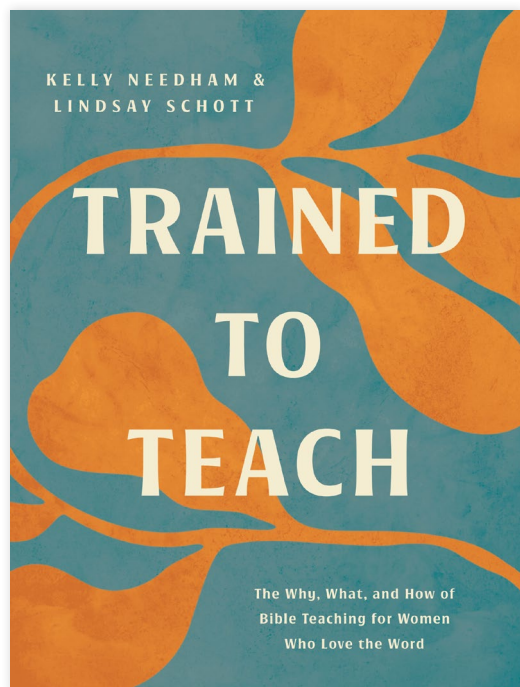




Format	Hardback
Pagination	240 pages
ISBN	ISBN: 9781802544961
Release Date	March 2027
Publisher	The Good Book Company

Trained to Teach

The Why, What, and How of Bible Teaching for Women Who Love the Word

Kelly Needham & Lindsay Schott

You love God's word and feel called to teach the Bible. Maybe you just don't know where to start, or maybe you have been teaching the Bible for years but can't get rid of the concern that you've never been formally trained to teach other women.

Through *Trained to Teach*, experienced Bible teachers Kelly Needham and Lindsay Schott will coach you, helping you grow in confidence and skill. As you work through this book by yourself or alongside other Bible teachers in women's ministry, you'll cover...

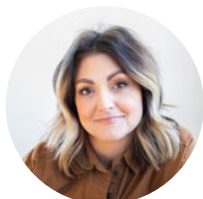
- **The Why:** navigate complicated motives and grow your confidence in God's ability to use you
- **The What:** build your foundation through careful and fruitful Bible study
- **The How:** gather practical advice on communicating in a way that is clear, engaging and memorable

Whether you are teaching a large women's Bible study, a handful of children in Sunday school, or a small group in your home, this down-to-earth guide will shape your heart, develop your skills and confidence, and equip you to serve faithfully in your local church as you move from "I don't know how" to "I'm ready to serve."



About the Authors

Kelly Needham is a Bible teacher, author, and podcaster with a passion for helping people enjoy God in His Word. She has served on staff at two different churches, serving in youth, college and women's ministry. Kelly and her husband, Jimmy, live in the Dallas area with their five kids, and they co-host the Clearly podcast.



Lindsay Schott is a Bible teacher and seasoned ministry veteran with 20 years of experience. With a passion for helping women see the Bible come alive in their daily lives, she served as the Women's Ministry Teacher at Stonegate Church, writing and teaching Bible-study curriculum. She is also a watercolor artist and lives near Dallas with her husband, Landon, and their four children.

Endorsements

“Teaching the Bible requires a strange mix of fear and fearlessness. We must be sober-minded and reverent about the task, and we must simultaneously strive to step into the work with confidence and joy. Kelly and Lindsay know these two poles first-hand, and they offer the aspiring teacher time-tested tools, practical wisdom borne of local church experience, and just the right recipe of carefulness and courage. This is a book I wish someone had handed me thirty years ago when I began fumbling my way forward with teaching the most important book of all. I pray it spurs a generation of women to teach the Bible, and to teach it well.”

Jen Wilkin

Author and Bible Teacher

“Trained to Teach is the book I want to put into the hands of every woman who comes to me wondering if she might be called to teach the Bible. Kelly Needham and Lindsay Schott speak to seemingly every question along the way—from calling, motives, and insecurities, to the nuts and bolts of actually preparing and delivering a faithful message. Encouraging, practical, and deeply grounded in a desire to serve God rather than build a platform, this is the kind of resource that helps women move forward with both humility and confidence. I expect it will be a go-to recommendation for aspiring Bible teachers for years to come!”

