

thrive!

MAY/JUNE 2017



Editor's Note

This newsletter finds us in the middle of a beautiful spring filled with blooming flowers, green grass, budding trees and ... pollen. Many of us will be admiring the season and enjoying the warm sunshine with a Kleenex in hand and allergy medicine nearby.

This paradox reminds me of Jeremiah and what we have been reading in the Daily Bible Reading Plan. This 'weeping prophet' was blessed by God to be chosen as His spokesman to share divine prophecies with the children of Israel. Unfortunately, his messages denouncing their adulterous idol worship and the resultant forthcoming judgment were painfully exposing and hatefully rejected. Check out the article on page 13 for more details about this courageous man of God and his sacrificial obedience to God.

We also have the privilege in this edition to listen in on a candid conversation with Lyndall Campbell. "We laughed and we cried over the four hours I was with her," shared Michelle Rabon, who interviewed Mrs. Campbell in late March. So, pull up a chair and have your handkerchief handy for part one of this two-part article.

Rounding out our issue are two articles on the joy and life-altering power of serving Christ in unexpected places. Molly Kimmins and Jeannie Fisher open their hearts and share how serving Jesus has changed their lives and given them a new outlook on being His hands and feet here on earth.

Our prayer is that these articles encourage and strengthen you, no matter your age or situation. Thank you for allowing the *thrive!* Ladies Ministry the opportunity to walk with you as you learn and grow in Christ. May He always be magnified in our talk and walk.

Julie



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May & June Calendar

May

- 1 - Grief Share
6:00 - 8:00 pm
- 3 - Awana Grand Prix (all services in gym)
7:00 pm
- 5 - *thrive!* Friday Bible Study
10:00 am
- 8 - Grace Missions
10:00 am
- 9 - Grace Ladies Bible Study
6:30 - 8:00 pm
- 10 - Awana Awards Night
7:00 pm
- 11 - White Rose Bible Study
10:00 am
- 10 - Engage Bible Study
7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 14 - Mother's Day (no evening service)
- 17 - Engage Bible Study
7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 20 - Ladies Night Out
6:00 pm
- 24 - Engage Bible Study
7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 31 - Engage Bible Study
7:00 - 8:00 pm

June

- 3 - Awaken Bible Study
10:00 am
- 4 - Pastor's Appreciation (Morning Service)
(No evening service)
- 6 - Grace Ladies Bible Study
6:30 - 8:00 pm
- 7 - Blaze! Begins (K-5th grade)
Every Wed. @ 7:00 pm
- 7 - Engage Bible Study
7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 11 - Graduation Service (Morning Service)
- 12 - Grace Missions
10:00 am
- 14 - Engage Bible Study
7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 16 - 17 - Youth Atlanta Trip
- 18 - Father's Day (no evening service)
- 19 - 23 - Youth Camp
- 21 - Engage Bible Study
7:00 - 8:00 pm
- 20 - Grace Ladies Bible Study
6:30 - 8:00 pm

Connect with us!

Facebook - [thrive! Ladies Ministry](#)

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Ladies Night Out Cookout!

May 20, 2017

6:00 pm

Beverly Butts' Home

5570 Creekwood Dr.

Salisbury, NC

sign-up at the

thrive! table





Grace Sufficient

an interview with Lyndall Campbell

By: Michelle Rabon

The sun light sprayed through the windows onto her large kitchen table as we cried and held hands together, and as quickly as the tears came the air became filled with the laughter of true joy. There is something about a woman's God story that draws me in, to me it is always an epic tale of rescue, redemption, and a grace covered life. God has granted each of us with a narrative that will further the Kingdom of God. Each story given to us to share how real the Father is in our lives every day.

If you have spent any time in our church congregation in the last decade, you know there is a voice that stands out, a hand that is seen raised by a woman standing in her pew crying out glory to her mighty God. She is faithful to praise the One who created her and walks with her in the deepest valleys. Lyndall Campbell is by far one of the greatest encouragements to the women of our church by simply standing and declaring the goodness of God despite her circumstance. It is a powerful testimony to women and men

across our church family to watch her praise Him and to live out that God's grace is sufficient.

