

NOTES



OPENING PRAYER

OPENING QUESTION^(OPTIONAL)

Who is one woman—inside or outside the church—whose faith, leadership, or faithful presence has shaped your life in a meaningful way? What made her impact so significant?

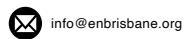
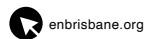


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WORD

“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;
even on my male servants and female servants

Acts 2:17–18 (ESV)

REFLECTION AND COMMENTARY

The Book of Acts makes something unmistakably clear from the beginning: the outpouring of the Holy Spirit was never designed to empower only a select few. At Pentecost, Luke frames the birth of the Church through the language of Joel’s prophecy—sons and daughters, men and women, young and old all filled and empowered by the same Spirit for the same mission. This becomes the theological starting point for understanding women in Acts. Women are not presented as spectators in the story of the early Church. They are participants, witnesses, hosts, disciples, prophets, patrons, teachers, and ministers of the Gospel. As F.F. Bruce notes, Luke’s use of Joel in Acts 2 is programmatic: it establishes that the Spirit’s work in the new covenant community is not restricted by gender, age, or social class. From the beginning, the mission of God is shared.

Luke makes this visible not merely through principle, but through people. Before Pentecost, women are present in the upper room praying alongside the apostles, helping birth the prayer culture that would mark the early Church. Tabitha is introduced not simply as a generous woman, but as a disciple—a woman whose ordinary service to widows became a visible expression of Gospel ministry and whose restored life led many to faith. Mary, the mother of John Mark, opens her home as a centre of prayer and refuge for the Jerusalem church. Lydia becomes the first recorded convert in Europe and immediately turns her home, her resources, and her vocation into a base for the Gospel in Philippi. Philip’s daughters are noted as prophets, speaking openly and formationally within the life of the Church. Priscilla is shown instructing Apollos, a learned preacher, with theological clarity and maturity. Luke is not making a side note of female participation; he is showing the normal shape of Spirit-filled ministry.

REFLECTION AND COMMENTARY

What stands out across these women is not celebrity, but consistency. They are not platform-driven personalities. They are women who pray, serve, lead, host, teach, build, speak, and remain faithful. Their ministries are diverse, but their posture is shared: they respond to the Spirit with obedience. Some lead through hospitality, others through theological depth, others through practical service, prophetic ministry, or vocational influence. Together, they reveal that Gospel ministry is not confined to pulpits or titles. In Acts, ministry happens in upper rooms, dining tables, marketplaces, homes, prayer gatherings, and everyday acts of faithful presence. The Spirit does not simply anoint stages. He fills people.

This matters deeply for the Church today. The witness of women in Acts confronts both passivity and narrow ideas of ministry. It reminds us that the Church is strongest when every gift in the body is recognised, formed, and released for mission. Women in Acts do not wait for ideal conditions or perfect recognition. They move with courage, depth, and faithfulness in the spaces God has given them. Their example calls the Church to recover a fuller vision of ministry—one in which spiritual authority is rooted in the Spirit, in which hospitality is mission, in which work is ministry, in which theological depth is for everyone, and in which faithful presence remains one of the clearest witnesses to the Gospel.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What stands out to you most about the way women are portrayed in Acts?
2. Why is it important that the Spirit is poured out on both men and women at Pentecost?
3. Which woman in Acts do you resonate with most right now—Mary, Tabitha, Lydia, Philip’s daughters, or Priscilla? Why?
4. What do these women teach us about the shape of Gospel ministry beyond a platform or title?
5. How does hospitality function as mission in the Book of Acts, and what could that look like in our context?
6. Why does theological depth matter for every believer, not just those with formal leadership roles?
7. What does Tabitha’s example teach us about ordinary faithfulness and unseen ministry?
8. How can your workplace, home, study, or everyday rhythm become a place of Gospel witness this week?
9. Have you ever felt overlooked, sidelined, or underestimated in your faith journey? How does Acts challenge that?
10. What would it look like for our Life Group to better recognise and release the gifts of women in our community?

PRAYER RESPONSE

Take time as a group to pray in three simple ways:

1. Prayer of Commissioning

Pray for the women in your group and church—that they would walk in courage, clarity, and confidence in the gifts God has given them.

2. Prayer of Release

Pray for healing where women have felt overlooked, dismissed, or silenced in church or leadership spaces. Ask God to restore confidence, joy, and voice.

3. Prayer of Mission

Pray for each person’s home, workplace, study, and relationships to become spaces of Gospel witness this week.

MISSIONAL APPLICATION

This week, identify one space where you can intentionally serve as a Spirit-filled witness.

This may be:

opening your home to someone

encouraging someone with prayer or Scripture

speaking truth with wisdom and grace

serving someone in a practical way

using your workplace, study, or daily rhythm as a place of Gospel presence

affirming and calling out the gifts you see in someone else

Like the women in Acts, do not wait for a platform. Start with presence. Start with faithfulness. Start with obedience.

Ask yourself this week:

Where has God already placed me, and how can I show up there with the Spirit?

CLOSING PRAYER

Close by thanking God for the witness of faithful women in the early Church and for the same Spirit who still fills and sends His people today. Pray for courage to live with faithful presence, theological depth, Spirit-led obedience, and missional purpose in every sphere of life.