

January 2022



New Year Thoughts *- Kristie Harrick*

I love the beginning of a new year, a new semester, a new month, even a new week. I have always been the one who loves getting new school/office supplies to make sure the “new” year or semester moves with its best foot forward. In fact I purchased all my new supplies weeks ago to ensure that I am ready for January 2022: new pens, highlighters, dry erase markers, desk calendar (yes, I am old school on this one), and I even have new stickers for my calendar.

If I step back and really think about why I like new starts, it is because I like all the possibilities of what lays before me. I like the anticipation of what things could be and the journey of getting there. As a believer, I am drawn to the various passages that discuss “new” things especially as they relate to salvation.

2 Corinthians 5:17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come.

Ezekiel 11:19 And I will give them one heart, and a new spirit I will put within them. I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh and give them a heart of flesh.

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Special points of interest

- Spring Bible Studies start the week of January 10th.
- Women’s In Town Retreat will be January 21-22
- Enrollment for Mentorship Pairings is now open.



As I step into 2022 with my new office supplies, my new list of adventures, and new plans; I also want to remind myself to walk into 2022 with:

► **A NEW song of praise on my lips each day.**

Psalm 98:1-3 Oh sing to the LORD a new song, for he has done marvelous things! His right hand and his holy arm have worked salvation for him. ² The LORD has made known his salvation; he has revealed his righteousness in the sight of the nations. ³ He has remembered his steadfast love and faithfulness to the house of Israel. All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Psalm 40:3 He put a new song in my mouth, a song of praise to our God. Many will see and fear, and put their trust in the LORD.

► **A heart resting in the Lord's daily NEW mercies**

Lamentations 3:22-24 The steadfast love of the LORD never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The LORD is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him."

► **A submitted will to join the Holy Spirit as He works to transform me and show forth who I am as a NEW creation.**

Ephesians 4:22-24 Put off your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires, and to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, and to put on the new self, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

Colossians 3:9-10 Do not lie to one another, seeing that you have put off the old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge after the image of its creator.

Romans 12:1-2 I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

As you start this new year of 2022, I want to encourage you to start the year with lips prepared to praise Him, hearts resting in Him, and a will submitted to Him. To help us in this, the Word reminds us to be women renewed in our mind and renewed in knowledge of Him.

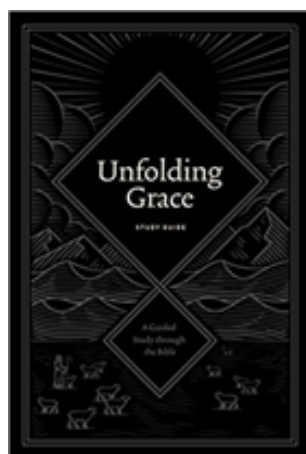
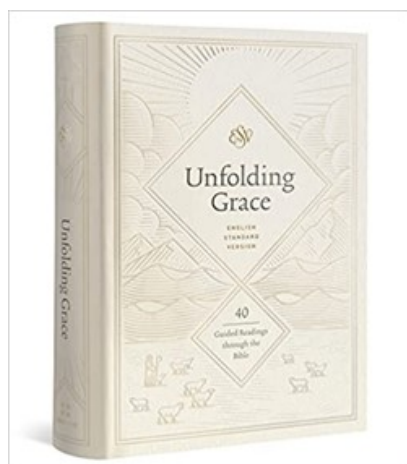
I would like to recommend the following as a 40- day resource to start your new year.

Unfolding Grace: 40 Guided Readings through the Bible

The single most popular book in the world—the Bible—came to us over many centuries from many authors and in many different literary styles. Yet every part fits together into a coherent whole. Its pages tell a unified story of grace—a story that climaxes in the triune God of love redeeming sinners and sufferers through his Son, Jesus.

In *Unfolding Grace*, discover the overarching storyline of God's Word as it is revealed through 40 Scripture readings drawn from key points in the biblical narrative. Each passage, coupled with brief and accessible commentary, will help you follow God's grace as it unfolds from Genesis through Revelation.

A companion study guide including summaries and reflection questions is available.





BRIARWOOD
Women's
IN TOWN
Retreat

JAN
21-22

REGISTER ONLINE NOW!

WWW.BRIARWOOD.ORG/WOMEN

Registration will close on Sunday, January 16th.

