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Women's Bible Study Proposal

Prepared by Katharine Ray & Women's Ministry Leader

Under the leadership of the women's ministry, with a close tie to the care & counseling ministry, we submit the following proposal for a women's Bible study. The purpose of this study will be to accompany the Holy Spirit in providing healing to women suffering the devastation caused by toxic relationships, in a secure environment, through prayer, the stability of God's Word and wise/empathetic counsel. The Bible study will emphasize the words of Jeremiah 31:3, Isaiah 54:5, and Isaiah 61:3.

Biblical Support for addressing this issue:

The church is a body and if one member suffers we all suffer (1 Cor. 12:26). When given opportunity to minister, the church must be a place that pursues the good of others, especially our own members (Gal. 6:10). God's heart is for those who are oppressed, whether by the sin of others (victim) or their own sin (perpetrator). Jesus has the power to set people free and provide healing from oppression (Isa. 61:1-4; Lk 4:18-19). When we, as a church, engage in this type of ministry we are communicating God's heart to His people and fulfilling our purpose as His people (Isa. 1:17; Ps. 82:3; Lk. 10:30-37).

Target Audience: Women, college-aged and up, who are currently in or have been in a destructive/abusive relationship. Upon approval from pastoral leadership we will change wording to toxic relationships.

Material for Study: *Called to Peace Companion Workbook* accompanied by *Called to Peace* book by Joy Forrest

When:

- Introduce topic at August Teach Me. Teaching will focus on toxic relationships and provide information about the Bible study starting in Sept. 2020
- Begin Bible Study September 2020 on Wednesday evenings as part of the Church-wide Discipleship Classes. After the initial study is complete, this could be expanded to provide a morning study and/or an online support group in 2021.
- 6:30pm to 8pm; 12-week study
- Taught by Katharine Ray with a co-teacher available (would like to have 4 teachers available in case of needing 2 groups).
- **Future Goal:** Encourage women who have found freedom & healing to also begin leading these groups. Initially they could be co-leaders.