Some who don't know her story may say that her worshipping is normal, it's what we should do. We should all stand and praise God for what He has done. The power of the message comes when we see that hand lifted after a devastating diagnosis, the loss of a child, or a difficult treatment. In Lyndall's 69 years she has spent the last twenty-three of those battling stage four advanced metastatic breast cancer, the same cancer that took her mother's life and the one that has spread all over her body. Twenty-three years far exceeds the normal life expectancy range given to patients with this devastating diagnosis. Those twenty-three years haven't stopped her from praising Him, or being thankful.

Through every hard diagnosis, set back, start over, and surgery, she has faced them, not without tears and sadness, but with *hope*.

I asked Lyndall what gets her through those times when the doctor's diagnosis is that your jawbone must be replaced because the chemo has destroyed it or when you find out you have a large brain tumor that must be removed. This was her response, "I know I am not alone. He knows me and I know Him I don't feel like I am being punished, I feel like it's His plan for me, and there are others who have it so much worse. I have become so thankful that I am 69 years old with four grandchildren. I have traveled and seen a lot of life, I feel like I am really blessed."

No matter our own circumstances, there is someone else facing days that are even harder and trials even greater than we are facing. When we look through the eyes of the Father and see His perfect plan, we can be thankful for His grace despite our circumstance. Even when our situation is bad we must remember that things could always be worse. These are small blessings in which to be thankful.

For Lyndall, however, no amount of cancer can compare to the pain of losing her son in 2010. "There is nothing in this life that comes close to the level of hurt that came in those moments," she shares. She even told me that when she wakes up in the morning she is more likely to think of her son than the cancer plaguing her body.

Every ounce of pain she feels from her cancer or treatments doesn't compare to the heart-wrenching phone call she received the day she lost her son. Through the tears she said, "I will never get over that, you can't get over 'Your son just took his life.' So whenever I have something to go through that's painful, all I do is think of that phone call and I get through it. They will ask what my pain is on a scale of 1 to 10, I know a 10. A 10 was that phone call, nothing was as painful as that."

From the deepest places where God has taught her so faithfully, she has seen that God's grace is always there. "God's grace is there, He is not going to let you die from the deepest hurts. I have found that He will let you go through some really sad times, but He will bring you back. This life isn't free from



sadness or pain. His grace is sufficient to meet you right where you are."

Lyndall shares that the reason she "makes it" is because of the relationship she has with Christ. She wants the same for you, to know the Lord personally.

Lyndall's story displays God's grace in the unthinkable moments when His hand is evident, but doesn't remove the pain or sadness that can come. She clings to the truths in Psalm 3:5-6 which encourage and remind her that God has her life and situation in His control.

An old hymn sums up her faith, "*On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground in sinking sand. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus blood and righteousness. I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus name.*"

Lyndall doesn't want these words to shine a light on her, but to point to the goodness of the Father in her life.

I asked her that if she could share any words with our women what they be and she said, "I want to remind them to stay close to Jesus, and to keep up with their mammograms. I love my church family and each of the women in our church."

We love you too, Lyndall!



The Greatest Privilege

By: Molly Kimmins

Service. This word excites and energizes some but is brushed off and ignored by many others. Why does this word evoke such different responses among Christians today?

To me, service is the greatest privilege to, ultimately, leave behind a legacy of lives impacted for Jesus Christ! Service and ministry are all about love and that is the major reason why people give up their time and resources for others. When you are passionate about a ministry or service project, selfless love flows from you to the people you are ministering to. As a result, you serve because you want to, not because you have to.

When people hear my name, I'm pretty sure the first thing they think of is...cooking. Ever since I was in middle school working with food has been a major part of my serving in our church. At the suggestion of a family friend, the cook team leader at the time took a chance on enlisting the help of a 13 year old girl and her mom to help him prepare Wednesday night meals. Although, at first, I was very apprehensive about helping a bunch of people I barely knew, that changed in a few short weeks. I discovered that service was not about me, but

the people I was serving as well as those I was working alongside...and I had a blast doing it! Cooking on Wednesdays quickly became the highlight of my week and soon my friends began to help as well.

