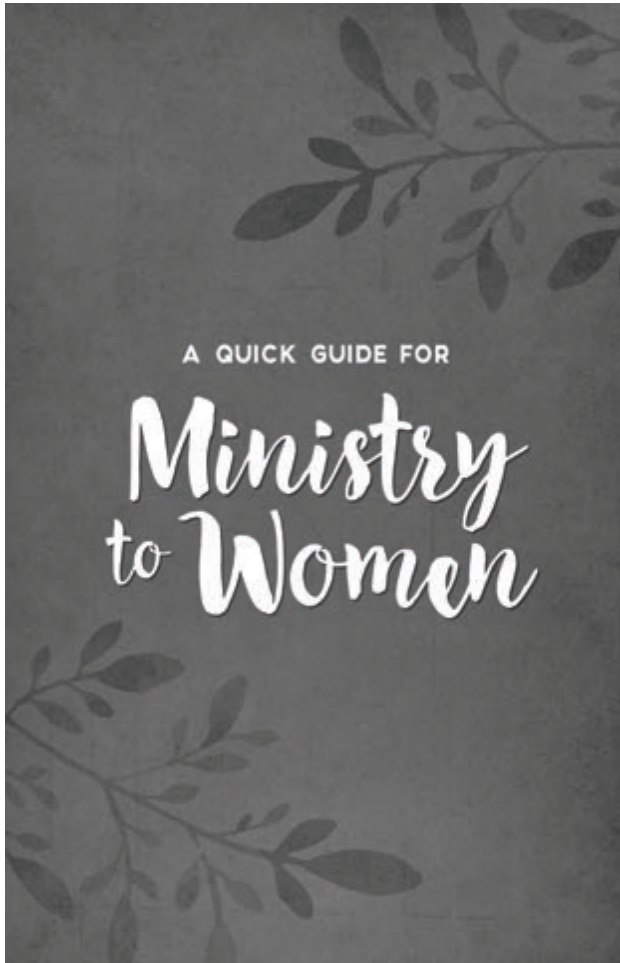
1. FEED THE HEALTHY
2. STRENGTHEN THE YOUNG AND THE WEAK
3. HEAL AND BIND UP THE INJURED
4. SEARCH AND CARE FOR THE LOST

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

1. Why is it crucial that women receive hope and healing for themselves before they participate in other ministries?
2. In which of the four points of a healthy ministry to women is your church doing well? In which of the four points does your church need to improve?

### **ACTION STEPS**

1. Identify a woman you know who needs emotional, physical, or spiritual healing. Pray for insight into ways you can offer her hope.



*For more information about this and other valuable resources visit  
[www.myhealthychurch.com](http://www.myhealthychurch.com)*



**DO YOU WORK WITH WOMEN IN YOUR CHURCH?**

**DO YOU WANT TO TRAIN A MINISTRY TEAM TO WORK WITH YOU?**

**HAVE YOU ASKED YOURSELF ANY OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS?**

- *What are the needs of women?*
- *What is the role of the church in ministering to women?*
- *Am I qualified to lead women?*
- *Where do I start?*
- *What do I do?*
- *How do I do it?*

« *A Quick Guide for Ministry to Women* »

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This easily accessible guide is organized around answers to your most pressing ministry questions. Besides being filled with practical guidance, each of the ten chapters includes discussion questions and action steps for you and your team to complete. Five appendices provide additional information for you to work through with your team—to complete the path to healthy ministry to women!

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