

Main Session Speakers & Topics:

Cherie Wagner



As a wife, mother, mentor, and teacher of God's Word, Cherie Wagner has dedicated her life to knowing Jesus Christ and making Him known. Cherie founded Neue Thing in 2011, a ministry committed to encouraging, equipping, and empowering women with God's Word. Author of several Bible studies including her most recent study on Proverbs, Cherie boldly proclaims God's Word while taking women on a journey to deepen their faith and understanding of Jesus. Cherie was born and raised in Chicago, but transplanted to the desert of Arizona in 2006. She is a wife to Jeremy and a mom to their son, Redford. Though a city girl at heart, Cherie also enjoys weekend getaways with her family up north in the mountains. But most often, you'll find Cherie, coffee cup in hand, surrounded by a group of women in her living room, diving into God's Word. Connect with Cherie at neuething.org.

The Call to Discipleship - Session One Only - A159

If you are a follower of Jesus, you have been called to make disciples, and yet, why do we see so little of this happening? Many disqualify themselves because they feel ill-equipped, afraid of failure, fear of rejection...and the list goes on. But what if we actually fulfilled the Great Commission and made disciples? Join me as we unpack what discipleship is, what it isn't, and why we can be unafraid of this biblical mandate.

Onjalai Brown

Onjalai Brown is a transformational leader, speaker, and ministry founder devoted to awakening hearts to the truth and power of God, with over fifteen years of experience in women's ministry and discipleship. She is the Founder of Awaken Ministries, a Spirit-led ministry committed to sharing the Gospel, baptizing believers, and equipping disciples to live boldly through the power of the Holy Spirit. Known for her authenticity, spiritual authority, and exuberant personality, Onjalai creates environments where people encounter God deeply and experience lasting transformation.



Here I am Lord: Unafraid and on Assignment - Session One Only - Library

There is an assignment on your life—and fear has tried to keep you from walking in it. In this session, we will expose what opposes your obedience and step into the authority God has given you to move forward unafraid. No more hesitation. No more delay. It's time to go.

8 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Rachel Fiorentino



Rachel Fiorentino is a keynote speaker, leadership coach, and author of *Walk Worthy. Press On.* With more than 15 years of leadership development, training, and coaching experience, she equips women to lead with clarity, courage, and biblical conviction.

Rachel's leadership journey has spanned the workplace, more than a decade homeschooling and raising four children, ministry, and organizational leadership, reinforcing her belief that leadership isn't defined by a title, but by how faithfully we steward the influence we've been given. Through biblical truth, practical leadership, and a touch of sass, Rachel challenges women to embrace their God-given calling, lead with both strength and grace, and take their next faithful step.

Rachel and her husband, Joe, live in Arizona. They have four grown children, a one-year-old granddaughter, another granddaughter due in November, and they love DIYing and traveling together. She believes leadership isn't something we arrive at, it's something we walk out, one faithful step at a time.

She Leads Forward - Session One Only - A173

Leadership is not reserved for the fearless, the flawless, or the fully prepared. Throughout Scripture, God calls ordinary women to step forward in faith, not because they have every answer, but because they are willing to trust Him with the next step. In *She Leads Forward*, Rachel challenges women to recognize the places they are already called to lead and equips them to move forward with courage, conviction, and faith. Whether that leadership happens at home, at work, in ministry, or in the everyday moments where their influence matters most, women will be reminded that they don't have to feel ready to faithfully move forward. You don't have to have it all figured out. You just have to be willing to take the next faithful step.

