

## **Women's Ministry 2018-2019**

Women's Ministry has been a place where we witnessed a common desire to experience a tight community and a sisterhood. It has been a place where women came together consistently from diverse backgrounds to share vulnerably and hold one another accountable in a safe, open environment. A haven where we would tackle our different insecurities and questions together. A space where our struggles were out in the open, our loneliness was mutual, and we could rebuke in love.

Reconstructing a house is not only a long process, but also bothersome and complicated at times. Yet, when everything is complete, the contractor is satisfied and becomes inspired to do more projects. This year, we want to bring the girls through a process of reconstruction. First, we want to tear down the old exterior to expose and identify the weeds in our relationships with God, with discussion and prayer as our tools. Next, by laying down a new solid foundation (cornerstone first - Matthew 7:24-27) through reading, reflecting and meditating on his Word to ensure our identity remains in Christ (Galatians 3:27-28). This foundation will be the rock where we build our confidence and value on; for the more we remain in Him, the more value we see in ourselves, and the more confidence we will have in God. Lastly, by encouraging various leadership roles in women's, our prayer is for women to feel inspired and empowered to take the lead and invest in others.

To promote this first step of vulnerability, the fear of judgement needs to be abolished. Asking for topics they want to explore, their expectations of the ministry, and actively listening are ways an empathetic environment can be fostered. Practicalities for laying down the foundation involves reflection and prayer time, Biblically-centered discussions, and going through devotional plans together. To build empowerment, we want to ask the girls to lead Bible studies, discussions, worship, and icebreakers to help them learn their strengths, weaknesses, and gifts, and gain an initiative attitude. Activities to strengthen the bonds between the women include one-on-ones with those who attend, and social or study meetups outside and before ministry time, giving those who can't make it to women's a chance to bond with other women of different years.