

SPARKLE



WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

2018



SPARKLE WOMEN'S CONFERENCE
OCTOBER 12-13, 2018 | SPARKLECONFERENCE.ORG

I am Original

What a wild, honest, bold thing to be a woman. We're all tiptoeing inside each other's stories, hoping we won't overstep. Scurrying across sentences, leaping over plot lines, hoping that our place in each other's lives will end in an exclamation point. We want to walk through this life with purpose and meaning!

What if for a moment, you could lay down in a holy stillness, place your hand over your beating chest and marvel at the exhale, the grace in your held breath, the reward found in the release. What a raw representation of grace. Of the loud and billowing promise found in the gentleness of breathing. And in that raw and vulnerable moment of humanness, He tells you to remain. To remain who and how you are in a world that wishes so desperately you wouldn't.

You were created for a purpose. You are a masterpiece in the image of God, constructed uniquely to occupy a space only you can fill. Created by the Artist—different voices, unique features and ambitions, elements woven together—you are one of a kind. You are original.





I am Original

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I am Confident

The most honest, true and beautiful lens to view ourselves is through the eyes of our Father. He beams over our unique qualities He crafted in His own two hands. We are created to be confident and free—certain of our belief in who we are because of the One who created us. Women who exude Godly confidence create a shift in the atmosphere. They are not arrogant or prideful. In fact, the confidence these women possess is an assured way of life that invites others to join in the dazzling freedom of walking with Jesus. Some may mistake this sure confidence for naiveté, but

it is the total opposite. A steady, inward confidence is one that cannot be shaken. It is rooted deep in the soul and tied tightly to promises Jesus declares over us. However, if we are honest, seeing ourselves through the kind eyes of our King and walking in this confidence is easier said than done. We are our own harshest critics. How do we consistently walk and operate in a Godly confidence? Let's keep turning to the Truth. Let's return back to the original Artist and Creator of our souls...the One who gifted each of us with intricacies we have yet to discover. In a time where we are constantly surrounded by worldly

“I am confident that the Creator, who has begun such a great work among you, will not stop in mid-design but will keep perfecting you until the day Jesus the Anointed, our Liberating King, returns to redeem the world.”

PHILIPPIANS 1:6

advice and persuasions, it is imperative we look solely to Jesus for guidance and comfort. Our Heavenly Father intended for us to live with this confidence, this Godly confidence where fear and doubt have no room to invade our minds. It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Let's bravely remove the spectacles of this world, see ourselves through Heaven's eyes, and step into the truth of who we are in Jesus—confidently free and completely whole.

Sabrina's Story

I had no faith in God and absolutely no faith in myself, but Jesus changed my life. A friend invited me to River Valley for youth group several times, and I finally showed up. Although skeptical, I tried my best to come in with an open mind and heart, but I really wasn't expecting much. That night, I witnessed people my age worshipping God with everything they had. I was in complete and utter disbelief of how tangibly God showed up in my life. I couldn't get enough. I started coming to church on the weekend and every time I did, I noticed I was coming more and more out of my shell. As I participated more in worship, God revealed His heart for me. I have found my confidence in Him, and I am so excited to continue this journey.





I am Vulnerable

To be vulnerable: a selfless act with eternal impact. In agreeing to be vulnerable, we trade comfort for discomfort, safety for uncertainty. We concede to laying it all out there—the messy, the broken, the inner depths and cobweb-choked corners of our souls. The opposite is to be closed off. To filter honesty and truth through a lens of fear, and to predetermine what others think of us before they even know our name. It assumes that our deepest, darkest secrets are too deep and too dark to be accepted by those around us. We acknowledge that vulnerability is a prerequisite to enter into a meaningful relationship with another person, but are we being vulnerable with God? Do we present the messy and broken parts of



“We now have this light shining in our hearts, but we ourselves are like fragile clay jars containing this great treasure. This makes it clear that our great power is from God, not from ourselves.”