Becky Boggus

Becky is a pastor's wife, mom of four, mental health professional, and a proud Texas native who strives to bring warmth, humor, and depth to everything she does. By day, she serves as a social work professor with experience spanning medical settings, child welfare, government systems, and family-building work. She is passionate about integrating evidence-based mental health practices with God's Word to support true human flourishing—especially within families. A self-proclaimed recovering overachiever, she's learning to live within her limits and can usually be found with a cup of coffee, tending her plants, and enjoying meaningful conversations with fellow believers



From Fear to Faith: Renewing the Mind and Rewriting the Stories We Live By - Session One Only - C118W

Fear often shapes the stories we tell ourselves—about who we are, what we're facing in life, and what's possible. In this session, we'll explore practical tools from narrative therapy to help identify and re-author those fear-based narratives in light of the truth of God's Word. Together, we will learn steps of how to separate our identity from our struggles and anchor our stories and identities in truth, hope, and faith in the Creator who loves us. Through this discussion-based and interactive breakout, participants will leave with some practical strategies to increase dependence on Christ in the face of our fears.

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me. Psalm 23:4

Breakout Session Speakers & Topics:



Lori Deevers

Lori is a music momma on a mission to glorify God in her home, community, church and classroom! She lives in Peoria, AZ with her pastor husband Cody and last kid at home, Charis. She has authored the book Beautiful Grace with her lifelong best friend Becky Graves.

Unafraid of Living In My Story - C102

Life is full of the unexpected. God is constant through it all. Join me in an active breakout session exploring practical ways to live well in his constant presence no matter what your story. Fear, prayer, friendship, contentment, and connection — we explore them all as we walk through Colossians 3 together.

Lauren Duffy



Lauren is a wife and mom of three who is passionate about helping women find healing and freedom in the midst of real life. She serves in a variety of ministry roles in her church and community and is the founder of His Healing Way, where she encourages women toward Christ-centered healing through biblical truth and mind, body, and heart renewal. Shaped by her own journey through chronic pain and emotional healing, Lauren now shares the hope and freedom she has found through speaking, writing, and ministry.

When Life Isn't What You Expected: Finding Healing in the Gap Between Expectation and Reality - C118E

Marriage, motherhood, and life don't always look the way we imagined—and the gap can leave us feeling stuck, discouraged, or overwhelmed. In this session, we'll uncover how unmet expectations can shape our thoughts, emotions, and patterns more than we realize, often leaving our hearts carrying more than they were meant to. You'll learn how to identify what's been weighing you down, process it in a healthy way, and partner with God in real, lasting healing. Through biblical truth and practical steps, we'll explore how to heal your heart and break free from cycles of fear, pressure, and disappointment. It's time to move from just surviving to truly living in freedom.



Jan Shrader

Jan Shrader is a native Arizonan whose roots run deep in the desert southwest. She loves hiking, camping and gardening with little water. She has a Masters in Theological Studies from Gateway Seminary. She loves teaching the Bible for life change and her favorite passage is always the one she is currently studying.

The Shepherds Love Will Outlast Time - E205

The session reframes Psalm 23 through an intense, arid desert survival lens. This passage offers hope in the face of extreme heat, scarcity, and danger.



Shelia Jones

Shelia has walked with Jesus for nearly 58 years and has faithfully served Him as a church leader, intercessor, Bible teacher, and pastor's wife. Through seasons of joy, challenge, and deep personal valleys, she has discovered again and again the intimate faithfulness and sustaining power of God. Her passion is to encourage others to seek the Lord wholeheartedly through prayer and trust in His presence. And through it all, one truth remains certain: God is good, y'all.

When Two or More Gather - C223

Jesus promised in Matthew 18:20 that where two or three gather in His name, He is present among them. But what does it look like when believers truly seek Him together in prayer? When was the last time you experienced a prayer gathering so filled with God's presence that hearts were stirred, burdens lifted, and no one wanted to leave?

This session is an invitation to rediscover the power of united prayer. Come expecting to encounter the Lord, grow in confidence as an intercessor, and receive practical guides to help strengthen the prayer ministry within your church. We cannot predict all that God may do, but when His people gather and pray with expectation, He is always faithful to meet them.



Karla Cox

Karla has been walking with Jesus for the past 28 years. She has been married to Anthony for 24 years. They have 3 young men ages 16, 18, 21. She is a faithful church member at Mercy Hill Church in downtown Phoenix, where she serves as the Women's Ministry Leader and is also a part of the translation team. She enjoys hot chai tea lattes, studying God's Word, and gospel centered conversations with her friends.

