

## The Challenge of Being a Woman in Leadership

Taking the examples of some unlikely women leaders in the Bible, we will discuss some of the very real challenges Christian women face in leadership as they wrestle with discerning God's calling; the nature of their ministry; facing opposition from society; struggling with male attitudes; the nature of compromise; and the preservation of their walk with the Lord.

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### 1. What is Leadership?

### 2. What is Christian Leadership?

Called by God

John 15:16 "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit"

1Cor 1:27 "But God chose the foolish things of this world to shame the wise"

Inadequacy not adequacy "A knowledge of God and a knowledge of oneself" Calvin

### 3. The Particular Challenges for Women in Leadership

- A. "The 7 Deadly Sins of Women in Leadership"
  - i. Limiting Self Perceptions

- ii. Failure to Draw the Line
  
- iii. Inadequate Personal Vision
  
- iv. Too little Life in Work
  
- v. Everybody's Friend, Nobody's Leader
  
- vi. Colluding not Confronting
  
- vii. Neglect in Family Matters

#### **4. Leadership Under God – Inspirational Women Leaders in the Bible**

- A. Deborah – “A mother in Israel”
  - i. Deborah, a judge in Israel summons Barak (Judges 4:1-11, 5:1-8)
  
  - ii. The Battle Fought (4:12-16; 5:19-23)
  
  - iii. Jael Kills Sisera (4:17-24; 5:24-27)
  
  - iv. Deborah's song (5)

B. Priscilla – Co-Founder of the Church

- i. The Businesswoman (Acts 18:11)
  
- ii. The Teacher (Acts 18:18-26)
  
- iii. The Church Leader (Romans 16:1-3)
  
- iv. The Faithful Friend (2 Timothy 4:19)

C. Miriam – “One who loves or is loved by God”

- i. Understanding the Times (Exodus 2:1-10)
  
- ii. A Prophetess (Exodus 15:20)
  
- iii. The Worship Leader (Exodus 16:20-21)
  
- iv. The Critic (Numbers 12:1)

**5. The Lessons to Learn**

- A. Never Say Die!
  
  
- B. Strategic thinkers

- C. Team players
- D. God's Representatives with a mission
- E. Clear Communicators
- F. Grounded in Faith
- G. Humble

## **6. Reflections**

- A. What is our Calling? Where are we on the Journey? What have been the defining moments for you in your life?
- B. What attitudes do you struggle with?
- C. What does work look like for me?
- D. What does rest look like for me?
- E. Do you have any regrets in relation to your family?