Fast-forwarding to now, I have had the amazing opportunity to learn under many wonderful and extremely talented leaders in our church. If someone would have told me a few years ago that I would be leading a team of teenagers and adults to prepare meals for more than 200 people or work with a group of my peers to start and lead a college ministry, I would not have believed you!

From my experience and observation, service is *doing what you love for who you love*. In my own strength, I would easily give up when conflict and opposition arises, but I have learned that serving Christ is not about my comfort. When discouragement comes, I remind myself that I am doing this for Someone much greater than me! Jesus is the reason I keep going and moving forward even when I may want to run away and hide sometimes.

Not only has service at Central Baptist Church opened doors to experiences I would have never had otherwise, it has also afforded me the opportunity to form priceless relationships...ones I would have never explored on my own. Coming from a small extended family, the people that I serve and minister with have become my family. I know they care about me and that we are all working toward the same goal. These people, young and old, are an intricate part of the benefits of serving.

There are few places where a teenager can go and form lasting, meaningful relationships with people of all ages. I believe this is what forms the intergenerational relationships we read about in Titus 2 and help strengthen and continue the ministries of our church. When the "seniors" of the church invest in the younger generations, we catch the vision of something greater than ourselves and carry on the mission of our church and grow it to become an even greater witness for Christ.

Service is a personal heartfelt act by an individual. We must view service as the life-long, rejuvenating, and passionate way Christ wants us to serve Him. The ultimate and lasting solution, as Pastor Parker has been preaching for the last few weeks, is revival. Not a revival that has been programmed into our minds, but a personal, intimate revival between us and the Heavenly Father. When we investigate the condition of our

heart and call out to God for revival, not only for ourselves, but also for our family, our church, and our nation, all the other pieces we worry about divinely fall into place. God already has the means; we must allow Him to move us to the place where we can personally experience it.

Personal revival by God is what gives us a new passion and zeal for what He is calling us to do - no matter how small or massive the task. Revival is the key to accomplishing what Christ has put into our hearts. As we have seen in the past, personal revival is contagious, consuming, and leads to passion! And, as stated earlier, passion is what leads to true love in any ministry.

Christians everywhere are looking for a place where other believers are excited about what they are doing, love each other, and love people they have never seen before. This is how we not only develop the right way to serve those in our church and community, but also grow our church and ministries to reach even more people with the life-changing Gospel of Jesus Christ. When we fully grasp this principle of Scripture, believers will pray for others to find new life in Christ. Those individual transformations, from spiritual death to life in Jesus Christ, will change the trajectory of a life, a family, a church, and a community.





“I am
the Lord,
the God
of all
mankind.
Is anything
too hard
for me?
Jeremiah 32:27

May

- 1- Psalm 1
- 2- Psalm 2
- 3- Psalm 3
- 4- Psalm 4
- 5- Psalm 5
- 6- Psalm 6
- 7- Psalm 7
- 8- Psalm 8
- 9- Psalm 9
- 10- Psalm 10
- 11- Psalm 11
- 12- Psalm 12
- 13- Psalm 13
- 14- Psalm 14
- 15- Psalm 15
- 16- Psalm 16
- 17- Psalm 17
- 18- Psalm 18
- 19- Psalm 19
- 20- Psalm 20
- 21- Psalm 21
- 22- Psalm 22
- 23- Psalm 23
- 24- Psalm 24
- 25- Psalm 25
- 26- Psalm 26
- 27- Psalm 27
- 28- Psalm 28
- 29- Psalm 29
- 30- Psalm 30
- 31- Psalm 31

