THE QUESTION

Could women lead Bible studies and teach other women in the early church?

Asked by a THF member on October 17, 2026 · published November 9, 2026 · 10 numbered quotations · the 27 early Christian passages and 203 Bible verses we kept are listed at the back, each with a link.

Read it online: thehistoricfaith.com/early-church-questions/could-women-lead-bible-studies-and-teach-other-women-in-the-early-church

The short answer *Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words*

The passages show older women teaching and encouraging younger women, so women helping each other grow in faith was welcomed. But teaching doctrine in the church belonged to tested, appointed elders, and Tertullian says women did not teach in the assembly. Believers learned the faith from the church's leaders rather than settling beliefs on their own.

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HOW IT WAS MADE	Compiled by machine learning from The Historic Faith's library of early-Christian writings and the Bible only. Every quotation was matched word for word against our stored text. Not yet reviewed by The Historic Faith.
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POINT 1 OF 7

Older women taught and encouraged younger women

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Cyprian writes to women who had given their lives to Christ. He tells the older ones to teach the younger, and the younger to encourage those their own age. Women spurring one another on in faith and good living is something he urges, not something he forbids.

1 "You older women, offer teaching to the younger. You younger women, encourage those of your own age. Stir one another up with mutual exhortations."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Cyprian,** *Treatises* (c. 248–258 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 20, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 2 OF 7

Women did not teach in the church assembly

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian states the rule of the church in his day. In the gathered church a woman did not speak or teach, and she did not baptize or take any role belonging to the clergy. He is talking about the public assembly, not about women encouraging one another in private.

2 "A woman is not permitted to speak in the church. Neither is she permitted to teach, nor to baptize, nor to offer, nor to claim for herself any role belonging to a man, not to mention any sacerdotal office."

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *On the Veiling of Virgins* 9 (c. 196–220 AD)
THF's updated English

Source 19, page 7 Read it in the library ›

POINT 3 OF 7

Teaching belonged to tested, appointed leaders

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Didache tells churches to appoint proven men as bishops and deacons, who also serve as teachers. The Apostolic Constitutions add that such leaders must be able to teach and to handle the Lord's teachings rightly. Teaching the church was a trust given by appointment, not a role a person simply took up.

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3 “Therefore, appoint for yourselves bishops and deacons who are worthy of the Lord: men who are gentle, not lovers of money, truthful, and proven. For they also carry out for you the service of prophets and teachers.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Didache,** *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 15 (c. 50–120 AD) **Source 1, page 6** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

4 “First, appoint bishops worthy of the Lord, and presbyters and deacons: men who are godly, righteous, gentle, free from the love of money, lovers of truth, approved, holy, not showing partiality, able to teach the word of godliness, and rightly dividing the doctrines of the Lord, as in”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 23, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 4 OF 7

Truth was learned from the apostles' successors

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Irenaeus says Christians should learn the truth from the presbyters who stand in the line handed down from the apostles and who live blameless lives. These leaders explain the Scriptures safely. For him, sound doctrine is received from the church, not worked out by each group for itself.

5 “Therefore, where the gifts of the Lord have been placed, we must learn the truth from those who possess the succession of the Church from the apostles, and among whom is found conduct that is sound and blameless, as well as speech that is unadulterated and incorrupt.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Irenaeus,** *Against Heresies: Book IV* (c. 175–202 AD) **Source 14, page 7** Read it in the library ›
THF's updated English

POINT 5 OF 7

Scripture was read together under the elders

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

Tertullian describes Christians meeting to read Scripture, pray and hear teaching that builds faith and good habits. In that same gathering, proven elders presided. Bible reading and teaching happened inside the church's life and under its leaders.

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6 “We gather to read our sacred writings, if some peculiarity of the times makes either warning or remembrance necessary.”

later in the same passage

“Proven men of our elders preside over us. They gain that honor not by purchase, but by established character.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Tertullian,** *Apology* 39 (c. 196–220 AD) **Source 18, page 7** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 6 OF 7

Acting apart from the bishop breaks unity

Our note · compiled by machine learning · Interpretation: our reading of the passages, not their words

Ignatius warns against doing anything in church matters without the bishop, because it breaks the church's unity and order. He urges one faith and one preaching for the whole church. Groups that decide doctrine on their own would run against this concern.

