

Her Story: Women & The Bible | Week 4 - The Church Needs Us**Big Idea**

The church needs “Junia”s, women who will be fearless trailblazers who further the mission of Jesus.

Scripture COMMUNITY will be a church where men and women are encouraged to flourish in the gifts God has given them because we believe this is the faithful interpretation of Scripture.

Points to Keep In Mind

1. In Genesis 1:26-28, God creates human beings in his image. Both women and men are made in God's image and likeness. We cannot say that God is male or female. We can say that whatever it means to bear God's image is reflected in both men and women. God's original plan gives women and men a shared mandate. Take note that this is a joint commission. There is no divvying up of roles. There is no hierarchy here. There is no top-down structure. Man and woman were equal in the garden and given a shared mandate, and at that point, God was well pleased. Remember what God said after creating human beings? It wasn't just “It is good,” but “It is very good.”
2. Over 100 references to the root of the Hebrew word ezer are in the Old Testament, the same ezer found in Genesis 2:18. Twenty-one of these references use the identical word we see here. In the vast majority of cases, this word appears descriptive of God. The word denotes strength and power.
3. In Genesis 3:1-24, God's dream and original intent of a world of mutuality and equality were destroyed by sin. Because Adam and Eve went against God's command, God's original design for men and women was replaced with the curse of one gender “ruling” over the other. This was not God's dream for the world but the curse of sin. “This text is not telling us what should be, but what is. The subjugation of the woman is a sad effect of the Fall.” Paul Kissling, Genesis in The College Press NIV Commentary, Vol.1, Terry Briley, et. al. eds. (Joplin, MO: College Press Publishing, 2004). The systems of hierarchy began on this day, and it broke God's heart.
4. Thank goodness for Jesus! Jesus' mission was to restore God's dream. The way that Jesus interacted with women in his culture, which was also steeped in patriarchy, was revolutionary. The equality and mutuality of Genesis 1-2 are being restored! It's a new day because of Jesus! That's why Paul declares in Galatians 3:26-28: “...there is neither male nor female...” The early church began to live by God's dream and not the curse, and that's what we've seen during the first three weeks of this series as we've learned about women like Phoebe, Priscilla, and Junia, who were powerhouse leaders and teachers in the early church, women whom Paul highly esteems and commends.

Additional Questions and Resources

visit communitychristian.org/nextsteps

1. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
2. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/support
3. Find out more about having a YOU+ conversation by visiting communitychristian.org/you/