

The Challenge of Women's Ministry

These are answers from pastor's wives and ladies involved in Women's Ministry as well as other ministries. These ladies answered the following question.

“What is the most challenging part of ministry?”



1. Meeting the needs based on ages. They all have different cares.
2. The most challenging part of ministry is getting volunteers.
3. The most challenging part of the ministry to me is trying to make everyone happy and meet everyone's needs.
4. Meeting the needs of each individual.
5. We are just getting our ladies ministry started so right now it seems like everything falls on the leadership team to do so it's hard to choose which things are most important and which things to say "no" to.
6. The most challenging part for our church is trying to get all ages interested in attending the monthly meetings and events.
7. I am a pastor's wife. The most challenging part of ministry is commitment and accountability.
8. Convincing women just how important it is to be in a study of some kind.
9. The most challenging part of my ministry is juggling relationships with so many women who need an ear and being proactive in the sensitivities of everyone to keep them engaged and motivated.
10. Hello....I have small group and each one arrives at a different time...I don't take it personally since they do this to all events (including Sunday Service)...but the later the arrival the more disruptive they are...announcing why they are late...that they just need to (use the restroom, grab a coffee etc.) & they'll be right back. I've asked them several times that when they arrive late to just grab a seat or do what they need to do first QUIETLY---and that we will help them catch up....so far this has not been successful.
11. I am a pastor's wife and I find the most challenging part of ministry is incorporating programs/activities that will encompass everyone vs. a selective few. I also struggle with allowing the Holy Spirit to lead me vs. following an agenda.

12. Hello I am a Pastor's Wife. I think one of the most challenging parts of ministry is unity, also too many "Chiefs and not enough Indians"!!
13. My husband is not a pastor but has been preaching for a church without a pastor. I think just being with him while he is preaching for other churches shows me that it would be hard to be a pastor's wife. I get close to people so easily and I think that would be the most challenging part for me to not get attached so easily. I know people move on and it is hard for me to see some leave and to have to leave people.
14. Keeping it fresh. Keeping people involved.
15. The most challenging part of ministry is presenting the Gospel in such a way to keep the ladies excited about their spiritual growth and applying it to their daily walk.
16. This is the beginning of our second year of *TeaTime* at leading it. We have two meetings a month- one on Sat. and one on Thurs. where I call it our *hands on* where we sew, make favors for the nursing home or community. My biggest challenge has been getting the ladies to come. I was very discourage Sat. as I had hope and pray for 24 to be there. We usually have a lite bunch, devotion and craft. I have it from 10 – 12:30. I like to start at 10 and they do not start showing up until 10 and after. We end at 12:30 whether we are done or not. How would you go about getting the ladies interest?
17. I really struggle in getting our older women to participate. Even when we schedule events that are targeted to them, they're less than eager to participate. It's such a shame, because our younger women are so eager to spend time with them and get to know them and learn from them.
18. To provide a women's ministry that reaches all women in all walks of life and stays focused on God. To have fun but not get too silly. To be real but not make the goal of each meeting a "boo hoo" session.
19. For myself, I struggle with the challenges of people who feel the need to tell you what is wrong, what is needed, what they want, with no thought to helping or implementing any of it. Not often enough, people fail to understand that women's ministry is not all about what we can do for them, **BUT WHAT THEY CAN DO FOR EACH OTHER.** The times when I feel more like a cruise ship activities director instead of a coordinator of women performing ministries to others for the glory of God alone.
20. For me it is coming up with new ideas and keeping it fresh.
21. Making certain this is God's will for my life and not just saying, "I want to start a women's ministry."