7 “For if one who rises up against kings is justly deemed worthy of punishment, as they disrupt public order, how much more severe a punishment, do you suppose, shall he be thought worthy of, who presumes to do anything without the bishop, thus both destroying the Church’s unity and causing its order to fall into confusion?”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 5, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

8 “Therefore, I write boldly to your love, which is worthy of God, and urge you to have only one faith, and one type of preaching, and one Eucharist.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 4, page 6** Read it in the library ›

THF's updated English

POINT 7 OF 7

Wives were to honor their husbands

Our note · compiled by machine learning · From the text: says what the passages say

The Apostolic Constitutions tell wives to respect and serve their husbands, following Sarah's example, and tell husbands to love their wives as their own bodies. Ignatius gives the same order to wives and husbands. These passages place a married woman's spiritual life within her home as well as her church.

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9 “You wives, be subject to your own husbands. Esteem them, and serve them with fear and love, as holy Sarah honored Abraham.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Apostolic Constitutions** (c. 250–380 AD) **Source 24, page 7** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

10 “Wives, be subject to your husbands in the fear of God; and you virgins, to Christ in purity, not regarding marriage as an abomination, but desiring that which is better, not for the reproach of wedlock, but for the sake of meditating on the law.”

EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITER **Ignatius of Antioch,** *Epistle to the Philadelphians* (c. 98–117 AD) **Source 4, page 6** **Read it in the library ›**
THF's updated English

THE LIMITS

What these passages don’t tell us

- None of these passages describes a home Bible study led by a woman, so they do not settle that exact case.
- Cyprian's words are addressed to women vowed to Christ, and they do not say how far such teaching could go.
- The passages do not say whether women's private teaching had to be approved by the church's leaders.
- A word-for-word match shows that a quotation really is in our text. It does not show that our reading of it is right, or who wrote each work.

WHERE EVERY QUOTE CAME FROM

The Sources

The 27 early Christian passages and 203 Bible verses we kept for this question (repeats and weak or off-topic search hits were left out): early Christian passages first (sources 1–27, grouped by writer, earliest first), then Bible verses in The Faith Once Delivered Bible (sources 28–164, in Bible order), then 66 more verses THF links to these passages, by reference. **Quote 1, page 2** beside a source shows where the study quotes it. Passages are in THF’s updated English unless marked “1885 English” (the Roberts–Donaldson translation, public domain). “… [continues online]” marks a passage the library gave only in part. **On paper?** At **thehistoricfaith.com**, Bible verses are in the **Audio Bible** and early Christian writings in the **Library** (search for the title).

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EARLY CHRISTIAN WRITERS *27 passages from 13 writers*

Didache, *c. 50–120 AD · source 1*

1 *Teaching of the Twelve Apostles* 15 (1885 English) **Quote 3, page 3** "appoint for yourselves bishops and deacons worthy of the Lord, men meek, and not lovers of money, 1 Timothy 3:4 and truthful and proven… [continues online] **read ›**

Barnabas, *c. 70–132 AD · source 2*

2 *Epistle of Barnabas* (1885 English) not, by retiring apart, live a solitary life, as if you were already [fully] justified; but coming together in one place, make common inquiry concerning what tends to your general… [continues online] **read ›**

Hermas, *c. 90–150 AD · source 3*

3 *Shepherd* "the stones in the building. Those square white stones that fit exactly together are apostles, bishops, teachers, and deacons. They have lived in godly purity, and they have served as… [continues online] **read ›**

Ignatius of Antioch, *c. 98–117 AD · sources 4–10*

4 *Epistle to the Philadelphians* **Quotes 8, 10, pages 4, 5** therefore, as "a peculiar people, and a holy nation," perform all things with harmony in Christ. Wives, be subject to your husbands in the fear of God; and you virgins… [continues online] **read ›**

5 *Epistle to the Smyrnaeans* **Quote 7, page 4** "deacons to the presbyters; the presbyters to the bishop… [continues online] **read ›**

6 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 7) "love your wives; and wives, your husbands. Children, respect your parents. Parents, raise your children with the nurture and instruction of the Lord. Honor those who remain in virginity, as… [continues online] **read ›**

