

# An Open Letter from a Younger Woman to Older Women in the Church

by Christy Spader

I need you.

More than a women's tea. More than a 'paint your own pottery' event. More than another motivational speaker. And much more than to know you're looking for my future husband, I need *you*.

I remember the day I first realized it. I had stayed to help with clean-up after a Sunday service when I noticed two of my guy friends sitting with our youth pastor, talking excitedly. Curious, I paused from my work to go over and see what they were talking about. I saw that their Bibles were open and they were talking about their faith—my youth pastor was discipling them. Sadness and jealousy flooded my heart. Despite my love for God's Word and my commitment in the church, I never had that same privilege with an older woman.

I'm sad you and I missed each other in that season. I'm sure life was busy; you were tired from the countless hats you wore as a friend, mom, daughter, coworker, spouse. I bet I wasn't the easiest to love, either. I can imagine I tried to portray the *I've-got-this look*, especially around you. And we were probably both unsure, maybe even insecure, about what discipleship would have meant.

But I do know that I needed you then, and I need you now.

You have so much to offer. In the face of trials and temptations you have clung to Him. The Lord has given you gifts, sensitivity to His Spirit, and a love for Him and His Word. He is using you.

Will He use you in my life? I can be reckless, but I'm passionate. My pride can blind me, but I'm smart. I might be naive, but I want to change the world. Take a chance on me.

I need you in my corner as I wrestle spiritual doubt. I need you to pray with me when I'm lonely. I need you to be authentic and model for me that Jesus is real in your home, marriage, relationships, and parenting. I need you to serve with me and study God's Word with me. I need you to challenge me to cling to Christ in all things.

Paul lays out his philosophy of discipleship in 1 Thessalonians 2. Verse 8 says, "*And so, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.*"

Dear Woman, please share yourself with me and point me to Jesus.

*I need you,*  
*Christy*



Christy earned her BA from Moody Bible Institute in 2012 and is finishing an MA in Christian Formation and Ministry from Wheaton College. Upon graduation, Christy will step into the role of campus team leader with CRU, where she will give direction and co-leadership to the Ohio University movement.

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