



PRAY  
FREELY



RAISE  
PASTORS



GO  
OUT



LEARN  
ALWAYS



CHURCH  
AS FAMILY

# Women's Ministry

The purpose of this paper is to explain the vision behind our women's ministry at St John's.

## Why meet as women only?

1. Biblically we see women gathering separately to men on occasions, or serving in ministry; we also gain a picture both in the old and new testaments of the character God loves to see in women (Ex 15:20-21; Ex 35:25-26; Ps 68:25; Prov 31:10-31; Rom 16:1-5; Acts 12:12; Acts 16:14-15; Phil 4:3; 1 Pet 3:1-7).
2. Globally, culturally, locally - everywhere we look we see opportunities, activities, events and the like which are gender focused, and particularly for women. Women like to hang out together!
3. We are sisters in Christ, we are family, we are part of the body of Christ;
4. We are servants of God, servants for our church, servants for each other;
5. We are witnesses of God's love to other women in the community.

## We aim to:

- Increase a sense of belonging
- Build connection
- Increase relevance
- Offer opportunity and nurturing in God-given gifts towards serving in church and out in the community.

## The Women's Ministries at SJM was launched in 2016 with the vision to:

1. Bring women in one place to connect - see each other, meet together, relax over food, share in good stories/testimonies ;
2. Use the ease of such an event to bring women into focus as Christians through teaching God's Word, meditating on God and His Word, and praying;
3. Motivate and enable women to serve and give to the church/community.

The vision expanded in 2017 with bringing women together to reach women outside of our community to introduce them to Jesus.

## Current Vision

Relationship with one another is critical to the mental, emotional, physical and spiritual wellbeing of all women in our church family. The vision behind the women's ministries is aimed to:

- Enable women to know who they are in Christ and as a sister in the body of Christ.
- Educate women in God's Word, in the ways of Christian living, and in becoming more like Jesus.
- Encourage women to study and share God's Word, to pray together, to spend time together in supportive fellowship, and to spur one another into good deeds for the sake of the Kingdom of God.
- Empower women to use their God-given gifts for the Kingdom of God.
- Embrace opportunities to share the gospel with women who do not know Jesus.

## Procedures

### The Method

1. Events
2. The Driving Team
3. Communications, Review and Accountability processes

#### 1. Events

The aim is to run 4 events a year which aim to firstly bring women together from across all the services, secondly enable women to invite family/friends, and thirdly aim to release women in their gifts. In this last point, a small team of women are asked to manage an event with the support of the driving team (see below).

The events are to offer a variety of activities, with the opportunity to hear Gods' Word, a testimony or a story of mission, and time for familial gathering for good listening, open and safe conversation, and prayer.

The events are to be accessible to all women across the services, and to visitors.

Events are planned towards the end of a year for the following year with the driving team. Dates are set with church staff.

Examples of events so far are:

- Ladies Lounge
- Mingle Move Meditate
- Petals n Tea
- The Lounge
- Scripture in Calligraphy
- An arvo with Heather
- Tides Women's Conference
- Attendance to external women's conferences

## 2. Driving Team

The driving team behind the women's ministries needs to model what is stated above in the vision with each person having mindfulness of how she can serve to support the ministries as they unfold in a year. Additionally, each person can consider their own circle at church and how she can enable, educate, encourage, empower and embrace women close to her.

While there is a small team (and possibly one person in charge) working on one event, this same team need the support and guidance from the driving team in:

1. the management of the event,
2. the promotion of the event,
3. and by being present at the event to cover any gaps, and to exercise the ministry in looking after all sister's present.

The driving team can be seen as the stability and support structure, as well as the body which reviews effectiveness and the outcomes of the ministry.

## 3. Communications, Review and accountability processes

The accountability structure is as follows:

- Ministry leader (accountable to the Lead Pastor);
- A ministry team (the driving team), working collaboratively with the Ministry leader, and includes the Ministry leader;
- Either one person or a small team heading up an event - accountable someone in the driving team.

Communication structures are established at the outset of any event with the small team having regular contact with the allocated person from the driving team for the purpose of supervision and accountability. At the conclusion of any event, a debrief and review needs to occur to evaluate processes and outcomes.

The driving team can meet once or twice a year for program development, review of outcomes and most importantly discussion of the pastoral needs of the women at church.

### Outside of the Women's Ministries

While there is this title, it is not inclusive of other ministries which focus on the needs of women. These also need to be acknowledged here -

1. Bible Study groups
2. Engagement in other ministries
3. Smaller workshop gatherings

#### 1. Bible Study groups

The aim of having women's bible studies is to offer a forum where women can easily gather, share their common experiences, pray together and foremost, to study God's Word.

The groups are and can be formed on demographics. Some examples are:

- Mums and bubs
- Young women
- Working women

## **2. Engagement in other Ministries**

Women enjoy working side by side, putting their abilities together towards a common goal. Inviting women to participate in a range of ministries at church can serve to foster familial relationship, sisterly servanthood, joy, and a sense of value in the church community.

Examples here are Kids Club, Morning Tea, Music, Welcoming, Lunch, Creche, Family Feast and other special church days.

## **3. Smaller workshop gatherings**

Less formal gatherings for anyone in the church and often for the community, are often organised by women using their gifts in different ways.