

## *Women's Ministry Discussion Questions*

*To encourage reflection, sharing, and connection to God and other women through his Word.*

### **Titus 2-Gether January 2023, Session 4: “Grow Up and Step Up: Teaching and Learning—Life-on-Life” by Susan Hunt**

Titus 2:3-5: “**3** Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine.

They are to teach what is good,

**4** and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, **5** to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.

1. Susan encourages us to focus on three words from Titus 2.

**Question:** What are your take-aways on these three key words?

- a. TEACH
  - b. GOOD
  - c. TRAIN
2. Susan Hunt and Karen Hodge paint a Biblical Vision for Womanhood found in Genesis. Adam names his wife “Eve” meaning “giver of life” after the Fall but **before** she bears any children:

“the name life-giver is not so much about what we do but who we are. It points to our need for a new life. This redemptive capacity is more than biological. We tend to have a myopic view of mothering. We limit it to women who have birthed biologically. What about single or barren women? The covenant way is bigger and bolder. **Every redeemed woman can be transformed from life-taker to life-giver. Her mission to be fruitful and multiply has now been restored.** “~ Karen Hodge (see article at end)

**Question:** As you reflect below on Scripture talking about life, how are you inspired to embrace this **Biblical vision for womanhood: to speak and act in ways that nurture spiritual life in others?**

The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the **mother of all living**. Gen. 3:20

"You make known to me the **path of life**; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore." Psalm 16:11

The mouth of the righteous is a **fountain of life...**" Prov. 10:11a "The lips of the righteous feed many..." Prov. 10:21a

"Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things; and **give me life in your ways**." Prov. 119:37

**In him was life, and the life was the light of men.**" John 1:4

**It is the Spirit who gives life**; the flesh is no help at all. The **words** that I have spoken to you **are spirit and life**." John 6:36

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but **will have the light of life**." John 8:12

"The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may **have life and have it abundantly**." John 10:10

3. Susan shares: "When we have been crucified with Christ, as we read in Galatians, it is no longer we who live, but Christ lives in us. Therefore, we have the potential to be life-givers in every relationship and in every situation **because Jesus lives in us**."

**Question:** Do you desire to have this vision for your life of being a "life giver" to all relationships and situations the Lord places you in? Do you believe God can transform and grow you in this? How?

**How do you see God working this vision in a current relationship?**

**How do you see God working this vision in a current situation?**

4. "When the triune God redeems us, we begin the process of transformation, of dying to self and living to Christ. Our minds have to be renewed. We have to learn how to be life-givers in practice. We need to be disciplined. And that is exactly what Jesus commissioned His Church to do: "Proclaim the gospel, make disciples, teach them to observe (or to do) all that I have commanded you, and I'm with you always" (see Matt. 28:18–20)."

**Question: Who is currently discipling you? Who is teaching you, as Piper puts it: "to think and feel and act as a Christian."? If you don't have someone, what is a step you can take to reach out and be disciplined this week?**

5. "Then we come to Titus 2, and we learn that some discipleship—not all, but some—is to be gender specific because some of the "all things" that Jesus has commanded are gender specific. Spiritual women are to teach what is good because we no longer know what is good. Some of you may be thinking, *But I'm not good. You don't know my failures.* News flash: **We are not called to point to our goodness. We are not the story. Jesus is the story. He is good.**"

**Question: How can you point a younger women in our church body towards our good Savior this week?**

6. 1 Thessalonians 2:8: "But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel but our own selves, because you had become very dear to us" Susan states: "And note how Paul uses mother imagery: He talks about a nursing mother taking care of her own children. This is a nurturing ministry. It is a mothering ministry. **Whether or not a woman has ever birthed a child, she can be a life-giving spiritual mother.**"

**Question: How can you share your very self/life/home with a younger women in our church?**

## 7. Teaching by Asking Questions:

Susan States:

“This is not just about formal teaching. **We’re always teaching—in our relationships, in our conversations.** Think about how often as Jesus was out and about among people **He used questions rather than immediately telling them what they should do.**”

