

What do you cherish most about studying the Word with women?

- I've always loved the deep, lasting friendships that develop.
- The a-ha moments. Especially from women who have been in the Word for many years!
- I really like the multigenerational aspect. Different women from different walks of life and different ages.
- Being able to share our personal experiences in a more "friendly" environment
- When women study together, they are more open and free with their insights.
- Seeing women grow in their faith and feeling comfortable enough to share
- Supporting each other with God's Word
- Building and becoming sisters in Christ!
- I cherish the deep friendships that result.
- The connection we forge with each other as we get new insights into the Word
- There is a certain level of comfort with other women, and that turns into lasting relationships.
- We get other women's perspective about passages, and the prayer time is amazing.
- The deep friendships that come out of a shared Bible study
- We are different than men and can speak openly about our woman-ness.
- Having fellowship and shared interests
- I appreciate our unique, shared perspective as women and the depth of conversation—also the relationship-building aspect of women's studies
- It's a safe place where women can learn what God has asked us to do but also encourage each other in our seasons of life.
- Women's Bible study is special since there is mutual respect and trust.
- I love our group of women—of all ages. Learning from other women with many different experiences.
- Supporting each other with a woman's point of view
- Growing closer as sisters in Christ
- As we study the Word, we're able to share how the Lord has used us in our circumstances (especially those unique to women).
- One special gift that women often share when studying the Bible together is the gift of encouragement. As they discuss God's Word, they can support one another, share personal experiences, and strengthen each other's faith through prayer and conversation. This sense of community builds trust and helps each woman grow in her relationship with God.
- I love the opportunity for intergenerational Bible study, where we who are older can encourage our younger sisters, and they keep us in tune to life as young women.
- That is where some of my most enduring friendships have started—the encouragement and support are a wonderful blessing.
- Seeing the number of women looking to grow in their faith
- Sharing with women what we wouldn't share otherwise

- Learning and encouraging each other in this temporary world as we prepare for our forever home
- I appreciate the support network it provides women as we share life challenges unique to women. We can share intimate thoughts, failures, tears . . . and then provide biblical encouragement.
- Living life together as we grow in the Word

What are some of your favorite resources to use for a women's Bible study?

- Bible studies and resources on the WELS Women's Ministry website and resource center:
 - <https://wels.net/serving-you/christian-life/womens-ministry/>
 - <https://wm.welsrc.net/>
 - Bible Sister series: <https://wm.welsrc.net/download-wm/bible-sister-series/>
- Bible studies and books from Naomi Schmidt:
 - <https://christintheword.wordpress.com/naomi/>
 - <https://online.nph.net/schmidt?srsltid=AfmBOooQlixelRmocFazDbpQ9JnzcHLyUbl4xn0z6UoHvi2WPillRgVm>
- Northwestern Publishing House: <https://online.nph.net/>
 - The People's Bible series
 - Whole Bible Project (downloadable Bible study guide for every book of the Bible)
 - Esther book
 - *Esther: Providential Persian Queen* Bible study
 - *Mary: Providential Mother of God* Bible study
 - Evangelical Heritage Version study Bible
 - *Prepared to Answer* books by Mark Paustian
 - *In God's Orchard* book
 - Our Christian Response series
 - *Seeking a Gentle and Quiet Spirit* book
 - *A Heart at Peace* book
 - *Self-Care: Selfish or Sacred?* book
 - *A Guide to Mental and Emotional Wellness* book
- Resources on WELS Congregational Services website:
<https://welscongregationalservices.net/>
 - Apologetics course with video and handouts:
<https://welscongregationalservices.net/apologetics-defending-the-faith/>
 - Preacher Podcast
- Wisconsin Lutheran Seminary
 - Essay files: <https://www.wisluthsem.org/resources/essay-files/>
 - Daily chapel service stream: https://www.youtube.com/@WLS_Live/streams
- Martin Luther College daily chapel service stream:
<https://www.youtube.com/@martinluthercollege1197/streams>
- Podcasts:
 - *Raised with Jesus Daily* podcast

