

Titus 2 Discipleship (T2D)

But as for you [Titus], teach what accords with sound doctrine . . . Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. 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 2:1, 3–5

A. Foundational Principles for a Titus 2 Discipleship Ministry

Titus 2:3–5 is a clear call to gospel-driven, gender-specific discipleship. It is not simply a suggestion to match older women and younger women. This gospel imperative is one part of covenant life. It is a part of the strategy for a local church to disciple God's people.

Titus 2 gives legitimacy and limitations to a women's ministry. There is an unmistakable mandate for women to train women, but the extent of this training is somewhat limited. There are many times and places in church life where men and women study and serve side by side, but a primary task of the women's ministry is to train women in the biblical principles and practices of womanhood. This does not mean that biblical womanhood is the only thing that women study, but it does mean that there should be a resolute commitment to weave these principles throughout the entire women's ministry.

Women's Ministry in the Local Church, p. 127

B. How should we do it?

There is no “one size fits all” model. This is a small-group model that is being used in many churches with wonderful results. Each church should adapt this model to their specific needs.

The following questions can help a church evaluate an existing Titus 2 Ministry or plan for a new ministry:

1. What is the purpose of your program?
2. What is the content of your program?
3. How are mentors selected and trained?
4. To whom are mentors accountable?

C. Distinguishing Characteristics of this Model

1. One part of the whole
2. Small groups rather than one-on-one
3. Definite time-frame
4. Limited purpose
5. Specific curriculum

D. Strategy

1. The Women’s Ministry requests permission from the elders to appoint a committee to explore the concept of a T2D Ministry, to prepare a proposal, and to implement the approved plan.
2. Determine how many groups you will have.
3. Train T2 leaders
4. Publicize the ministry.
5. Assign women to groups

The times of the gatherings are publicized but *not* the specific leader of each group. Rationale: this is not a personality-driven ministry. The publicity explains that unity in Christ is not determined by common interests or circumstances.

E. FAQ for T2D

1. We don't have any older women in our church. What should we do?

T2D leader does not have to be older than the women in her group. "Older" also refers to spiritual maturity. Encourage leaders not to feel uncomfortable if there are chronologically older women in her group. A leader should value the life-experience and wisdom of these older women and give opportunities for them to share by asking them questions.

2. We have older women but none of them are willing to lead a group.

There may be legitimate reasons for this. Their health or circumstances may prohibit them from assuming this kind of responsibility, or they may be uncomfortable leading a group. Perhaps the best way to utilize older women is to ask them to be a part of a group. Tell them that their life-experience and wisdom will greatly enrich the groups. This may also be true for wives of elders.

3. What should we look for in T2D leaders?

There is no single profile. Look for women who love the Lord and his church, who have a welcoming and nurturing heart, and who are approachable. Ask the Lord to go before you and to give these women a desire to spiritually mother other women. Often women who have never assumed any position of leadership are the most effective group leaders. They may respond to your request by saying they long to lead a group but don't feel qualified. These are your women!

4. Do women have to be members of the church to participate in a group?

This is a decision you will need to make in advance. Consider the ministry opportunities of your church and what is needed to support those opportunities.

5. Can women sign up in the middle of the year?

This, too, needs to be decided in advance. The disadvantage is that it takes time for a group to become open and transparent with one another, and new women coming in may disrupt that process. An advantage is that this is a wonderful way to enfold new members in the church. If you do this, you may want to only add new women during the first six months. Another option is to start a new group after six months if there are enough women to warrant this.

6. How should we decide how many groups to have?

There is no formula. Prayerfully determine how many you would like to have and then recruit leaders. It seems to work out.

7. What if one group only has two or three women sign up?

If this happens it is an indication that the time planned for that group is not a convenient time. This is an advantage of not announcing the leaders of each group in advance—a woman will not feel that no one wanted to be in her group!

8. Is it a good idea to have co-leaders?

It is a very good idea, but it is important to help co-leaders work through the dynamic of how they will lead together.

9. How do we determine whether we should plan a two, three or four year cycle?

There is no formula, but some considerations are:

- a. The spiritual maturity of the women in the church: If they are primarily new Christians, you may want to plan for four years.
- b. The relationships of the women.
- c. The other opportunities for women to study and serve together: If there is an active women's ministry, you may want to plan for three years.