



Welcome to Gospel Ministry Women's Track – Level 1

PURPOSE

Our Welcome to Gospel Ministry exists to equip women in our church to assist our elders (pastors) in making disciples of the women that Jesus is giving us. We want women to be grounded in the biblical teaching on who God is, what the gospel is, what a woman is, and what it looks like for a woman to live a holy and gospel-centered life, and to teach and model the glory of these good things to others. We want women to be trained and equipped to be all that God has called them to be and do.

This first level 10 month leadership development track will:

1. train women theologically and practically to disciple women in one-on-one relationships, in gospel communities, and in other relevant settings.
2. serve as a means for assessing and calling women to formal diaconal service in their local Grace Fellowship congregation.

REQUIREMENTS FOR PARTICIPANTS

- A faithful and active partner connected in a Gospel Community
- Strong desire to disciple women long-term in Grace Fellowship
- Demonstrated track record of service, reliability, and love for the people of our church

COMMITMENTS

- Attendance/Preparedness at all sessions
- Transparency/Confidentiality in all conversations
- Commitment to complete the entire year training and then to live out this training by intentionally making disciples as a part of Grace Fellowship.
- Share what you are learning in each session with at least one other woman who is not able to take this course at this time.

TIME REQUIREMENTS

- 10 monthly sessions (Tuesday and/or Sunday Evenings)

The Sessions:

1. What is the Gospel?

We want to anchor everything on the glory of the gospel of the grace of God in Jesus. The gospel is the air we breathe and the fountain from which all discipleship flows.

2. Story of God

In this session, we will continue to examine the Spirit's gospel work through the Scriptures in our lives and in the lives of those to whom we are ministering. Grasping the overall story of God and the fulfillment of the New Covenant in Jesus is crucial to rightly interpreting and applying the Scriptures to our lives.

3. Woman – God-designed femininity

In this session we will look at some of the foundational truths that Scripture teaches us about "femininity," or what our Triune God's wise and good design and intentions were in creating women as he did. We'll also consider the effects of sin on these good intentions.

4. Gospel-centered femininity

In this session, we will consider how the gospel intersects with Biblical teaching on femininity. Are these disconnected realities? Is discipleship an androgynous pursuit? Or are we also supposed to give attention to sex-specific sin and sex-specific obedience? Throughout the New Testament, we see that believing the gospel and embracing our masculine or feminine callings (as God allows and enables) go together. We are created and redeemed as men or women for the glory of God.

5. The church

In this session, we will consider the creation and design and purpose of the church in God's plan. In seeing that the church is designed by and for the Gospel, we will look at roles, opportunities, and calling as gifted members of the Body of Christ.

6. Gospel fluency

In this session, we will talk about the skill of applying the gospel in the making of disciples. We'll do this on two fronts. One is how to call women away not only from outright sin but also from moralism/self-righteousness and toward gospel belief, repentance, and obedience. Two is how to freely and directly address sin in a way that is redemptive.

7. Word and Spirit

In this session, we will talk about employing the words of Scripture in the making of disciples in one-on-one and gospel community settings. We want to grow deeper in our conviction that the Spirit works through the words of Scripture as we hear, study, love, believe, mediate on, submit to, and apply them in our lives and the lives of those we are discipling. We want to intentionally embed the Word in all our discipleship conversations and settings; and grow more confident in our ability to approach, understand, teach, and apply a text of Scripture.

8. Missional Living

Jesus was known as a friend of sinners. The fact that he came to seek and save grimy, unlovable, lost sinners, and not moral, likable, highly-functional people is central to the good news of the gospel, and so it should be central to our identity and practice. Yet strangely, as John Stott put it, “there has always been a strong tendency for Christians to withdraw into a kind of closed, evangelical, monastic community.” In this session we’ll talk about what it looks like to give ourselves to missional living in a sinful, secular, Canadian context where the people we are sent to generally respond to the gospel with either disinterest or disdain.

9. Handling Conflict

In this session, we will talk about resolving conflict as it arises in your making of disciples and your leading of gospel communities and within the church. We understand that conflict is normative, and that to be Christians living in community is *not* to never experience conflict but to energetically work by faith to resolve conflict in a holy, loving, gospel-centered way. Often the root of conflict is our sinful wiring, or as James puts it, “the desires/passions at war within us.” Our desire is to grow familiar with some of the basic heart postures and tools required for resolving conflict as we lead and make disciples.

10. Healthy Teams and Community

We can accomplish more and better gospel work together than we can apart. In this session, we will look at how a Biblical, gospel-centered vision of team ministry and shared leadership steers us away from either pride or timidity and toward leading with both humility and zeal. We will talk about some of the essential practices of forming and leading a healthy ministry team.