CAPTIVATED

AG WOMEN 2024 | 1 JOHN 4:16



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Ministering to Women 2024

Is there such a thing as a typical woman? I don't think so! Although we share the same gender, we are diverse in many ways. This resource magazine celebrates our uniqueness as we journey together with Jesus.

I am so excited to unpack *Captivated*, our vision and themed resource for 2024. I love this word as it relates to our relationship with the Lord. When I realized His tenacious pursuit of me, and had a revelation of His radical, unconditional love for me, it changed everything. Love captivated me, and now I can declare,

We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love.

1 John 4:16

This year's six-week Bible study has a brand-new format including Scripture memory verses, space for reflection, and other study tools to help you unpack what it means to know God and cultivate an intimate relationship with Him.

Also included are the stories and testimonies of extraordinary women whose lives have been forever transformed by the power of the love of God. These are real women, living real lives, with real struggles who are learning to love and trust Jesus day by day. I pray that their honesty and transparency will inspire, encourage, and captivate you, urging you into greater depths in your relationship with Christ.

Finally, I want to remind you of our why:

AG Women exists to encourage every woman to live a life of devotion to Jesus, to discover her purpose, develop her God-given potential, and dare to become all that God has created for her to be.

I hope that our four core values—leadership, resources, community, and generosity—equip you and the women in your life to grow in these areas, maturing as disciples and followers of Jesus.

Blessings and love,

Nonda Houston AG Women National Director

AG Women exists to encourage every woman to live a life of devotion to Jesus, to discover her purpose, develop her God-given potential and dare to become all that God has created for her to be.

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WOMEN.AG.ORG

AGWomen

@AGwomens#Captivated2024#AGWomen

By Lisa Northway as told to Amy Smith BY FOLLOWING GOD'S CALL AND WALKING IN HIS FAVOR, GARRISON CHAPLAIN MAJOR LISA NORTHWAY OF FORT SILL, OKLAHOMA, HAS BROKEN THE GLASS CEILING MANY TIMES OVER AS A FEMALE CHAPLAIN IN THE US ARMY.

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Who Chose Me

"Even I wouldn't have chosen me," Lisa chuckles as she recalls promotions she's received over the last three decades.

Growing up in Modesto, California, and attending Bethel Assembly of God, Lisa was captivated by the stories her Missionettes leader would tell of missionaries in Panama who would rush to the mailbox in hopes of finding a letter from the United States.

"That grew my curiosity and awareness that there were people who lived far from home without a lot of support systems in their remote locations," Lisa says. "And that gave me a heart for people who were away from home for the first time."

After high school, she joined the College & Career group while attending Global Outreach Bible Institute at Calvary Temple in Modesto. When soldiers and sailors visited the group while home on leave, Lisa was heartbroken by reports of negligence by their chaplains.

"I was saddened when they would say that the chaplains didn't even help them," she remembers, "and that they actually hindered them at times from trying to gather for a Bible study."

At the time, Lisa's only encounter with a chaplain was a stepuncle who had served in Vietnam. Although she recalls only one visit with him while growing up, she insists, "There's a power in knowing someone exists, especially in a ministry role that makes you think, 'This could be a possibility.'"

Although she didn't have clear direction on the exact path to follow, Lisa continued to pursue a career in ministry: "I felt like I was called to work with people who were away from home for the first time, but as far as I knew, no other woman in my denomination had been a chaplain."

That's when the Lord stepped in, and through a dream, enlightened her understanding as to the plan He had for her.

"I was standing in what I know now was a Quonset hut, and I was watching soldiers rush in and grab their weapons and run back out as a sense of urgency was building," Lisa relates about her dream. "I asked the Lord what I could do, and I heard Him say, 'If you're willing to leave the comforts of your mother's home and your hometown, I will use you.' And then I woke up. It was very distinct."

Shortly after the dream, she responded to an altar call for those wanting to "go all out" to answer the call of God on their life and received further confirmation of God's will for her life.

"I found out I could go to basic training one year and chaplain training the next," she says. "I liked the idea of getting some credibility and not going in just as an officer, but for the soldiers and leaders to know that I knew what I was talking about."

The Lord gave Lisa a life verse she has relied on throughout her journey.

"One of my professors at the time, Judy Giles, gave me Proverbs 16:9. In my words, it says, 'A person makes their plans in their heart, but the Lord directs their steps," Lisa relays. "She told me I didn't have to worry or be overly concerned about what was on my right or my left, but I could move out and trust God that He would open the doors He needed to, and that He would shape my thoughts as I stepped out in His confidence."

Lisa did just that, and today she celebrates thirty-five years as a soldier and eighteen years as a chaplain with her latest assignment as garrison chaplain at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

"I wasn't on a trajectory to be a garrison chaplain, and I became angry thinking they had me on a course to crash and burn," she confides. "But someone told me if I could resist the temptation to join in all the fun ministries that I love so much and just hunker down and learn my job for the first six months, I could do this."

As one of the youngest ranking chaplains in the Army to be assigned to a base the size of Fort Sill, the youngest ranking garrison chaplain to serve there, and the first woman to serve as such, God is using Lisa Northway to pave the way for future female soldiers.



Lisa NorthwayUS Army Garrison Chaplain Major
Fort Sill, Oklahoma

Declare Your Goodness

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In April 2007, I was ending my junior year at Vanguard University, an AG school in Southern California. I had spent the year working as a residential assistant (RA) and found that I was not very good at it. So, when the applications for summer RA came around, I wasn't hopeful that I would make the cut. I applied anyway and waited to see what would happen. For a myriad of reasons, going home that summer was not an option, but really, I didn't have any options. In two weeks, I would be

homeless and jobless waiting for the next school year to begin. I had been praying all along about what to do, but when nothing was coming to fruition, my prayers shifted.