Emily Jensen

Bible Teacher and Coauthor of *Gospel Mom* and *Risen Motherhood*

Suggested Interview Questions

1. What did your early, contrasting teaching journeys reveal to you about how God shapes his people for ministry?
2. What does the path to becoming a female Bible teacher often look like, and what are the pros and cons of that path?
3. Why does training women Bible teachers matter? How does this effort strengthen churches?
4. What are common challenges women face when they begin teaching the Bible?
5. In your book you say that local teaching is the most transformative teaching. What makes local Bible teaching so powerful?
6. Why is training so important when someone is learning to teach the Bible?
7. How can teachers establish a strategic community to protect themselves from isolation and the pressures of celebrity culture?
8. What encouragement can you offer to women exploring the call to teach who feel fearful or uncertain about it?
9. Can you share a story of your most challenging teaching moment and how you learned from it?

Extended Questions on Specific Topics

Letting Go of Comparison and Cultivating Humility in Ministry

1. Why is comparison such a persistent struggle in ministry contexts, especially among women teaching the Bible?
2. What lies beneath comparison—what are we really believing about God when we compare?
3. How can we discern the difference between healthy admiration and unhealthy comparison?
4. What practical rhythms help you refocus on Jesus when you feel envious of someone else’s platform, influence, or life?
5. How can we cultivate contentment in our specific calling when it looks quieter or less visible than others?
6. How should women in ministry process praise without becoming dependent on it?
7. What are the dangers of being put on a pedestal—and how can we resist believing our own hype?
8. How can we cultivate humility while still receiving encouragement with gratitude?
9. Sometimes avoidance parades as humility. How can we embrace teaching while also valuing humility?

10. What practices help re-center identity in Christ rather than in ministry success?
11. How does perfectionism subtly undermine faithfulness in teaching God's Word?
12. In what ways do fear of others' opinions shape how women approach ministry?
13. What does it look like to surrender control in ministry rather than grasp for it?
14. How do you embrace ministry opportunity that is being handed to you when you aren't seeking it?

Navigating Friendship Through Divergent Paths

1. What challenges did you face in your friendship as your ministry paths diverged? Can you share a particularly hard moment?
2. How do you guard your heart when a close friend is living out the ministry you once hoped for?
3. What does it look like to genuinely celebrate a friend's calling when it highlights your own disappointments?
4. When comparison creeps into friendship, how do you address it honestly without damaging the relationship?
5. How can comfort become an idol that keeps women from stepping into obedience?
6. What counsel would you give to women who are unable to serve in the same ways as friends, simply because of differences in personality and bandwidth?
7. What parts of our culture make comparison especially tempting?
8. How can women move from comparison to cheering one another on? Why is this so hard to do?
9. What are some practical ways you fight envy in ministry?

Making Peace with Your Personality

1. How does understanding your God-given personality shape the way you teach the Bible?
2. What lies do women believe about needing to be a certain "type" of teacher to be effective?
3. How can a teacher discern when to stretch beyond their comfort zone versus when to rest in how God has wired them?
4. How can introverts and extroverts both flourish in teaching and ministry leadership?
5. What does it look like to embrace your limitations as part of God's design rather than something to overcome?
6. What has helped you find your voice as a teacher? What's been the biggest hurdle?
7. How important is community in a Bible teacher's growth?

The Value of Transformed Presence in Local Church Ministry

1. Why is local church ministry essential for women who want to faithfully teach the Bible?
2. What are we missing out on when we rely on outside voices rather than platform the voices of women within the church?
3. What does being a "transformed presence" look like in the ordinary, often unseen moments of church life?
4. How does consistent, small-scale faithfulness in a local church shape long-term fruit in ministry?
5. What are we missing when we prioritize broader platforms over investment in our immediate church community?

