



“Do you long for a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God, but seem lost when you open your Bible? Do you read portions here and there, but forget what it said five minutes later? Are you frustrated with getting everyone else's opinions about what the Bible says on a certain subject, and wondering what's really true? Do you think it's really possible to understand Scripture even if you aren't a theologian? If we study the Bible itself, asking the Holy Spirit to teach us, we will know it because we know it – not just because we heard someone else say it.” Brenda Klemke

PEARLS is the title of our school season inductive Bible Study for Women. We have taken a simple approach to studying the Bible while joining together women in community. PEARLS is a place for friendships and a place to learn and grow together in the Bible – discovering significant truths that can be applied to everyday life.

What inductive Bible study is - Inductive Bible study uses the Bible as the main source of information about the Bible.

The three basic steps

- **Observation:** What does it say?
- **Interpretation:** What does it mean?
- **Application:** How does the meaning apply to me?

PEARLS small groups will be forming again this fall in preparation for studying together for the entire school year. Groups consist of an average of 8 women per group meeting weekly from September through April (taking the month of December off.) PEARLS groups meet on several days in several locations.

If you long for a deeper, more meaningful relationship with God and other women, we hope that you'll pray about being a part of the WRCC Women's Ministry PEARLS Bible studies this fall.

For more information contact Lynda Shade at lcshade@att.net. To be placed into a small group, contact Sherri Stetnish at [sstetnish@wrcc.org](mailto:ssstetnish@wrcc.org) or 773.2233.

PEARLS Mission Statement... Leading women to be complete in Christ, Spirit-led, able to handle accurately the Word of God and equipped for every good work...always in the context of a mutually valued atmosphere. Colossians 1:28,29

PEARLS Bible Study Goals....

- **Create a safe and protected environment for women to share**
- **Grow in the study of God's Word**
- **Cultivate a trustworthy place to "ask questions" and learn**
- **Provide motivation and accountability for personal study**

This fall we will be studying two New Testament books; *Ephesians & Philippians*. In the spring session, we will study the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes.

Overview: by Bruce Wilkinson & Kenneth Boa

Ephesians: Ephesians is addressed to a group of believers who are indescribably rich in Jesus Christ, but living a beggarly existence because they are ignorant of their wealth. And because they have not appropriated their wealth, they are walking like they are spiritual paupers! Paul describes the contents of a Christian's "bank account": adoption, acceptance, redemption, life, grace, and citizenship – in short, every spiritual blessing! Drawing upon that huge spiritual endowment, the Christian has all the resources he needs to live a life "to the praise of the glory of His grace." In this book, we learn about our spiritual walk rooted in spiritual wealth.

Philippians: Philippians is the epistle of joy and encouragement in the midst of adverse circumstances. In it, Paul freely expresses his fond affection for the Philippians in view of their consistent testimony and support, and lovingly urges them to center their actions and thoughts on the person, pursuit, and power of Jesus Christ. Paul also seeks to correct a problem with disunity and rivalry, urging his readers to imitate Christ in His humility and servant hood. In this way the work of the gospel will go forward as believers seek to stand fast, be of the same mind, rejoice always, and pray about everything.

Ecclesiastes: Ecclesiastes is a profound book recording an intense search by the Preacher (traditionally understood to be Solomon) for meaning and satisfaction in life – in spite of the inequities, inconsistencies, and seeming absurdities of life on earth. The key word in Ecclesiastes is vanity, the futile emptiness of trying to make sense out of life apart from God. Looked at "under the sun", life's pursuits lead only to frustration. Power, prestige, pleasure – nothing can fill the God-shaped void in man's life – except God Himself. But seen from His perspective, life becomes meaningful and fulfilling. Skepticism and despair melt away when each day is viewed as a gift from God.