22. Perhaps the most challenging is getting the team on board with doing outreach. We've done well with encouraging one another and serving within the walls of the church but now we need to take it up a step and step out in our faith by taking the Gospel and sharing Jesus outside the walls, within the community.
23. To stay focused on Jesus Christ and not on what I want or what I think others expect. Keeping Christ FIRST in all I do.
24. Keeping everyone happy while at the same time staying in the Word and abiding by the Word.
25. For our team it is definitely encouraging some women to join our events. Our church is in a small rural town and some women come from a distance to church, so it is difficult for them to join us.
26. Being obedient to God's calling is the most challenging part of ministry, especially in a leadership role. I sometimes feel like Moses.
27. To me the most challenging part of ministry is to come up with ways of informing people of our ministry. I started a women's ministry this year and am trying to come up with ways to introduce the ministry to ladies.
28. Timing-- providing ministry at times and in ways that reach ladies.
29. I am the co-founder, co-director of a non-profit faith-based women's center. The most challenging part of ministry to me is balancing ministry time and family time. Ministry time doesn't shut itself off at 5:00 p.m., so there has to be a careful balance.
30. Reaching out to new women as I am very shy.
31. Keeping up with what the ladies need in their lives, where they are and what they need. Making it fun so they will keep coming back.
32. This is definitely a loaded question. One of the most challenging parts of the ministry is loving those that make themselves unlovable. Also, not allowing your flesh to have it's way and get hurt easily by those you've poured yourself into and love so much.
33. Getting people to participate.
34. Follow up to participants.
35. Finding and doing events that relate to all ages of women.
36. I am an evangelist's wife. For me, the hardest part of ministry is connecting. I am an introvert by nature. My social skills are not the best. I love to teach, but bridging the gap to connecting is my greatest struggle.

37. It's a close tie... Feeling inadequate spiritually and showing love to those you don't like.
38. Getting people out of their comfort zones.
39. My biggest challenge is dealing with women who resist submitting to the Lord and His leadership.
40. I think for me it is making sure I am following the Lord as He leads. If I am not following then I cannot lead. I am over the Mom's group and help with ladies ministry at my church. I am also Children's Ministry Director.
41. Programing across age and interest.
42. Getting people excited about more than the status quo. My ladies group has become content with the small group we are, never doing anything new. I am trying to bring excitement to the group but they aren't catching the excitement.
43. I am a WM's leader in my church and a retired Pastor's wife. Finding appropriate themes and material for monthly meetings is my challenge. I really appreciate the ideas provided.
44. I have ladies in my group from 30 to 90 years of age as we are a small church. But sometimes it is difficult to plan things for all these different age groups. I do try to do different age related things for them , My older ladies need special events to keep them active and need that feeling of being needed. I just wish some of my younger ladies would get more involved with them.
45. I think the most challenging part of women's ministries is competing with all the other activities that our women have going on at the same time. Sometimes women are just worn out from taking care of others, and they just don't feel up to doing anything else.
46. For me, the most challenging part of putting myself out there to minister to others is identifying when my motives are selfish. Typically this is from a desire to receive recognition for my efforts.
47. I believe the most challenging part is getting people to serve faithfully beside you!
48. The most challenging part of ministry is facilitating and keeping everyone on task while being gracious.
49. I'm a pastor's wife, and we are missionaries to Canada. The most challenging part of ministry for me is the lack of interest from the people. We pour our hearts into teaching, and we don't see growth, or very few people come to Bible study, or they sleep through the lessons. There is interest in fellowship, but very little interest in spiritual growth.

50. Knowing who I "really" am and yet feeling qualified to be a part of it.
51. For me the most challenging part of ministry is to keep the Lord in every aspect of it. To make sure that we are doing the ministry for the Glory of the Lord.
52. I am a pastor's wife. I think the most challenging thing for me is dealing with Christians who do not act like Christians.
53. I'm a Group Leader: The most challenging part of ministry is getting women interested enough and keeping them interested in staying with the study and group.
54. Bringing people/women to a place of commitment and being plugged into ministry.
55. The biggest challenge for me is to balance Ministry, Mommy duties, working, being a wife and yet finding some me time with the Lord to let down my hair and be myself.
56. I am a Women's Bible Study leader - I think one of the most challenging areas in ladies' ministry is meeting the needs of all the ladies no matter their age or calling.
57. Gossip is the hardest in any ministry.
58. The most challenging part for me has been to see people start out on fire for the Lord and then something blows out the flame. It's hard to pour your life into people and see them go backwards. But, "in due season we will reap if we faint not." :)
59. I seem to think my challenge is finding time to spend in fellowship. I love to fellowship with the ladies but they are often so busy with their own lives and I am too. Still, we find time to get a few of us together a couple times a month. I just wish more would see the value in fellowship with one another.
60. My most challenging part of ministry is getting a Women's Ministry established in a new, young church and having them believe in me.
61. Getting people to commit to attendance, and then show up.
62. The most challenging part of ministry is trying to teach/entertain such a diverse group of women. When you have single and married, children and no children, older and younger it can be a challenge to make it interesting for all groups.
63. I am a pastor's wife, and I think the most challenging part of ministry is having patience with certain people. I definitely won't go into details, but there is one lady we pick up and bring to church that asks for advice but doesn't really want the answers we give, and she is always complaining. She rarely has a positive thing to say, and that is draining to me. I do the best I can to help her and stay patient, but only through the Lord's help can I truly accomplish this!

