



## **Group Discussion Guide**

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# Divinely Design (Women in the Bible) Discussion Guide

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## Series Overview

We can learn much about what God honors as we study the God-designed role of women in the Bible.

## Purpose of This Guide

The primary purpose of this group guide is to reinforce and deepen the lessons of the Grace Church message series: **Divinely Designed**.

You may choose to use this guide:

- with your Grace Group.
- with any group of people interested in knowing what the Bible says about these topics.

# 1-Designed for God: Eve

## Icebreaker: Good Helper

Discuss the qualities of a good helper.

## Discussion Questions: Challenges in Walking with God

- What are some reasons God used one of Adam's ribs instead of some other body part to create Eve ([Gen 2:21-22](#))?
- From the beginning, what was God's intent for marriage ([Gen 2:24](#), [Mat 19:4-5](#), [Eph 5:28](#))?
- What did God want Adam and Eve to do together ([Gen 2:15-18](#), [Gen 3:23-24](#), [Gen 4:1](#))?
- Consider the attacks that Eve experienced. What challenges can you expect in your walk with God ([2Cor 11:3](#), [Gen 3](#))?
- The devil enjoys getting us to believe that Jesus is not enough to satisfy us ([Rom 8:32](#), [Eph 1:3](#)). What can we do to resist believing those lies?
- Victory occurs when we resist the devil in humble obedience to God ([Jas 4:7-10](#), [1Pet 5:6-9](#)). What is your motivation for obeying God?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Overcoming the Pull of the World

Our struggles are much like Eve's:

She saw the tree was good for food.	Lust of the Flesh: It stimulated her physiologically.
It was a delight to her eyes.	Lust of the Eyes: It stimulated her desire to own it in an attempt at contentment.
She desired it to make herself wise.	Pride of Life: It stimulated her selfish ambition to make plans without God.

The biblical solution to overcome the pull of the world is to **evaluate** the situation.

- Whenever you're tempted to choose the temporary trash of the world, stop. Consider the price tag ([1John 2:15-17](#), [1Cor 3:10-15](#)).
- Make sure you know the eternal perspective by knowing God's Word ([John 1:14](#), [John 8:32](#), [John 14:6](#), [John 17:18](#), [2Tim 2:15](#)).
- Always ask, "Is this a good decision from an eternal perspective?"

### Application Exercise: Pray for Help to Be a Good Evaluator

- Thank God for eternal treasures with Christ. Ask Him to remind you of the price tag each time you feel tempted to seek the temporary trash of the world.
- Ask for His help in being faithful in your Bible reading. Tell Him you want to know His Word well enough to make good decisions from an eternal perspective.
- Confess any recent times when you have chosen to not apply the Bible truth that He has shown you. Thank Him for His forgiveness and ask for strength to obey Him in all areas of your life.

## 2-Designed for Influence: Deborah

### Icebreaker: Influencers in My Life

Who influences your thoughts and decisions?

### Discussion Questions: Life of an Influencer

- Israel came to Deborah to settle disputes ([Jdg 4:4-5](#)). What can we do to become a trusted sounding board for others?
- When God gave instructions to Deborah, she followed them ([Jdg 4:6-7](#)). What factors make it easier to follow God's instructions ([Psa 58:11](#))?
- Barak told Deborah he would go only if she went with him ([Jdg 4:8-9](#)). Why did Barak want Deborah to be present at the battle ([Psa 68:7](#))?
- Deborah directed Barak as God directed her ([Jdg 4:14](#)). When you give advice to others, how often do you first seek guidance from God ([Psa 20:7](#))?
- After the battle, Deborah praised God for the victory ([Jdg 5:3-31](#)). What can we do to remember to praise God for our victories ([Psa 105:5](#))?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Character Qualities

Reflect on the factors that gave Deborah influence with others. Consider her character qualities.

Fairness	<b>Jdg 4:4-5</b> , noted for settling inter-tribal disputes
Wisdom	<b>Jdg 4:6-7</b> , “Has not the Lord God of Israel commanded..”
Dependability	<b>Jdg 4:8-9</b> , Barak knew he could rely on Deborah
Discernment	<b>Jdg 4:14</b> , knew what God wanted, “this is the day..”
Reverence Thankfulness	<b>Jdg 5:3-31</b> song of Deborah shows her awe of and appreciation for God

## Application Exercise: Source of Influence Self-Assessment

How true are the following statements for you?

	not true ←→completely true
When I give advice, I base it on biblical principles.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
I spend enough time in God’s Word to get direction from Him.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5
I regularly let God know that I love, revere, and appreciate Him.	1 - 2 - 3 - 4 - 5

Based on this self-assessment, ask God where He wants you to make some changes.

## 3-Designed for Risk: Esther

### Icebreaker: Examples of Risk-Taking

- Discuss times when you have taken a risk.
- Compared to your current level of risk-taking, would you rather be more, or less, of a risk-taker?

