Women on the Frontline | Leadership Webinar

Discovering Biblical Wisdom for Leadership, Faith, and Action

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Based on Chapter 1, "Introduction to Hermeneutics," from Daw-Rash: How to Read Your Bible and Understand It (2023)

Primary Scriptures: 2 Timothy 3:16–17; Hebrews 4:12; James 1:5; Judges 4–5

Central Theme: Women who understand God's Word are equipped to lead with wisdom, develop Biblical strategies, demonstrate Christlike character, and act courageously in their spheres of influence.

Teaching Objectives

By the conclusion of this webinar, participants will be able to understand the basic principles of Biblical hermeneutics, apply these principles to a Biblical narrative, recognize the relationship between spiritual discernment and responsible leadership, and identify practical steps for bringing God's goodness into their spheres of influence.

Part 1 — Introduction: Women Called to Lead and Influence

Opening Scripture: 2 Timothy 3:16–17

The Apostle Paul teaches that Scripture is God-breathed and equips the believer for every good work.

Teaching Points

1. Every Christian woman has intrinsic value because she is created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26–27).
2. Women are called to exercise their spiritual gifts and serve God's purposes in the Church and society (Acts 2:17–18).
3. Biblical wisdom is foundational to exercising spiritual authority and leadership responsibly.
4. Our ability to influence others should grow from our understanding of God's Word and our relationship with the Holy Spirit.

Leadership Principle: Spiritual authority should be accompanied by Biblical understanding, godly character, and responsible action.

Opening Question: Are we allowing Scripture to shape our leadership, or are we allowing our culture, experiences, and traditions to determine what we believe Scripture says?

Part 2 — What Is Daw-Rash? Understanding Hermeneutics

Based on Chapter 1, pp. 19–24

A. The Meaning of Daw-Rash

The Hebrew verb *darash* (דָּרַשׁ) carries the sense of seeking, inquiring, or searching. The book uses *Daw-Rash* to communicate the discipline of studying God's Word.

Supporting Scriptures:

- Ezra 7:10 — Ezra devoted himself to studying, practicing, and teaching the Law of the Lord.
- Proverbs 2:1–6 — Wisdom and understanding come from seeking the Lord.
- Acts 17:11 — The Bereans examined the Scriptures to evaluate what they were taught.

B. What Is Hermeneutics?

Hermeneutics is the disciplined process of interpreting Scripture to understand its intended meaning and appropriate application.

Chapter 1 emphasizes that every Christian has theological beliefs, but not every belief we hold is necessarily Biblical.

The goal of hermeneutics is not simply to confirm our existing opinions. It is to allow Biblical truth to transform our thinking.

C. The Holy Spirit and Biblical Scholarship

John 16:13; 1 Corinthians 2:12–14

- The Holy Spirit illuminates Scripture and guides believers into truth.
- Biblical scholarship helps us recognize the historical, cultural, linguistic, and theological context of Scripture.
- Personal revelation should not replace responsible Biblical interpretation.
- The Word and the Spirit work together in the spiritual formation of Christian leaders.

Leadership Application: A woman who develops the discipline of studying Scripture becomes better equipped to discern truth, evaluate teaching, and make decisions consistent with Biblical principles.

Part 3 — The Hermeneutical Method: Ten Tools for Understanding Scripture

Based on Chapter 1, pp. 33–44

Chapter 1 identifies ten points of contact for interpreting Scripture. These form the central educational component of the webinar.

Hermeneutical Tool	Question to Ask
1. Occasion	Why was this Scripture written, and to whom?
2. Cultural	What cultural realities shaped the original audience?
3. Historical	What historical events help explain the passage?
4. Theological	What does this passage reveal about God's nature and character?
5. Covenant Promise	What covenant context governs this passage?
6. New Testament Supercession	How does the New Testament clarify or interpret the Old Testament?
7. Literal	What does the text communicate in its plain meaning?
8. Lexical	What do important words mean in their original language and context?
9. Sub-Genre	Are we reading narrative, poetry, prophecy, parable, or another literary form?
10. Appropriation and Practical Application	How can we faithfully apply the meaning of the text today?

The terminology above follows *Daw-Rash*. The method is designed to help the reader move from careful observation toward responsible interpretation and application.

Four Leadership Outcomes

Wisdom: Understanding what God has revealed.

Strategy: Applying Biblical principles to real problems.

Character: Allowing Biblical truth to transform our conduct.

Perseverance: Acting faithfully despite resistance.

Transition: Now that we have introduced the tools of Biblical interpretation, let's apply them to the life of an extraordinary woman who demonstrated wisdom, spiritual discernment, courage, and decisive leadership.

Part 4 — Deborah: A Woman of Faith, Wisdom, and Action

Practical hermeneutical exercise | Judges 4–5

A. Historical and Cultural Context (Judges 4:1–5)

Deborah lived during the period of Israel's judges, before the establishment of the monarchy.