Here are some questions she uses:

- **What will it mean for you to bring this relationship or situation under the authority of God’s Word?**
- **What will it mean for you to glorify God in this relationship or situation?**
- **Is there any way you’re being a life-taker?**
- **What will it mean for you to be a life-giver?**
- **How can I pray for you?**

**“Good questions help us to orient women to God’s Word rather than to her feelings and frustrations. It helps her to think about what is good and true and beautiful.” ~Susan Hunt**

**Question:** How have you been helped by others asking you questions? How can you grow in being quick to ask questions like these to sisters in the church family?

## ***Biblical Womanhood: Women called to Nurture Spiritual Life Being “Life-givers” instead of “Life-takers” (Session 4 cont.)***

From: TRANSFORMED LEADERSHIP: LIFE-TAKER TO LIFE-GIVER  
by Karen Hodge, women's ministry leader with PCA. Article from Markinc.org

*“The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.” Gen. 3:20*

*Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, “I have gotten[a] a man with the help of the Lord.” Gen. 4:1*

*“And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and called his name Seth, for she said, “God has appointed[a] for me another offspring instead of Abel, for Cain killed him.” Gen. 4:25*

I am still trying to figure out who I am going to be when I grow up. We face grown-up situations but deep down there is a little girl inside us who wonders when she will mature. You will never understand who God is transforming you to be until you understand how God designed you to be, and you will never appreciate your need for a Savior until you understand how your design has been distorted and deterred by the Fall.

The Fall is the tragic intrusion of sin and death resulting in the brokenness of everything and everyone. The Fall like creation begins with words from the enemy of our souls, Satan, the ultimate Life-taker. He promised benefits but delivered burdens. Sin distorts our perspective and our purpose as a woman. As women, we are called to think biblically about all of life. Eve doubted God's character, which justified her doubting His will for her life. **Wrong thinking leads to wrong living.** She chose independence over dependence on God and interdependence with Adam. She chose death both spiritually and physically. She listened to the words of the Life-taker rather than the Life-giver.

There is hope! We see the “I will do what I want” of Adam and Eve contrasted with the sovereignly initiated “I will” of God. “I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel (Genesis 3:15). In the covenant of grace, the Life-giver promises He will crush the head of the Life-taker. With the death sentence still ringing in the air, God sovereignly declared life!

Naming, a privilege of headship was forfeited when Adam disobeyed. The gospel restores Adam's authority. Eve is currently post-fall and pre-biological motherhood. Her name changes from Woman to Eve, she is declared life-giver. The name life-giver is not so much about what we do but who we are. It points to our need for a new life. This redemptive capacity is more than biological. We tend to have a myopic view of mothering. We limit it to women who have birthed biologically. What about single or barren women? The covenant way is bigger and bolder. **Every redeemed woman can be transformed from life-taker to life-giver.** Her mission to be fruitful and multiply has now been restored.

As we move into Chapter Four of Genesis, Eve declares self the ultimate authority, "I have done this!" In the rest of Chapter Four, we see her seed is not the Seed of Promise. The way of Cain is characterized by death, autonomy, and self-rule. We need the way of Christ to redeem the way of Cain. We need true spiritual transformation. In verse 25, Eve's reference point shifts back to God. **The movement from the "I" orientation to the "Godward" orientation is the movement from life-taker to life-giver.** As the "I" decreases, it must be replaced by the increasing presence of Christ in our hearts. The death of "I" can be painful and slow, but it is through death where one finds the promise of life. Transformation is often complicated but in the end, glorious. The battle between Satan and the Promised Seed (Jesus) of the woman is reflected in the battle for us to move from being life-takers to life-givers. Victory is accomplished when we trust and obey the conquering Seed of the woman rather than listen to lies of Satan.

**Prayer:** "Lord change and transform me. Create in me a clean heart and renew a right spirit within me. I repent of my life-taking tendencies. Breathe Your life into me so that I might breathe life into every relationship and situation."