Don't be deceived, know the warnings, and find rest in the Lord./ No seas engañada, conoce las advertencias y encuentra descanso en el Señor. - D125

Friend, it is time to give your longing heart the rest it has been seeking. Stop carrying the weight of trying to figure things out on your own. Join me in discovering the invitation the Lord has for us to find rest in Him. / Amiga, es tiempo de darle a tu corazón el descanso que tanto anhela. Deja de cargar con el peso de resolver las cosas por tu cuenta. Acompáñame a descubrir la invitación que el Señor tiene para nosotras para descansar en Él.



Karen Dorsey

Karen's greatest heart desire is for people to thrive by knowing God intimately. Her elementary school and church teaching background spurs her to help others discover who God says He is through His Word. Her book, *Beach Beatitudes: Forty Encounters with the God of Rest and Restoration*, shares tangible ways God shows us how much He uniquely sees us and loves us. It's a beach retreat in a book. Thirst, her newly released book shares how to find God in the deserts of our lives.

Dance With the Joyful - D116

God promises to rebuild us when we have "walked in the wilderness" or "survived the sword," but He also wants us to move forward after healing. In this session we will explore Jeremiah 31 to see how dancing with the joyful opens our eyes to what's beyond.

The Lord is my light and my salvation—whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life - of whom shall I be afraid? Psalm 27:1 **11**



Rezwana Derbyshire

Originally born to Bangladeshi, Muslim parents, Rezwana Derbyshire is a passionate follower of Jesus. After a long season of waiting for God's timing she is now eagerly sharing her gifts as a singer, songwriter, and author to make God's name known in all the earth.

Rezwana is married to her husband Gary, who is a senior pastor at a church in Phoenix, Arizona, where they live, make music, and minister with their four spirited children. She is also an avid tea drinker (with milk and sugar, please!), and proud participant in daily carpool karaoke with her kids.

Strength for the Shepherd's Wife - C108

Pastors' wives often spend much of an event caring for others, engaging with church members, and remaining present for the needs around them. This gathering creates room to let your shoulders relax for a bit. Together we'll worship, pray, receive encouragement, and connect with other women who understand the joys and weight of ministry life. No pressure, no expectations—just space to breathe, be refreshed, and be cared for.



Lori Vober

Lori Vober is a survivor, overcomer, connector, and encourager. She suffered a hemorrhagic stroke at age twenty-nine, and then developed epilepsy from the stroke. Lori is passionate about choices, and even in our trials, we can still find hope, joy, and new success. Even with her difficulties, Lori and her husband, Dainis, were able to become adoptive parents to a sibling group of three. Lori's journey and books can be found at www.lorivober.com.

MOVE FORWARD REGARDLESS! With God as Our Navigator, Live Life on Purpose Serving Him and Encouraging Others - E202

We all face unexpected challenges, and it can be so easy to get stuck and be overwhelmed by the circumstances that we can't control. From stroke recovery, adoptive parenting of three older children, to becoming an author and a speaker with a physical disability, I have learned so much about God's desire for our 'yes' and our faith and obedience to Him, without fear and overwhelm by all of the unknowns. When we have faith as small as a mustard seed and depend on God to be our navigator, we can keep moving forward with purpose!



Ginger O'Brien

I received Jesus when I was 16, 52 years ago. God gave me a heart for ministry and I serve in Meadview Baptist Church along side my husband Curtis, the pastor. My son and daughter in law and 4 grand children serve in Apartment Life Ministries in Flagstaff. My daughter just had her second baby, Hudson. I'm grateful for my family, friends, and His Church where Christ is the head.

A Shepherd Looks At the Psalm 23 - C224

I will be using the book "A Shepherd Looks At Psalm 23, by W. Phillip Keller. He was a shepherd for eight years. I will attempt to share his perspective so that attendees really understand what David was saying when he wrote Psalm 23. We can be unafraid and courageous when we truly know Our Good Shepherd.

