

HCI PRESENTATION—WOMEN’S MINISTRY STARTER KIT

Let me start by saying what a privilege it is to share with you today! I am excited about what God is doing through HCI to revitalize and refocus churches so that they can be healthy reproducers of disciples that walk as Jesus walk! And I am especially excited to share with you a tool that our Denominational Women’s ministry has developed to help the women of your HCI church grow a healthy women’s ministry that reflects HCI priorities.

We have had the WOMEN’S MINISTRY STARTER KIT available to our denomination for some time, but after discussing this resource with Dan and understanding that the material covered in the kit matched very well with what God has been communicating through HCI, we have re-tooled the Kit to track right alongside the HCI priorities.

The Women’s Starter Kit is designed as a “cold turkey” basic ministry development approach, beginning from scratch and moving toward a Great Commission and Great Commandment healthy ministry. In the few minutes I have to share, I’d like to give a quick overview of the kit for you.

The kit’s Title reflects the three major divisions—REACHING UP to God for his guidance, help, and vision; REACHING OUT to identify women who God has equipped to share in leadership and fleshing out God’s desire for women’s ministry; and REACHING OUR GOAL through implementing a step by step program for Biblical growth, ministry involvement, and building functional structures to sustain God’s best.

These three divisions are in turn divided into smaller stages, each designed to build on the one before it. Each stage includes a worksheet to move past the concept stage to actually fleshing out the healthy church principles. With that, let’s take a quick look at each step.

STEP ONE is to DREAM GOD SIZED DREAMS. This beginning step is a challenge to begin from the start by being dependent on God’s provision and expecting God’s best for your women’s ministry. As the HCI principles state, the next five years will happen anyway, so why not start now to pursue God’s dream for your ministry? The worksheet section challenges leaders to consider what God’s dream is for us personally, for our women’s ministry, and for the whole church as we set our hearts to pursue him.

STEP TWO is to PRAY! The point is that PRAYER is not an added extra to ministry—IT IS THE KEY TO MINISTRY! The worksheet section includes Bible studies on the role of prayer in Jesus ministry, as well as challenges to begin to pray for God to raise up women to help lead and to pray for lost women by name.

STEP THREE is to GET A BIBLICAL MINISTRY MINDSET. This section focuses on building a healthy philosophy and model for ministry, which includes a balance of OUTREACH TO THE LOST, BUILDING UP BELIEVERS, AND EQUIPPING persons to share in ministry. The challenge here is to understand the true nature of helping believers WALK AS JESUS WALKED, rather than to simply have programs and activities.

STEP FOUR is to FIND LIKE MINDED WOMEN TO JOIN YOU. The input section discusses the kind of women who God uses to help build a healthy ministry, women who are FAITHFUL, AVAILABLE AND TEACHABLE. The worksheet section is meant to help the leader identify women who are ready to walk as Jesus walked and help others in that walk, as well as to identify other persons in other ministries of the church who are also seeking to do the same, thereby helping tie the women’s ministry efforts into the overall HCI effort in the church.

STEP FIVE is to HOLD A DREAM TEAM MEETING. After the leader gathers those faithful, available, teachable women together, the task is to share the vision for a balanced MODEL ministry, to develop a vision statement, to ask the GOD’S DREAM question, and to begin to write down a step by step plan for putting a healthy ministry model in place. The worksheets for this section are meant to assist with presenting the ten HCI

strategies for disciplemaking, developing that vision statement, and identifying the steps needed to move toward God's best in women's ministry.

STEP SIX is to **FOSTER A NEXT STEP ATTITUDE**. The emphasis here is to understand that a healthy ministry approach must be relationship based, patient, and built on small steady steps forward. The worksheet helps identify steps we can take now and gets them rolling.

STEP SEVEN is to start a **MATURITY GROUP**. This key Biblically rooted group is meant to move persons along in the discipleship process, and the worksheet includes prompts for identifying materials and developing a DDP for the women of your church.

STAGE EIGHT is to **PLAN SOME LARGE GROUP ACTIVITIES**. At this stage, the idea is to begin to bring more of your church's women into the process of walking as Jesus walked by developing events that have a clear purpose in mind, be it **WINNING, BUILDING, EQUIPPING, PRAYING, OR GOING IN MISSIONS**. The worksheet here prompts leaders to do a survey of their women to determine needs, as well as begin a calendar of purpose determined events.

STEP NINE is to **ORGANIZE AND DELEGATE**. This section encourages leaders to develop a functional structure for multiplying and growing this healthy ministry, as well as to connect with the pastor and with other HCI efforts already taking place in the church. The worksheet section prompts leaders to connect with other HCI initiatives in their church, see themselves as part of that team, and review the assembled team of women's leaders to be sure their gifts and abilities will help move the ministry forward.

PERHAPS THE BEST PART OF THE KIT COMES NEXT, with over 20 pages of ideas, resources, and activity outlines that are organized according to the winning, building, equipping, praying, and going in missions. This section is a great idea mine for getting healthy ministry underway.

THROUGHOUT THE WHOLE KIT, HCI PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES ARE WOVEN INTO THE PROCESS. The **MODEL** acronym, the ten HCI strategies, and the priority of multiplying disciples who walk as Jesus walked are part of the material and form the foundation of these efforts.

I am excited about this **WOMEN'S MINISTRY KIT** because it has a dual purpose. First, it can bring another aspect of the overall church ministry, in this case women's ministry, into the overall HCI effort of your church. Second, it can provide an alternative entry point for beginning the HCI effort when it seems that other entry points might not be feasible.

As the leadership coordinator of the Women's Ministry Board, I am available to discuss how this starter kit might be implemented, to offer seminars to district and local church women's leaders on how this kit can be incorporated in their ministries, and to answer any questions you might have.