
Supporting Ministry Families

CHRISTIAN WOMEN'S CORNER
7-DAY DEVOTIONAL JOURNAL



Welcome

IT'S TIME TO DIG A LITTLE DEEPER INTO SUPPORTING MINISTRY FAMILIES.

This 7-day devotional journal was created to complement our blog post [Supporting Ministry Families](#). Journaling is a great way to help you digest what you're learning through the written word. We hope you find this useful while learning the various ways to support ministry families. Enjoy your journaling time!

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Conflict with Leadership

“If your brother or sister sins, go and point out their fault, just between the two of you. If they listen to you, you have won them over.” – Matthew 18:15

Donald groaned inwardly as soon as he saw Kathy headed his way. He was at the church, stacking up the chairs after another Sunday service. His wife was the children’s minister, and she was in the back room, talking to a distressed parent.

As soon as Kathy neared him, she launched into her verbal assault. She complained about how the lyrics in the slideshow were messed up, how her son had struggled to understand a theological concept and how much the kids had made during the service.

Unfortunately, experiences like Donald’s aren’t uncommon. Some people will use a leader’s spouse to pass on complaints and other messages.

While you may have a valid point, and you certainly have a right to your feelings, this is a terrible strategy. It strains your relationship with the leader’s spouse and causes resentment to fester.

If you have an issue that you feel must be addressed, talk with the leader directly. You’re not in middle school, so don’t rely on others to “pass notes” for you in the hopes that you won’t have to confront a problem directly.

God, please forgive me when I haven’t handled conflict correctly. Please help me to stand up for what I believe in in a way that honors You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. Have you ever had a conflict with a spiritual leader?

2. Did you speak to your spiritual leader directly and share your concerns?

3. How did you resolve the issue? Would you handle it in the same manner again?

Embrace Healthy Boundaries

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”
– Matthew 11:28

Thomas was visiting with the pastor and his family for dinner one evening. While he was there, he enjoyed the company and the conversation.

But he couldn't help but notice how many interruptions there were. Several times, the pastor's phone dinged with text messages from people who needed advice. One church-goer in a serious crisis dropped by and asked for counseling on the spot.

Thomas' pastor hurriedly finished the meal then rushed off to minister to the hurting soul. Then Thomas saw the pastor's wife finish eating and begin cleaning in preparation for an upcoming visit from a missionary family.

Although you may not realize it, many church leaders (and their families) are on call 24/7. This means they don't always get a chance to relax and simply fellowship with their family or friends.

You can't stop the world from interrupting the pastor or his wife. After all, interruptions are a normal part of life in our day and age.

But you can encourage your pastor and his family to set strong boundaries and support those boundaries when you see them. This means not being put out when you're not invited over for dinner or respecting that the pastor is out on date night with his wife.

God, help me to be supportive of healthy boundaries for my pastor and his family. Show me ways I can encourage them to rest. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. How often are you interrupted throughout your day?

2. Do you reach out to church leaders over minor details that could wait until later?

3. How can you encourage your pastor to rest this week?

Those Who Have Not Bowed

“Yet I reserve seven thousand in Israel--all whose knees have not bowed down to Baal and whose mouths have not kissed him.” – 1 Kings 19:18

Elijah was at a low point in his ministry. He'd seen faithful prophets of God killed. He'd watched as the Israelite nation tore down the altars and broke God's covenant by worshipping Baal.

Now, Elijah's life was in jeopardy. He'd run for forty days and finally came to rest in a cave. He was exhausted on every level—mentally, physically, emotionally, and spiritually.

When God meets with Elijah, he reminds him that he's not the only one standing up for what's right – there are seven thousand people who have never worshipped the false god.

Often, spiritual leaders become overwhelmed when they see evil prosper again and again. They might feel like they're the last ones left standing for truth and righteousness, even in their own communities.

That's why it's vital that Christians remind one another that they're not alone. There are people all around you who are fighting to do the right thing and walk according to Godly principles. Remind your pastor or spiritual leader of this truth when you see them again!

God, thank You for the story of Elijah. I know sometimes I'm discouraged by the evil all around me, too. Help me remember that you preserve a remnant of people that are faithful to you in every generation! Open the door for me to encourage my pastor or spiritual leader with Elijah's story this week. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. What situations discourage you?

2. When are you tempted to believe you're alone?

3. How has God sent encouragement to you in a difficult situation?

Pray for Your Spiritual Leaders

“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord's people.” – Ephesians 6:18

Laura was in college when she joined a large mega-church. She instantly felt at home there and connected with a group of women who loved and mentored her.

One of the women expressed a burden to pray for the church, specifically leadership. “But I don't know where to start,” she confessed. “I know I can pray for them to be good leaders, but other than that, I'm kind of stuck.”

Since Laura was a former pastor's kid, she shared a few ways that her friend could pray for church leadership and other Godly mentors....

Pray for their protection. This can be in the form of physical protection, yes but also pray for their spiritual and emotional protection.

Pray for their marriage and family. Satan frequently targets the family members of spiritual leaders, knowing this will lead them to feel discouraged.

Pray for their provision. While many spiritual leaders feel called to share the Gospel, some do so on a very tiny budget. Ask God to provide for their financial and ministry needs.

God, thank you for (spiritual leader's name). Today, I pray for their protection. Let any evil or wrong planned against them be thwarted. I pray that their marriage would be Godly and honoring to You. I pray for protection over their children and provision for their needs. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. Which of your spiritual leaders will you pray for today?