2 CORINTHIANS 4:7

ourselves to Him, or do we approach Him only when we feel good enough? To be vulnerable with our loved ones and not with our God is to hike up a mountain to witness a sunset, only to start the trek back down before the pinnacle of the experience. We’ve seen a beautiful view but missed out on the best of what the moment has to offer. What if we embraced our flaws in the presence of God, knowing that we’ll never be good enough to deserve what He did, but He loves us all the same?

What if when other people saw our flaws, they also saw strength, and the permission to be themselves? God is more than capable of perfecting our imperfections, but what if He wants to use them to show others that they don’t have to be spotless to be in a relationship with Him? Embracing vulnerability is a commitment to being an imperfect example of Christ’s goodness—a selfless act that places one more stepping stone on the path for someone who is messy, broken, and searching for the truth.

Katalja’s Story

Raising a child on my own, a cancer diagnosis, the death of the man I loved; these storms have become my story, and my story is bound together by vulnerability. I have found immense purpose in being open about my story and sharing it with the world. But I’ve found more value in being vulnerable with God. Saying, “Here I am, take all of me. I give it all to you,” I’ve found that trusting—once so hard for me—has become much simpler. I fight the walls I’ve put up for mankind, but for my God, there isn’t a wall in sight. Vulnerability has allowed me to know Him and trust Him. I never would have gotten through these storms without giving it all to God. Before understanding who my God really was I was lost, I was alone. Now, He is all that I know and all that I need. The fire in my heart that stays blazing through sickness, fear, anxiety, and loss...it’s there because I dared to be vulnerable. With Him, I can do all things.

I am Resilient



*“I lift up my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.”*

PSALM 121:1-2

Nevertheless she persisted. This expression has become current for women uniting around breaking societal barriers. Interpreted a variety of different ways, the phrase focuses on the obstinate persistence we display in the face of great difficulty or resistance. This tenacious resolve is contagious because it points to a strength not our own. At times, the tests and trials in this life feel like a walk through the wilderness. Howling winds whooshing leaves across a rugged cliff-lined path, mysterious noises echoing through barren, angled trees. Doubt and hopelessness creep in and we start to question if the destination is even worth it or if the forest will be too thick to find our journey's end. But up ahead lies a worn, wooden table under a canopy of trees dripping with warm twinkle lights in the cool of the day. And around the table is a community, a

sisterhood, of those who have known hardship, yet with grace and resiliency, withstood. Through fog and liquid black nights and taunting shadows that told us we were without hope, we listen. A gentle, loyal voice of Truth shepherds from the front, and whispers encouragement from behind. The rough, uneven terrain may scrape a few knees. And sometimes the water beside the path is indistinguishable from the sky. But onward together, we stay the path. When you look up and look around, we've weathered really hard places. Look how far we've come. With grit and resilience, we didn't give up or lose sight of the big picture. This view. The Artist's glory displayed in landscapes covered in golden sun. Our God-given feminine resolve led us here by grace; a fruitful, sacred, redeemed place. *Nevertheless we persisted.*



Deb's Story

In an effort to survive the persistent bullying in junior high, I memorized Psalm 121. This Psalm gave me tenacity and was my fighting song in those dark days. In eleventh grade, I spent the summer in Washington with my uncle and hiked Mt. Rainier. My Uncle asked if I was afraid. I said, "No, you're here with me." He told me it wasn't him I should take comfort in, but in God my Protector. It was a summer of confidence-building for me; I knew I had a place in God's great creation. On my first day of college, I met a friend who helped me discover a global view of the world, and supported the growing resolve inside me to tell others about Jesus. The more I spent time in His Word, the greater His calling became on my life. In Matthew 9:37-38 Jesus says, "The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field." My husband and I received the call through this verse to be two of the 500 missionaries that River Valley Church is sending out. Through prayer, we believe we will be serving abroad soon.







