

How to start a Women's Ministry at your church :

1. **Pray for each other and become sensitive to the needs of your church.** Prayer is key to any ministry, especially during the startup stage, when wisdom and guidance from the Lord are essential. A small prayer group may become the catalyst for other groups. Be aware of the needs of your church. Each church is different with different needs. Be open to new ideas & unconventional women's group ideas.
2. **Work closely with your pastor & church staff.** Responsibility for leadership of the church has been assigned to staff members. Seek their wise counsel. Women's groups are part of the total church program.
3. **Decide who will be leading the group.** Who will be the director of the women's ministry at your church. This is not an easy title, it comes with very much responsibility and can be time consuming. So take it to God in prayer. Also, consider to implement other officers in your group, like an assistant director to help in sharing of responsibilities and a secretary/treasurer of the group, to help with fundraising/charters/etc. Delegating different responsibilities to various people will help ease the burden of the group off of one person's shoulders.
4. **Train your Leaders.** God will raise up women to give leadership to the groups in your church. Be alert for willing workers and assist them in training for their job. Be particularly sensitive to women who have never held a leadership position. New ministries often uncover new leaders. If you have new leaders, prepare them. Put in the effort to help train them & be transparent of the responsibilities & expectations of any role in this ministry. Always meet regularly with your leaders, outside of regular meetings, to stay on the same page & to set goals. Meet where you have a safe place you can be honest with one another. Transparency & communication is the key in relationships among leaders.
5. **Survey the women of your church & talk to your pastor to identify the needs of your church.** In order to identify needs and design appropriate events, listen to the women of your church and community. In doing so, you may choose not to duplicate other groups and start new ones. In any case, your local needs – not someone else's model – should determine your focus.
6. **Develop Bible study groups as a foundation.** Bible study is the most common type of women's small group activity. It's a way to get the women of your church involved & used to meeting regularly. So incorporate a bible study in your group meetings. A personal commitment to the Lord and His Word should be expressed through participation in systematic Bible study. Christian women are interested in spiritual growth and enrichment which can be promoted through group involvement.
7. **Keep missions and community outreach a priority.** Women's ministry should include a focus on involvement in fundraising for missions. You can check out the paper titled, "Fundraising Ideas" to help you get started.
8. **Hold a church-wide special event to promote the groups.** Many women will respond to a one-time activity before making a longer-term commitment. A special event attracts a larger number of women who can learn about small-group opportunities. For example, perhaps a "Preview Day" would be appropriate to overview options offered during this time frame. Offer information and register women on this day. Other one-day events to kick off your women's ministry group. Do a "soft launch" of your women's ministry with a special event such as: a one-day women's conference, a women's lunch/dinner, paint party, ice cream social, movie night, baking night, etc.