June

- 1- Psalm 32
- 2- Psalm 33
- 3- Psalm 34
- 4- Psalm 35
- 5- Psalm 36
- 6- Psalm 37
- 7- Psalm 38
- 8- Psalm 39
- 9- Psalm 40
- 10- Psalm 41
- 11- Psalm 42
- 12- Psalm 43
- 13- Psalm 44
- 14- Psalm 45
- 15- Psalm 46
- 16- Psalm 47
- 17- Psalm 48
- 18- Psalm 49
- 19- Psalm 50
- 20- Psalm 51
- 21- Psalm 52
- 22- Psalm 53
- 23- Psalm 54
- 24- Psalm 55
- 25- Psalm 56
- 26- Psalm 57
- 27- Psalm 58
- 28- Psalm 59
- 29- Psalm 60
- 30- Psalm 61

Fun Family Summer Ideas

By: Michelle Rabon



Summer is fast approaching, bringing longer days, and fun-filled nights. Do you need activities or ideas for your family this Summer? Activities

don't have to be Pinterest-approved or be expensive - they only need a little creativity and lots of love. Here are some great ideas to keep boredom at bay and make mom and dad happy.

1. Make a family summer fun list: Make a list of all the things you love to do from going to the movies and planning summer vacations, to making homemade ice cream and catching fireflies.

2. Summer Reading: Summer reading is a great way to keep your child learning over their break from school.



Think. Connect. Library.

Rowan County libraries have great summer reading programs and activities for your child to get involved in. Also,

your child can earn a free book at Barnes & Noble during their summer reading program. Make reading fun and offer incentives when they reach their reading goals.

3. Try new recipes: Grab a new cook book or look online to find fun new summer recipes to try with your family. Experiment with a new dessert, a healthy snack, or a special meal to share on family night. Get creative and let the kids lend a hand in the kitchen. Don't be afraid to make a mess!



4. Weekly Family Theme Nights: By far one of our favorite summer family activities is Family Theme Night, where we pick a movie ahead of time to watch at home, and create foods and decorations that go with the movie. Check out Pinterest for great movie night ideas!

5. Go to a Summer Movie: The Gem Theatre in Kannapolis shows \$1 movies every Tuesday at 10:00 am and 12:30 pm.

6. Family Olympics: Stay active over the summer with a Family Olympics. Create games, obstacle courses, and fun medals for the winners. Finish the day with a cookout for the whole family.

7. Indoor Camp out : Another favorite of our family, and also a great activity for a rainy day, is having an indoor camp out! Bring in a tent or build one from blankets in the living room, make foods that you would traditionally eat at a camp out, and snuggle up and watch a movie together. Smore's cookies are our favorite treat at indoor camp outs.



However you choose to spend your summer days, fill them with family, laughter and memories. Don't be afraid to try something new together!

Have a great summer!

My 'Do Over'

By: Jeanie Fisher



Go ahead, Google it. But, I will save you the time. A 'do over' is an opportunity to try, or perform, something a second time. Notice, if you will, nothing is mentioned about a mistake to be corrected. My thoughts were if you had to do it over, it must not have been done right the first time. Needless to say, I was wrong.

Let me fill you in on those not familiar with my story. I was happily married for 48 years. For twenty-three of those years, my husband, Bud, was disabled with an aggressive, progressive heart disease. As the years passed, he became weaker and weaker and more dependent on me.

Our life, as we knew it, came to a standstill. We could no longer be active in church, or anything else, for that matter. I retired early to stay home with him, with no complaints on my part, since I was 60 years old with thirty years in the school system. Retiring was not a hard choice

at all! I had six wonderful years of staying right by Bud's side until the Lord took him home. Being his caregiver was one of my greatest blessings.

Now for the beginning of my 'do over'. After years of being confined I was now free to do whatever I wanted, whenever I wanted to do it. Yes, it took (and is still taking) time to adjust to this new normal and I felt I had to make up for so much lost time. For so long, even though I knew I was in God's will to be a 24/7 caregiver, I was unable to be active in what had once been a major part of my life. As I began my 'do over', I prayed and prayed for God to show me what He wanted me to do.