I am known

It is in the tiny, holy moments of climbing out of bed, of mismatching socks, of messy hair tied into a ponytail, that we come face to face with God who calls himself friend. He steps down out of the intimidating highness of heaven and meets us in the kitchen for morning coffee. Through the shouting of human noise, we can crumble under the truth that God knows us one-on-one, not as part of a crowd, not as part of some fan club. With His eyes closed, He could pick us out of the millions, just by hearing our heartbeat. He knows exactly how it loves and exactly how it hurts. He trademarks our flaws with charming grace to say, “This is how I have made you, these are the things I use to find you in the crowd. Not your accomplishments, not your big shining moments. I don’t see you for those, I see you for quiet and ordinary moments spent whispering my name. You do not need to shout, I found you in the crowd a long time ago. You have never been misplaced.” We have loud minds, but God has an uncanny ability to orchestrate an overwhelming hush over our chaos. He has a knack for arranging quiet corners in a loud mind and laying out simple and kind clues for us to get there. Time after time, He sets out a space to come and set everything down, to look into the purest mirror of grace and truth and allows us to see ourselves as He does, daughters of the King, wholly and dearly loved.

Kelly’s Story

I have always believed in God, but didn’t attend a church. After having my first child, I felt lost, experiencing a crisis of identity. How could I be a wife and a mom, and still find time to be myself? I was struggling with self-confidence and found my worth in pleasing others, desperately trying to meet the expectations the world placed on me. I failed over and over again. Finally, after a year of searching for my purpose and identity, I went to Sisterhood. It was there that the Bible was brought to life in a way I had never experienced. I was empowered to be the best version of myself, created in God’s image—a daughter of the King! I knew my family had to experience the joy I felt as part of a church. I prayed for three years before my husband agreed to join me at River Valley. We are now growing and serving among fellow Christians, surrounded by peace and purpose. I have found my identity through Christ. I am known.

*“But if anyone loves God with awe-filled reverence, obedience and gratitude,
he is known by Him as His very own and is greatly loved.”*

1 CORINTHIANS 8:3





I am Free

She has held back the deepest things in her heart for fear of what others may think, but what if the very thing that she is holding on to is what will actually set others free? What if sharing her stories of hurt, pain, joy, and faith with others is a needed reminder that they are not alone on this journey? What if her story is what lets them know that if He can lead her through the desert, then He can do it for them as well? Her story is filled with mistakes, heartbreak, and pain...but she is an overcomer!

“He told me, ‘My grace is enough; it’s all you need. My strength comes into its own in your weakness.’ Once I heard that, I was glad to let it happen. I quit focusing on the limitation and began appreciating the gift. It was a case of Christ’s strength moving in on my weakness. Now I take limitations in stride, and with good cheer, these limitations that cut me down to size—abuse, accidents, opposition, bad breaks. I just let Christ take over! And so the weaker I get, the stronger I become.”

2 CORINTHIANS 12:9

She lets Christ take over! She is free to be honest and open. Free to let people know of the God who made her who she is...strong, beautiful, and confident. She is free to let the walls fall down and share her heart. Free to leave behind the shallow end and plunge into the deep. She is free from secrets, lies, fears and insecurities, free to stop hiding. She is changing the world in her weakness and says yes to scary things with no guarantee of perfection. She dances no matter who’s watching because she intimately knows the One who is always watching. She opens her heart not because it’s perfect but because it is beautiful. Authentically she loves those around her and pursues the One who has given her breath. She is free to be an original!



Laura’s Story

When I decided to make Jesus my Lord and Savior I had the privilege of being set free in Christ. Free to be the woman God has created and called me to be. There is no better feeling than to be fully known and fully loved by my Father. My life has not always been this way. I have faced many struggles, hardships, and trials of every kind. Christ has allowed me to walk through each of these situations with comfort when I wasn’t comfortable, peace when I wasn’t at peace, and joy when I wasn’t joyful. The freedom I have found in Christ allows me to not be defined by my struggles. I am now defined by the overwhelming grace that flows through me. In His grace I am free to struggle, free to overcome, and free to forgive others. His forgiveness flows through me and in that forgiveness, I am free. I have been asked how I have gotten to this place. It is simple: by pressing into Him I found the answers were as close as God’s Word.

God has made us what we are. He has created us in Christ Jesus to live lives filled with good works that He has prepared for us to do.

