

WEEK 1: ME? A WOMAN OF INFLUENCE?

Process together:

What are some examples you've seen in your life of women living out their influence?

Discuss:

1. Read Philippians 2:1-18. As you read, pay attention to the setup of the passage—how it first shows who Christ is and then who we should be in light of who He is. What words stand out to you? What's the correlation between this passage and Matthew 5:13-16? (p. 16)
2. How have you felt the pressure to hustle and make something of yourself? How does that kind of striving affect the way you view yourself, whether or not you're successful? (p. 21)
3. Read Joshua 2:1-13 together. How is Rahab an example of someone who might've been considered "insignificant and despised" but whom God used to make a way for His people? (p. 22)
4. In light of Aliza Latta's story in Day 4, where have you most felt the pull to compare yourself with others in your life? (p. 33)
5. Read through the spiritual gifts Paul lists in 1 Corinthians 12:8-11, 27-31. Share some of the gifts you have or are currently cultivating. (Encourage the women in your group to explore their giftings in this season.) (p. 40)

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for making you a woman of influence. Ask Him to show you areas in your life He would like you to grow. Ask Him to open doors to influence others for His glory.

Meditate:

"... you are a chosen people. You are royal priests, a holy nation, God's very own possession. As a result, you can show others the goodness of God, for he called you out of the darkness into his wonderful light."

—1 Peter 2:9 (NLT)



WEEK 2: NOT POSITION, BUT PLACE AND A WILLING YES

Process together:

The word obedience is key in this week's study. What comes to mind when you think about that word and how it relates to influence or courage?

Discuss:

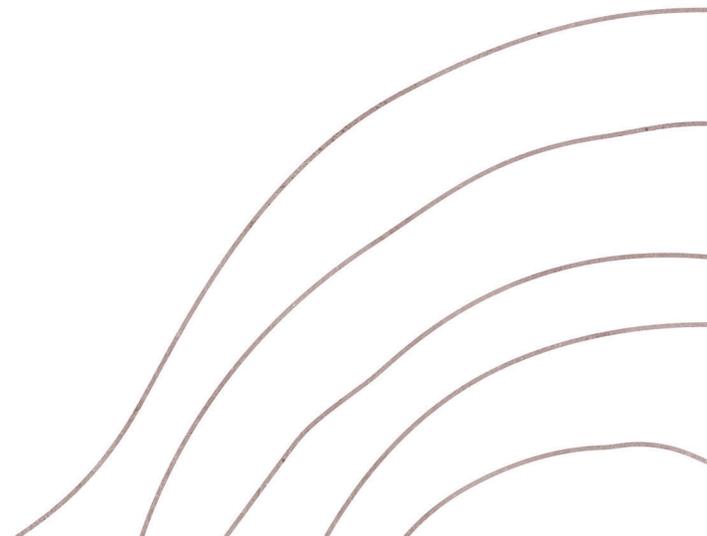
1. Read Philippians 2:5-8. How does humility tie into love and action? (p. 47)
2. The influence we have in someone's life often comes down to our words—which ones we use, the timing of them, the tone we have. Is there a specific situation in your life right now in which it is the right time for you to speak up? Share a little about that so the group can pray for you. (p. 54)
3. Have you ever received a clear direction from God but struggled with doubt? What made it hard for you to trust God's word or plan? (p. 60)
4. Death before life is the way of Jesus, and so it is the pattern for our life in Him as well. A baby being born is a great example of a death-to-life pattern. Read John 3:1-17. What do you think it means to be born again? (p. 66) How is an understanding of this concept key to our influence?
5. You are a favored, chosen woman. How does believing this give you courage to do what God is asking of you today? (p. 74)

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for choosing you and many other women in Scripture to carry influence. Ask God to help you to trust Him and obey when He prompts you to step out in your influence.