As I grieved, I clung to God's promises, believing Psalm 30:5 that joy could come in the morning. Psalm 34:4 also showed me I could either have fear or faith. I chose faith and God never failed me.

In 2015, I was offered the role of overseeing the church's Food Pantry and that ministry has changed my life. Serving those in need in our community and working with a wonderful team of volunteers has been amazing! God has tremendously blessed me and I am so thankful for the opportunity to help others and work for the Lord. God has also recently opened additional doors of service and now my children and grandchildren joke about having to make an appointment to see me!

My life has taken such a new direction. The more involved I am, the happier I become and like the apostle Paul, "I have not yet attained, but press toward the

mark" (Philippians 3:12-14). It seems the more I serve the sweeter my walk with the Lord grows.

Not all 'do overs' are because of a death. You may have experienced a different type of crisis that has left you wondering what is next for your life. The Lord is waiting to give you a new purpose but also wants you to obey the command of Matthew 7:7 to "seek and you will find".

Take some time to evaluate your heart and seriously consider your direction. Where are you in your walk with the Lord? What issues or areas need His attention? And, most of all don't be afraid to ask the really big question: Is it time for a 'do over' in my life?



May/June

Book Nook: She Reads Truth

If there was a book (besides the Bible) that I wish I could financially afford to give every woman I know, this would be the one. This book was written by two women, Amanda Bible Williams and Raechel Meyers, who began a ministry (shereadstruth.com) to get women into the Word of God everyday. This book is their story of what it looks like to truly hold on to the permanence of God's Word in a world that is actively passing-

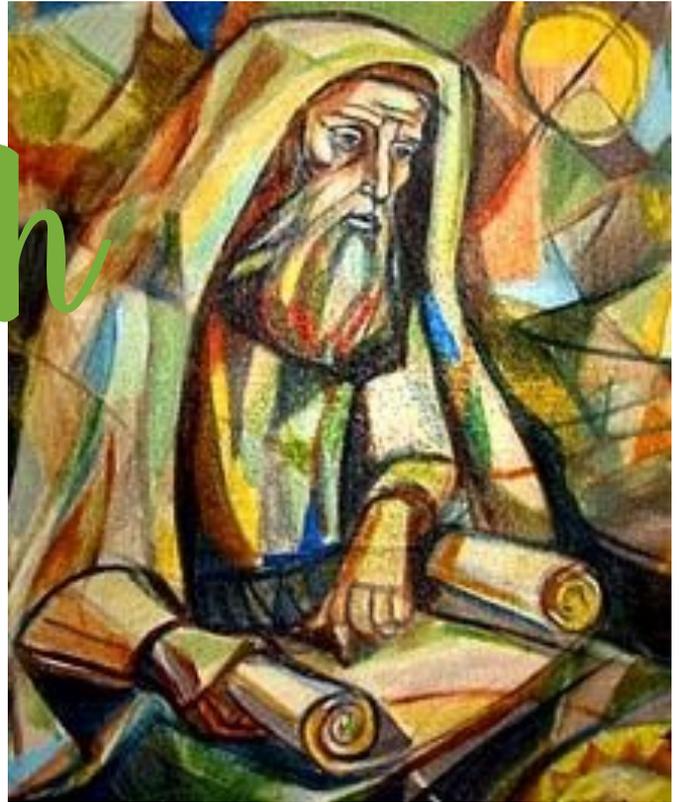
away around us. They remind us of the frailty of life, the big struggles and obstacles that face every believer and the ultimate work of the Father in and through it all.

There are not many books written for Christian women that leave you walking away with true conviction from the Holy Spirit concerning the things we desperately hold onto that quickly fade away. There is no denying that life brings difficult days to our lives but the truth of the Word of God remains steadfast, completely true and unchanged. The world will fade, people will let us down and fail us, and we will fall short in our own efforts...even the good things we love will eventually pass away BUT, God is firm, faithful, and unshaken. He is the permanent fixture and He is the truth we cling to.

