Bonus Activities

All Ages

Break Bread Together: Gather French bread, spreadable butter, jam, plastic knives, plates, napkins and water. Tear off pieces of bread (or cut pieces) to give to children. Encourage them to use butter or jam for their bread if they wish. Talk about how when a mentoring group meets together, they may share a meal (also known as breaking bread together). Encourage children to talk about their favorite meals.

Older Children

Spiritual Gifts Scavenger Hunt: Gather index cards and markers. Write these spiritual gifts on index cards, one per card: Service, Encouragement, Teaching, Giving, Mercy, Leadership, Faith, Prophecy, Wisdom and Healing. Hide them around the room and encourage children to find them. Option: Talk about what each spiritual gift is and how we can know which gifts God has given us (use this explanation if needed: www.cefonline.com/articles/teach-kids-articles/teaching-kids-about-spiritual-gifts-cef). (The children will also learn more about spiritual gifts in the mission project this month.)

Older Children

Discover the Bible Verse: Provide a whiteboard or chalkboard and dry erase markers or chalk. Play "Grow the Flower" by drawing blanks for the letters of this part of the verse. (There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. *–1 Corinthians 12:4*) Encourage children to guess letters to fill in the blanks. For each letter that isn't part of the verse, draw a piece of the flower (the stem, a leaf, the center and five petals). Encourage children to work together to figure out the verse.

Pathlight

www.cbf.net/pathlight

CBF's *Pathlight* curriculum helps children explore the Good News of Jesus through stories, scripture and activities.

cbf

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Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. **Psalm 119:105 (CEV)**

Theme Overview

Thriving in Ministry (a CBF Initiative) and Baptist Women in Ministry (BWIM) partnered together to create and sustain a mentorship program for women in CBF and non-CBF ministry alike. Thriving in Ministry facilitates ministry cohorts to foster relationships, create connections and support ministers and their churches. When BWIM had more women than money for their mentoring groups, CBF partnered with them to assist through their Thriving in Ministry Initiative. This session focuses on the theme of following God's call.

Bible Verse

1 Corinthians 12:4-6

There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

Session Outline

Prepare

- Make copies of the Student Handout.
- Review the Story and Bible Verse.

Welcome

- Greet students as they arrive.
- **Ask**: "Who helps you when things are hard?"

Engage

- Distribute the Student Handout.
- Read and discuss the Bible Verse.
- Work on the Handout Activity.
- Transition to Story Time.

Share

- Tell the Story, "Following God's Call to Thrive."
- Share the photo and caption.
- Discuss the Story and pray.

Conclude

- Lead students in Bonus Activities as time permits.

Following God's Call to Thrive

"Hi Kelly, thanks so much for taking a few minutes to speak with me," said Rev. Dr. Meredith Stone, executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry. "I've got a problem, and I'm hoping CBF can help. We have so many women who have applied for our mentoring cohorts. They are new ministers, or new to their churches, and they are hoping to learn from ministers who have been ministering longer. I would love to accept every one of these women, but we don't have enough money. Is there any chance CBF could help?" Meredith asked. "I'm so glad you called, Meredith," said Kelly. "We have been looking for ways to spend our grant money with Thriving in Ministry. This sounds like a perfect way to do that!" "That would be amazing," said Meredith. "We have enough women to do another cohort. This money will mean the world to them!" "It's hard to be in ministry, especially as a woman. And we want these women to thrive. Because when they are learning and growing and doing well, chances are their churches will be too! We are happy we can be a part of that," Kelly said. "Thank you, Kelly. We will use this money for a group of CBF pastors, led by a former CBF pastor herself. Through these groups, women can share difficult things and find space to create more joy in their lives. I am so glad we can partner together to help women in ministry succeed!"

Discussion and Prayer ✱

- **Ask**: How did CBF and BWIM partner together?
- **Ask**: How do these groups help women ministers? How do your friends help you?
- **Ask**: What do you think it means to be a mentor? Who is a mentor to you? How can you be a mentor to others who are younger than you?
- **Say**: CBF and BWIM partnered together to add another mentoring group. These groups help women in ministry have community. Through these friendships, they learn and grow and have fun. When their ministers are learning, growing and having fun, churches can too. Being a mentor means that you help someone. You may teach them about something or be there to offer advice. For example, those of you who are in the fifth grade can offer advice to fourth graders. You can help them know what to expect next year and offer advice on the best things to do.
- **Pray**: Dear God, thank you for people who help us know what to do and walk beside us when things are difficult. Help us to be good friends and help people who are younger than us. Amen.

Thriving in Ministry and Baptist Women in Ministry

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STUDENT HANDOUT
MARCH 1, 2026

Pathlight

Your word is a lamp that gives light wherever I walk. Psalm 119:105 (CEV)

Learn About

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Create a Kindness Wreath

Items needed: Grapevine wreaths (one per person) or cardboard pieces that can be cut into rings; scissors; colorful ribbons; mason jars (one per person)

1. Encourage children to cut pieces of ribbon, long enough to be able to tie to their wreaths, about 6 to 8 inches long. As they are cutting, talk about what it means to be kind. Ask them to think about ways others have been kind to them, and ways that they have been kind to others.
2. Once each child has cut 12-15 pieces of ribbon, give them a jar to put their ribbon in.
3. Give each child a wreath. Encourage them to name a few ways they have been kind over the last week or so.
4. As they share, allow children to tie a ribbon on their wreath for each kind act. Help as needed.
5. Tell children to take their wreaths home and encourage their family to look for ways that each person is kind. The whole family can share in the kindness wreath!
6. Talk about how part of a mentoring relationship is being encouraged. Part of it is helping others see the good, important things they are doing. Our kindness wreath also helps us remember those things.

For pictures of a kindness wreath, visit:
www.kiwico.com/diy/holiday-events/thanksgiving/kindness-wreath