### Discussion Questions: Prepare for Risk

- In what way does the golden scepter picture Christ as our access to God the Father [[Est 4:11](#)]?
- Sometimes, God puts you in an uncomfortable situation to be a blessing to others [[Est 4:13-14](#)]. What could help us pay attention and see how God wants to use us **for such a time as this**?
- When you are about to embark on a fear-inducing venture, what can you do to prepare yourself [[Est 4:15-16](#), [Mat 6:16-18](#), [Luke 2:37](#)]?
- Notice that there is no direct mention of God in the book of Esther. Even when we aren't paying attention, God is working [[Heb 2:6-9](#), [Pro 16:9](#)].
  - ▶ What are the advantages of purposely seeking His will?
  - ▶ How often do you ask God what He wants to do through your life?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Taking Risks

- Our flesh is timid when it encounters a hazard (**Exo 4:13**). Like Esther, we are not trapped by our weaknesses. God will use us as we are if we trust in Him (**1Cor 1:27**).
- What stops us from taking risks for God? Fear (**Josh 1:9**).
- For a Christian, fear is dangerous. Any fear that keeps us from doing the will of God puts us out of fellowship with Him and forfeits His blessing (**Acts 20:24**).
- What empowers us to overcome fear? Faith (**Heb 11:6**, **Acts 21:13**, **1John 4:17-19**).

### Application Exercise: What Risks am I Taking?

- Make a list of the risks you are taking related to what God has asked you to do.
- Pray that God will strengthen your faith in believing He will work things out for good (**Rom 8:28**).
- Thank God that, when obeying Him,, the blessing will be greater than the risk (**Josh 1:9**).

# 4-Designed for Surrender: Hannah

## Icebreaker: Approach to Prayer

*In prayer, it is better to have a heart without words, than words without a heart. -John Bunyan*

What does this quote suggest about our approach to prayer?

## Discussion Questions: Prayer of Submission

- Hannah prayed with submission ([Luke 1:48](#)). Her prayer involved sacrifice ([1Sam 1:9-16](#)). What does it take to approach prayer as an act of submission?
- In what way did Hannah's heartfelt prayer change her demeanor ([1Sam 1:17-18](#))? Regardless of how God answers our prayers, how can praying change our demeanor?
- Discuss how Hannah and Samuel are examples of living sacrifices ([Rom 12:1-2](#))?
- From reading [1Samuel 1:24-28](#), what lessons do you think Hannah taught Samuel to prepare him to serve God? What key lessons about God do you strive to teach your physical and spiritual children?
- When Hannah left Samuel with Eli, how did she react ([1Sam 2:1](#))? What was unusual about her reaction?
- Compare Hannah's hymn of praise ([1Sam 2:1-10](#)) to Mary's song in [Luke 1:46-55](#).

## Dig a Little Deeper: Hymn of Praise

Hannah's hymn of praise includes several attributes of God:

- His uniqueness [**1Sam 2:2**]
- His omniscience [**1Sam 2:3**]
- His omnipotence [**1Sam 2:4**]
- His grace and mercy [**1Sam 2:5-8**]
- His protection [**1Sam 2:9-10**]

### Application Exercise: My Prayer

Using Hannah's example of prayer, pour out your heart to God.

# 5-Designed for Acceptance: Woman at the Well

## Icebreaker: It's All About You, Jesus

Use Heart of Worship (or a song of your choice) to open with a time of worship. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OD4tB1o6YLw>

## Discussion Questions: At the Well

- How comfortable are you in asking Jesus questions ([John 4:11-12](#), [Jas 1:5](#))?
- How comfortable are you in confessing your sins directly to Him ([John 4:17-19](#), [Psa 32:5](#))?
- Why do you think Jesus waited to work salvation into the conversation ([John 4:22](#))? What can we learn from His approach as we engage others in conversation?
- What did the woman do when she finally realized who Jesus was ([John 4:28-29](#))? When you realized who Jesus was, how did your behavior begin to change?
- What was the result of the woman's response to salvation ([John 4:39](#))?

## Dig a Little Deeper: Make a Connection

Jesus Christ reached an entire city through one unnamed woman ([John 4:7-42](#)). Read the passage and notice the process He used to connect with her. He:

- ▶ Initiated contact
- ▶ Established common ground
- ▶ Listened to her
- ▶ Built a bridge by making her thirsty for something other than water
- ▶ Said enough to make her hungry for more
- ▶ Accepted her as she was
- ▶ Stuck with the key issues
- ▶ Communicated directly and simply

Which of these process steps do you use as you interact with others? Are you missing some steps in the way you usually interact? How could refining your process make you better at connecting with people?

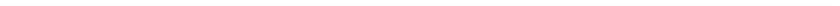
## Application Exercise: True Worship

The woman at the well tried to steer the conversation toward “religion” and “tradition” ([John 4](#)). Jesus asserted that true worship involves “spirit” and “truth.”

- Have you allowed “religion” and “tradition” to cloud your worship of Jesus? In what ways?
- Do you worship in the way that God desires?
- What changes will you make to your life to please God in your worship?

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