6. How can women resist the temptation to overlook everyday ministry opportunities in pursuit of something bigger?
7. In what ways does being deeply rooted in a local church guard our character and theology?
8. How does God use proximity—showing up regularly among the same people—to bring about real spiritual transformation?

Overcoming Self-Doubt and Embracing Your Spiritual Gifts

1. Why do some women feel an “ick” or discomfort when stepping into their spiritual gifts, especially in teaching?
2. What might that hesitation reveal about our beliefs regarding visibility, responsibility, or worth?
3. How can we distinguish between healthy humility and self-doubt that actually hinders obedience?
4. What are some common misconceptions women have about what it means to be “gifted” in teaching?
5. How can someone begin to identify whether teaching is one of their spiritual gifts?
6. What role do the local church and community affirmation play in recognizing and confirming someone’s gifting?
7. How should women respond when they sense a desire to teach but feel underqualified or insecure?
8. What indicators suggest someone is spiritually and relationally ready to teach the Bible?
9. How can character, not just competence, shape our understanding of readiness for teaching?
10. What encouragement would you give to a woman who feels both drawn to teach and tempted to shrink back?
11. For someone who has very little self doubt and wants to begin teaching right away, what reasons would you give them to not build a platform?

Facing the Fear of “Doing it Wrong” in Bible Teaching

1. How can women discern the difference between faithful, biblical teaching and content that is merely “biblical-ish”?
2. What are some common pitfalls that lead well-meaning teachers into handling Scripture inaccurately?
3. How do you address the fear of “doing it wrong” without letting that fear keep women from stepping into teaching?
4. What practices or guardrails help ensure that our teaching remains rooted in Scripture rather than personal opinion or trends?
5. How can we cultivate both confidence and humility when teaching the Bible, knowing the weight of handling God’s Word?

Navigating Spiritual Warfare as a Bible Teacher

1. In what ways might spiritual warfare uniquely impact women who are teaching the Bible?
2. What lies or accusations are Bible teachers most vulnerable to believing, and how can they combat them with truth?
3. How can women discern when they are facing spiritual opposition versus ordinary challenges in ministry?
4. What rhythms or practices help sustain spiritual resilience for those regularly teaching God’s Word?
5. How do you coach Bible teachers to navigate spiritual warfare?

Balancing Ministry and Motherhood

1. How do you discern what faithfulness looks like in a given season of motherhood when ministry opportunities are still present?
2. What are some subtle ways ministry can begin to crowd out your primary responsibilities at home?
3. How can a woman navigate the tension between feeling called to ministry and the real limitations of caring for young children?
4. What does it look like to include your children in your ministry life in healthy, life-giving ways?
5. How can mothers resist the pressure to do “everything well” in both ministry and home life?
6. What lies are most tempting for mothers in ministry to believe about productivity, impact, or calling?
7. How can women receive help—whether from their church or family—without guilt or a sense of failure?
8. What rhythms or boundaries have you found essential for protecting both your family and your ministry?
9. How can churches support mothers who are gifted to teach but are in demanding seasons at home?
10. What encouragement would you give to a mother who feels like she’s constantly falling short in both areas?
11. What encouragement would give you a woman who’s gifted to teach but isn’t able to teach because she’s busy caring for children?

Fostering Partnership Between Pastors and Women Leaders

1. What does healthy, biblical partnership between male leaders and female Bible teachers look like in the local church?
2. How can mutual trust and clarity of roles strengthen collaboration rather than create tension in ministry settings?
3. What are some common misunderstandings that can arise between male leadership and female teachers, and how can they be addressed?
4. How can pastors support women in their congregations who have the gift to teach?
5. What do you wish pastors knew about the women in their churches who are gifted to teach?
6. What can a woman do if she would like to teach more in her local church but isn’t sure what her pastors’ response would be?
7. How would you encourage a woman who is at a church that has no outlets for women teaching?
8. How would you encourage a woman who has experienced discouragement from pastors or other church leaders in her life?