Please visit our [website](http://www.briarwood.org/women) for all registration information.

International Friendship Partners

Briarwood Women! Looking for a way to get yourself or your family involved in God's heart for the nations? Briarwood Friendship Partners is an awesome step to take. We have paired over 1,500 local individuals and families with international students and scholars over the last 30 years to build a bridge of friendship to share culture and experiences. Recently we have had one of our international friendship partners come to know Jesus as her Lord and Savior and get baptized. We have also had friendship partners that have walked through hard family trials together, which deepened the friendship and God's love and comfort was displayed.

If you are interested here is what you will do: Fill out an application, come to a brief required orientation in January, and then you will get paired by February. The application and orientation help me get to know you and pair you well. We will have an event for you to meet your friendship partner and then from there we will give you ideas for each season of things you can do together! Occasionally we will invite all friendship partners to join in on something like going to get ice cream in the summertime and things like this.

What if this spring is not going to work but I really want to do something like this? Great question! We have Friendship Partners matched in the Fall and the Spring, so let me know you are interested and I will follow up for future semesters. It's such a neat opportunity, and we hope you will take advantage of it this year!



**Please email or call
Caroline Brown with
questions or for an
application email:**

cbrown@briarwood.org

Phone: 205-776-5343

WOMEN'S SPRING STUDIES 2022



Click [HERE](#) to sign up for the upcoming Women's Spring Bible Studies.



MONDAY

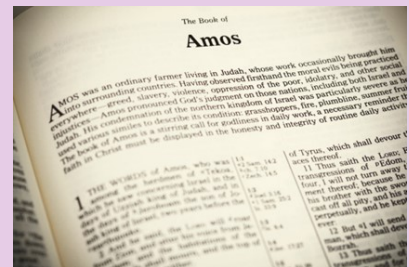
Amos

Meets: Mondays at 10:00AM

Location: A202

Leader: Michele Cantley

Starts: January 10



Study Overview:

A king ruled in Israel for 41 years; he was the longest reigning king of the Northern Kingdom. But the Bible gives us only 7 sentences to describe his reign. The Prophet Amos gives us much insight into this silent period in Israel's history. Why did God choose to save Israel during the reign of a king who "did evil in the sight of the Lord?"

TUESDAY

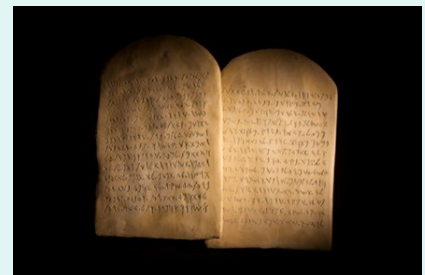
The Ten Commandments: Part 2

Meets: Tuesdays at 9:30AM

Location: Fellowship Hall A

Leader: Cindy Reeder

Starts: January 11



Study Overview:

This Spring we are continuing our study of the Ten Commandments, focusing on commandments 7-10. We will be using the Larger & Shorter Catechism questions as our guide. The Law is God's gracious gift to mankind. What does that mean to us, what is the purpose of the Law and "How can a man be right before God?" from these commandments.

Optional Book: "The Confessions of Our Faith," Fortress Edition.

***The Word of the Lord* by Nancy Guthrie**

Meets: Tuesdays at 9:30AM

Location: G101

Leader: Mary Anne Turnbull

Starts: January 11

Study Overview:

Take a 10-week exegetical excursion into the Old Testament and see Jesus in the prophets! Exploring the lives of Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Isaiah, and others, Nancy Guthrie reveals how God's earthly messengers - whether chastising or comforting - always point forward to Israel's final redemption and ultimate hope. Includes weekly assignments and a discussion guide.

Required Book: [The Word of the Lord](#) by Nancy Guthrie.

WEDNESDAY

1 & 2 Peter

Meets: Wednesdays at 10:00AM

Location: G101

Leaders: Elizabeth Bondurant and Amanda Peterson

Starts: January 12

Study Overview:

Come join us as we study the richness of the "living hope" unfolded throughout the writings of Peter. As "elect exiles" in the present world, surrounded by pain and suffering, believers can lay hold of the hope found in Christ through the fulfilled and saving promises here and now as well as the assured hope of what is to come. Even in the face of opposition, Christ empowers believers to live holy and righteous lives through the transforming grace of God. What does it look like to share in Christ's sufferings and glory?