I had prayed, asked, begged God to provide answers, housing, a job, something! But gently, I felt the Holy Spirit say, "And what if I don't? Am I still good?" Talk about a fiery furnace situation! I knew that God *could* provide, but *would* He? And what *would* my response be if He didn't do the thing I asked? So I dug deep and resolved in my soul to cling to truth: The Lord is good, even when I don't get what I want. So with great earnest from the core of who I am, I prayed:

"God, You are good, and I will declare Your goodness with my whole life. If I am homeless or have a place to sleep, You are good. If I am well-fed or You call me to a summer of fasting, I will declare that You are good. I would really like to be able to keep my cell phone and pay the bill, but if You are calling me to a place of isolation, You are good, and I will declare with my whole life that You are good."

Something adventurous shifts inside you when you are on the lookout for God's goodness. When I stopped thinking about how I would be provided for but sought to remain in the middle of God's will, it activated

supernatural faith. Every interaction, every conversation was an opportunity. The mundane moments of life—eating, sleeping, talking with a friend—all became ordained gifts to seek and declare God's goodness.

The summer of 2007 was one of the greatest in my life. God's goodness was revealed in ways I still can't explain. Beyond all odds, I was asked to be a summer RA, which provided housing. A friend of a friend needed a car sitter, so suddenly I had transportation. Groceries showed up on my doorstep and lasted the whole summer. There was an error with my phone bill, and I had been overpaying. Would you believe that the amount over was the exact amount I'd need to pay it over the summer?

But it was more than what I could hope or imagine. My way was also paid for a road trip to pray over the Pacific Northwest to see if that is where God would have me go after college. A few good friends and I were gifted with a stay at a peaceful retreat center right across from the beautiful Silver Falls in Oregon. We were guests at an incredible house on Whidbey Island, Washington, where bald eagles soared over the Puget Sound outside. God's goodness was all around, in the conversations with friends, the roar of waterfalls, the steady lapping of water on the shore. His goodness really was following me!

At the end of the summer, I was asked to be an intern for SoCal Network Women Ministries Director Judy Rachels. This connection led to a job with Nonda Houston at the SoCal Network and eventually to my job at the AG National Office with AG Women. Sometimes it is obvious that He is at work, other times only when reflecting back. I can see His goodness weaving in and out of my life knitting me into the greater tapestry of His story. I can see that He is good, and I will declare with my whole life that He is good.

"So, here's what I want you to do, God helping you: Take your everyday, ordinary life—your sleeping, eating, going-to-work, and walking-around life—and place it before God as an offering. Embracing what God does for you is the best thing you can do for him. Don't become so well-adjusted to your culture that you fit into it without even thinking. Instead, fix your attention on God. You'll be changed from the inside out. Readily recognize what he wants from you, and quickly respond to it. Unlike the culture around you, always dragging you down to its level of immaturity, God brings the best out of you, develops well-formed maturity in you." (Romans 12:1–2, MSG, my emphasis added)



Ecclesia Weltman AG Women Office & Project Manager/ Field Team Coordinator.

EVER-CHANGING VIEWS ON LEGICEShip

Although I have served in ministerial leadership for many years, God has given me wider insight and a unique perspective in my last five years as the Assemblies of God general secretary. Many would consider leadership to be a title tied to a position of authority, but I would suggest that leadership, at its core, is a set of behaviors and skills that swell with new opportunities to impact others.

As I watch myself guide our office in stewarding the credentials of 37,775 ministers, I'm more aware than ever of the tension on the narrow road between powering and cowering. The power differential one acquires through the years is an important responsibility that a leader must be aware of and manage. We cannot allow defensiveness or insecurity to become obstacles to the task which He has called us. Ephesians 4:1 says, "I . . . beg you to lead!" which means to hold accountable, declare truth, and wrestle through the tough and lonely places of leadership.

We have a duty, when moved upon by the Lord, to overcome any feelings of timidity or the temptation to choose the ease of acquiescing when courage is needed. Likewise, there are times our strength or authority needs to be brought into check for the greater good. God guides us if we let Him.

Another skill that leaders need to learn is the art of reflection. Too often we find ourselves enslaved to the never-ending cycle of receive, react, respond. This

vortex becomes a trap that leaves us mechanical in our daily functions. Godly, authentic leadership utilizes the art of reflection. When I first stepped into this role, my predecessor, Jim Bradford, stressed the importance of scheduling time to reflect, think, read, and journal. As I move from back-to-back events, this is a leadership practice most challenging for me in this role.

A tool that has been referenced by Center for the Empowerment Dynamic is the principle of W.A.I.T. This acronym stands for "Why Am I Talking?" Being intentional in communication is a vital skill in leadership. From a public relations perspective, we are challenged that anything we say—tweet, e-mail, or comment—should be suitable for public hearing. "Off the record" no longer exists. In meetings, a chance to contribute is limited so it must be focused and articulate. A perspective unique to me is my responsibility to add to the context if God is prompting. There's no space to simply externally process in meetings designed to collectively discern God's will. This often-quoted verse found in James 1:19 reminds us that being "quick to listen, slow to speak" is the foundation for this type of reflection and intentionality in communication.

Fitting in can be overrated and leadership can be lonely. There is validation for leaders simply to hear those facts. If you need lots of

affirmation and can't stand being alone at times, leadership is probably not the path for you. That's where I've found journaling to be helpful. Sometimes I don't know what I think about a certain topic until I've read what I've written. Journaling causes me to slow down the pace of my racing thoughts and process what is happening and what God is telling me in the mix of things.

Thirdly, leadership requires service. The deeper you step in to leadership, the more sacrifice is required. While there is much I appreciate in my present role, I did not fully understand servanthood in ministry to this extent before my current assignment. "You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God" (1 Corinthians 6:19–20, NIV).

