

PREPARED:
An Equipping Program for Women in Ministry Leadership
Student Handbook

Ephesians 4:12-13

“to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ”

What is Prepared?

Prepared is a Gospel-centered, systematic, two-year equipping program for women currently in ministry leadership or preparing to serve in ministry leadership.

What is the mission of Prepared?

Prepared seeks to further the mission of Jesus Christ by offering affordable, accessible, systematic, Gospel-centered training to women who are in or are preparing for ministry leadership, locally and/or globally.

Why Prepared?

1. Each man and woman in the Church needs to be engaged in the ministry of the Church in order to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ.
2. Women in the Body of Christ need to exercise their God-given spiritual gifts of leadership, teaching, evangelism, shepherding, and serving in order to fulfill the mission of Jesus Christ and their call as His disciples.
3. Many women with leadership gifts do not have the opportunity to receive systematic, Gospel-centered training. Their stage of life, location, and financial situation often make such training inaccessible and unaffordable.
4. Women in ministry leadership have unique opportunities and unique challenges as women. These ministry leaders benefit from equipping specifically applicable to them as women.
5. Women in ministry leadership benefit from regular interactions with women in similar ministry situations.

Who is Prepared for?

Prepared is for EFCA women, locally and globally, currently in ministry leadership, preparing for ministry leadership, or available to serve God in some role as a ministry leader. They may be paid staff or volunteer leaders, serving in a variety of ministries, including but not limited to, children’s ministry, youth ministry, women’s ministry, evangelism, discipleship, spiritual formation, small groups, worship, and teaching ministries.

What are the objectives of Prepared?

Women who complete the *Prepared* program will

1. Articulate a biblical theology of women in ministry leadership
2. Develop biblical skills for mentoring, shepherding, and disciple-making

3. Cultivate formational rhythms for effective life and ministry
4. Create a learning environment that values diversity in relationships
5. Communicate God's Word accurately for spiritual growth
6. Assess leadership strategies for effective ministry.

What do students receive who complete Prepared?

Students who complete *Prepared's* two-year program will receive a Certificate of Completion recognized and signed by the EFCA President and the EFCA Board of Directors.

Women who complete the program and are serving in a qualifying ministry may be eligible to apply for the Ministry License offered by the EFCA. See the following link for information regarding credentialing in the EFCA.

<https://go.efca.org/resources/document/credentialing-ministerial-credentialing-efca>

What is the format of Prepared?

1. Ten Courses

Prepared's two-year program consists of ten courses and three modules. Each course is six weeks long, with students meeting for instruction once a week for two and a half hours. All class meetings will be conducted on Zoom and will consist of lecture and discussion. Each class will have assignments that focus on the three values of personal reflection, community learning and course content comprehension. Students will use a Moodle, an online learning management system, to participate in online forums and submit assignments.

2. Three Modules

Students will participate in a one-day module on disciple-making, *The Hike of Your Life*, taught by Jackie Redmond. Students wishing to pursue a ministerial license with the EFCA will also be required to attend two half-day modules covering the history and polity of the EFCA. All three modules will be taught on Zoom and recordings will be available.

3. Cohorts

Students will move through the program as part of a cohort of no more than twelve women. The cohort will provide a relational learning environment for the women with the goal of becoming better equipped as ministry leaders.

4. Coaches

Students will be assigned coaches by the program director. All coaches are women with ministry and mentoring/coaching experience. Coaches and students will be paired for the entire two-year program. Coaches will provide support and encouragement that is specifically related to the *Prepared* program in order to help women apply what they are learning, navigate challenges that may hinder their work, and possibly coach others in the future.

When are the Prepared courses offered?

Prepared classes will be on Tuesday evenings, 6 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. CST. Classes will be recorded so students who must miss class for some reason will be able to watch the recording. See the calendar for the specific dates of the courses.

What are the requirements for enrolling in Prepared?

In order to enroll in Prepared, women must meet the following requirements:

1. Is committed to a growing relationship with Jesus Christ as her Savior and Lord
2. Is serving in ministry leadership or is seeking to prepare for ministry leadership
3. Is affirmed by her pastor, elder, or ministry supervisor as having the character and gifts qualifying her for ministry leadership
4. Is affirmed by a peer as having the character and gifts qualifying her for ministry leadership
5. Is supported by one or more women who commit to pray for her and support her as needed while in the Prepared program.

Who are the leaders of Prepared?

Deborah Hinkel

Deb has a passion for spiritual formation and a deep desire to see women Prepared to use their gifts for the advancement of the Kingdom. She has served in two different churches in three different ministry leadership roles. She earned a Master of Arts degree in Ministry Leadership from Lancaster Bible College where she taught for 12 years in the Church and Ministry Leadership department overseeing the Women in Ministry Leadership Program and creating the Children and Family Ministry and Spiritual Formation and Discipleship programs. Currently she continues to teach at LBC as an adjunct professor and serves full time at Hershey Free Church as the Director of Spiritual Formation and Family Ministry. Deb is part of the leadership team working to create the Prepared program and also serves as one of the instructors.