EPHESIANS 2:10



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DEAR ORIGINAL ONE,

In 2009, there were 300 women gathered at our Apple Valley campus for the very first Sparkle Women's Conference. It was my dream that the women of our church would have a yearly gathering with inspirational speakers and the opportunity to learn more about God and the strength they have in Him, while having fun and experiencing community along the way. In 2010, we saw 600 women attend the Conference. 2011 had 900, and we broke 1,000 in 2012. At this year's tenth anniversary celebration of the Sparkle Women's Conference, we are expecting more than 3,000 women to gather in a brand new location better-suited to our expanding attendance and ever-growing vision. Sparkle 2018 will be hosted downtown at the Minneapolis Convention Center. We are thrilled to be adding more space for you and your friends!

In a world constantly telling us who and what we should be, our Conference theme this year is **Original**.

"We will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original."

GALATIANS 5:26

We hope you'll come along as we discover the masterpiece God created each one of us to be. You can expect Sparkle Conference 2018 to include all the elements you love—excellent speakers, inspiring worship, boutiques, an after party, and so much more! We're going downtown, and we want you there! Bring your friends, make it a girls weekend, and we'll see you in October!

Love you lots!



BECCA KETTERLING
WOMEN'S MINISTRY PASTOR



*“Blessed is she who has
believed that the Lord
would fulfill what He
has spoken to her.”*

LUKE 1:45

OCTOBER 12-13, 2018

Friday, October 12

5:30PM - REGISTRATION BEGINS

7:00PM - SESSION 1

9:00PM - AFTER PARTY/BOUTIQUE

11:00PM - DAY 1 ENDS

Saturday, October 13

8:30AM - DOORS OPEN

9:00AM - SESSION 2

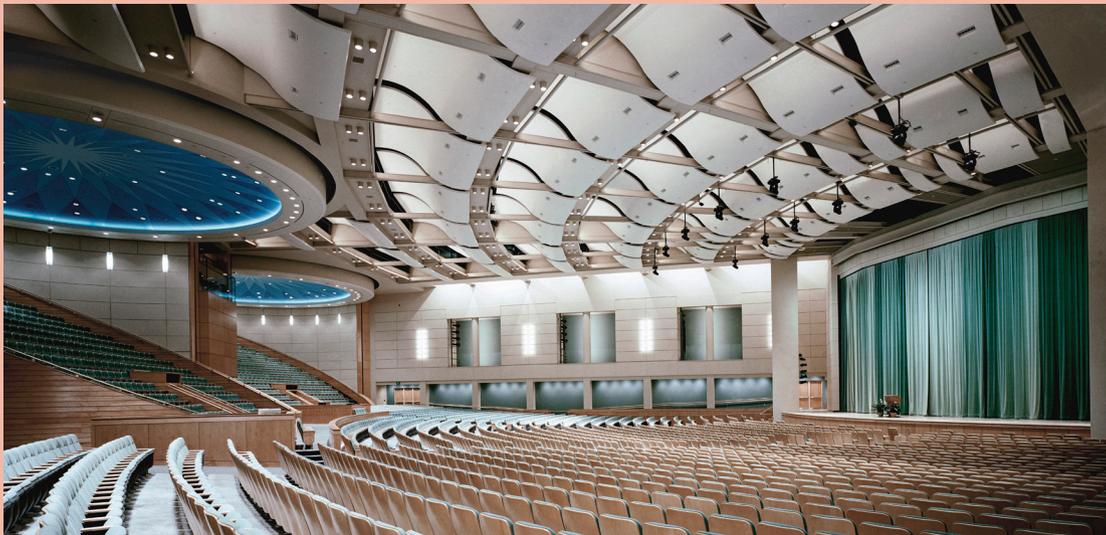
10:15AM - BREAK

10:45AM - SESSION 3

12:00PM - LUNCH (ON YOUR OWN)