In this era of celebrity ministry, onlookers can misunderstand that leadership is only what they see on the stage, in the blog, from the platform, or holding the mic. Don't wish your way to some unrealistic higher place of being served instead of serving because biblical leadership is modeled after our Savior who came to serve. In 1 Peter 5:2, Peter reminded us to be eager about serving with the heart of a shepherd.

The final quality I believe is helpful in leadership is to guard against being overly responsible. That might sound like an oxymoron in an article about leadership, but it is an ongoing battle in my quest to be a godly leader. We work for God, but we are not junior versions of Him. God holds the whole world in His hands so that we don't have to. The work will never be finished, the needs will always be there. May we find our place as His children in play and recreation, and enjoy the journey of ministry. General Superintendent Doug Clay has often said that leadership is not something we are called to endure, it is something we are called to enjoy. If we aren't receiving the gift of a weekly Sabbath and finding time to play, burnout will be right around the corner. Lead the way with your team in having fun and being fun. Not only will you find that it builds community, but it can also lower stress for the entire group and spark creativity within it.

These are just a few characteristics of godly leadership for self-reflection or group discussion. The Bible reminds us in Hebrews 13:7 (ESV) to "Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith." Genuine leadership is not just the big moment, but rather the day-to-day walk. Godly leadership is more than behaviors and skills; it's an overflow of who we are in Him.



Donna Barrett General Secretary of the Assemblies of God

CAPTIVATED

AG WOMEN 2024 | 1 JOHN 4:16

Gravity is a law of nature we live with every day. Even a child learns quickly that what goes up, must come down. As much as gravity's pull tethers us to the earth, there is another force which serves as an even greater magnet to our soul.

We have been created with a space in our soul that can only be satisfied by God. Like the pull of gravity, His love is drawing us to himself. And once we have experienced the warmth of His presence, the goodness of His character, the depth of His love, and the joy of walking in relationship with the living God, we are never the same.

Our vision this year is *CAPTIVATED*. By definition it describes something that attracts us, holding our interest and attention, and comes from the phrase "taken captive." We believe that when we have been captivated by Jesus, His love compels us to live differently and propels us into our purpose.

First John 4:16 says, "We know how much God loves us, and we have put our trust in his love."

Heaven, earth, and all of creation shouts God's greatness so that we may turn our attention and our affections toward Him. May our response be a lifetime of communion and adventure with Him as He leads us daily.

We pray that now more than ever, women of every generation will know and declare, "Love captivated me!"



CAPTIVATED apparel + Invencionardise



→ Crewneck Sweatshirt

Stay warm while showing how love Captivated you. This is a 50/50 cotton/poly crewneck, with rib knit neck, cuffs and waistband.

English	S	08MV9826	\$34.99
English	M	08MV9827	\$34.99
English	L	08MV9828	\$34.99
English	XL	08MV9829	\$34.99
English	2XL	08MV9830	\$34.99
English	3XL	08MV9831	\$34.99
Spanish	S	08MV9832	\$34.99
Spanish	М	08MV9833	\$34.99
Spanish	L	08MV9834	\$34.99
Spanish	XL	08MV9835	\$34.99
Spanish	2XL	08MV9836	\$34.99
Spanish	3XL	08MV9837	\$34.99

→ Crewneck Ringer Tee

With a contrasting baby rib binding on collar and sleeves, this Cotton Ringer T-Shirt features the Women's logo on the left sleeve, and the Theme Verse, 1 John 4:16, NLT, in the front of the shirt.

English English English English English	S M L XL 2XL 3XL	08MV9802 08MV9803 08MV9804 08MV9805 08MV9806 08MV9807	\$19.99 \$19.99 \$19.99 \$19.99 \$19.99 \$19.99
Spanish	S	08MV9808	\$19.99
Spanish	M	08MV9809	\$19.99
Spanish	L	08MV9810	\$19.99
Spanish	XL	08MV9811	\$19.99
Spanish	2XL	08MV9812	\$19.99
Spanish	3XL	08MV9813	\$19.99

→ Fitted Joggers

Spanish

Maximum comfort with this 3-end fleece, soft hand-feel joggers. The Women's logo is on the right ankle, and on the left leg you can read *Captivated*.

English	S	08MV9814	\$29.99	
English	M	08MV9815	\$29.99	
English	L	08MV9816	\$29.99	
English	XL	08MV9817	\$29.99	
English	2XL	08MV9818	\$29.99	
English	3XL	08MV9819	\$29.99	
Spanish	S	08MV9820	\$29.99	
Spanish	M	08MV9821	\$29.99	
Spanish	L	08MV9822	\$29.99	
Spanish	XL	08MV9823	\$29.99	
Spanish	2XL	08MV9824	\$29.99	
Spanish	3XL	08MV9825	\$29.99	
→ Captivated Hat				
English		08MV9838	\$16.99	

08MV9839

\$16.99



home desor



→ Captivated 40 oz Tumbler

Keep your drinks hot for 12 hours and cold for 30 hours with this Captivated travel tumbler. Individual Gift Box included. 40 oz.

English 17MV8362 \$24.99 17MV8363 \$24.99 Spanish

→ Captivated: Cultivating an Intimate Relationship with God

By Nonda Houston

English

Captivated is a six-week women's study rooted in Proverbs 3:5-6. This is a great book for us to learn about some of the names of God-which serve as windows into His abilities, nature, and character—and how He reveals himself to us according to our circumstances. Paperback, 7.75" x 9.75", 152 pages.

English 02MV4255 \$19.99 \$19.99 Spanish 02MV4256

→ Captivated Study Tools

All the tools to support your best bible study habits.