Walking Faithfully with God

Meets: Wednesdays at 9:30AM

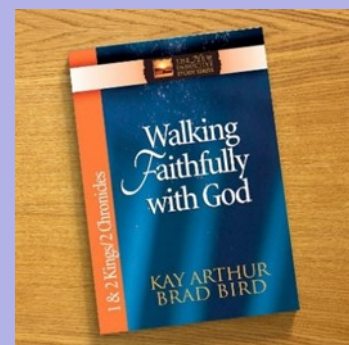
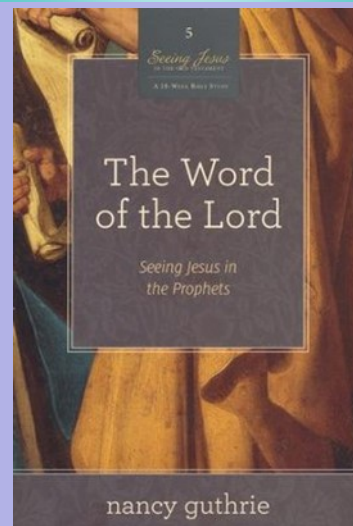
Location: ZOOM only

Leader: Leigh Ann Holmes

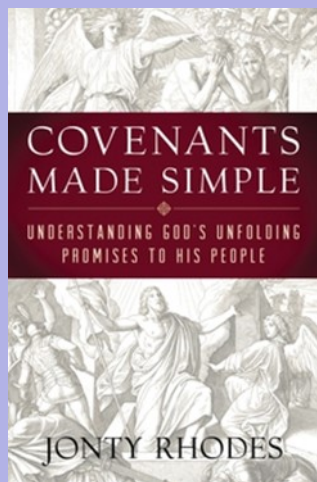
Starts: January 12

Study Overview:

This study of 1 and 2 Kings examines God's great faithfulness to His people. We will discover what it means to cling to, follow, and keep the commandments of God. We will also see that God is righteous and just, yet loving and compassionate, forever faithful to His Word then and now. This inductive study requires approximately 20-30 minutes of homework daily. You will need your Bible, some colored pens or pencils, and a notebook.



Books available [HERE](#)



Covenants Made Simple

Meets: Wednesdays at 6:30PM

Location: M200

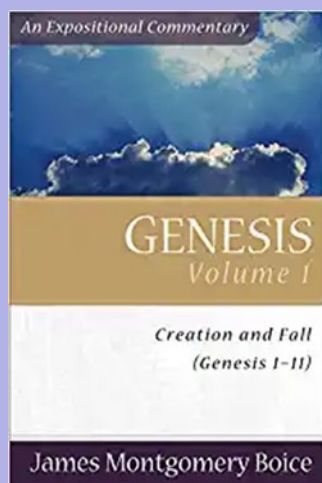
Leader: Kristie Harrick and Stephen King

Starts: January 12- February 23

Study Overview:

We talk covenants all the time. What are they? Are they really important? Why does it matter? Come join us for an everyday language explanation of the covenants.

Optional Book: Covenants Made Simple by Jonty Rhodes



Going Deeper in Your Personal Study

Meets: Wednesdays at 6:30PM

Location: M210

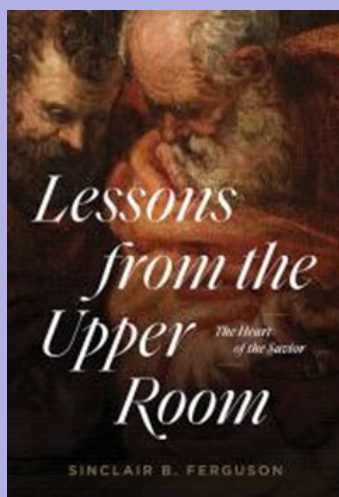
Leader: Teresa Caldwell

Starts: January 12

Study Overview:

An accountability study in Genesis to help us develop a 'meaty' quiet time. We will be studying James Montgomery Boice's Genesis, Volume 1 beginning literally 'in the beginning.' Our focus will be two-fold: first to grow in our understanding of Genesis, and second to learn and put into practice how to have a deep personal time with the Lord in His Word. This class will be a blessing for all.

Required Book: Genesis: Volume 1 by James Montgomery Boice.