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.
Philippians 4:6



Laurie Davies

Laurie Davies is a writer, speaker, and lay counselor who helps women deal with their “emotional accumulation,” letting go of things like regret, grudges, bitterness, and worthlessness. Her book, *Emotional Hoarding: Letting Go of the Stuff That Keeps You Stuck*, released in March 2026. Laurie’s writing has been featured in Proverbs 31 Ministries’ Encouragement for Today devotions, in the P31 First 5 writing app, and in Guideposts books and devotionals. Laurie drinks hot coffee on 115-degree days, has no idea what all the remotes in her family room do, and lives in the Phoenix area with her husband of 30 years. Connect with Laurie at lauriedavies.com.

Upending F.E.A.R. (False Evidence Appearing Real) - C106

In this workshop, we will uncover ways to 1) spot false evidence, 2) understand why it “feels” so real, and 3) become equipped to overturn and overwhelm it with truth. I have a practical, hands-on exercise (about 15 minutes) to take workshop attendees through. If time permits, a few will be able to share their results. This workshop is interactive.



Tammy Karli

I have been married for 36 years to Gary Karli. We have raised nine children and have three teenage girls still at home. Raising children at a time such as this is challenging. I have experienced tremendous personal growth and reliance on God over the past several years. I’ll be sharing from my own journey with practical steps to start or help you on yours.

Boundaries: Building Fences or Walls? - D123

My word for the year? Boundaries. Maybe you are in the same place I was. I was told I need to establish boundaries in my life or I would continue living in this chaos. Have you built walls or fences? Join me as we explore the difference and how making changes can bring order to your life.



Kelly Thielen

Kelly served for 16 years as a Youth Pastor at a mega-church in Minnesota before getting married, retiring and settling in to her new home in Sedona. Kelly attends Aletheia Church in Sedona and currently serves the Body of Christ in inner-healing ministry, mentoring and discipleship. Kelly is passionate about seeing young women walk in freedom and wholeness in their God-given identities. She enjoys hiking and rock climbing with her husband Brent, traveling, pilates and painting.

UnFollow Your Heart - C103 (will focus on teens/young adults, but open for everyone)

Have you ever been told to just “Follow Your Heart”? This is such a nice sounding sentiment, but truly has the power to completely derail our lives. God instructs us of the truth in Jeremiah 17:9, that our hearts are deceitful. So, why did God give us emotions? How do we honor our emotions in a way that honors God’s word and truth? In this session, we’ll explore the two ditches we can fall into regarding managing our emotions and find that God’s way leads to life and peace. We’ll discover that our emotions don’t define who you are and they are not simply to be ignored or shoved aside. Healthy heart care requires we honor our emotions without being led by them. Join me for this session and learn more about how we can pursue a healthy relationship with our God-given emotions.

The Lord is with me; I will not be afraid. What can mere mortals do to me? The Lord is with me; he is my helper. I look in triumph on my enemies. Psalm 118:6-7



Emily Naaktgeboren

Emily was born and raised in Kentucky and earned her bachelor's degree in missions and church planting from Boyce College, the undergraduate school of the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary. After living in Sedona while her husband pastored Village Park Baptist Church, they now live Mesa and she homeschools her four children.

Boundaries, Consequences & Grace - E201

When and how does discipline start? We will talk through practical ways to respond in those everyday moments of disobedience, including helpful phrases and simple strategies for making discipline purposeful rather than reactive. Our goal is not simply to produce well-behaved children, but to faithfully shepherd their hearts while remembering that our ultimate hope is in Christ. We will leave time at the end for questions, discussion, and practical responses to some of the challenges we face in disciplining our children.

Apryl Ortiz

Apryl Ortiz is a conference speaker, podcaster, and founder of Strength & Dignity Life, a ministry devoted to building up the bride of Christ. A Mexican American “homegirl” with a down-to-earth, authentic voice, she brings warmth and conviction shaped by over a decade in Youth for Christ campus ministry and 8 years as a youth pastor's wife. She serves as the Regional Director for LIFT (Leaders in Fellowship Together) in the Phoenix Valley and is the founder of Rest Retreat, a sacred space for women leaders to meet with the Lord. Apryl is also a mom and grandma to two grandbabies and is passionate about helping women stand strong in Christ, navigate real-life battles with wisdom, and live fully anchored in God's Word.