\$7.99

→ Captivated Leather Bookmarks 13MV6782

Spanish	13MV6783	\$7.99		
→ Captivated Sticky Notes				
English	11MV6432	\$1.99		
Spanish	11MV6433	\$1.99		
→ Captivated Prayer Cards				
English	11MV6422	\$9.99		
Spanish	11MV6423	\$9.99		
→ Captivated Highlighters				
Bilingual	16MV7232	\$8.99		

→ Captivated Coffee Mug

Enjoy a coffee or tea from your Captivated mug while doing your daily devotions. This ceramic mug is aesthetically pleasing with matte ivory colored exterior and glossy colored interior. 16 oz.

English 17MV8364 \$19.99 17MV8365 \$19.99 Spanish

not ofrog sabelnos cuarto nos alua Dios y helvos mesto mestra confianza en Su Alvore.

→ Captivated Canvas Wall Banner Natural-colored canvas banner, 36" W x 24" H. In brown screenprint you can read the Theme Verse, 1 John 4:16, NLT.

English 21MV8135 \$16.99 21MV8136 \$16.99

17MV8366

17MV8367

\$21.99

\$21.99



Some women are called to ministry at a young age, some marry into it, and others are surprised by it later in life. No matter your journey, you have arrived, and we want to welcome you.

You belong here with ministry wives from across the nation and the world!

In April 2024, I will have served forty years as a ministry wife. There have been times where I've felt at home in this role and times where I've felt out of place. In hindsight, I see a consistent pattern. In seasons when I felt like I didn't belong in this amazing group, I was isolated from other ministry wives, which only fed that feeling. When I felt confident and at-home in my role, I was in close relationship with other ministry wives. I have learned that no one quite gets me like other women in ministry.

Ecclesiastes 4:9–10 gives us a life-sustaining principle:

"Two people are better off than one, for they can help each other succeed. If one person falls, the other can reach out and help. But someone who falls alone is in real trouble."

Friends, we are not meant to do ministry alone. We are created for togetherness with other women who do what we do. Several years ago, I was walking a difficult road and found myself in emotional and mental turmoil. Thankfully, I had a community of like-hearted women and a godly counselor who helped me walk through the season I was in. We need one another. Even the business world knows this.



Forbes magazine published an article on March 6, 2019, titled "Power of the Pack: Women Who Support Women Are More Successful." The article references research from the *Harvard Business Review*, which addresses the importance of women forming close connections with other women who share similar experiences. While the article refers to business practices, the principle is the same—we are better together. Don't you love when studies prove what the Lord declared from the beginning?

Nonda Houston, national Women's director of the Assemblies of God, leads a Ministry Wives team who understands this principle. At General Council 2023, we relaunched this ministry at "Wives Night Out," an event that allowed for fellowship and connectivity between women in ministry. We invite you to join the AG Ministry Wives Facebook community—a place of belonging, moments of laughter, and encouragement. If you don't have a local pack of ministry wives, be brave, reach out, and find yours. If you do, celebrate them today. You've got this!

Teri Herndon
Director of Just Between Us
Northern California-Nevada District







For AG Women, one of our core values is generosity. It's how we model Jesus to others based on His ultimate generosity toward us.

"For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life."

John 3:16

That's why missions is at the center of our Assemblies of God Fellowship and has taken many forms for women over the last 109 years of our Fellowship's existence. While total giving amounts are only fully known in heaven, we can reasonably conclude that millions have been given.

National giving toward Men's Ministries, Youth Ministries, and Kids Ministries has been well tracked and recorded. Women's missions giving has traditionally been tallied at several levels—national, network/district, and local—making it challenging to track giving totals. For this reason, AG Women is endeavoring to bring clarity while streamlining national giving for women through Light the Way, an initiative that exists to unite women around the cause of missions giving.

Are we making missions giving a contest? No. But miracles are what God does, and impossible is where He always begins. We believe that our goals can be reached when we put in the proper ingredients, two of which are unity and faith.

What if Assemblies of God women from across the nation unify even a portion of our efforts? Our unity is essential! And if ministry to women is important to you, then giving through Light the Way should be too.

Why is this important? It unifies our collective vision and voice. We've made it simple:

What is AG Women? Ministry to Women. What is Light the Way? Women helping women.

Living a life of generosity affects everything and everyone. If we associate our giving with what we have to offer financially, we miss the bigger picture. Generosity is a lifestyle where we hold everything we own lightly. God is the One who has provided our possessions in the first place, and when we live life openhandedly, we embrace the heart of God to a hurting world.

We don't just care about people. Caring is our calling.

In the days ahead, we plan to expand Light the Way in scope and reach. Tell your friends and shout it out . . .

LIGHT THE WAY is WOMEN HELPING WOMEN!

with love. Nonda

L\"GHT THE WAY



In 2024, Light the Way is continuing its partnership with Project Rescue, helping to rescue and restore those exploited by the sex trafficking industry.

The ministry of Project Rescue exists to find, rescue, and help girls on their journey to full restoration from the horrors of sex trafficking. They offer culturally informed, holistic care to courageous survivors by providing homes, vocational training. trauma counseling, direct intervention, awareness, and prevention education.









Learn More

To learn more about what you can do individually or as a group, visit women.ag.org

Resources

For promotional materials (information cards, faith promise cards, envelopes)
Email: wms@ag.org
Phone: 417-862-2781 ext. 4060

Give Now

Online: women.ag.org/light-the-way Mail: 1445 N. Boonville Ave. Springfield, MO 65802



Jennifer Barratt
Executive Director of Project Rescue
Pictured with husband, Jonathan Barratt,
CFO Project Rescue Foundation

6-WEEK WOMEN'S STUDY

Caplitaled

CULTIVATING AN

INTIMATE RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD

20

NONDA HOUSTON

A SIX WEEK WOMEN'S STUDY from Nonda Hong for

Captivated: Cultivating an Intimate Relationship With God is a six-week study rooted in Proverbs 3:5-6 (NKJV):

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths.