Dr. Pamela MacRae

Pam has been involved in ministry to women in both church and parachurch settings for over 30 years. She served on the Women's Ministry board at First Evangelical Free Church in Rockford, IL for over 18 years. Pam currently is a professor at Moody Bible Institute where she oversees the Ministry to Women and Ministry to Victims of Sexual Exploitation majors. Prior to becoming a faculty member, Pam led conferences for women around the country for Moody, and in the last 5 years, she has led the *Called* conference, which trains women ministry leaders. She is a frequent speaker at conferences and retreats. Pam earned her MAMin from Moody Theological Seminary and her DMin from Bethel Seminary. Pam and her husband, Bob, who is also a professor at Moody, have two married daughters and six grandchildren. Pam serves on the Prepared leadership team and is one of the instructors.

Lorna Gilbert

Lorna enjoys teaching, training and empowering women to find and work within their God given gifts. She is an entrepreneur at heart, enjoying starting new things. She has been a missionary with Reach Global for 30 years with a focus on discipling and mentoring women and couples. Through these years she has had the privilege of helping establish a short-term missions program for the mission, worked in Recruitment and Training for new missionaries, and started several church plants with her husband in Japan. Weeks after the 2011 Tohoku Earthquake and Tsunami, she & her husband moved into one of the worst hit towns to do disaster relief & recovery where she started a social enterprise employing women who lost their homes in the tsunami. She earned her Advanced Studies degree from Moody Bible Institute in 1987 and her Masters in Missions from

Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1994. She and her husband currently serve as Pastors to Missionaries. Lorna serves on the Prepared leadership team.

Dr. Gloria Grell

Gloria loves discipling younger women, teaching women God's Word, leading Ministry to Women leadership teams, and equipping women to fulfill God's purposes. She has served as a Director of Children's Ministries, pastor's wife, missionary, Ministry to Women leader in the local church, Director of Ministry to Women with the EFCA International Mission, Directory of Ministry to Women with the EFCA Great Lakes District, and an adjunct professor at Moody Bible Institute. She earned a Masters of Divinity degree from Trinity Evangelical Divinity School in 1985 and a Doctor of Ministry degree in 2015. Gloria is wife, mother of five, and grandmother of twelve. Gloria serves as the Director of Prepared.

Who are the course instructors?

All the instructors have the following qualifications:

1. A commitment to glorifying God, growing as disciples of Jesus Christ, and serving His mission.
2. Experience in ministry leadership in the local church and/or in cross-cultural ministry.
3. Relevant education and experience in their particular subject area.
4. Experience in training and/or teaching.
5. Agreement with and support of the EFCA Statement of Faith and mission.
6. A commitment to *Prepared's* mission to see women equipped to serve as ministry leaders.

What are the expectations of leaders and instructors of Prepared?

Leaders will be available to meet with students as requested. As women in ministry leadership themselves, these women know firsthand the importance of having others in similar situations with whom they can share and pray.

In addition to providing weekly instruction, cultivating discussion, and assessing assignments, instructors will be available to answer questions regarding the courses they teach. Instructors will provide contact information on their course syllabi.

What are the expectations of students enrolled in Prepared?

1. Each student will invite a woman to commit to faithfully praying for her and encouraging her throughout the two-year program. Students will be responsible to keep their prayer partners aware of their needs.
2. Students will make every effort to attend all class sessions. Attendance benefits both the student and the whole cohort. If circumstances prohibit it, students shall watch the recorded session within a week of the missed class.
3. Students will be given approximately three and a half hours of homework each week. Homework may include both reading and written assignments. They will be expected to complete and submit these assignments by the due date.
4. Students will be required to participate in online forums.

5. Students will exchange contact information with other members of their cohort in order to encourage, build relationships and support one another. This will be done by completing their profile information on Moodle
6. If a student is unable to complete a course due to unforeseen circumstances, she should notify the course instructor and the program director. The course instructor may choose to provide other accommodations for the student to complete the course.
7. Each cohort shall meet two times a year, in addition to regular course meetings, for relationship building. These meetings may take place in person if the cohort members live close to one another or on Zoom if living at a distance from one another. Participants shall let the Program Director know when they are meeting.
8. Cohort members will commit to praying for each other. The program director will provide monthly course themed prayer requests.
9. Students will be expected to meet with their coaches at least one time during each course. They will reflect on assigned questions.

What type of assessment will students receive?

Instructors will provide students constructive feedback on their assignments. Rather than letter grades, students will receive either a “Completion” or “Non-completion” assessment from the instructor and the conclusion of the course. Receiving a “Completion” for each course qualifies the student to receive a *Prepared Certificate of Completion*.

What are the costs of Prepared?

The fee for each six-week course is \$100 or \$1000 for the entire two-year program. Students may be asked to purchase one or two books per course. Students will not have to pay additional fees for the modules but may be asked to purchase material for them.

Women who are not able to cover the costs of the program are encouraged to ask for support from their churches. If this support is not available, they may apply for a scholarship.

How do I navigate Prepared's learning management system?

Prepared courses will use Moodle, a learning management system. Instructors will post course information, resources, assignments, and questions for online discussion on Moodle. Students will submit assignments on Moodle for instructors to comment on and evaluate. Students will be able to share prayer requests online through Moodle with other women in their cohort. These will be kept private, available only to the women in their cohort. Students will have an opportunity to receive training on navigating Moodle and may contact our IT assistant for additional help.

Who do I contact with questions or requests for help?

1. For general *Prepared* program questions, contact Gloria Grell, Director of *Prepared*.

gloria.grell@efca.org

2. For technical questions related to the use of Moodle, contact Kyle Manges, *Prepared's* IT administrator. kyle.manges@efca.org