Meditate:

"And the angel came to her and said, "Greetings, favored woman! The Lord is with you."
—Luke 1:28



WEEK 3: BE A PERSON OF INTEGRITY

Process together:

What does it look like for you to show up fully as yourself and not like anyone else in your places of influence?

Discuss:

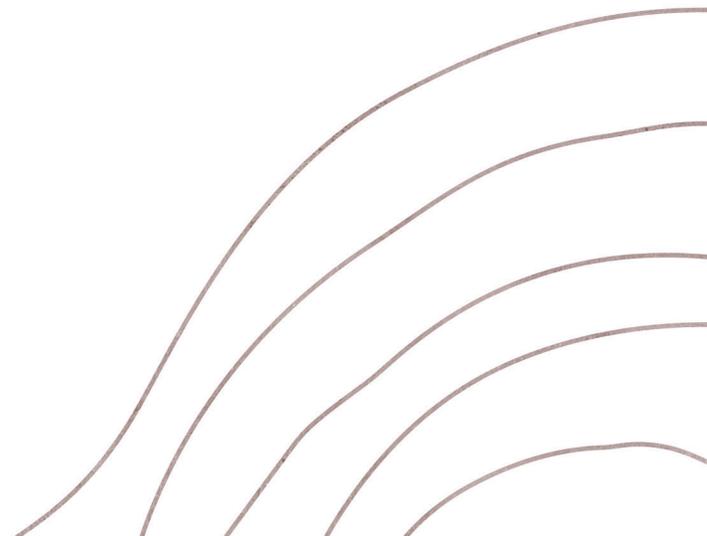
1. Read Matthew 23:29-36 together. What are some of the inconsistencies Jesus is calling out in the Pharisees? As you read about the Pharisees, what inconsistencies might God be asking you to address in your own life? (p. 79)
2. David armed himself with his slingshot and the assurance that God was with him. What unique tools (skills, experiences, or talents) has the Lord given you to influence others just as you are? (p. 87)
3. Have you experienced someone close to you doubting your gifts or purpose in life? How did that make you feel? (p. 92)
4. Read 2 Timothy 1:7 together. What does having a spirit of power and not fear mean to you? (p. 98)
5. Since the power of our influence comes from within, as evidenced in Timothy 1:7, how does that change the focus and/or motivation of your efforts in building influence with others? (p. 100)
6. Think about the last time you felt like an impostor. What were the surrounding circumstances, and why did you feel that way? (p. 104) What are some of the ways you can pivot away from imposter syndrome and toward the truth of your identity in Christ?

Prayer Prompts:

Praise God for inviting you to the things that feel impossible. Ask Him to help you stretch and grow. Thank Him for trusting you to impact others for His glory

Meditate:

“For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”
—2 Timothy 1:7



WEEK 4: BE GENEROUS WITH YOUR INFLUENCE

Process together:

Keeping the parable of the farmer and the seeds in mind, why is it important for us to scatter—or be generous—with our influence?

Discuss:

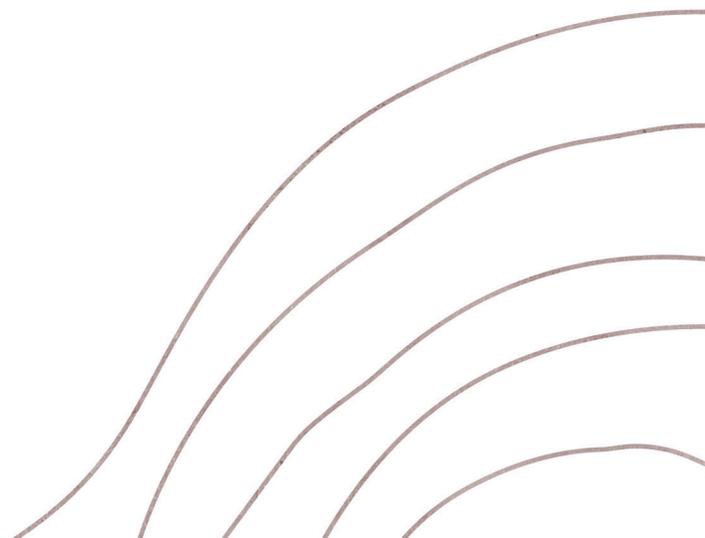
1. Think about the people in your own sphere and the various spheres you travel in—perhaps your children’s school, like Bonnie Gray shared in her story, or your workplace, or your own family. How might you sow seeds of the gospel in those places? (p. 116)
2. Read 1 Corinthians 12:12–26. How have you experienced the beauty of the body of Christ in motion? (Note: it doesn’t have to be in a church setting.) (p. 123)
3. It takes wisdom to know when to lean in and give others generous access to our influence when we’re struggling ourselves. When was a time you felt you had no more to give but relied on God to give you the energy to pour into someone else? (p. 130)
4. Read Matthew 6:26–34 together. What are some of the ways God has provided generously for you? (p. 136)
5. In what areas of life or in what situations can you be generous with your influence, your presence, or your skills without expecting anything in return? (p. 137)