2. Who impacted your spiritual walk in the past? Will you pray for them today?

3. Who has prayed for you? Have you written a note thanking them for those prayers?

Share the Load

“Carry each other's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ.” – Galatians 6:2

John was the elder in a small country church. When the church board brought in a new pastor, the congregation began to grow. At first, the growth was a trickle.

But within a couple of years, there was a host of new families attending. In fact, the church had doubled in size, and there was talk that they'd need to move to a new building within a few months.

John delighted in the new pastor and loved mentoring him. He was excited by the church's growth, but he noticed as time went on, the pastor was struggling to keep up with everything. Blessed with the gift of mercy, the younger man was doing everything he could for the flock.

John worried about the long-term impact the ministry might have on the young pastor. So he spoke to him and asked him about his burdens. Together, the two men organized a ministry of church-goers who could visit others in need, reach out to the community, and care for the church.

With fewer demands on his time, the pastor reported feeling a better life-ministry balance. His marriage was flourishing again, and he was spending more time with his children every week. More than that, he was excited and energized to preach again.

While a pastor certainly has a duty to look out for the health of his flock, it's not his responsibility alone. Often, wise deacons and elders need to come beside him to support the work of the ministry.

A ministry should never, ever be built solely around one person. It's not healthy and can create burnout. Instead, the care and love for the church should be divided among a team of Christians who are dedicated to the church.

God, show me how I can help care for the church. Let me take personal responsibility for building those around me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. What do you believe a pastor's duties include?

2. Do you know what types of ministry you'd like to help out with?

3. Have you offered to serve in your local church? Why or why not?

What You Do Matters

“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity.” – 1 Timothy 4:12

Kristen started serving as a youth minister in her twenties. She loved the work and getting to minister to kids. It was fun and energizing.

Ten years later, she was still doing the same thing. She hadn't lost her passion for the kids. But she noticed that people in the church seemed to start treating her differently. They wanted to know when she was going to move into “real” ministry.

“I don't understand it,” Kristen said to her husband. “What I do with these kids matters. Why am I treated so dismissively?”

Unfortunately, some positions within church leadership are viewed negatively. Some church-goers (and even spiritual leaders) view certain positions as “stepping stones” – temporary assignments until the “real” work of ministry begins.

But God offers no indication in Scripture that positions within the ministry are somehow greater or less than others. In fact, all forms of service to God are valuable and should be treated with respect.

God, help me to remember to look down on no one. I know You can use anyone in any position at any time. Help me be humble and willing to encourage others, regardless of their official title within the church. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. Do you tend to rank certain ministry leaders in your church?

2. Have you been looked down on or seen as “less than” because of who you serve?

3. What do you wish more people understood about what you do? Do you think those in the ministry feel the same way sometimes?

Ministry Starts at Home

Zipporah gave birth to a son, and Moses named him Gershom, saying, “I have become a foreigner in a foreign land.” – Exodus 2:22

Moses fled from Egypt after killing a man. For years, he lived in exile in a land called Midian. But his life was far from dull during that time. He married a local Midianite woman named Zipporah, and they began starting a family.

After four decades in the wilderness, God called Moses out. He appointed him to lead the nation of Israel from Egypt and into a new land, the Promised Land.

It's easy to look at Moses' life and see his time in the wilderness as a wasted season. But Moses was learning a lot. He was learning to lead his family, how to be a loving husband and a compassionate father. These were the same skills he would need to rely on when leading a nation later.

In 1 Timothy 3:2, Paul seems to indicate that being a church leader starts in the home:

“So a church leader must be a man whose life is above reproach. He must be faithful to his wife. He must exercise self-control, live wisely, and have a good reputation. He must enjoy having guests in his home, and he must be able to teach.”

Moses is proof that it doesn't matter what your past looks like. God can use you in ministry if you're willing. But don't be surprised if your first mission field happens to be your own home.

God, help me to be kind, compassionate and filled with grace in my home. Let me be a faithful steward within my own borders. Show me how to lead and love the family You've blessed me with. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Journal Your Thoughts

1. What lessons in Moses' life stand out to you the most?

2. Where do you believe that ministry begins?

3. How can you minister to (serve & love) your family this week?

Congratulations!

You completed the 7-day devotional journal!

Our hope is that you will grow to know more ways to support ministry families and to remember to keep them in your prayers.



Join Our Facebook Group For Friendly Accountability And Community



The Christian Women's Corner private Facebook group was created with you in mind. CWC's goal is to provide and facilitate encouragement, accountability, and community for Christian women.

The CWC private Facebook group includes both Christian Women's Corner and Good Morning Girls resources.

What is Good Morning Girls?

Good Morning Girls meets online daily to keep each other accountable in God's word and in prayer as we read through the Bible cover to cover just one chapter a day.

We're excited and hope you will join our private Facebook group to start reading the word of God daily and have the accountability to keep up this habit and read through the entire Bible with us.

To find out more about the Christian Women's Corner Facebook group, please click the green button below.

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About The Author



Alicia Bowyer created Christian Women's Corner after talking to a good friend one day. They discussed how hard it was to keep up with daily prayer, Bible reading, and telling others about Jesus who didn't share their faith. She knew that some might not struggle with these three things, but many do.

She wanted to take the knowledge that she gained from over 40 years on her Christian walk and help others.

Alicia lives in Barrie, Ontario, Canada, with her family, whom she loves dearly.

To find out more, visit: www.ChristianWomensCorner.com