THURSDAY

Lessons from the Upper Room

Meets: Thursdays at 9:30AM

Location: G101

Leader: Donna Evans

Starts: January 13

Study Overview:

What would you give to spend an evening with Jesus, hearing Him teach and listening to Him pray? This is what we encounter in the Farewell Discourse of John 13-17. As the shadow of the cross loomed, Christ shared His final hours with the disciples to prepare them for His death, quieted their troubled hearts, and interceded on their behalf before the Father.

Cost is \$10 to cover the cost of study materials.

Philippians

Meets: Thursdays at 9:30AM

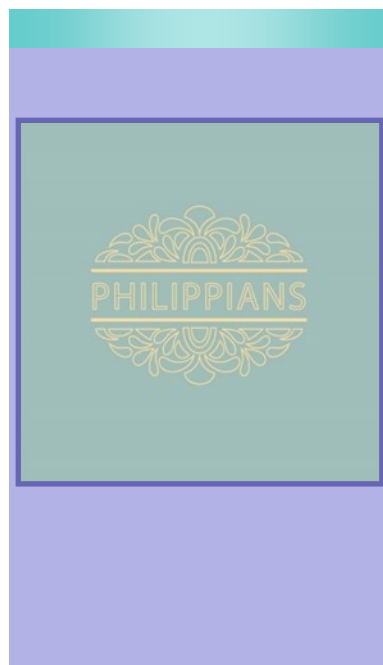
Location: Chapel

Leader: Yvonne Welch

Starts: January 13

Study Overview:

Paul's main reason for writing the book of Philippians was to encourage people to rejoice in the Lord at all times. He exhorted them to rejoice when the people, the circumstances, and the events in your life were not going along according to your plan. The theme of the Philippians would be "Rejoice in the Lord always and again I say rejoice". We will have an 8-week study beginning on Thursday, January 13, meeting in the Chapel at 9:30. We look forward to studying how Paul faced adversity, imprisonment and loneliness with a heart focused on our Lord and savior Jesus Christ.



L.O.V.E. Ministry

Ways to help:

- **Prepare flowers**
Monday mornings, 8:30 am - 10:00 am.
- **Deliver flowers to members on Monday mornings.** Flower pick up is 9:15 am - 9:30 am.
- **Donation needs:** Full aprons, hand written cards of encouragement, plain fluted bud vases, cut flowers.

The L.O.V.E. Ministry is an outreach to Briarwood members who are no longer able to attend regular services at the church due to mobility or health-related issues.

Each Monday morning the L.O.V.E. Ministry members gather at the flower room to pick up vases of flowers to deliver to Briarwood members in senior living homes, nursing homes and assisted living homes. Their goal: to bring light into the lives of Briarwood members and others who are unable to actively participate in the weekly activities of the church.

For more information: darby@turningheartsmministries.com.



5-Year Bible Reading Plan

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.

Psalms 119:105

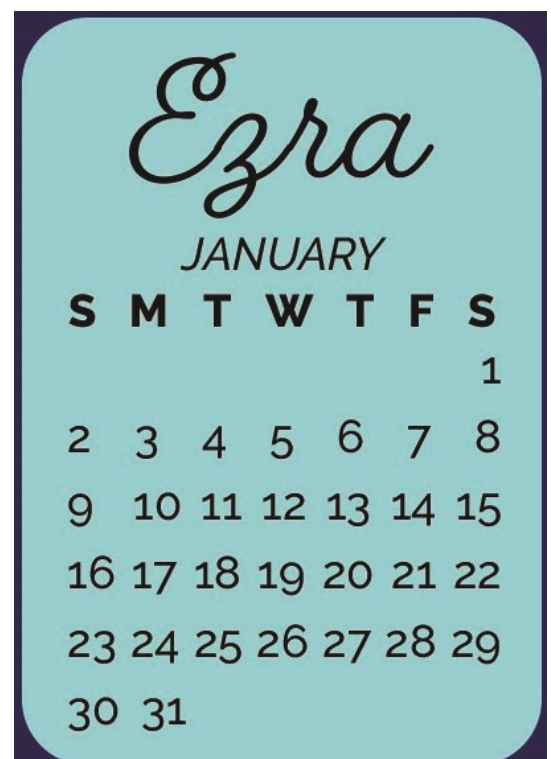
Click [HERE](#) to see the January reading plan for the book of Ezra.

