



Freedom vs. Captivity

Many years ago, I was working through one of Beth Moore's bible studies and came across the following statement:

My truth + God's truth = Freedom

My truth + Satan's lies = Captivity

Wow! That was a life changing moment for me because I realized how easily it had been for me to believe Satan's lies. I realized I was not walking in the freedom that God's truth had for me in all areas of my life.

How about you? What is your truth? Maybe your truth is that you are feeling rejected. God's truth tells us – "I will not leave you or forsake you". Contrast that with Satan's lies which tell us – "You are not worth loving". You see how important it is to remind ourselves of God's truth and the power it has to set us free?

I want to encourage you (and me) to remember that God's truth will bring freedom to our lives if we are willing to have the faith and the courage to trust God and act on His truth.

**My truth + God's Truth =
Freedom**

**My truth + Satan's Lies =
Captivity**

Daily Scripture Reading: In this packet you will find a daily scripture reading for the next three months. They all relate to the topic of Freedom vs. Captivity.

In July we'll be looking at texts about **freedom**. In August we'll be looking at texts about **faith** and in September we'll be looking at texts about **courage**.

As our **faith** in God grows, He will give us the **courage** to walk in the path He has for us which will result in us walking in God's **freedom** instead of the enemy's captivity.

Woman of the Bible: Rahab is this month's featured woman of the Bible. She is an example of a woman who had faith in the God of Israel and the courage to act on that faith. The end result – freedom for her and her entire family. What a powerful story!

Local Women's Ministries Programs:

This month we are featuring the women's ministry program from the Bozeman Seventh-day Adventist church. This group of ladies are an active group! Be sure to read about all the details.

Don't have a local women's ministry program? I encourage you to talk to your pastor and a few of the women from your church and begin to plan a time for the women of your church to meet and develop deeper and stronger friendships.

OUR MISSION: *To spiritually nourish and connect the women of the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists in a supportive, enjoyable environment, and impact the women in the communities where they live.*



OUR VISION: *The women in Montana will have a growing relationship with Jesus and each other.*



Laura Worf is the Women's Ministry Leader for the Montana Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.

Bozeman Women's Ministry Program Report

By Melissa Stuber, Women's Ministries Director, Bozeman SDA Church

Building community and meaningful connections, centered around the love of Jesus, has been at the heart of the Bozeman Seventh-day Adventist church and overflows into the Women's Ministry program. The result of living life together, outside of our weekly worship service, is intentionally forming deeper relationships between the ladies in our congregation and creating opportunities to invite friends outside of our church to join us in a more casual setting.

Our Women's Ministry team currently consists of ten women who already generously give their time and energy to the church in many ways, but have carved out additional time from their schedules for serving the ladies in our community. Each person is a valuable part of the team and many hands make light work of the program. Every member has helped host an event or is working on things behind the scenes to connect with the women in our church. What a blessing it is to work with these gals.

Here are just a few of the things we have done in our Women's Ministry program over the last year.

"Sip and Share" - Meeting in a room in the church, everyone brings a drink or dessert and something that has made an impact on us to share with the group. It could be a favorite podcast or book, a product that we love, or even a story or idea.

Small Groups - We have recently gone through the books "Lies Women Believe" by Nancy DeMoss Wolgemuth and "The Armor of God" study by Priscilla Shirer. We keep it simple with volunteers bringing desserts for the group and meeting at the church on a weeknight for a couple hours.

Sword Challenge - This was a short-term small group of women dedicated to memorizing Bible verses over a four-week period. We met virtually each week using the Signal app to share our progress and any tips we found helpful.



A colorful graphic for a Women's Ministries Dessert Social event. The background is orange with a pattern of white and orange circles. The text reads: "WOMEN'S MINISTRIES PRESENTS DESSERT SOCIAL LADIES 12 YEARS OF AGE AND OVER ARE INVITED *NO RESERVATIONS REQUIRED* MONTANA CONFERENCE CAMP MEETING MOUNT ELLIS ACADEMY CAFETERIA DINING ROOM JULY 12, 2024 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM TASTE AND SEE THAT THE LORD IS GOOD! **DONATIONS ACCEPTED NO FEE TO PARTICIPATE**". There are illustrations of a strawberry shortcake dessert, a chocolate lava cake, and a white cream dessert with strawberries.

Sister Church Weekend - We just had our first annual event where we invite one to two churches in the conference, along with the local ones in the Gallatin Valley. We host a dessert potluck with a message from a speaker on Friday evening and spend the next day together in Sabbath school, church, and a fellowship meal. We wrap it up with a relaxing soak at the Bozeman Hot Springs where we can talk and make deeper connections with our sisters from around the state. Keeping the weekend to a one-night stay helps make it doable and we are excited to keep this new tradition going.

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(Bozeman Women's Ministry from page 2)

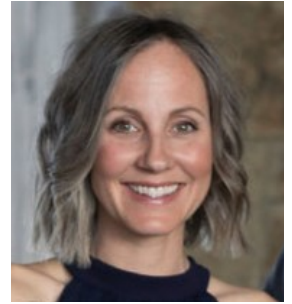
Other activities include prayer brunch, You Version Studies, "Prayer Gift Bags", Phone Ministry and Coffee Shop Meet Up.