Acknowledging God is more than asking Him to sign off on your decisions. In the original Hebrew, the word *yada* means to acknowledge, perceive, recognize, and to know—but that's not the casual form of knowing! It's the deeply intimate and personal way that we get to know someone. This definition is important because it helps us recognize how God is present in our everyday life.

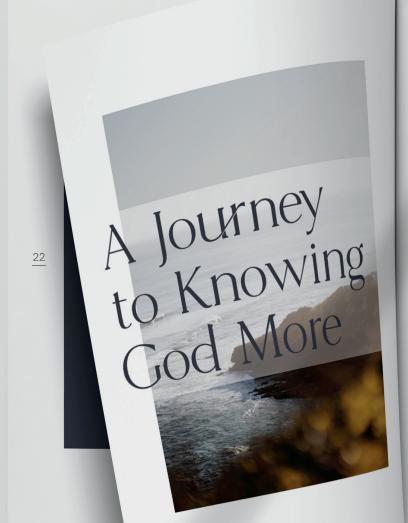
Each week the study will focus on knowing God in different aspects of our life:

- Make Knowing Him in your emotional life
- 🖔 Knowing Him in your physical life
- Make the Knowing Him in your relational life
- 🛚 Knowing Him in your spiritual life
- May Knowing Him in your intellectual life

Through trials and tests, questions and confusion, God gives us the opportunity to know Him more. We will learn about some of the many names of God—which serve as windows into His abilities, nature, and character—and how He reveals himself to us according to our circumstances.

There is a difference in knowing the Word of God and knowing the God of the Word. Let's grow deeper with God so that we may be firmly rooted, unshakable, and flourishing for His kingdom.

Cultivating an Intimate Relationship 474h God



Week 1 | Day 1

A Journey to Knowing God More

Throughout our life we meet many people along the way—family, friends, people at work, school, church, and your community to name a few. Meeting someone on an airplane or a stranger at the grocery store will typically be a once-in-a-lifetime moment. Some relationships fall into the category of acquaintances, others will grow into friendships, and fewer still result in lifelong connections.

As close as these relationships can be, none are as intimate as the	
of Captivated is perfect for your next individual or group Bible study.	
When it comes to knowing God, the same range of relationship exists—fro)1
Be sure to check out the teaching videos by solutionship	ij
th Nonda Houston at women.ag.org, beginning Industry 2024!	
Through the decades of my spiritual journey, I have found something that	
has deepened my relationship with God: the pursuit of knowing him more	
by developing an intimate relationship with Him. Proverbs 3:5-6 has been	
the signature passage of my life that has guided me through many troubled	ı



Nonda Houston is an ordained minister with the Assemblies of God and the newly appointed National Women's director. She has been married to her husband, Gordon, for thirty-nine years. They served as lead pastors in San Jacinto, CA, for twenty-two years and at the SoCal Network Office as the SoCal Women's director for nearly fourteen years. She loves family time with her four married children and being "Nonnie" to her eight grandchildren. Nonda is passionate about encouraging, inspiring, and equipping women to know Jesus and make Him known.

Additional

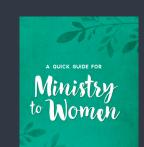


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From Captivity to Calling

Judge Jacklyn's Story

By Jacklyn Pasquale Paletta as told to Amy Smith

JACKLYN PASQUALE PALETTA WAS INITIALLY
BEGUILED BY A HANDSOME MAN WHO SEEMED
TO BE ENAMORED WITH HER. HOWEVER, IT
WASN'T LONG BEFORE SHE REGRETTED THE
DAY SHE MET HIM.

While attending Assemblies of God Southwestern University, in Waxahachie, TX, Jacklyn met a youth pastor at summer camp recruiting students for the university. He served on the worship team and claimed to have a desire to pursue missions work.

"Everybody adored him," Jacklyn says. "My father was district Youth director in the state of Michigan and was friends with the district Youth director in that state. The guy had glowing reviews."

He ultimately moved from his home state to Texas, a couple of blocks from Jacklyn's campus to be closer to her, a move she thought was "super sweet" at the time. However, in hindsight, she realizes there were warning signs she failed to heed.

"He would be very frustrated if I didn't come straight back from class, but I just thought he was in love with me," she says.

Jacklyn's parents gave their blessing for him to propose, and he took her to his home state to meet his family. However, she was already having reservations. "I wanted to make sure that I could hear my own voice and that I wasn't unfairly manipulated by him," Jacklyn says.

While at his parents' home, her fiancé listened in on her personal phone calls to her family. When he made false accusations about her sister, Jacklyn gave him back his ring and called off the engagement.

The time came to take Jacklyn to the airport for her return flight home, but instead, her ex-fiancé took an extended route through the rural countryside. "I realized he wasn't going to take me to the airport unless I made up with him," she says. "I had missed my plane and decided I could send him back the ring once I got home. I told him I was sorry, and I loved him. I just wanted to get home."

Eventually, he took her to the airport and Jacklyn flew home the following

day. She and her parents decided she should stay with her grandparents since he didn't know where they lived.

Expecting him to show up after she sent his ring back to him, Jacklyn assumed she was safe until then. But while shopping at the mall with a friend the next day, Jacklyn was stunned when he showed up out of nowhere.

Agreeing to meet him at McDonald's the next day, Jacklyn could have never imagined the horror to which the seemingly innocent meeting would lead.

"He told me that I could either go with him, or in the same way he knew where I was, he would find my sisters and would go to them and steal their innocence since I wasn't going to give him mine," Jacklyn says. "I had two sisters, and I thought I couldn't protect them. I didn't think anyone would believe my story."