64. Keeping priorities straight in the busyness of being a Christian first and taking care of my personal relationship with my Savior, a wife second being my husband's help meet, a mother third homeschooling and keeping a close relationship with each of my 7 teens and then being a pastor's wife, fourth starting a new work, being a church secretary, treasurer, Sunday school teacher etc, etc
65. Trying to keep everybody focused on the fact that your ministry is about the Lord Jesus Christ and salvation and not about oh look at what I do or I did or hey did you see what she did or he did ... It is about others and serving and being like Jesus .. NOT ABOUT US ..
66. For me the most challenging part of ministry is keeping current with the present generation and how they view God, church, etc. and planning events where you can meet their needs without having pure entertainment and compromising the Truth of the Word. Many young ladies today don't see the value of hiding God's Word in their heart by memorizing or studying by themselves. They are happy to be spoon fed.
67. I find the most challenging part of ministry is my time management/prioritizing.
68. I'm a Pastor's wife. I find the most challenging part of ministry to be helping mediocre Christians become dedicated, faithful ministers for Christ. Too many people are sadly content to be luke-warm, but our churches need active, serving Christians.
69. Getting it all done/delegating.
70. Getting the ladies interested in an activity.
71. I am the women's leader and my hardest challenge is trying to get my ladies to meeting. I study and get everything together and then they call and a lot of them can't come.
72. The most challenging part of ministry is finding times and days that are convenient for all the ladies--and wishing that all ladies would make it a priority.
73. Working with wide diverse group of women.
74. For me, the most challenging part of ministry is the fact that I am an introvert naturally, and not fond of the limelight. I have to do many things out of my comfort zone on a regular basis.
75. The most challenging part of women's ministry is getting everyone together at one time. You provide so many wonderful ideas that I would love to use. We make time for so many things on a daily basis but when it comes time for our women to get together; there doesn't seem to be a spot on the calendar.
76. Trying to meet the generational needs and interests of the ladies. Also trying to keep cohesiveness within the leadership team.

77. Balancing it with the many other ministries I handle. With God's help, we have managed to help keep our church from closing. Attendance is growing; however, I struggle to keep up with everything as a Pastor's wife, mother of 3, and working mother. I really appreciate your website, it has been a tremendous help.
78. Keeping everyone on the same page. In our church they call it chasing rabbits and my sisters tend to do that!
79. The hardest part of ministry, for me as a pastor's wife, is finding a way to connect with all of the people we minister to. I want to be able to get to know them all on a personal level so that I can learn how to best be a blessing to them. It's challenging to be able to find ways and time to do that while balancing my role as a wife and a mother of four.
80. Keeping the Ladies Ministry fresh while also keeping myself "fresh" as well.
81. The most challenging part of ministry is reaching each lady where she is. Some may have been walking with the Lord for years and another may still be a seeker. When teaching in a group, I pray the Lord would enable each of the ladies to fully grasp the message He has for them.
82. One of the most challenging parts of ministry in my opinion is trying to help people see that they need to be faithful to the church and their obligations. So many people plan church and church obligations around other activities when they should be planning other activities around their church duties.
83. Getting the ladies involved. Families and activities have changed so much the last 5 10 years. The ladies forget that they need time away with other sisters in Christ so they can be rejuvenated.
84. Just started a Women's Ministry at my church and working towards organizing and getting everything up and going. Challenging part - not enough time with working full time, but blessed that it's going rather well so far! :)
85. I am a pastor's wife - it can be challenging dealing with discouragement and loneliness.
86. Getting ladies to commit to a study, an event, a day.
87. Getting good participation for events planned.
88. I get upset when others are upset with my husband (the pastor) and criticize him or my children (although they're grown now.) Also trying to stay encouraged when people don't listen to sound Biblical advice (the pull of the flesh and our lazy society clashes with doing "right.") I am a pastor's wife in a small church.