We use the Signal app to communicate in a group text and the video call feature to meet annually for planning. We use Google Docs for our schedule of events, Google Forms for surveys and have a Facebook group.



Our desire is to learn and grow as we serve and enjoy the beautiful relationships we have with our sisters in Christ. If you have any questions or want more information about any of these, feel free to contact me anytime. I look forward to seeing what God is doing in your church.

Melissa Stuber
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To read more about the Bozeman Women's Ministry program go to www.mtcda.org.

WOMEN'S RETREAT

"Through the Keyhole"

SEPTEMBER 6-8 2024



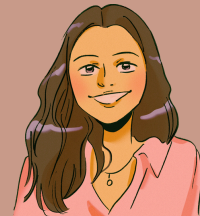
Speaker: Erin White,
Development Director for
Adventist Frontier Missions

Cost: \$145 early bird special; \$160 starting August 1-25; Registration closes August 26.

Location:
Abba's Haven
196 Bundy Road
Lavina, MT 59046

For more information & Registration:
mtcda.org/womensministry

From Surviving to Thriving!



*A seminar for women at the
Montana Conference*

Campmeeting

July 10-13, 2024

Date and time to be determined

Mt. Ellis Academy

Bozeman, MT

Presented by Laura Worf

Stress is a fact of life, but it doesn't have to steal our joy. Stress and the associated mental health challenges (anxiety and depression) are at an all-time high in our society.

In this seminar we'll learn how to overcome the stress, anxiety, and depression in our lives from a Biblical perspective so we can live the abundant life God wants for each of us!



Rahab

Taking a small step of faith can take a lot of courage.

Fear stands between us and the things God calls us to accomplish.

In a country teetering on the brink of war, a woman faces a choice. She can remain loyal to her side or run the risk of helping the enemy. So, when the Jericho police came pounding on Rahab's door looking for two Hebrew spies, Rahab didn't turn in the spies to them. Instead, she hid them on her roof and lied about where they had gone. Why did she risk her own safety and security for a couple of random strangers?

Rahab herself makes her reason clear when she tells the spies: "I know that the Lord has given this land to you and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you" (Joshua 2: 9).

Rahab took a risk, defied the law, and hid the spies because she had heard amazing things about their God. She didn't know much about this God, but she wanted to throw in her lot with what she believed would be the winning side.

Common sense would argue that in a confrontation between the nomadic Hebrews and the strong walled city of Jericho, the Hebrews would be easily defeated. But Rahab had heard the tales of the exodus from Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and the other mighty miracles God had worked in the wilderness. On the strength of what she'd heard about Israel's God, she was willing to risk not only her own safety, but that of all her family. That was the price she demanded from the spies in return for her silence: when they captured the city of Jericho, Rahab and her entire extended family would be saved.

The spies agreed. They told Rahab to hang a scarlet cord in the same window through which she let them escape. On the day they captured Jericho, if they saw the red cord in the window, they would save Rahab and her family from the city's destruction.

How often has God called you to take a risk for Him? Have you been given the opportunity to do something that might earn you disapproval or even punishment, just because you followed God's will and did the right thing? How did you respond?

We can never know until we face a crisis how we might respond. On the afternoon before the spies came, if you'd asked Rahab whether she would defy her own king in order to protect Hebrew spies, she might not have known the answer. But when the crisis came, she was ready. She made her choice; she hung out the red cord.

Every day we face choices. God calls each of us to take risks for Him. There's the risk of loving someone when we know we might get hurt. The risk of standing up for what we believe is right in the face of ridicule. The risk of using our talents for Him even though others may not understand or appreciate what we're doing.

What holds us back from taking a risk? Fear is usually the biggest culprit. Fear stands between us, and the things God calls us to accomplish.

What drives us forward? What can inspire us to step out in faith, to hang the red cord in our windows? The more we know about God and His power, the more we will be willing to risk for Him.

Against all odds, Rahab believed that the God of the Hebrews had the power to deliver the mighty, walled city of Jericho into the hands of the rag-tag army of escaped slaves.

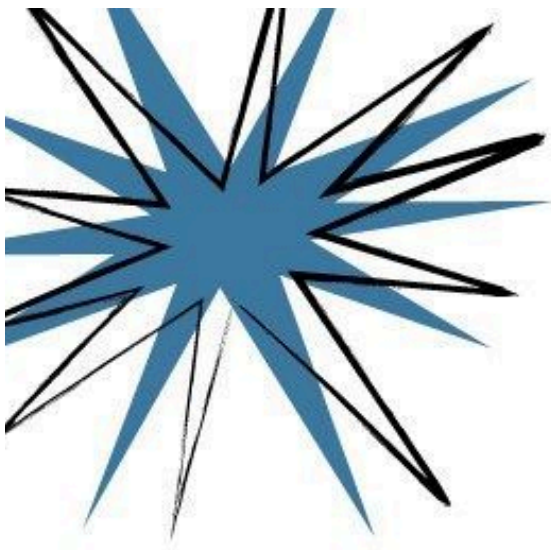
Do you know enough about the power of God to trust Him in your own life? As you look at the circumstances surrounding you today, success and victory may seem like a long shot—just like making the walls of Jericho fall by marching around them was a long shot. But it happened, because God had promised it would.