The couple stopped by her grandparents' home to get her asthma medication and a camera he had given her. Jacklyn left a note explaining how she had not wanted to leave with him but had done so to protect her sisters.

The life that ensued for her was nightmarish.

The couple traveled to Niagara Falls, and because her parents had called the police after finding her note, the authorities stopped them at the Canadian border. Jacklyn's hopes of escape were

dashed when officials told her they had no reason to detain her companion and could only promise her a head start.

In a different country with no money or connections, she decided staying with the young man was the lesser of two evils. The couple were married beside the Falls. That was the summer of 2002; Jacklyn had just turned 20.

"All that echoed in my mind was that he might go to my sisters," Jacklyn recalls. "I thought I could have the marriage annulled once we were back in the States."

Because he limited her contact with her family, Jacklyn's hopes of getting out of her marriage dimmed, and over the next several months, manipulation and control led to sexual violence and ultimately to physical abuse.

Because her husband lived in a small town and was related to the local authorities, Jacklyn knew a call to 911 was hopeless. When a woman at her church noticed her bruises from the abuse, she only offered to help conceal them. And when Jacklyn finally mustered the courage to tell her pastor about the violence she was suffering, she was advised to be a more submissive wife.

Yet through all this, Jacklyn only felt she had reached the end of her rope when her husband tried to strangle her. "He stopped just as I was about to black out because he saw me looking at our neighbors through the window," she says. "I was sobbing that he tried to kill me. Until then, I thought I was protecting my sisters, but now I knew my life was in danger and I couldn't protect anyone if I was dead."

Throwing her on the bed and kicking her in the small of the back, he left the room as Jacklyn fell to the floor sobbing.

"I prayed to God thinking He would transport me like He had Enoch and get me out of there," she confesses. "But what I heard was, 'After you have done everything, stand firm.' And I heard it repeatedly. I kept telling God I couldn't do it. Then, I heard the poem 'Footprints' in my head. And I knew He would carry me, and that I would not do this in my own strength."

After that, Jacklyn did her daily routine as unto the Lord. Cooking and cleaning for her husband were no longer resented burdens, but opportunities to serve her Savior. "I literally felt the Lord helping me to put one foot in front of the other," she says.

When Jacklyn's husband agreed to allow her to assist with her parents' 25th wedding anniversary celebration in Washington, DC, at the upcoming General Council, Jacklyn knew she would have another chance to escape from her prison.

Once in DC, the couple were on

a site-seeing tour when her husband became enraged and left deep bruises on her arm.

The next day at lunch, her mother saw the marks and, while she had a private moment with her daughter at the salad bar, asked Jacklyn if she wanted out. She said she did, and the two exited the restaurant and called the police.

Her husband was placed in a DC jail for five days, and Jacklyn flew home to Michigan with her parents and put out a restraining order against him.

Jacklyn was free from her abuser, yet remained captive to her own inner turmoil.

"I was afraid of my own shadow," she remembers. "My dad hired a body guard, and I went to work with him. When I was home, I locked myself in my room, and my parents would bring food to me."

It was while her fear still held her prisoner that Jacklyn heard God say, "He whom the Lord sets free is free indeed. This is not freedom. You're away from him, but he's still holding you captive in your own room."

It was then that she felt God inviting her to forgive her assailant. "I felt the courage to say, 'I forgive you,' and that was like a breath of fresh air," she recalls. "Then all the pain of everything he had done came rushing back, and I realized in that moment that

forgiveness is a choice, not a feeling, and I had made a decision to forgive him so I could be free."

Jacklyn eventually went back to school and received a master's degree in political science, before attending law school to become a lawyer. "I decided I would not rely on anyone to take care of me; I'd take care of myself," she says.

Today, Jacklyn is married with children and is a partner in a law firm. She holds her license in three states and is a judge in Kansas. Her first book, From Fear to Freedom is available on Amazon and Kindle. Her second book, The Gospel Is Rest is soon to be published.

"GOD IS A GREAT REDEEMER," JACKLYN DECLARES. "I REALIZED THAT I CANNOT FORGIVE, IT'S THE JESUS IN ME ENABLING ME TO FORGIVE THROUGH HIM, AND I RELY ON THE JOY OF THE LORD, NOT JACKLYN."



Judge Jacklyn Pasquale Paletta Licensed Attorney and Municipal Judge



Caplifa/ed

through the 7 Dimensions of a Spirit-Filled Disciple

In my role as Christian Education and Discipleship director, I am often asked for my definition of disciple*shi*p. I always start with being, not doing—emphasizing people over programs. Discipleship is about who we are—disciples of Jesus—and how we stay on our journey with Him. Just before the COVID-19 pandemic hit, I began working with discipleship teams across the country to answer this question: What does a Spirit-filled disciple look like? After years of prayer and planning, we came up with seven dimensions of life that Spirit-filled disciples will develop along their journey of becoming more like Jesus: Bible, Holy Spirit, Prayer, Mission, Worship, Service, and Generosity. When I think of who a woman captivated by Jesus is, and what she looks like, I imagine a woman who is growing in these seven dimensions.

Bible: How does a life captivated by Jesus reflect a thirst for His Word? Jesus is the living Word (John 1:1–3),

and the Bread of heaven which nourishes our souls (John 6:51). While Jesus himself is the Word, the dimension of *Bible* refers not only to the Person of Jesus but all the words in the biblical text from Genesis to Revelation. I invite you to set aside time regularly to feed yourself with Scripture so that your life can feed others, not only with words but with actions and in truth (1 John 3:18).