The beginning of the new year is a wonderful time to consider what Bible reading plan you would like to use for the coming year. There are so many wonderful options available. If you are searching for some good options, I recommend that you check out:

<https://www.ligonier.org/posts/bible-reading-plans>

Over the years I have tried many different plans. Some I have been successful on and others I barely made it out of February. Often times, my daily readings were so that I could check off a box rather than actually hear from the Lord through His Word. For me, I have found that I need to go at a slower pace and really focus on one book of the Bible at a time. If this is more your speed, then I would ask you to consider joining me in our 5-year Bible reading plan. Yes – you heard me correctly, it is a 5-year plan.

We are starting year three of the plan. (You can start new with us in any year!) Each month you will read through one book (a few months you will read two smaller books) and really take your time as you read and STUDY the Word. If you are new to this program, just start year three with us and you can pick up year one at the end of the 5 year rotation. January 2022 we will be in *Ezra*. You can download the 5-year plan by visiting: <https://briarwood.org/women-of-the-covenant/five-year-bible-reading-plan/>



Mentoring Opportunities

(Mentoring, Life-on-Life, Discipleship)

Mentoring, Life on Life Relationships, and Discipleship are all terms that seem to be interchangeable in the Christian world. However, we each come to these terms with very different ideas and expectations. For Briarwood Women's Ministry we are moving towards providing opportunity for engagement in these three areas. Below are the definitions we will use to identify the distinctions and expectations for each:

Mentoring. Pairing based around a book study of a focused topic. There is an expectation that the mentor would influence, provide guidance and direction to the mentee as subjects come up in a book study or through conversation. The relationship is once a week for a one semester commitment of time. *Recommended Books:*

- Growing Together by Melissa Kruger
- Everyday Faithfulness by Glenna Marshall
- The Gospel Centered Woman by Wendy Alsup
- In His Image by Jen Wilkin
- The Gospel Comes with a House Key by Rosaria Butterfield
- Crazy Busy by Kevin DeYoung
- Growing in Gratitude by Mary Mohler

Life on Life Relationships. This is an informal introduction to a relationship with someone of another generation. It is built around coffee or lunch, hobbies or shared interests. The pair commits to meet on a regular basis every other week for a year. The hope is that gospel-centered conversations will naturally occur through a growing friendship.

Discipleship. The disciple is committed to entering into a relationship with a discipler who will help them grow in their spiritual disciplines through weekly meetings with homework and focused discussions related to spiritual growth and vitality. The commitment is one semester at a time through a set curriculum. *We would provide training for those discipling someone.*

This Spring 2022 we are providing opportunities for women to engage in **Mentoring** and **Life on Life Relationship** opportunities. We are not prepared to offer Discipleship opportunities yet; however, if you are interested in learning how to be a Discipler keep watch for trainings this spring.

If you are interested in Mentoring or Life on Life Relationships for Spring 2022, sign up [HERE](#).

*****Pairings will be made by mid February 2022.**

Many women from
Briarwood will be
traveling to attend
TGCW22 in
Indianapolis.

If you are interested in
attending, you can
register [HERE](#).

Use the discount code
BRIARWOOD when
registering.

The Gospel Coalition Women's Conference June 16-18, 2022



Writers Needed

This year we have quite a few writing projects in women's ministry and we need your help. We would love to identify the women in our church who enjoy writing articles, devotionals, poems, etc. If this is you and you are willing to explore some writing options with us, please email us at apeterson@briarwood.org and we will get in touch with you in February.

Women's Missionary Coffee



Mark your calendar for the annual Women's Missionary Coffee held during the Global Ministry Conference. The coffee is tentatively set for Tuesday, March 1st 9:30 am – 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall.

Due to international travel restrictions and safety protocols, we are not going to collect items for gift bags for the visiting missionaries. However, we still want to express to the women the love and care that we have for them. So, this year we ask that you would write an encouragement card with a favorite verse or two for our missionaries. The cards will be general in nature – please do not address them to a specific missionary. We do ask as you write the card that you pray for the missionary that will receive your card of encouragement. Our office will collect the cards and then we will divide them amongst all the women missionaries who can join us for the Missionary Coffee.

Please drop all cards off in the Women's Ministry Office (A106) between February 1st – 25th.

