

ZOOM BIBLE STUDY

# Becoming Who God Created You to Be

*led by Mary Lowman*



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**Becoming a Courageous Ezer-Warrior  
led by Mary Lowman**

*The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." (Genesis 2:18)*

This is the story of why God created women. Throughout the creation process, day after day, six times God declared that "it was good."

- Separating the waters from the land, creating days – God saw that it was good. (1:10)
- Producing vegetation – God saw that it was good. (1:12)
- Creating the moon, sun and stars to light the earth – God saw that it was good (1:18)
- Creating fish and birds – God saw that it was good (1:21)
- Creating livestock and all kinds of creatures – God saw that it was good (1:25)
- Everything God made – God saw it all and it was very good (1:31).

But after creating Adam, he declared that it was *not* good for him to be alone.

In our sin-infested culture, God's original purpose for men and women has been greatly distorted.

The Bible makes it unmistakably clear that God created two—and only two—genders: male and female. To adhere to any other belief is anti-biblical and sinful. So, as Christians, we must hold fast to the Bible's truth. We do it with kindness and love, but we must do it without fear.

God said it was not good for *man* to be alone. What did man have to do that he needed help doing?

**Genesis 1:27-28:** *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

Both the male and female received the same job description.

Yet God declared that his purpose for mankind could not be accomplished by man alone; he needed a helper, a partner, an equal, who would help him carry out God's instructions for them both as image bearers of God himself.

How would you define that word "helper" in Genesis 2:18?

The word translated "suitable helper" is *ezer kenegdo* in the original. A much more accurate translation would be a **"power equal to him," "a corresponding strength,"** or **"a suitable counterpart"**.

Genesis 1:28 makes it clear that God's purpose for male and female was the same:

*God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground."*

Here's how *ezer* is used elsewhere in the Bible. It appears twenty-one times in the Old Testament:

2 times - Referring to the woman (Genesis 1:18, 20)

3 times - Referring to nations to whom Israel appealed for military aid.  
(Isaiah 30:5, Ezekiel 12:14, Daniel 11:34)

16 times – Referring to God as Israel's helper  
(Exodus 18:4, Deuteronomy 33:7, 26, 29, Psalms 20:2, 33:20, 70:5, 89:19, 115:9, 10, 11; 121:1-2, 124:8, 146:5, Hosea 13:9)

In each of these passages, *Ezer* is used consistently in a military context.

- Israel seeks military help from her neighbors.
- God is his people's shield and defense, better than chariots and horses, standing sentry watch over his people.
- Even in Eden there is a military sense of a battle, for Adam was told to rule and subdue the earth. We know from Genesis 3 that there was an enemy in the garden. Satan was in the garden. So there was a battle for Adam and Eve even in the garden of Eden.

This gives new meaning to the purpose for which women were created. We were created to be strong helpers in the battlefields of life. This is not only intended for marriage, but for every aspect of life.

#### **Examples of ezer-warriors in the Bible:**

- **The Proverbs 31 Woman:**  
25- She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.  
26- She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue.  
30- Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.  
31- Honor her for all that her hands have done and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.
- **Esther:** Overcame her whole upbringing to submit to the men in her life and confronted the two most powerful men in the world in order to rescue a nation from genocide.
- **Deborah:** Led an army into battle and was victorious.
- **Jael:** Killed the enemy, Sisera, with cunning and a tent peg.
- **Rahab:** Risked her life to harbor Israelite spies and to embrace their God. Saved her family.
- **Abigail:** Subverted her husband Nabal's wickedness by appeasing David and preventing needless bloodshed.
- **Jesus' mother was an ezer-warrior:**  
**Luke 1:38:** *"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May it be to me as you have said." Then the angel left her.*

- **Many women followed Jesus to support him and the disciples:**  
**Luke 8:1 – 3:** After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Cuza, the manager of Herod’s household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.
- **Mary of Bethany stood with Jesus before his crucifixion:**  
**Matthew 26:6 – 13:** While Jesus was in Bethany in the home of a man known as Simon the Leper, a woman came to him with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, which she poured on his head as he was reclining at the table. When the disciples saw this, they were indignant. “Why this waste?” they asked. “This perfume could have been sold at a high price and the money given to the poor.” Aware of this, Jesus said to them, “Why are you bothering this woman? She has done a beautiful thing to me. The poor you will always have with you, but you will not always have me. When she poured this perfume on my body, she did it to prepare me for burial. I tell you the truth, wherever this gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”
- **Lydia began a church in her home and gave Paul, Silas and Timothy a place to stay:**  
**Acts 16:13-15:** On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. One of those listening was a woman named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth from the city of Thyatira, who was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul’s message. When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. “If you consider me a believer in the Lord,” she said, “come and stay at my house.” And she persuaded us.
- **Many women are named by Paul in Romans 15 as ezer-warriors with him:**

-Phoebe	-Persis
-Priscilla	-Julia
-Mary	-Olympas
-Tryphena and Tryphosa	

### **No More Wimpy Women**

We need to have brave, courageous women who have faith in a trustworthy God.

What does it mean to be a courageous, brave woman in Christ? What does it mean for you to be an ezer-warrior?

As we live for Jesus, there will be times when we need to take a risk, move out of our comfort zones, attempt something that looks difficult, yes, even run the possibility of failing.

Ephesians 2:10 gives us what could be called the mission statement—a job description—for every Christ-follower:

*For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.*

<b>Job Description for</b> _____
<b>Job Title:</b> Worker for God — His handiwork <b>Reporting To:</b> God <b>Responsibility:</b> Do the good works God has already prepared for you <b>Time Frame:</b> Now to eternity
<b>Salary:</b> Rewards given by Jesus in eternity, including the words, <i>“Well done, good and faithful servant.”</i>
<b>Benefits:</b> Your life on earth will have eternal impact. You will store up treasures in heaven. And you will experience the joy of doing exactly what God created you to do.

*What good work might God be asking you to step into right now that you've been avoiding because it feels risky?*

God didn't create any of us just to play it safe. God is looking for believers who are so in love with him that "the pipe" doesn't scare them.



**Trusting a Trustworthy God**

What makes one person willing to take a risk for God and another not so much? No doubt our trust in God has a lot to do with our willingness to take a risk for him. It's at these times—when there is some risk involved—that we find out just whether we trust God or not, or how much we trust him.

**Challenge: Attempt something so great for God that only he could do it.**

**Psalm 18:36** says: *"You broaden the path beneath me, so that my ankles do not turn."*

When you start across the pipe that looks risky, that "faith pipe" that will take you to new territory for Jesus, as soon as you set foot on it, the pipe becomes a broad path, and your ankles don't turn!

Are you standing on the brink of a new challenge? Does your heart tell you this is what God wants you to do? Remember: *The one who calls you is faithful and he will do it* (1 Thessalonians 5:24).

Regardless of what God is leading you to do, I can promise you it will be bigger than you are, and it will be risky. It will require you to live by faith and not by sight. It will test you and frighten you, but in that place is where the blessing is, where the abundant life is. Don't miss it.