7 *Epistle to the Trallians* (1885 English; on point 6) "like manner, let all reverence the deacons as an appointment of Jesus Christ, and the bishop as Jesus Christ, who is the Son of the Father, and the presbyters as… [continues online] **read ›**

8 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 7) "Love one another in the Lord, as you are the images of God. Take heed, husbands, to love your wives as your own bodies. Wives also, love your husbands, as… [continues online] **read ›**

9 *Epistles of Ignatius* (on point 7) husbands love their wives, remembering that, at creation, one woman, and not many, was given to one man. Let wives honor their husbands, as their own flesh, and let them… [continues online] **read ›**

10 *Epistle of Ignatius to the Ephesians* is better for a man to be silent and be [a Christian], than to talk and not be one. It is good to teach if the speaker also acts. There… [continues online] **read ›**

Polycarp, *c. 100–155 AD · source 11*

11 *Epistle to the Philippians* (1885 English; on point 6) "it is needful to abstain from all these things, being subject to the presbyters and deacons, as unto God and Christ… [continues online] **read ›**

Justin Martyr, *c. 130–165 AD · source 12*

12 *First Apology* (1885 English; on point 5) on the day called Sunday, all who live in cities or in the country gather together to one place, and the memoirs of the apostles or the writings of the… [continues online] **read ›**

Tatian, *c. 150–180 AD · source 13*

13 *Address to the Greeks* 33 sober-mindedness, but yours are closely related to madness. You say that we speak nonsense among women and boys, among maidens and old women, and you mock us because we… [continues online] **read ›**

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Irenaeus, *c. 175–202 AD · source 14*

14 *Against Heresies: Book IV* (1885 English) **Quote 5, page 3** "Such presbyters does the Church nourish, of whom also the prophet says: "I will give thy rulers in peace, and thy bishops in righteousness." Of whom also did the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Alexandria, *c. 190–215 AD · sources 15–17*

15 *Stromata* 4.8 (on point 7) "submit yourselves to your own husbands, as to the Lord… [continues online] **read ›**

16 *Instructor* 3.12 (1885 English; on point 7) "let husbands love their wives as Christ also has loved the Church… [continues online] **read ›**

17 *Stromata* 4.8 even without formal learning, whether barbarian or Greek, whether slave, old man, boy, or woman. For self-control is open to all human beings who choose it. And we admit… [continues online] **read ›**

Tertullian, *c. 196–220 AD · sources 18–19*

18 *Apology* 39 (1885 English) **Quote 6, page 4** "tried men of our elders preside over us, obtaining that honour not by purchase, but by established character… [continues online] **read ›**

19 *On the Veiling of Virgins* 9 (1885 English) **Quote 2, page 2** "is not permitted to a woman to speak in the church… [continues online] **read ›**

Cyprian, *c. 248–258 AD · sources 20–21*

20 *Treatises* **Quote 1, page 2** "to God and Christ, and you are advancing to the Lord in the higher and better part. You older women, offer teaching to the younger. You younger women, encourage those… [continues online] **read ›**

21 *Epistles* (1885 English; on point 3) "warning, indeed, our presbyters and deacons ought to have given you, that they might cherish the sheep committed to their care, and by the divine authority might instruct them in… [continues online] **read ›**

Apostolic Constitutions, *c. 250–380 AD · sources 22–25*

22 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) among us, you yourselves are not ignorant of them. For you certainly know that those named by us bishops, and presbyters, and deacons, were made so by prayer and by… [continues online] **read ›**

23 *Apostolic Constitutions* (1885 English) **Quote 4, page 3** "Do you first ordain bishops worthy of the Lord, and presbyters and deacons, pious men, righteous, meek, free from the love of money, lovers of truth, approved, holy, not accepters… [continues online] **read ›**

24 *Apostolic Constitutions* **Quote 9, page 5** "You wives, be subject to your own husbands… [continues online] **read ›**

25 *Apostolic Constitutions* (on point 3) named and approved, let the people gather on the Lord's Day, together with the presbytery and the bishops who are present, and let them give their consent. And let… [continues online] **read ›**

