

Sent: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 10:32 AM
Subject: Emily Wood: An Invitation to Community

Hi!

Happy January, everyone! Can you believe it? Welcome to a new year, and a new decade. I believe God has great plans for us as women, and I'm excited to see it all unfold. I know He wants us to realize every day how much we are loved, valued, seen, and known.

Do you ask God to give you direction coming into a new year, or even a "word" to help define your focus for the year? Last week as I prayed for direction, I wrote the word "slow" in my journal. It's not the most exciting word (ha!), but for me it is very good direction. It is confirmation I'm supposed to focus on the following verse: *"Know this, my beloved brothers (and sisters); let every person be quick to hear, SLOW to speak, SLOW to anger."* (James 1:19). I want to keep meeting with you ladies and listening to you. Will you reach out to me to set up a time for coffee or lunch? My contact info is below.

What are you longing for this year? I'm longing for community. As a church, community is what we bring to this world as it grows more and more connected online and disconnected in person. We are the hands and feet of Christ, meeting each other's needs in the flesh. Praise God! He wants us to live in community – not isolation. So, I'm so grateful we have one another, and I can't wait to dream with you about how God wants to use you, and all of us, to share the love of Christ with a hurting world.

One great way to experience community is through a Bible study. Visit www.firstpres.com/women to see what we have to offer. I would also like to grow this list. Is there something you would love to study or a time you would prefer to meet? Would you like to lead a study, prayer group, walking group, or something new? Or host a group in your home? I'd love to talk to you more about this. And I want to leave you with one thought – sometimes community doesn't look like what we thought it would. Consider showing up anyway. What do you have to lose?

May God give you vision for 2020,
Emily Wood
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Please call, email, or stop by for a visit anytime! I would love to see you!



P.S. Thank you to the lovely ladies who showed up Sunday night for IF:Pray. It was a wonderful night of prayer, worship, and community. Special thanks to Sarah Amstutz for leading us in worship!