This is a great book to add to your summer reading list and to pack in your bag for vacation. Soak up the words and be reminded that God's permanent truth will always remain steadfast.

Jeremiah

By: Julie Kimmins



I don't know if any of you had the same feeling as I did when you looked at the 2017 Daily Reading Plan and saw that Jeremiah would take up half of March and all of April. All that doom and gloom...or so I thought. The book of Jeremiah, as well as the prophet himself, surprised me to say the least. And more than that, the God of the book of Jeremiah shocked me even more with His long-suffering patience toward the children of Israel and the abundance of creative objective lessons He used to get their attention.

So, listed below are a few surprising facts I learned about the main characters in the book of Jeremiah.

The Children of Israel

- They were STUBBORN and foolishly chose to worship pagan idols instead of their God who had brought them out of slavery in Egypt and given them the land in which they were safely living. The Lord God said this concerning them in Jer. 2:11, *"Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter that thou hast forsaken the Lord thy God, and that my fear is not in thee..."*
- They hated Jeremiah and his 'destruction is coming' messages. The people plotted numerous times to kill him and put a stop to his prophesying. See Jeremiah 11: 18 - 23, 18: 18 - 23 and 26: 7 - 9.

Their leaders also had him whipped (Jer. 20: 1 - 6), imprisoned (Jer. 37: 11 - 16), and thrown into a dark, mucky cistern and left for dead (Jer. 38: 1:1 - 13 This account is definitely a MUST READ!)

Jeremiah

- He was set apart by God for the specific purpose to be His prophet to the nations (Jer. 1: 5).
- He felt too young and unqualified to speak for God (Jer. 1: 6 - 10) but, nevertheless, God fully equipped Jeremiah and gave him everything he needed to succeed at His calling.
- He faithfully prophesied to his fellow brothers in Judah for 40 years and never saw them repent of their wickedness and turn back to God. He did live to see the divine prophesies come true when the Babylonians ravaged and destroyed Jerusalem and the surrounding area and the people were either killed or led away into captivity.

The Lord God of Hosts

- The Lord God loved Israel and Judah and it broke His heart that they rejected Him. You can feel His sorrow and anguish for His children in Jer. 3: 12 when He states, *“Return thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord and I will not cause mine anger to fall upon you: for I am merciful, saith the Lord, and I will not keep anger forever.”*
- The Lord God mercifully sent Jeremiah to warn the people of Israel and Judah of their coming destruction and gave them years of opportunity to repent.
- The Lord God NEVER cast His wayward children aside but continued to divinely work in them and during their 70-year captivity in Babylon He finally broke them of their idol worship.

From the Holy scriptures and historical records we know that the remnant of the children of Israel did return to their homeland and eventually rebuilt their walls and cities. Jeremiah's prophecies were fulfilled exactly as the Lord had said. Once again there was laughter in the streets of Jerusalem and animals grazing in the fields. God had brought His children home and they were ready to build a new life with Him at the center.

I am so thankful that God commanded Jeremiah to write down all His prophecies and chronicle the decline of the pre-captivity children of Israel so that we can learn from their mistakes. It is encouraging that God continually reached out to them to repent and be restored and He does the same for us today. Examine your heart and confess any and all sin that separates you from God – allow Him to give you the relationship and life for which you are longing.

For I know the plans I have for you,
declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and
not to harm you, plans to give you hope
and a future.

