
EMBRACING THE CALL
You & Titus 2 Newsletter
APRIL 2022

Proactive Discipleship

Taking proactive steps is generally considered more prudent than waiting to be reactive. An example might be the maintenance of your car. I learned the hard way to give proactive attention to my dashboard's little "check engine" light. It was necessary to be reactive while sitting by the side of the road! I realized I could have avoided my stressful situation entirely! The idea of being proactive should be applied to discipleship. It has been my experience that many mentoring opportunities are born out of a crisis. Challenging circumstances tend to cause people to seek counsel from someone they believe can provide wisdom and direction. This is one of the necessary and precious blessings of being part of a caring church community; however, proactive discipleship could help avoid many of these situations. I should have paid attention to my van's "check engine" light. In fact, I could have been proactive enough to have prevented the little light from ever coming on!

The Christian young women God has placed in our sphere of influence may seek our advice when they find themselves in a hard place, and we must be available to point them to the faithful Word of God. But what if we were more intentional in our relational discipleship? Could they avoid some of the warning lights or desperate moments by the side of the road of life if we were more proactive in our loving conversations?

There are at least seven topics for which we are told to be proactive. God's Word says to godly older women, "They are to teach what is good, and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the Word of God may not be reviled" (Titus 2:3b-5 ESV). You might ask, "What if she isn't married yet?", or "What if she doesn't have children?" The answer is clear, be proactive. We can provide gracious biblical insight concerning marriage and family for a woman who desires to live her life as unto the Lord. These conversations can have an eternal impact as she considers her future. What if she is called to singleness? She needs this same discipleship to be equipped as a godly friend and sister in Christ for all the women she will undoubtedly influence and care for.

I wasn't the only one affected by my situation with the "check engine" light! I had three small children in the van on that hot summer day. I had to call my husband away from a ministry situation. I don't know what other ripple effects came from that. I just know I should have been proactive. When we fail to fulfill our Titus 2 assignment, which calls us to proactive relational discipleship, we are not only hindering our own quality of life in Christ, but we impact others generationally and the overall health of our church. Intentional loving discipleship looks toward the future as well as dealing with the immediate concerns that come along the way.

Learning the Importance of Proactive Bible Study

Some only open their Bibles in crisis situations. While it seems that life is moving along nicely, there is a tendency to act as if Scripture is not relevant. It is treated like a prescription to be filled if they feel really sick. That is not how God intends for us to interact with His Word. Christians should be in the daily process of sanctification, growing in faith and usefulness for God's service. The night before his crucifixion, Jesus prayed, "Sanctify them in the truth; your Word is truth" (John 17:17 ESV). This is God's desire for us. We are to study the truth in Scripture and He works through it to sanctify us. Additionally, it is our nourishment for a life of faith, just as a child needs food to grow. God's Word is our daily bread to meet the circumstances of life (Matthew 4:4).

The following Scripture passages and discussion questions can provide a conversation starter about a life of authentic contentment in Christ.

Matthew 4:4 ESV

But he answered, "It is written, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God."

2 Timothy 2:15 ESV

Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the Word of truth.

2 Timothy 3:16 ESV

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness,

Psalms 119:11 ESV

I have stored up your Word in my heart, that I might not sin against you.

Discussion Questions:

- + From the verses above, what benefits do we have from a regular intake of the Bible?
- + God has given us the incredible gift of His Word in a book small enough to hold in our hands, yet few have read it from cover to cover. Why do you think a systematic plan for reading the entire Bible is important for Christians?
- + Discuss the plan you have or need to put in place for a daily reading of God's Word?
- + Knowing God's Word is our spiritual nourishment, why do you think so many Christian women might be spiritually malnourished?

Trainer's Prayer List

Pray that they will beneficially love their husbands

Pray that they will beneficially love their children

Pray for their self-control

Pray for their purity

Pray for their work at home

Pray for their hearts to show kindness

Pray for wisdom in following their husband