Clement of Rome · *sources 26–27*

26 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 3) they appointed the first-fruits of their labors, having first proved them by the Spirit, to be bishops and deacons of those who would later believe. Nor was this a… [continues online] **read ›**

27 *First Epistle to the Corinthians* (on point 4) Our apostles also knew, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that there would be conflict regarding the office of the episcopate. For this reason, considering that they had obtained perfect foreknowledge… [continues online] **read ›**

THE BIBLE *137 verses, The Faith Once Delivered Bible (Old Testament from the Septuagint), in Bible order*

28 **Genesis 38:19** Then she arose and went away, took off her veil, and put on her widow's garments. **read ›**

29 **Exodus 1:21** And because the midwives feared God, they made households for themselves. **read ›**

30 **Exodus 15:20** Then Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a tambourine in her hand, and all the women went out after her with tambourines and dances. **read ›**

31 **Leviticus 8:3** and assemble all the congregation at the door of the tabernacle of witness." **read ›**

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32 **Leviticus 18:17** You shall not uncover the nakedness of a woman and her daughter; you shall not take that woman's son's daughter or her daughter's daughter to uncover their nakedness, for they are your close relatives; it is ungodliness. **read ›**

33 **Numbers 1:16** These are those called from the congregation, leaders of the tribes by their families; they are commanders of thousands in Israel. **read ›**

34 **Numbers 3:28** every male from a month old and upward, eight thousand six hundred, keeping the charges of the holy things. **read ›**

35 **Numbers 4:23** From twenty-five years old and upward to fifty years old you shall number them, everyone who goes in to minister, to do his works in the tabernacle of witness. **read ›**

36 **Numbers 4:43** from twenty-five years old and upward to fifty years old, everyone who goes in to minister in the works of the tabernacle of witness. **read ›**

37 **Numbers 5:18** And the priest shall set the woman before the Lord, and uncover the woman's head, and put into her hands the sacrifice of memorial, the sacrifice of jealousy; and in the priest's hand shall be this water of proof that brings the curse. **read ›**

38 **Numbers 11:16** Then the Lord said to Moses, "Gather to me seventy men of the elders of Israel, whom you yourself know to be elders of the people and their scribes; and bring them to the tabernacle of witness, and they shall stand there with you. **read ›**

39 **Numbers 27:16** "Let the Lord God of the spirits and of all flesh select a man over this congregation, **read ›**

40 **Numbers 30:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

41 **Numbers 30:12** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

42 **Deuteronomy 20:7** And what man is there who has become engaged to a woman and has not taken her? Let him go and return to his house, lest he die in the war and another man take her." **read ›**

43 **Deuteronomy 24:5** If a man has newly taken a wife, he shall not go out to war, and no duty shall be laid on him; he shall be free at home for one year and shall cheer the wife whom he has taken. **read ›**

44 **Judges 21:7** What shall we do for wives for those who are left, since we have sworn by the Lord not to give them any of our daughters as wives?" **read ›**

45 **Ruth 1:9** May the Lord grant you that each of you find rest in the house of her husband." Then she kissed them, and they lifted up their voice and wept. **read ›**

46 **Ruth 1:12** Return now, my daughters, for I am too old to have a husband. For if I said, 'There is hope for me to be married to a husband, and I shall bear sons,' **read ›**

47 **1 Samuel 1:12** As she went on praying before the Lord, Eli the priest watched her mouth. **read ›**

48 **2 Samuel 17:19** And the woman took a covering and spread it over the mouth of the pit, and spread ground grain on it to dry; and nothing was known. **read ›**

49 **1 Kings 3:17** And the one woman said, "Please, my lord: I and this woman lived in one house, and we gave birth in the house. **read ›**

50 **1 Kings 10:8** Blessed are your wives; blessed are these your servants who stand before you continually, who hear all your understanding. **read ›**

51 **1 Chronicles 9:13** and their brothers, heads of the houses of their families, one thousand seven hundred and sixty, mighty men of valor for the work of the service of the house of God. **read ›**

52 **2 Chronicles 31:16** besides the offspring of the males from three years old and upward, to every one who entered the house of the Lord, by a daily account, for ministry in the daily courses of their arrangement. **read ›**

