
DECLARING THE GOODNESS OF GOD

chosen | holy | called

Baptist Women's Conference 2020

A Conference Countdown Guide

Scripture, prayer and mission prompts to get us ready to declare God's goodness

THROUGH THE MONTH OF APRIL, Baptist Women invites you to support our Women's Conference—those who will lead and those who will come—by declaring the goodness of God each week.

Declaring God's goodness is both **encounter** and **mission**: We declare God's goodness (mission) because we spend time with Him and find Him to be good (encounter). May the month of April be a month of encounter and mission for you.

Before you begin:

- Pray and then decide if you'd like to join us.
- Read through the entire plan before you begin, then download and print out the Soul Sisters guides we reference.
- In this guide we suggest weekly activities, prompts, Scripture passages and prayers. Each week you may want to use some or all of the material, or simply choose your own. Do as you are led!
- Record what God says to you and share that with our Facebook group or send us an email (bwoq@baptist.ca)

Week of March 30 • *know God's goodness to you*

"but . . . you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light" - 1 Peter 2:9 (NLT).

encounter

You can't show what you don't know. Do you know Jesus loves every bit of you? Do you know life in God means a life full of God's presence, not just in your soul but in the very midst of your being? Do you know this good news?

Practice the discipline of wonder:

- Be silent and still: Choose a spot, sit and be quiet for 30 minutes.
- Move to some worship music. You'll find some great music links at baptistwomen.com/resources/chosen-holy-called-resources

mission

- Spend some time with someone you know well and practice noticing something new about them.
- Seek the way God is making Himself known to you in the face of another person.

conference prayer

Pray that women will leave the event knowing that they have been seen, heard and chosen by God.

Week of April 6 • *remember why God is good*

"The Lord is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. Instead he is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance"

- 2 Peter 3:9 (NIV).

encounter

Peter links God's goodness to His patience. What unfinished business do you have with God? What unanswered prayers and promises yet to be fulfilled? Bring all these things to God.

- Consider learning then doing the *Palms Down/Palms Up* way of praying. Do this three times this week. Learn more about *Palms Down/Palms Up* in Soul Sisters 2 at baptistwomen.com/resources/soul-sisters

mission

Do a **short prayer walk** up and down the street where you live. As you walk:

- Quietly pray the Scriptures in this guide over the houses you pass by.
- Ask God to reveal His love to each family on your street.
- Pray that families will accept Jesus as Lord.
- Pray a blessing on your street.

conference prayer

Pray that women will leave the event knowing that they continue to be made whole by God, for God and for His sake.

Week of April 13 • feast on God's goodness

"You become my delicious feast even when my enemies dare to fight. You anoint me with the fragrance of your Holy Spirit; you give me all I can drink of you until my heart overflows"

- Psalm 23:5 (*The Passion Translation*).

encounter

Feasting is a discipline of trust, of declaration to the world that God has made all things and is making all things new through the power of the Holy Spirit at work in and around us. When we feast, we declare that God is good.

Do you feast?

- This week, commit yourself to three intentioned moments of feasting on Psalm 23:5 (or the whole psalm) by doing *lectio divina*.

Lectio divina is a way of approaching Scripture that simply opens you up to the work of the Spirit through the power of the Word. You are reading to be transformed. You'll learn about *lectio divina* in Soul Sisters 1. Go to baptistwomen.com/resources/soul-sisters

mission

- Plan a simple feast for a few women in your community: go out for coffee at Tim Hortons; host a soup lunch at your home; plan a simple dinner. Whatever you choose to do, seek to include at least one new face and voice at your table. Give her room to join and treat her with honour.

conference prayer

Pray that conference leaders will make space to feast on the Word as they plan and then lead.

Week of April 20 (conference week) • declare God's goodness in community

"Free those who are wrongly imprisoned; lighten the burden of those who work for you. Let the oppressed go free, and remove the chains that bind people. Share your food with the hungry, and give shelter to the homeless. Give clothes to those who need them, and do not hide from relatives who need your help" - Isaiah 58:6-7 (NLT).

encounter

Isaiah's words declare God's goodness to us and they also give us clarity on what we may do to declare His goodness to those around us. What are some of the things God has revealed to you or confirmed to you over these weeks? What feels new to you? What feels strengthened? How are you declaring God's goodness to others?

mission

- Choose a day this week and extend goodness to a neighbour or to a woman at church you don't know very well. Ask God to show you what He's already doing in their lives, what He wants to do and how you may participate. Listen to what He says.
- Pick a day this week to mark with extraordinary thanksgiving to God: choose a good thing, no matter what it is, to celebrate—and celebrate it well.

conference prayer

Pray that women at the conference will be emboldened to declare God's goodness with acts of praise and thanksgiving.

Some prompts taken from or inspired by Out of the House of Bread by Preston Yancey (Zondervan, Grand Rapids, Michigan, 2016) ■