Jeremiah 29:11

Parmesan Tomato Zucchini Bake

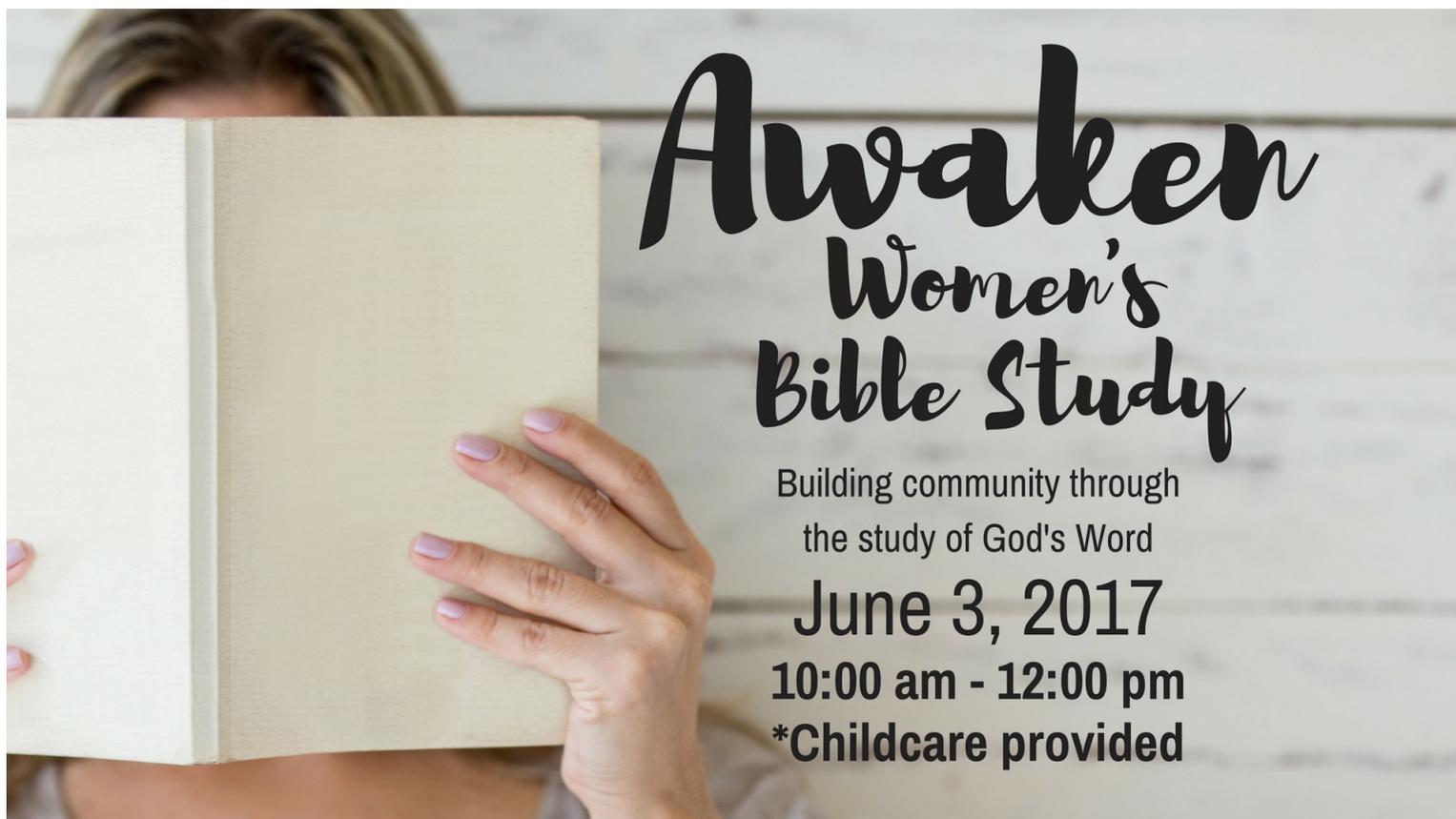


Ingredients

- 2 medium zucchini, sliced
- 2 medium yellow squash, sliced
- 5 medium tomatoes, sliced
- 1/2 cup quality parmesan cheese, shredded
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 3/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 3/4 teaspoon onion powder
- 1/2 teaspoon Italian spices

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
2. In a baking dish, arrange zucchini, yellow squash and tomatoes in an alternating pattern (as seen in the photos).
3. Top with cheese and spices. Place into oven and bake for 20 minutes or until squash is soft.



Awaken Women's Bible Study

Building community through
the study of God's Word

June 3, 2017
10:00 am - 12:00 pm
***Childcare provided**