



Equipped by God to Serve the Community

Ephesians 4:11-12 (NKJV) - "And He Himself gave some to be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, **for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ.**"

The role of a church

The role of the church is to equip believers - men and women to serve God and the community through ministry. **God raises and equips people in the church to serve others and transform the community.**

Today, we are going to learn from the leadership of three powerful women of God who brought major transformation in the community: Deborah, Priscilla & Dorcas.

Point	Biblical Woman	Community Impact	Lesson
God calls women	Deborah	Led Israel & brought justice	God equips leaders for His people
God equips believers	Priscilla	Trained Appolos for ministry	Equipping multiplies impact
Serve the community	Dorcas	Helped the poor and widows	Compassion is powerful ministry

1. God Calls and Equips Women for His Work

Judges 4:4-5 (NKJV) - "Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lapidoth, was judging Israel at that time." **Deborah was both a prophetess and a judge** in Israel, and People came to her for **guidance, justice, and leadership.**

In the Book of Judges 4:8 - "And Barak said to her, 'If you will go with me, then I will go; but if you will not go with me, I will not go!' Barak, the military leader, was hesitant to go to battle unless Deborah accompanied him. **Deborah had to lead people who were afraid, discouraged, and oppressed.**

This showed: fear, lack of confidence, and dependence on Deborah's spiritual authority.

Leadership often begins in difficult seasons.

When Israel faced oppression, **Deborah encouraged Barak to lead the army**, and through her leadership, Israel was delivered.

Impact on the Community

Deborah's leadership brought **justice, courage, and freedom** to the nation.

God equips people - both men and women - to **provide spiritual leadership that benefits the entire community.**

Application to CCC

- 2 Timothy 1:7 (NKJV) - "For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind."
- Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

The ordination of women ministers reflects this principle:

God raises leaders to guide, teach, and strengthen the church and community.

2. God Equips People to Strengthen Others

Acts 18:26 (NKJV) - "So he began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Aquila and Priscilla heard him, they took him aside and explained to him the way of God more accurately."

Priscilla was a mentor who trained and equipped Apolos to preach and teach the word of God accurately. Apolos was passionate and taught accurately about Jesus, but his understanding was incomplete, likely missing the full scope of Christ's work and the Holy Spirit.

Ministry often begins by helping others grow in truth.

Apollos was a gifted preacher but lacked a full understanding of the Gospel.

Priscilla and her husband Aquila mentored and taught him, helping him grow into a powerful leader in the early church.

Impact on the Community: Because Priscilla helped equip Apolos, **many people later came to faith through his ministry.**

Application to CCC

- Equipping others multiplies ministry impact.
- When we train people, the community benefits through their service. Titus 2:3-4 (NKJV) - "The older women likewise... that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children."

CCC's focus on Equipping & Ministry Development follows this biblical pattern:

Leaders prepare others so they can serve effectively.

3. Equipped Believers Must Serve the Community

Acts 9:36 (NKJV) - "At Joppa, there was a certain disciple named Tabitha... This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds, which she did." **Dorcas served the poor by making clothes for widows and those in need.** When she died, the whole community mourned her because of the impact she had on their lives.

Ministry often begins by meeting the practical needs of others.

Dorcas's acts of compassion touched so many people that when Peter prayed, **God raised her from the dead, and many believed in the Lord.**

Impact on the Community: Ministry is not only preaching - **it is serving people with practical love.** Acts of compassion open the door for the Gospel. Matthew 5:16 (NKJV) - "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."

Application to CCC

Serving the local community may include:

- Helping newcomers
- Supporting families in need
- Mentoring youth
- Providing care and encouragement.

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