



MAY 2022

LIFEHOUSE
WOMEN'S MINISTRY

monthly devotional

to encourage you in your walk with Jesus

Written by Jenny Crabill

Last month our Women's Ministry Team hosted the annual IF Gathering event. I look forward to this each year for a recharge in my daily walk with Jesus, as well as a time to connect deeper with other women from our church. If you haven't had a chance to attend one before, I'd highly recommend that you come join us for next year's event in 2023!

One topic mentioned multiple times during the 2-day event was around how we are created to be communal creatures to live and thrive together in community. The first mention of this occurs in Genesis 2:18, when "the Lord God said, it is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." I know that this passage is referring specifically to God creating Eve to be a companion for Adam, but I believe this statement is also true in all situations, not just between a husband and a wife.

The last 2 years have certainly made it more difficult than ever before to be there physically with one another. I do think all the technological advancements that allow us to call, text, FaceTime, Zoom, connect on social media etc. with one another have been a blessing during this timeframe. I know that I personally have not used these tools to connect with and support others as well as I could have though.

Hebrews 3:13 says to "encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'today,' so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness." This passage made me stop and reflect on many of my interactions over the past few years. Sure, some have been to encourage those around me and help them keep walking in faith, but not all of them. I'm thinking of the times when I have reached out to complain and vent, which doesn't really unburden me or pull me away from my sin, and certainly isn't bringing anyone else closer to Christ either.

In contrast, when I reach out to someone to honestly connect with and encourage them, I find that it's also uplifting to my soul as well. Proverbs 17:22 says that "a cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones." Choosing to focus on others with a cheerful heart can help both ourselves and those we do life with.

So, the next time you're wanting to connect with someone via technology, strive to honestly reach out with a cheerful heart to encourage them and see how they are doing. Walking alongside someone in an encouraging and cheerful way is the connection we all need and were created to experience. Let's connect, support and do life together. I will be intentionally focusing on doing this right along with you!