The Staff Meeting

"I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go. I will counsel you and watch over you." Psalm 32:8

Do you meet with God for daily instruction? Do you spend time receiving His teaching and counsel through prayer and Bible reading? If you answered "No" to either of these questions, you are not alone!

The development of a daily quiet time with God doesn't come naturally for most Christian women. We desperately need God's insight and direction, but exactly how do we meet with Him? For years, I struggled to find a meaningful system to approach my time with God.

One day I heard my mentor, Sandy, describe her quiet time as a "staff meeting" with God. Suddenly, I felt God opening my heart to apply business-meeting principles to the time I spent with Him. Sandy and I developed four staff meeting principles with a spiritual basis: Preparation, Perspective, Personal Application and Praise for Productivity. With the staff meeting method, read one Psalm per day (or a chapter of your choosing), use an agenda form to journal thoughts under each principle and record specific prayer requests. Here's how it works:

Meeting Principle #1: Preparation

"Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting" (Psalm 139:23-24).

Many women perform a similar routine before an important meeting. We wake up early and jump in the shower to look fresh and prepared. We get ready to receive the information we need to start our day. In the same way, as we enter our staff meeting with God, we need to take time to prepare our hearts through a spiritual cleansing process of prayer.

Prayer time includes the three A's: Acknowledge, Admit and Ask. Simply scan the passage to look for words that describe God. Pray these words back to Him and *acknowledge* Him as Lord of your life. Afterwards, *admit* any sin that may be blocking your relationship with Him. Write down areas where you need forgiveness. Finally, *ask* God for special prayer requests in your life.

For example, I recorded praying for the salvation of a family friend who was passing away. Miraculously, three days later, my mother called to tell me our friend accepted the Lord days before his death. It was thrilling to review my prayer section and see how specific prayers were answered.

Meeting Principle #2 Perspective: Plans and Purposes of God

"But the plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of His heart through all generations" (Psalm 33:11).

The meeting doors open as you sit ready with pen and paper prepared to meet with the leadership. In walks the CEO of the company who lays out the company vision and plans. He tells you exactly where to focus your attention. He instructs you where to invest your time because he wants you to play an important role in the company.

In the same way, the Bible is your opportunity to hear God's perspective on the big picture of life! His deepest desire is to communicate truth to you so you can live out your role in His kingdom. As you read one Psalm per day, notice any specific words that stand out in the passage. What does God value? Not only does God apply the reading to my life, but to others as well.

One morning, a friend called in distress following my quiet time. I encouraged her with the exact words from the passage I read earlier. She cried, feeling comforted. I knew God not only blessed me through His Word, but I had something to give to someone else in need.

Meeting Principle #3: Personal Application

"Show me Your ways, O Lord, teach me Your paths; guide me in Your truth and teach me, for You are God my Savior, and my hope is in You all day long" (Psalm 25:4-5).

The meeting has now turned to open discussion between you and the leadership. It's your opportunity to take the words of the CEO and apply them to your specific job. You ask yourself the question, "How am I going to get where she wants me to go?" You adjust your daily priorities to match her direction.

During this time, record the specific areas you feel God may be calling you to



change or improve. It may be a character issue or maybe an attitude. It may be a task you need to complete. You can even list specific tasks for the day and pray that God will guide you and help you accomplish what He desires. Begin the day confidently, knowing you have asked God to order the day. If interruptions come, know they are part of His holy to-do list.

For example, one morning I was doing our family laundry when a knock came at the front door. Instead of hurrying through a conversation with a friend in need to get back to the laundry, I knew God was calling me to pray for her. I was not only able to pray with her, but I had time later to finish the laundry too. As I lay down my daily agenda before Him, He not only multiplies my time, but blesses my heart through obedience.