Israel had again turned away from the Lord and was oppressed by Jabin, king of Canaan, whose military commander was Sisera.

The Biblical text describes Israel's oppression as lasting twenty years.

Hermeneutical Observations:

- **Occasion:** Israel needed deliverance from foreign oppression.
- **Historical:** Israel lacked a centralized monarchy and repeatedly experienced cycles of disobedience, oppression, and deliverance.
- **Cultural:** Deborah's recognized leadership as a prophetess and judge is particularly noteworthy within the ancient social context.
- **Theological:** God raised up leaders to accomplish His redemptive purposes.

Judges 4:4–5 identifies Deborah as a prophetess and judge who exercised recognized authority among the people of Israel.

Leadership Principle 1: God calls and equips women to exercise meaningful leadership.

Deborah's authority was demonstrated through her recognized role, wisdom, and service to Israel.

Modern Application: Women should develop their God-given gifts and exercise leadership with humility, competence, and confidence.

B. Deborah Discerned God's Strategy (Judges 4:6–10)

Deborah summoned Barak and communicated God's instruction concerning the coming battle.

Her leadership was not merely inspirational. It included a concrete strategy involving military mobilization, geographical positioning, and decisive action.

Hermeneutical Observations:

- The occasion was a specific military crisis in Israel.
- The instruction concerned a particular leader, army, location, and enemy.
- The theological emphasis is God's initiative in bringing deliverance.
- Deborah acted as a prophetic leader communicating God's direction.

We should not automatically treat Deborah's military instructions as universal commands for contemporary leaders. Instead, we identify enduring principles of discernment, courage, responsibility, and obedience.

Leadership Principle 2: Biblical wisdom should inform practical strategy.

Supporting Scriptures: Proverbs 16:3; James 1:5

Modern Application:

A Christian woman leading a church, business, school, or nonprofit organization should combine prayerful discernment with research, careful planning, wise counsel, and responsible implementation.

Faith and planning are not opposing concepts.

C. Deborah Demonstrated Courage and Action (Judges 4:8–16)

Barak requested that Deborah accompany him into battle.

Deborah agreed, but she also declared that the honor of defeating Sisera would go to a woman. The narrative later identifies Jael as the woman who killed Sisera (Judges 4:17–22).

Deborah's willingness to accompany Barak demonstrates courageous participation in the mission she had communicated.

Leadership Principle 3: Faith must move beyond understanding into responsible action.

Supporting Scriptures: James 2:17; Joshua 1:9

Modern Application:

- Wisdom without action may leave opportunities unrealized.
- Leadership requires courage when circumstances are uncertain.
- Perseverance involves remaining faithful to an assignment despite opposition.
- Effective leaders empower others rather than making themselves the center of every accomplishment.

D. Deborah Celebrated God's Victory and Recognized Others (Judges 5:1–31)

Judges 5 records the Song of Deborah and Barak.

The song celebrates God's intervention, acknowledges those who willingly participated, and reflects on those who did not respond.

Judges 5:7 identifies Deborah as a mother in Israel, a description that communicates her role in the life of the nation.

Leadership Principle 4: Godly leadership is concerned with the flourishing of others.

Modern Application:

Women in leadership should cultivate environments where people are encouraged, protected, developed, and empowered to fulfill their assignments.

Deborah's leadership was not primarily about personal recognition. It served the deliverance and restoration of her community.

Part 5 — Leadership Activation: Bringing God's Goodness Into Your Sphere of Influence

A. Four Questions for Every Woman Leader

1. **Wisdom:** What does Scripture actually teach concerning the leadership challenge I am facing?
2. **Strategy:** What practical steps should I take to respond faithfully and responsibly?
3. **Character:** What must change in my attitudes, motivations, or conduct?
4. **Perseverance:** What courageous action must I take, even when circumstances are difficult?

B. Three Contemplative Questions for Further Consideration

1. How has my understanding of Scripture been influenced by my culture, personal experiences, or religious traditions, and where might God be inviting me to reconsider my assumptions?
2. Deborah demonstrated both spiritual discernment and practical courage. Where is God calling me to move from understanding His Word into responsible leadership action?
3. How can my leadership contribute to God's goodness, righteousness, and justice within the sphere of influence entrusted to me?

Closing Exhortation

The life of Deborah reminds us that God works through women who are willing to hear His Word, trust His purposes, and respond with courageous action.

The discipline of hermeneutics helps us become responsible students of Scripture. It teaches us to distinguish God's revealed truth from our assumptions, cultural preferences, and personal interpretations.

As women grow in Biblical understanding, they become better equipped to lead with wisdom, develop strategies rooted in truth, demonstrate Christlike character, and persevere in their calling.

The goal is not simply to become better students of the Bible. The goal is to become women whose lives and leadership reflect the goodness of God in the world.

References

Covell, R. (2023). *Daw-Rash: How to read your Bible and understand it*. Wagner Publication.

The Holy Bible, English Standard Version. (2016). Crossway.