1:30PM - SESSION 4

3:00PM - CONFERENCE ENDS



CONFERENCE LOCATION

Minneapolis Convention Center

1301 2nd Ave S, Minneapolis, MN 55403

CONFERENCE HOST & SPEAKER

Becca Ketterling

@beccaketterling



As the Women's Ministry Pastor at River Valley Church, Becca Ketterling is passionate about leading and encouraging women to rise up and take their place as the women God has called them to be. Her vision is for women to realize their incredible value, potential and purpose and live it out beautifully for Christ. Proverbs 3:5-6 defines her ministry as she puts her trust in the Lord and allows Him to use her, despite her own fears, to lead the women of River Valley Church. Together with her husband, Pastor Rob Ketterling, they founded River Valley Church in 1995.

S P E A K E R

Lisa Bevere

@lisabevere



Lisa Bevere has spent nearly three decades empowering women of all ages to find their identity and purpose. She is a New York Times Best Selling author and internationally known speaker. Her previous books, which include *Fight Like a Girl*, *Lioness Arising*, *Girls with Swords*, and *Without Rival*, are in the hands of millions worldwide. Lisa and her husband, John, are the founders of Messenger International, an organization committed to developing uncompromising followers of Christ who transform their world.

S P E A K E R

Bob Goff

@bobgoff



Bob Goff is the New York Times Best Selling Author of *Love Does* and *Everybody Always*, Honorary Consul to the Republic of Uganda, and an attorney who founded Love Does—a nonprofit human rights organization operating in Uganda, India, Nepal, Iraq and Somalia. He’s a lover of balloons, cake pops and helping people pursue their big dreams. Bob’s greatest ambitions in life are to love others, do stuff, and most importantly hold hands with his wife Sweet Maria Goff and spend time with their amazing kids.

“We will not compare ourselves with each other as if one of us were better and another worse. We have far more interesting things to do with our lives. Each of us is an original.”

GALATIANS 5:26







GUIDE TO MINNEAPOLIS

SLEEP



MILLENNIUM HOTEL MINNEAPOLIS

1313 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN, 55403
612-332-6000



HILTON GARDEN INN MINNEAPOLIS

1101 4th Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55404
612-339-6633



HILTON MINNEAPOLIS

1001 Marquette Avenue S, Minneapolis, MN 55403
612-376-1000



HOTEL IVY

201 S Eleventh Street, Minneapolis, MN, 55403
612-746-4600

EAT & DRINK

From coffee and lunch to late night sweet treats, these local dining options are all within walking distance of the Convention Center.

COFFEE

- Dunn Bros
(located inside the convention center)
- Starbucks
- Angel Food Bakery & Coffee Bar

FAST OPTIONS

- Chipotle
- Qdoba
- La Belle Crepe
- Panera Bread
- Jimmy Johns
- Subway
- Which Wich Sandwiches

