

Organiser

What to read, where to go, what to buy

Spotlight

Women's Bible teaching ministry *Know Your Bible* have their national conference, *Living with Attitude* this month. We asked UK President Andrea Smith to tell us more about their work

Know Your Bible is part of the international ministry of Christian Women Communicating International and aims to encourage women to know and love God's Word and apply it to their lives. We are an evangelical, non-denominational ministry, providing Bible teaching and spiritual encouragement for women by women, through day and residential conferences, Quiet Days and small group Bible studies using material which we produce ourselves.

Why do you think it's important for women to have Bible teaching devised especially for them?

I think there are three reasons. Firstly, when it comes to teaching at our conferences, women naturally teach from a woman's perspective, which helps to make what they teach so applicable. I can still remember teaching from conferences years ago that has really 'impacted' my life! Secondly, the study notes that we produce are written with women in mind (though we now have church housegroups and men's groups using them). They are in depth and very practical. And lastly, just having women in a group automatically alters the dynamics. We find that women feel much freer to contribute and ask questions, thus helping to encourage one another in their walk with God.

What do you see as the major concerns/challenges facing Christian women today?

We hear a lot about 'work-life balance' nowadays and I think this is even more challenging for Christian women! Aside from the need to balance family, work and friends, Christian women also have church commitments as well as trying to grow in their spiritual lives.

We have to try and discern how best to prioritise our time. With so many demands placed upon us, generally the first thing to go is our private time alone with God, praying and studying his

Word. We need to cultivate that precious, private time with God and guard it jealously. Ultimately, our walk with God directly affects how we conduct ourselves in every aspect of our lives.

What's your favourite Bible verse and why?

There are so many wonderful passages in the Bible, it's a real treasure trove! I think the verse that I always come back to is from 2 Corinthians (5:17): "Therefore, if any one is in Christ, they are a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come." It seems to encompass in a nutshell what Christ has done for us in terms of our salvation and the wonderful peace, joy and hope that this brings.

How would you encourage women struggling with Bible study?

Hebrews 3:12 tells us that the Word of God is living and active. We need to learn to come to the Bible with a sense of excitement and expectation that God will always speak to us through it. I believe a personal quiet time with God, in prayer and studying his Word, is crucial if we are to grow in our faith.

But a big part of growing as a Christian is also through fellowship with other believers. I've heard it said, "If you want to grow in your faith, hang around people who are passionate about Jesus." KYB study groups are a fantastic way to study the Bible because you look at the study at home and then come together with other women to share your answers. It is amazing what you can learn from one another and it is so encouraging.

Many women give testimony to the fact that they have tackled books of the Bible with KYB, which they would never have dreamt of doing on their own, and they've learnt so much from it.

You get to love the author by reading his book . . .



What can women expect from this year's weekend conference?

Great Bible teaching; lots of laughter and lovely fellowship with women from both the UK and other countries; practical sessions on biblical meditation, Psalm writing and a chance to experience an interactive Bible study using a KYB study. It's an opportunity to hear your heavenly father's voice in the beautiful setting of Hothorpe Hall in Leicestershire.

There are still a few places left for the conference which runs from 21st – 23rd September, and also room for day visitors.

For more information, visit www.knowyourbible.org.uk or tel: 01604 491375