The Bible records what happened on that day when the Hebrew army marched into the ruins of Jericho: "The young men who had done the spying went in and brought out Rahab, her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her...Then they burned the whole city and everything in it...But Joshua spared Rahab...with her family and all who belonged to her, because she hid the men Joshua had sent as spies to Jericho—and she lives among the Israelites to this day" (Joshua 6:23-25).

Rahab trusted a God she barely knew—enough to hang a red cord in her window as a sign of her faith. Can you do the same?

Adapted from "Daughters of Grace" by Trudy J. Morgan-Cole





July

FREEDOM

Day 1 – Isaiah 61:1
Day 2 – Isaiah 42:6-7
Day 3 – Colossians 1:13-14
Day 4 – John 8:32-36
Day 5 – Romans 8:1-4
Day 6 – Revelation 1:4-6
Day 7 – Romans 6:1-7
Day 8 – Ephesians 2:1-5
Day 9 – Hebrews 2:14-15
Day 10 – Romans 5:12-17
Day 11 – Romans 7:21-25
Day 12 – Romans 6:11-14
Day 13 – Romans 6:22-23
Day 14 – 2 Peter 1:2-4
Day 15 – Galatians 5:1
Day 16 – 1 Peter 2:13-17
Day 17 – 2 Corinthians 3:17-18
Day 18 – Romans 6:16-19
Day 19 – Romans 8:19-25

Day 20 – Galatians 3:21-22
Day 21 – 1 Corinthians 9:19-21
Day 22 – Galatians 5:13-15
Day 23 – 1 Corinthians 10:13
Day 24 – Psalm 119:44-46
Day 25 – Galatians 3:23-29
Day 26 – Galatians 4:4-6
Day 27 – Ephesians 1:6-8
Day 28 – 1 Timothy 2:5-7
Day 29 – Psalm 68:5-6
Day 30 – John 3:16-17
Day 31 – Psalm 116:15-17





August

Faith

Day 1 – Matthew 21:21-22

Day 2 – Hebrews 11:1-3

Day 3 – Hebrews 11:4-7

Day 4 – Hebrews 11:8-12

Day 5 – Hebrews 11:23-31

Day 6 – Hebrews 11:32-12:2

Day 7 – James 2:14-17

Day 8 – James 2:18-26

Day 9 – Proverbs 3:5-6

Day 10 – 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Day 11 – 2 Corinthians 5:6-7

Day 12 – James 1:5-8

Day 13 – Galatians 2:15-16

Day 14 – 2 Timothy 4:7-8

Day 15 – Romans 4:13-14

Day 16 – Romans 4:15-17

Day 17 – Romans 4:18-25

Day 18 – Romans 5:1-5

Day 19 – Romans 10:9-11

Day 20 – Matthew 17:14-21

Day 21 – Psalm 37:5-6

Day 22 – 1 Timothy 4:10-12

Day 23 – Galatians 3:23-29

Day 24 – John 3:14-17

Day 25 – Romans 1:16-17

Day 26 – John 11:23-27

Day 27 – 1 Corinthians 15:16-22

Day 28 – Ephesians 3:16-19

Day 29 – Mark 10:46-52

Day 30 – 1 Peter 1:6-9

Day 31 – Galatians 2:20





September

Courage

Day 1 – Joshua 1:9
Day 2 – Deuteronomy 31:6
Day 3 – 2 Timothy 1:7
Day 4 – Proverbs 28:1
Day 5 – Psalm 27:14
Day 6 – Psalm 31:24
Day 7 – Ephesians 6:10-11
Day 8 – Psalm 112:6-8
Day 9 – Isaiah 41:10
Day 10 – Psalm 16:8
Day 11 – Isaiah 12:2
Day 12 – Psalm 56:3-4
Day 13 – Psalm 27:1-3
Day 14 – 1 Corinthians 15:58
Day 15 – John 14:27
Day 16 – Ephesians 3:8-12
Day 17 – Acts 4:29-31
Day 18 – Hebrews 4:14-16
Day 19 – Hebrews 10:19-23

Day 20 – 1 John 5:14-15
Day 21 – Romans 8:15
Day 22 – Acts 1:8
Day 23 – Luke 10:19
Day 24 – 2 Corinthians 12:9
Day 25 – 1 Corinthians 4:20
Day 26 – Colossians 1:9-14
Day 27 – Ephesians 3:14-19
Day 28 – Isaiah 40:29-31
Day 29 – 2 Corinthians 3:9-12
Day 30 – Ephesians 3:20-21