SIT-DOWN OPTIONS

- Market Bar-B-Que
- Salsa A La Salsa
- Lotus
- Nicollet Diner
- Zelo

GREAT BREAKFAST

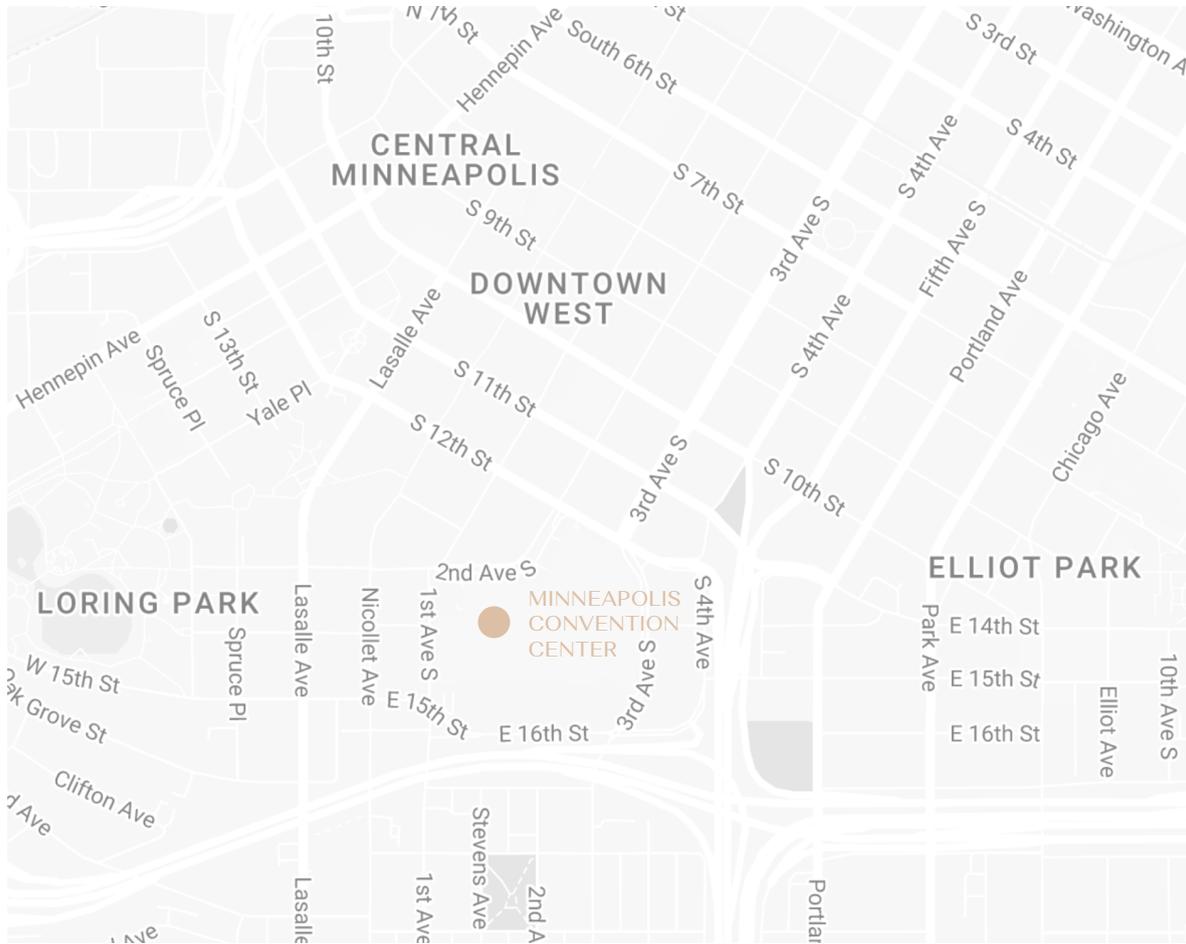
- Key's Café at The Foshay
- Hen House

SHOP/VISIT



- 1 Nicollet Mall
- 2 Mall of America
- 3 Twin Cities Premium Outlets
- 4 Target Store at 9th Street and Nicollet
- 5 Loring Park
- 6 Walker Art Center & Sculpture Garden
- 7 Minnehaha Falls
- 8 Lake Calhoun

GETTING AROUND



DRIVE

If you choose to drive, there are plenty of parking spaces and parking meters. A day's worth of parking usually costs \$6-20. We recommend carpooling!

RIDE

Visitors can catch a cab, Uber, or Lyft from any hotel or hop on the METRO public transportation system. METRO light rail and bus fares range from \$1.75 to \$3 based on time of day.

WALK

If you'd rather stay inside while walking, the climate-controlled skyway system is perfect.