89. The most challenging part of being the Women's Ministry leader is trying to find a study that appeals to different age groups and maturity.
90. As a Pastor's wife, the members believe I should always be readily available to volunteer even though I work a full-time job and have to help in the success of my husband.
91. There are many challenging parts of ministry. I believe one of the hardest is allowing yourself to be vulnerable before God and trusting His insight for where He has placed you. It's hard many times to surrender your own vision for how you think something should turn out and just allow Him to work. Knowing He has a hope and a future for us (Jer. 29:11) is a very comforting promise, but sometimes it can be hard trusting in the day in and day out of life. Reflecting on promises in scripture but also seeing where He has brought us already is such reassurance.
92. Balancing church life and personal life.
93. The most challenging part of ministry to women is finding time for the younger generations and commitment.
94. I am part of the Women's leadership team at my church, and I would have to say the most challenging part of ministry would be reaching women within our church as well as outside our church. It seems most women would rather not take the time to form relationships.
95. I am a women's leader. The hardest thing has been dealing with ladies who say they want to be involved and help but never follow through. Trying to decide when to stop trying asking them to participate, trying to not hurting their feelings by just doing it all yourself or wroth just one or two ladies that are always helping.
96. Trying to stay fresh, rejuvenated and relevant with the times (keeping up with technology etc...)
97. We are a young church of exactly one year in two days. Our regular attendees total about 35-40 people. About 8-12 people do all the work. As the Ladies Ministry Director, my challenge comes in planning events for the ladies without burning them out as they also volunteer efforts for other church functions. This year the ladies are focusing on the community to bring in lost souls, and more kingdom workers so we can do more.
98. I am a pastor's wife and Ladies group leader. I feel the most challenging thing is keeping ladies interested and devoted.
99. I am a pastor's wife. One difficulty in the ministry is juggling all the hats i wear... keeping a balance of home, church, and child rearing. :-)

100. I am convener of my church's women's ministry and the most challenging part is get the young adults involved.
101. The most challenging part of ministry to me is adjusting to the various thoughts and opinions of others and being able to discern the ones that are there to uplift and not tear down the kingdom of God.
102. Getting people to show up.
103. I am a Women's Leader. Unifying ladies is the most challenging part of our ministry!
104. The most challenging part of ministry is going into a new state, a new church, that she's visited only once and try to help the hurt and untrusting women towards a pastor's wife because the previous pastor's wife treated the women unkindly. Breaking that mindset that the pastor's wife that they voted in is not that way, but wants to get to know them and care for them. I know it will take time, patience, and prayer, and just be there and show them that not all pastor's wife are cold.
105. Dealing with the people! (Which is not a bad thing most of the time). The people can be the most encouraging and then for some, they can be the most discouraging.
106. Finding/making family time, and our life is on display.
107. I am a pastor's wife. I think the most challenging part of ministry is time management. Keeping everything balanced can be rough.
108. Having the desire however lacking the book knowledge to feel comfortable in reaching out in ministry.
109. I am a Pastor's Wife. For me the most challenging is encouraging my husband and being positive when all I want to do sometimes is complain and cry. I've learned to give it all to the Lord and keep my heart glad, but it is my personal struggle.
110. Working with many different types of people and personalities.
111. I am a Pastors Wife. Investing your life, heart, and prayers into a person and have them leave the church without caring what it does to you, your family, or other church members. Watching them destroy their lives by sin.
112. I am a Pastor's wife. It is a challenge to try to make everyone feel good and that they are the most important person you could be talking to (counseling) at the moment. At any point you are not to have a problem in the world. God's love takes care of this one.

113. Part of ministry is NOT tough, lol. A big struggle of mine is my "Martha" personality. I often am so busy "doing" and working, that I often forget how crucial my relationship to the Lord is to the success of our ministry. If I am not spending time with the Lord as I should, then I can never lead as I should. Being "still" is also difficult! LOL
114. I think the most challenging part of ministry is dealing with the different personalities. Everyone has an opinion on what should be done and how it should be done. Sometimes it becomes a balancing act. The only way to deal with it is with God's help and strength.