Courage To Stand, Strength to Endure: When The Battle Hits Your Marriage - C201

Marriage is sacred, and the enemy fiercely opposes what God designed to reflect Christ and His Church. In this honest and hope-filled session, Apryl Ortiz shares lessons learned while journeying through her husband's battle with pornography addiction and the faithfulness of God in the process. Together, we will consider how to stand battle-ready with courage, wisdom, and grace—both in our own marriages and as women walking alongside others carrying similar burdens. Please note: this session will address sensitive and weighty topics with discretion, compassion, and biblical hope.

Sara Beekman

“Inspirational” -- the word most often used to describe Sara. A Kansas native and longtime Phoenix resident, Sara co-founded a Christian nonprofit ministry with her late husband, Gene, in 1989 and continues to lead it today. Sara loves to laugh, have fun, and is crazy-in-love with her adorable grandchildren, Henry, and Charlotte! She enjoys meeting new people, speaking, writing, and is passionate about sharing Jesus with others. Sara shares a message close to her heart: even in the midst of life's storms, hope can still be found.



The Season You Didn't Choose -Trusting God When Life Isn't What You Planned - C104

This isn't where you thought you'd be, and it's hard. In this honest and hope-filled session, we'll talk about disappointment, detours, and the seasons we never would have picked. If you're wrestling with unmet expectations, come discover how God still brings purpose, healing, and beauty, even here. Leave room for God to send you on detours because the blessings may come on the paths that you didn't expect to take.



Claire Deering

Claire Deering has learned first hand how beautiful (and hard) it is to wait. After feeling the call to write around her thirtieth birthday, she waited nearly 15 years before receiving her first publishing contract. During that time, Jesus was writing a story she could not have imagined. Claire holds a master's degree in literature, taught college writing for more than a decade, and is the author of *Smashed Idols* and *The Pearl in the Field* (Hosanna Revival, 2027).

Holy Waiting - D124

What do we do when we have prayed, and even taken steps of bold faith, but still the answer has yet to come? What do we do when all the doors we long to walk through feel like they are locked from the other side? It is often in these seasons of silence where our faith is shaped and our confidence shifts from our good plan to our dependence upon God's perfect way. Radically different from passivity, holy waiting requires unshakable courage, and it invites us to keep our eyes on Jesus, the author of our faith. Join us as we look at what it means to wait, unafraid.



Simone Lake

Simone Lake is a follower of Jesus, an expository Bible teacher, conference speaker, writer, and wife of Pastor and Seminary professor Dr. John Lake. Her passion and dedication include: Bible teaching, discipleship, mentoring, and Biblical Counseling. She serves the body of Christ in her local church, communities, state, nation, and worldwide in 4 out of 7 continents. She is the founder of Deep Roots in Christ Ministries and holds a master's degree in Theology, a certificate in Christian Apologetics, and a certificate in Biblical Counseling. Simone enjoys Pilates, strength training, ballet, and outdoor adventures with her husband, including hiking the Grand Canyon rim-to-rim. www.simonelake.com

Confidence in the Lord - C210

What did Moses mean when he spoke, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid"? He spoke this in Deut 31:6 to a specific group of people. Why did he say it, and who did he say it to? How does this passage relate to the audience back then? How does it relate to Christ? How does it apply to us now? Come and learn tools, techniques, and proven ways to read, study, teach, and share the Bible, as well as sharpen your skills to discern the people that do. Train yourself to know the difference between prescriptive and descriptive passages of Scripture. Learn how to understand when Scripture applies to the audience then and how Scripture relates to us now. Discover the treasure of Christ and Biblical Theology throughout the pages of the Bible.

I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world. John 16:33