Holy Spirit: Just as plants need regular watering, our souls need time in God's presence. Time with the Holy Spirit ensures that we deepen our relationship with this member of the Trinity who helps to make us more like Jesus. When you pray, acknowledge all members of the Trinity—God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. The Bible shows us that the Holy Spirit is our Helper, Comforter, Advocate, and Intercessor who lives with us forever (John 14:16) and enables us to be witnesses for Jesus (Acts 1:8). While you brush your teeth or wash

dishes (especially if you have young children, this might be the only quiet time you get!), seize the opportunity to spend time in God's Presence and ask for His help. He will empower you to complete the task before you.

Mission: The very thought that we are part of God's mission is wonderful! His mission is to redeem the whole creation through sending His Son and commissioning us to make disciples of all the nations (Matthew 28:18–20; John 3:16!) Each of us has the honor of participating in His mission each day by starting with those closest to us. When we love God and love others, we are like bridges which connect people to Jesus so that they can live in fellowship with Him. Listening over tea to a neighbor's struggles is one of many ways to be that bridge by living missionally so others may find eternal life. Consider praying with someone over the phone or texting an encouraging message as you continue developing God's heart for those around you.

Prayer: Jesus modeled that prayer is a lifestyle of spending time with our Heavenly Father (Mark 1:35). We are commanded to "never stop praying" (1 Thessalonians 5:17), which can sound overwhelming until we realize that God, who needs nothing from us, wants us to ask Him about everything that we need. He never gets tired of meeting our needs, and no need we can bring to Him is

too small! Consider setting aside just five minutes to sit in silence listening to God before you act. Granted, it's easier said than done. Could you start with thirty seconds or one minute? Your thoughts might run to your todo list but bring them back. Consider praying Scripture over your family.

Worship: How's your heart doing? Is it full of gratitude when you think about the Lord? Worship as we mean it here is a delight in God that offers all of our life as worship to Him, not just songs or part of a church service. Worship acknowledges that Jesus is not only Savior but Lord of our life. Ask yourself who's in the driver's seat of your life: Do your calendar and bank accounts reflect who you think is steering your course?

Worship is also a sacrifice. Worship is first mentioned in Genesis 22 when Abraham's response to God's call to sacrifice Isaac was one of worship and obedience. God's first directives in the Ten Commandments were to worship only Him. The Magi from the East got it right when they traveled to worship the King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2). Jesus calls us to worship God in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), and this is a wholeperson endeavor. Consider your daily posture. Who are you placing your trust in? Who is the primary driver of your life? I encourage you to start by allowing Jesus to have His will and His way in your daily decisions.

Service: Service provides an opportunity to use our natural and spiritual gifts to serve others. Jesus is the greatest Servant of all. Ask yourself, Am I intentional in seeking to serve those in my home, church, and community out of a heart to show God's love? We can't claim to love God and ignore the needs around us. As we see in Scripture, service is a choice. Joshua said to the people. "Choose today whom you will serve. ... But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Spirit-filled disciples see all of life as a thank-you to God's grace and aim for a humble life of service to God and others

Generosity: Lastly, generosity reveals God's lavish love for us by giving His best, His one and only Son, so we would have the opportunity to be in relationship with Him. Disciples respond to this lavish love by submitting all their resources to Him and by responding to the Holy Spirit's leading in giving and stewardship. We see a picture of a generous Christian community in Acts 2:42– 47. Their lives were characterized by worship, prayer, community, and giving: They "shared everything they had."... [They] "shared their meals with great joy and generosity—all the while praising God and enjoying the goodwill of all the people" (Acts 2:44–47). And what was the result of this Spirit-driven generosity? "Each

day the Lord added to their fellowship those who were being saved" (verse 47). Consider being generous with your time—through investing in others—your talents, your treasure, and your skills and abilities in both your church and your community. Can your resources meet someone's need today? Each day holds innumerable opportunities to be generous, and all start with a grateful heart.

Was your heart spiritually ignited as you read through these seven dimensions of a Spirit-filled disciple? Did the Spirit quicken your spirit to new ways of living? Remember that you don't have to do everything at once. A heart captivated by Jesus is one that can ask Him where to begin and trust that He will show the way, moment by moment.



Elly C. Marroquin National Director of Christian Education & Discipleship



Knowing Jesus Takes Paramedic from Atheist to Missionary

By: Jami Patterson as told to Amy Smith



EVERYTHING COMPLETELY CHANGED FOR JAMI PATTERSON WHEN SHE ALLOWED HERSELF TO BECOME TOTALLY CAPTIVATED BY JESUS.

As she came to know Him, her identity changed from firefighter, paramedic, and atheist to intercessor, prayer warrior, and now missionary.

Having recently received her ministerial credentials through the AG Potomac District, Jami is preparing for her assignment as a U.S. missionary at the new AG World Prayer Center in Springfield, Missouri. Looking back over the course of her life, she sees how God has been preparing her for this moment and this mission from the beginning.

"While I was working in the hospital as a paramedic, a woman I was doing an EKG on reached out to me and asked if I knew Jesus," Jami relates.

She continues the story saying, "A

couple of weeks later, a woman in the nonemergent section of the ER grabbed my arm while I was drawing her blood and asked me if I knew

Jesus. I just told her, 'No, I don't know Jesus.'"

A few weeks later, Jami had a similar conversation with a coworker while on a fire run, telling him she thought she would probably go to heaven because she was a good person.

"That's not how it works," he told her. "It depends on whether or not you know Jesus."

The final straw for Jami's resistance came several months later when she had lunch with a former teacher.

"At the end of a two-hour conversation, she randomly asked me if I knew Jesus, and I said no. But by then, I thought there must be something to this, and being an avid reader, I headed to the bookstore."

Jami found herself reading *The Case for Christ* by Lee Strobel, and in its pages she found the answers to all her questions.

"Here was an investigative journalist who set out to disprove Christianity. Here was a man who was speaking my language. I needed an apologetic approach," Jami says.

After reading Strobel's book, Jami prayed the sinner's prayer outlined in the back. "I felt a lump in my throat, but there was nothing dramatic," she says.