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for His abundant provision in your life. Ask Him to help you courageously offer your influence to others even when there’s no immediate reward.

Meditate:

“The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly,
and the person who sows generously will also reap generously.”
—2 Corinthians 9:6



WEEK 5: BE INTENTIONAL WITH YOUR INFLUENCE

Process together:

What has your experience been with discipleship? How have intentionality, invitation, and intimacy been an important part of discipleship for you?

Discuss:

1. Read Luke 5:1-11 for a detailed description of how Jesus called His first disciples. If you were one of them, what would be your response to Jesus's invitation and why? (p. 150)
2. What role have relationships played in your experience of church (either when you were growing up or in your current life stage)? (p. 154)
3. Read Acts 2:42-47 and Hebrews 10:23-25 together. How did the early church actively live out their faith? (p. 156)
4. As you consider investing in another person, it might feel intimidating to know how to start the conversation. What are some questions you could use to help get the conversation going. For example, what has God been showing you lately about Himself? (p. 163)
5. Mark 1:22 tells us that, unlike the other religious teachers, Jesus spoke with authority. Knowing that you have the same authority in you because of Christ, how does it change the way you view your authority to disciple others? (p. 167)

Prayer Prompts:

Ask God to help you see discipleship with new eyes and to have courage to love those around you. Thank Him for giving you authority and anointing through Jesus Christ.

Meditate:

“Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me.”

—John 15:4



WEEK 6: TELL YOUR STORY

Process together:

Throughout the Bible, there is an emphasis on telling what God has done. Why do you think that is? In other words, why is telling our stories so important?

Discuss:

1. As you reflect on the stories God has written in your life, what perspectives are unique to you? For example, it could be growing up overseas, being biracial, or living with an unseen disability. (p. 184)
2. The story of Zacchaeus has some similarities to the story of Mary Magdalene's encounter with Jesus after His resurrection. Read Luke 19:1-5 and John 20:11-16. What similarities do you see in the two stories? (p. 188)
3. Read 1 Samuel 7:7-13 together. What is the significance of the stone of Ebenezer? What kind of Ebenezers do you have? (p. 194)
4. Psalm 34:18 says God is near to the brokenhearted. How have you seen God in your worst or most painful seasons of life. How has he used those painful seasons to empower you to influence others? (p. 201)
5. In what ways have you found the phrase "for such a time as this" relevant to you? (p. 204)

Prayer Prompts:

Thank God for creating you for such a time as this. Ask Him for courage to use your voice and influence for the sake of others. Praise Him for His love and grace.

Meditate:

"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this? Who knows, perhaps you have come to your royal position for such a time as this."

—Esther 4:14

Friends, it's been a gift to journey with you through *Courageous Influence*.

Let's be courageous women of influence whose impact can be seen through our love for God and one another—for such a time as this.

We hope you will join us for our next (in)courage Bible study, *Courageous Kindness!*

