



## A FEW KEY IDEAS

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The goal of the Ezer studies is to facilitate life change by equipping women to have effective discipleship conversations with one another around common areas of struggle. This is the sole goal and focus of the Ezer ministry.

Our preference would be that, after and between participating in Ezer studies, the majority of our women would continue to grow through their community group, personal prayer and Bible study, serving inside Grace Church and in the community, and leading Ezer studies for other women. We don't want to promote a model where women are perpetually in ongoing groups doing study after study with the same small group of women year after year after year.

### What is our view of other Bible studies?

There are plenty of people, ministries, and activities vying for our time. We want to be strategic about where we ask people to invest their time and energy. We must answer to Jesus for how we shepherd the women he has entrusted to our care. We want to heed the charge from the writer to the Hebrews to “throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles” (12:1 NIV) that we may run the race with endurance. Therefore, we have chosen to focus on a few key areas of common struggle in women's lives that may hinder growth in spiritual maturity.

- We are not against women participating in other Bible studies at other churches, in their homes, or with other groups.
- We are not against other Bible studies.
- We are for (focused on) equipping women to think biblically about being women.
- We are for every woman going through Biblical Femininity within her first year at Grace Church so that she can learn what it means to be distinctly female.
- We are for helping women find clarity and freedom in areas that are often culturally grey (sexuality, body, identity, etc.).
- We are for identifying common areas of struggle for women and bringing biblical truth to those areas and for providing opportunities for women to have effective discipleship conversations with one another around these topics.

- We are for providing women with discipleship tools and resources they can use to better disciple one another.
- We are for women investing their most effective discipleship energy with the people God has placed in their community group or other form of biblical community.
- We are for women giving time, energy, and resources toward serving inside and outside the local church.

For women who are interested in other Bible studies, here are some strategic suggestions based around our core values that may help them grow in spiritual maturity as disciples:

### Biblically Oriented

*The Hole in our Holiness* by Kevin DeYoung

*Understanding the Bible* by John Stott

*30 Days to Understanding the Bible* by Max Anders

*How to Read the Bible Book by Book* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stewart

*How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* by Gordon D. Fee and Douglas Stewart

*Every Word: 90 Day Bible Reading Plan*

### Prayerfully Dependent

*A Praying Life* by Paul Miller

*Prayer* by Tim Keller

### Culturally Engaged

*The Art of Neighboring* by Pathak and Runyon

*When Helping Hurts* by Steven Corbett and Brian Fikkert  
Generous

*Generous Justice* by Tim Keller

*The Gospel Comes with a House Key* by Rosaria Butterfield

Charity Detox by Robert Lupton

*Church in Hard Places* by Mez McConnell

### Ministry Focused

*The Trellis and the Vine* by Colin Marshall and Tony Payne

### Relationally Connected

*Side by Side* by Edward Welch

*Instruments in the Redeemer's Hands* by Paul Tripp

*How People Change* by Paul Tripp

## **Courageously Generous**

*The Treasure Principle* by Randy Alcorn

*The Money Challenge* by Art Rainer

### **Is it okay for Ezer groups to stay together for the next study?**

Ezer is meant to be a short-term, topical discipleship resource. It is not meant to provide long-term biblical community. It is okay if Ezer groups want to stay together and go through the entire body of Ezer resources. In fact, this can be very fruitful. However, we do not want groups to stay together in perpetuity and suggest that they disperse once they have completed all studies. Campuses are free to break groups up whenever necessary to preserve the health of the individuals, the group, and the campus.

### **How do women get connected with each other if there is not a more structured and long-term “women’s ministry”?**

We believe life-change happens best within the context of personal relationships. Therefore, we place high value on being in authentic biblical community with one another. As a church, we offer several ways for women to get connected into the life of the church. Community groups are our primary means of long-term biblical community. Community groups are mixed-gender, multi-generational, and diverse. We believe this type of fellowship is an accurate picture of the church and enables us to learn and grow alongside one another. We also offer care and recovery discipleship groups around specific life challenges such as grief, divorce, single-parenting, and struggles with habitual sin patterns. Serving is another way women can assimilate into the life of the church and get to know one another. Finally, we encourage women to reach out to others organically. Invite a woman sitting by herself to sit with you at church; invite a couple over for dinner; or invite a woman you’ve never met before out for coffee or lunch.

### **Should a woman take Ezer studies over and over?**

Our goal through the Ezer studies is life-change. While it may be helpful to retake a specific study from time to time as a refresher, we do not believe a woman needs to do Ezer studies over and over again. After completing all the studies, we recommend using the Ezer Applied Journal as a discipleship tool to help apply the concepts learned in each study. It may be helpful to revisit the Ezer Applied Journal, individually or as a group, in order to continually apply these truths as we navigate new seasons and contexts.

Your group may want to continue meeting once a month to discuss and review Ezer Equipped. This monthly newsletter will challenge you to think biblically about specific discipleship issues, engage Scripture, connect with one another, and move in faith.

Ultimately, we want our women to live with an outward focus—deploying our strength in a way that benefits those in our church and community. This will look different for each woman but it is our distinct calling as an Ezer. Our studies and resources are simply tools to equip you to live out this calling.