TERA'S STORY

From an outward appearance, I represented stability. I had a wonderful husband, and we had three beautiful children together. We attended a church on the weekends that appeased our families, but I was broken. I felt spiritually empty, full of anxiety and fear. I felt like I was never going to measure up. For over a year, a friend of mine had been inviting me to Sisterhood at River Valley Church. I viewed it as one more thing to do on the list of things I already couldn't keep up with. I finally made the decision to go with her, recognizing that I was completely lost in my own skin. I was drawn to her invitation that promised a supportive community of women. As I sat down at a table with women I didn't know, I thought, "What am I doing here?" But it only took a few sentences from the leader who was teaching for me to realize that God wanted me in that seat for a very specific reason that day. Delivering a message about love, fulfillment, peace, and salvation that God so freely gives to those who seek Him, I felt like the teacher was speaking directly to me. I wanted to stand up and shout, "This is me! You're speaking to me!" I realized that I wasn't alone...that a lot of women are going through something similar, but that our strength comes from a God who hears us and knows us, preparing and guiding our every step. The world tells us that we have to be perfect. I was chasing after something that couldn't be achieved. My husband, my children, my job...they can't fulfill me. When I felt like I was drowning, flailing my arms wildly to stay afloat, I realized that God's grace is the only thing that can fulfill me. Instead of exhausting my energy and getting nowhere on my own, God asks me to look to Him. It was at Sisterhood that the presence of God put that realization into motion. He changed everything.





Sisterhood

A WEEKLY GATHERING OF WOMEN AT RIVER VALLEY CHURCH

RIVERVALLEY.ORG

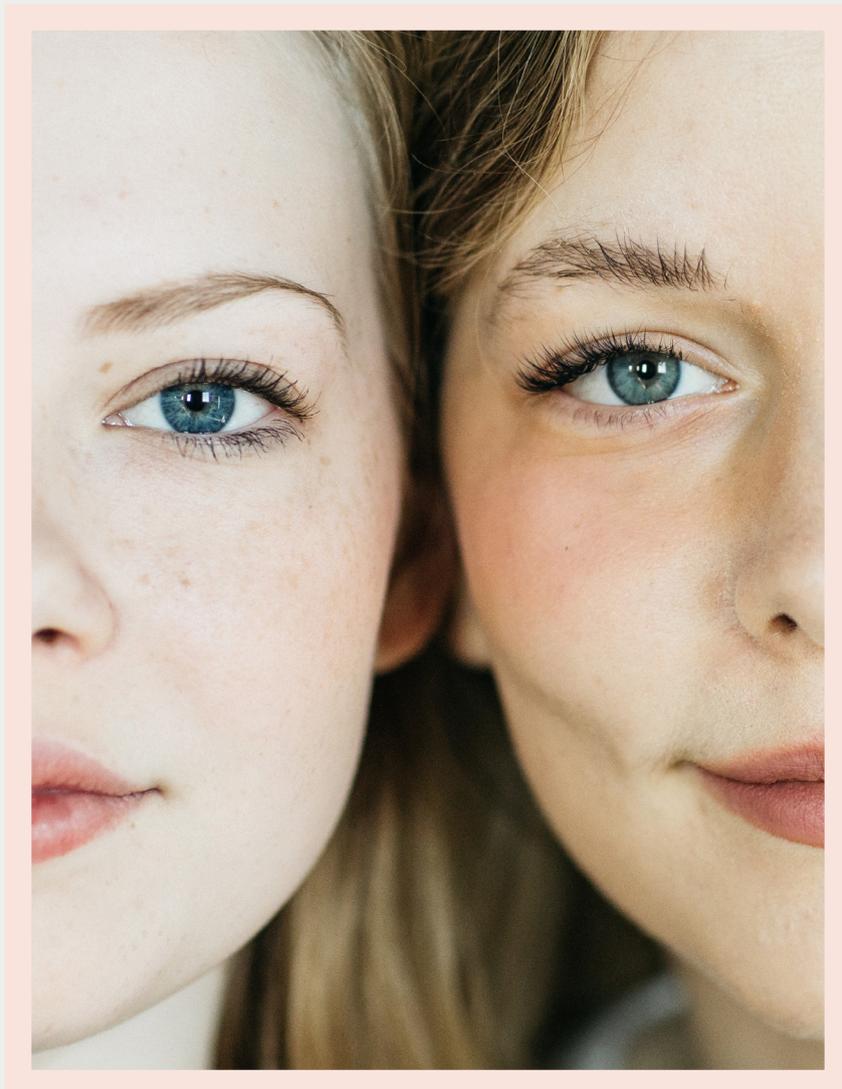




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