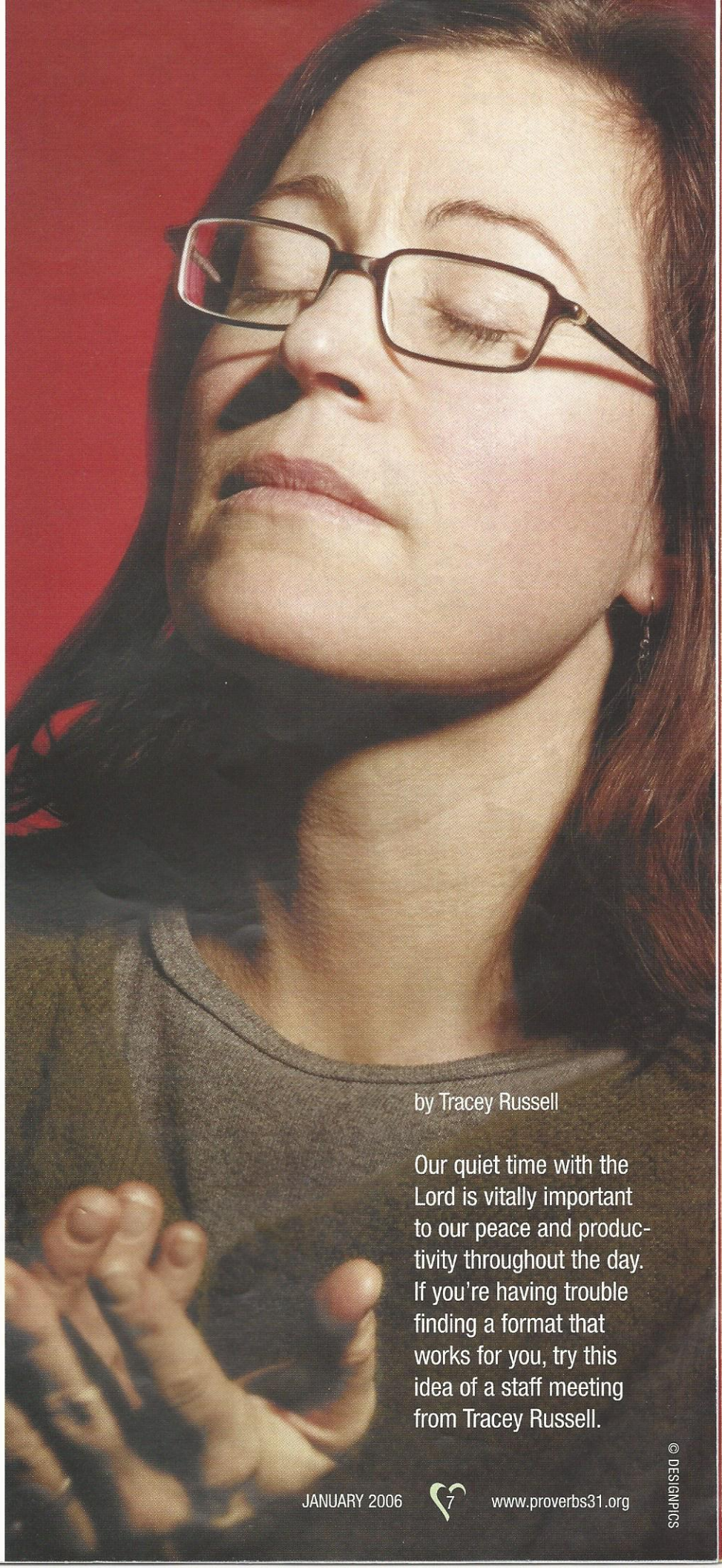
Meeting Principle #4: Praise for Productivity

All great staff meetings end with a pep rally. It not only boosts morale, but it motivates us to keep working hard. Similarly, our staff meeting with God ends in praise for what He has accomplished since our last meeting. It gives our hearts an attitude of gratitude and it gives us an opportunity to thank and praise God.

For example, I love to document how my children respond with kindness to their siblings when I've been praying for them to love their family. I document how my husband is blessed at work following weeks of prayer for his performance. It's thrilling to see God at work on our behalf. As He does, we can take note! It encourages our hearts and draws us back to meet with Him again.

As I meet with God each morning, I enter my day knowing He is watching over every moment. I experience the joy of receiving the full benefit of time spent in prayer and Bible reading. I rest in the security of knowing that during my staff meetings with God, I am allowing Him to reveal His agenda for my life.

Tracey Russell is a graduate of She Speaks, the Proverbs 31 Speakers and Writers Conference. She is a wife and mother of three boys living in Lakeland, Florida. She dedicates this article to her mentor Sandy Ayers. Her writing ministry is focused on helping other women develop a Christ-centered mindset. You can contact her at beautifulmindset@mac.com.



by Tracey Russell

Our quiet time with the Lord is vitally important to our peace and productivity throughout the day. If you're having trouble finding a format that works for you, try this idea of a staff meeting from Tracey Russell.

© DESIGNPICS