- *Men Who Understood the Times* podcast
- The Wartburg Project: <https://wartburgproject.org/>
- Resources from Time of Grace Ministry: <https://timeofgrace.org/>
 - *Taboo* by Mike Novotny
 - *When Life Hurts* by Mike Novotny
- The Bible Project app, podcast, and website
- Concordia Publishing House: <https://www.cph.org/>
 - *Joy: A Study of Philippians* book
- Strong's Concordance
- Concordia Self-Study Bible
- *The Life and Times of Jesus the Messiah* by Alfred Edersheim
- Sharla Fritz books, like *Hosea* and *God's Sufficiency*
- Kelly Minter Bible studies and books
- Donna Snow Bible studies and books (reviewed by our pastor or staff minister)
- Liz Curtis Higgs books
- Max Lucado studies
- *A Beautiful Year in the Bible: The 52-Week Bible Study for Women*
- The Daily Grace Co.: <https://thedailygraceco.com/>
 - Please note that this is NOT a Lutheran publisher. You and your pastor may wish to supplement/enrich if necessary.
- Proverbs 31 Ministries First 5 app
 - We comment on the moment of the day within the app. Our pastor is always reading and helping us discern where there are weaknesses. These studies have been so good for the most part and ladies interact daily on the app.
- General resource ideas:
 - I reach out to family and friends as to what they have used or websites they find available and pertinent.
 - We read a small section of Scripture with some significant open-ended questions.
 - A lady in our church hosts a weekly study. It has run the gamut from discussing the previous Sunday's sermon to looking at biblical archeology (recently learned more about the Shroud of Turin).
 - My priority is always finding materials that encourage good, thoughtful discussions. My moms' group runs like a support group where half the time is spent discussing our weeks and issues and half the time focusing on God's Word. My midweek young women's group tends to focus on mental health and relationship materials.
 - I contacted three ladies who had previously taught or were Sunday school teachers to help with organizing our Women in the Word group and teach lessons. We have a short 15-minute time before our Bible study for fellowship time and snacks.

If you are teaching online, what are some tips and tricks you can share?

- When I have taught online, I print out the lesson pages ahead of time for those who are registered so they have a paper copy to fill in during the online study time.

- I am leading an online group for Bible study fellowship, which has 23 group members.
- For online, I put together a PowerPoint based on the material and after a section we go into breakout groups and answer the questions. We usually have enough for two or three breakout groups. I have people read and they just say “pass” if they don’t want to.
- We do online because many of the women don’t want to drive at night. San Antonio is a big city and some of us have at least a 40- to 50-minute drive. And the moms can get their kids situated so that they can join too.
- I teach a study at 6:15 a.m. We have about seven ladies attending each week and they are retired, young moms, and working ladies. We use a study guide to follow. We record the session and send it out to ladies who miss the study so they can keep up with the study when they miss a week.
- I keep the time to one hour for the online study and I spend a couple of hours a week for my prep, which varies. I spend about eight to ten hours for one hour of content. Our groups only want one hour of content per session.
- We record on Microsoft Teams. Our church has a business account we use as it has to be a business Teams account to record.
- Prep time varies depending on if the resource already has questions and is designed to fit an hour time slot. It takes longer to prepare if I need to create discussion questions or edit down a longer study. Usually I plan for about five to ten hours per session.
- Prep time varies. I spend about six to eight hours for each session.
- We meet Tuesday nights at 6:30. I keep it to an hour. I spend about an hour to prep.
- We do the circle prayer for the closing and if they don’t want to, they pass. I just call on them during the online Bible study, and we don’t have more than ten at one time.
- We meet the first Saturday of the month from 9:30-11:00 a.m. Depending on what’s already in the resource, I prepare two to four hours for each.

How do you handle the cost of Bible study materials?

- Thrivent grants are great for helping cover partial cost of books!
- When we did books, the ladies bought their own copies.
- We usually have the participants purchase their own books with a discount.
- Each pays for her own book.
- We have a budget and only charge \$5 per book to keep costs minimal. We try to limit the number of books they need to purchase.
- The ladies buy their own book if we are using one.