

The Heartbeat of a Righteous Woman

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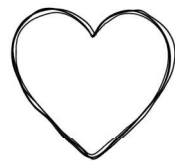
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Table of Contents

Lesson One: Finding My Purpose.....3	Deborah, Zelophehad's Daughters, and Lydia
Lesson Two: Carrying My Burdens.....9	Tamar, Hagar, and Dinah
Lesson Three: Shaping a Relationship.....14	Eve, Sarah, and Priscilla
Lesson Four: Risking It All.....20	Puah & Shiphrah; Jael, and Esther
Lesson Five: Leaving a Legacy.....25	Rahab; Tabitha (Dorcas); Euodia & Syntyche; and Mary, sister of Martha
Lesson Six: Filling My Heart.....30	Elizabeth; Hannah; Mary, the mother of Jesus; and the Shunammite Woman



Lesson One

Finding My Purpose

Deborah, Zelophehad's Daughters, and Lydia

We hope for affirmation by God. It will be wonderful to hear words of welcome from Our Father and Savior. The women in this lesson: Deborah; the daughters of Zelophehad (Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah); and Lydia lived purposeful lives in God's kingdom. They were women whose roles were affirmed by God for His purposes. Have you ever stopped to think that whatever you are doing now in your life can, or is, being used by God for His purpose?

When Moses took the daughters' case before the Lord, God said to Moses, "The daughters of Zelophehad are right in their statements. You shall surely give them a hereditary possession among their father's brothers and you shall transfer the inheritance of their father to them." What affirmation from God! Those women spoke truth. Deborah must have been an exceptional woman because she knew who was in control. Consider her statement, "But let those who love Him be like the rising of the sun in its might." Such confidence in her Lord!

And Lydia, her behavior speaks for her. Lydia, having just met Paul, found herself associated with a man thrown in prison. And, upon his release, welcomed him into her home.

It is so easy to overlook the value in people when they are doing their job: caring for their family, serving their people, or working their business. When you speak the truth, live confidently in obedience and faith, and embrace God's promised hope, your purpose becomes clear, falling within your abilities and strength.

Bible Passages to Read

Deborah: Judges 4:1—5:31

Lydia: Acts 16:11-15, 40

**Zelophehad's Daughters: Numbers 27:1-11, 36:1-12;
Joshua 17:3-6**

**Principle #1: God directs the steps of women who
revere Him.**

1. What do we know about these women's work positions or place within the community?
2. Consider how today's women plan their futures versus how biblical women's futures were determined. How do these women (Deborah, the daughters, and Lydia) challenge those thoughts?
3. Read Proverbs 16:9. What evidences are apparent that God was directing these women'

4. Two statements about Lydia from Acts 16:14.
Statement One: She was a worshipper of God.
Statement Two: The Lord opened her heart.
Is statement two dependent on statement one?

5. A. Think about the power and intensity of the sun as you write out Judges 5:31.

- B. What can God enable you to do?

Principle #2: What motivates you matters.

6. A. Do you think each woman was intentionally aware that her behavior would bring God glory?
Expound on your answer.