Little did she know that the course of her life would change drastically. "My story is like in the Bible when Jesus would walk by His disciples and say, 'Come follow me,' "Jami says. "That's what He was doing through all these other people; He was telling me to come follow Him."

As she followed Jesus, Jami realized her identity was in what she did as a firefighter and sensed Him leading her in a new and unfamiliar direction.

"At a storefront church in West Palm Beach, Florida, I received the baptism in the Holy Spirit and received the gift of intercession with travail the next night," Jami recalls. "I remember the minister said to me, 'God is pulling you away from things.' And I knew God was pulling me out of that career and asking me to abandon myself to God."

Jami moved to Arkansas and worked under a woman with some unique God-given abilities. She was gifted at praying for and helping people move away from their past and toward God's future for them.

"It was a season of God stripping things away," Jami says. "It was a very stretching season when I felt Him shaping me in the fire. It was a tough season."

The season of sacrifice and pruning then was preparation for the call Jami is answering now.

"As Prayer Center missionaries,

we are to move to Springfield and create a prayer furnace, praying and fasting for a certain number of hours each day," Jami says. "It will be open for churches to hold prayer retreats. And we will be sent out several times a year to hold prayer sieges in the Charles Finney model."

Leaning into sacrifice has also helped Jami accept her singleness. Now in her fifties, she doesn't date but trusts God to bring the right man at the right time if it's His will for her to marry.

"I don't date because number one, I know that God will show me, and number two, I know that God will show him," Jami says. "And number three, he will find me about my Father's business."

Jami says her testimony of twenty years can be summed up in four simple words, "Do you know Jesus?" Ultimately, that's the question we are going to be asked."



Jami Patterson
US Missionary at the World
Prayer Center,
Springfield MO

AG Women

LEADERSHIP | RESOURCES | GENEROSITY | COMMUNITY

AG WOMEN IS A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN FROM ACROSS THE NATION AND AROUND THE WORLD WHO ARE FOLLOWING JESUS AND MAKING HIM KNOWN. WE ARE SEPARATED BY MILES BUT UNITED AS MOTHERS, DAUGHTER, SISTERS, AND FRIENDS WHO DO LIFE TOGETHER.

Our Vision

Encouraging and equipping every worknan to like a life of . . .

Devotion to Jesus, Discovering Her Purpose, Developing Her God-Given Potential & Daring to Become All That God Has Created Her to Be!

Let's join together and partner with our extraordinary God, bringing love, hope, and beauty to a broken humanity through:

Leadership

* Equipping women's leaders for effective ministry to women in the local church

Resources

- * Providing discipleship through yearly Bible studies
- * Themed merchandise for events
- * Recommended ministries that address the specific needs of women

<u>Generosity</u>

* Women helping women through giving to Light the Way

Community

* Creating space for women to connect, grow, and serve

THE LORD ANNOUNCES THE WORD, AND THE WOMEN WHO PROCLAIM IT ARE A MIGHTY THRONG.

PSALM 68:11, NIV



Recommended Ministries

These ministries are affiliated with the Assemblies of God and recommended by AG Women.

ABORTION RECOVERY

SaveOne: Healing after Abortion Directed by Sheila Harper Visit saveone.org.

ABUSE AND/OR ADDICTION RECOVERY

Abundant Life Ministry Center Directed by Sue Willis Visit AbundantLifeMinistryCenter.org.

Adult and Teen Challenge U.S.A. Directed by Gary Blackard Visit teenchallengeusa.org.

Project Ignite Light
Directed by Pebbles Thompson
Visit www.ignitelight.org.

Pure Life Ministries
Directed by Steve and
Kathy Gallagher
Visit purelifeministries.org.

HUMAN TRAFFICKING RESCUE

F.R.E.E. International Directed by Michael Bartel Visit freeinternational.org.

Global Center for Women and Justice Directed by Sandra Morgan Visit gcwj.org

Project Rescue Directed by Jennifer Grant Barratt Visit projectrescue.com.

Protect Me Project Directed by Carla Marroquin Visit protectmeproject.org.

ADOPTION/FOSTER CARE

COMPACT Family Services Directed by Alan Bixler Visit compactfamilyservices.org.

COMPASSION

Convoy of Hope: Convoy Women Directed by Doree Donaldson Visit convoyofhope.org/what-we-do/ womens-empowerment.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS

God's Transforming Grace Directed by Darla Colinet Visit godstransforminggrace.com.

MARRIAGE

Marriage Encounter
Directed by David and Chris Morrison
Visit agme.org.

Teaming Life
Directed by Robert and Pamela Crosby
Visit teaminglife.com.

PASTORIAL CARE/COUNSELING

Emerge Counseling Ministries Directed by Dr. Robert Crosby Visit emerge.org.

SEXUAL IDENTITY

Linda Seiler Visit lindaseiler.com

ReStory Ministries Restoryministries.org.

Joe Dallas joedallas.com

SPECIAL NEEDS

CompassionLink Disability Ministry
Coordinated by Thomas and
Angelia Carpenter
Visit compassionlink.org.

WOMEN AND GIRLS

Ministry to Muslim Women: Say Hello Directed by Lynda Hausfeld Visit sayhelloinfo.com.

Ministry to Single Moms Directed by Lois Breit Visit loisbreit.com.

Ministry to Widows Directed by Marlene Craft Visit widowslink.org.

AG National Girls Ministries Directed by Kim Sharp Visit ngm.ag.org.

WOMEN MINISTERS

Network of Women Ministers Directed by Crystal Martin Visit womenministers.ag.org.

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To have a vibrant and growing relationship with the Lord, we must have a firsthand experience of knowing Him personally and see how good He is. Join us as we focus on knowing God in different ways of our life and be *Captivated* by His love.

