



**THE WORD AT THE CENTER – HEARING GOD
CHAPTER ONE
Kathleen Nielson**

What pictures do the words “women’s ministry” bring to mind? Why?

TRUTH ONE: God’s Word is God Speaking - Isaiah 55:10-11 (pg. 21)

1. What does Kathleen state has become the “perennial struggle in women’s Bible study circles?” (pg. 22) What does she say we should be asking instead of creating division? Read 2 Timothy 3:16

In what ways are you showing that you trust, “God’s Word is powerful enough to be comprehensively equipping?”

2. Do you believe, “God’s Word is speaking and that this truth must shape the lives and ministries of God’s people.” How can we live out this truth through Hebron’s Women’s Ministry? Read 2 Peter 1:21

“God’s Word gave form and shape to the earth; His Word holds everything together- including us. You and I were made to take in God’s breath, through His Word, and so to live in relationship with Him.

TRUTH TWO: God’s Word is Powerful Isaiah 55:11

“God’s words are always linked with actual reality; in fact, they make happen everything that happens.”

“If this Word is powerful, then it follows that we can trust it. We can trust this powerful Word to do its work among God’s people.”

1. How do these passages describe God’s Word? Hebrews 4:12, Ephesians 6:17 (pg. 25) How can we “unsheathe this sword?”

2. Do you believe this statement to be true or false, “we often simply do not trust the power of God’s breathed-out Word to bring people to life, lead people to healing and hope, and train them comprehensively for godly living.”

3. Should good doctrine and good works be a part of women’s ministry? Why or why not?

TRUTH THREE: God’s Word is For Everyone

1. What are two qualifications for growing in God’s Word? Isaiah 55: 1-3 (pg. 28)

“The rain of God’s Word falls down on every blade of grass calling everyone who’s thirsty”

TRUTH FOUR: God’s Word is all about Jesus Isaiah 55:3, Isaiah 53:4

1. Who sees our thirst, hunger, and poverty and becomes our provider? John 4:14

“If we are thinking about Word-based ministry, we are thinking about ministry that opens up for people the big story of the Scriptures with Jesus at the center, so that they can understand the stories of their own lives as centered in the story and the glory of Jesus.” John 1:1-3

2. What is a vital question to ask as we began ministry groups? (pg. 33) According to Kathleen, often the “voices” around us encourage our ministries to shift in what directions?

3. How do we get the whole story of Jesus?

TRUTH FIVE: God’s Word is a Matter of Life and Death Isaiah 55:6-9

1. Why is their urgency is in becoming a vessel for God’s Word above all? “God’s Word is both sufficient and effective for our salvation and sanctification.”

TRUTH SIX: God's Word is Beautiful Ecclesiastes 12:9-10

1. "How can we mark our ministries not just with clear teachings of the Word but with the delight in the Word?"

"It's a matter of opening our hands wide to receive the rich food or relish the lifegiving rain."

2. What are your favorite aspects of Isaiah 55:12-13?

"Our ministries exist not simply for the purpose of helping people live well now: our ministries, like our whole lives, must aim for the end, when we'll see Jesus face to face. The glorious pictures in Isaiah 55 all climax in one end 'make a name for the Lord, an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.'"