53 **Ezra 4:14** And it is not lawful for us to see the king's dishonor; therefore we have sent and informed the king, **read ›**

54 **Ezra 4:15** so that search may be made in the book of records of your fathers; and you will find and know that that city is a rebellious city, harmful to kings and provinces, and that runaway slaves have been in its midst from days of old; for this reason this city was laid waste. **read ›**

55 **Ezra 4:22** so that, by the decree, you may be on your guard against negligence in this matter, lest destruction increase to the harm of kings." **read ›**

56 **Ezra 6:9** And whatever is lacking—young bulls and rams and lambs for whole burnt offerings to the God of heaven, wheat, salt, wine, oil—let it be given to them according to the word of the priests in Jerusalem, day by day, whatever they ask, **read ›**

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57 **Nehemiah 10:1** Over those who set their seal were Nehemiah the Athersastha, the son of Hacaliah, and Zedekiah (Septuagint 2 Esdras 20:2 (Nehemiah 10:1 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

58 **Job 9:10** He does great and unsearchable things, glorious and extraordinary things without number. **read ›**

59 **Job 10:2** and I will say to the Lord, ‘Do not teach me to act ungodly; and why have you judged me so? **read ›**

60 **Job 12:6** all who provoke the Lord, as though there will be no examination of them. **read ›**

61 **Job 16:8** It has become a witness, and my falsehood has risen up in me; it has answered against me to my face. **read ›**

62 **Psalms 2:11** Serve the Lord with fear, and rejoice greatly in him with trembling. **read ›**

63 **Psalms 11:3** For what you fashioned they have torn down; but what has the righteous one done? (Septuagint Psalm 10:3 (Psalm 11:3 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

64 **Proverbs 14:19** The evil will fall before the good, and the ungodly will wait at the doors of the righteous. **read ›**

65 **Ecclesiastes 3:19** And indeed to them belongs the event of the sons of man and the event of the beast; one event is theirs. As the death of the one, so also the death of the other; and there is one breath for all. And what advantage has the man over the beast? None; for all is vanity. **read ›**

66 **Song of Solomon 4:8** Come from Lebanon, O bride, come from Lebanon; you shall come and pass on from the top of Faith, from the top of Senir and Hermon, from the dens of lions, from the mountains of leopards. **read ›**

67 **Isaiah 3:12** O my people, your tax collectors strip you, and those who demand payment rule over you; O my people, those who call you blessed lead you astray, and confuse the path of your feet. **read ›**

68 **Isaiah 7:15** Butter and honey he shall eat, before he knows either to prefer evil or to choose the good. **read ›**

69 **Isaiah 16:14** And now I say: in three years, years of a hired worker, the glory of Moab will be dishonored with all his great wealth, and he will be left few in number, and without honor. **read ›**

70 **Jeremiah 9:20** Hear now, O women, the word of God, and let your ears receive the words of his mouth; and teach your daughters wailing, and each woman her neighbor a song of lament. (Septuagint Jeremiah 9:19 (Jeremiah 9:20 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

71 **Daniel 11:16** And he who comes in against him shall do according to his will, and there is no one standing before him; and he shall stand in the land of Sabi, and it shall be consumed by his hand. **read ›**

72 **Amos 8:8** And shall not the land be troubled for these things, and everyone who lives in it mourn? And the end shall rise like a river, and go down like the river of Egypt. **read ›**

73 **Habakkuk 2:16** You also, drink your fill of dishonor instead of glory; be shaken, O heart, and quake; the cup of the right hand of the Lord has come round upon you, and dishonor has gathered upon your glory. **read ›**

74 **1 Esdras 3:12** The third wrote, “Women are strongest, but above all things truth is victorious.” **read ›**

75 **1 Esdras 4:14** “Men, is not the king great, and are not men many, and is not wine strong? Who then rules over them, or who is lord over them? Is it not women? **read ›**

76 **1 Esdras 4:15** Women gave birth to the king and to all the people who rule over sea and land, **read ›**

77 **1 Esdras 4:22** And by this you must know that women rule over you. Do you not labor and toil, and give and bring everything to women? **read ›**

78 **1 Esdras 4:32** O men, how can women not be strong, since they do such things?” **read ›**

79 **1 Esdras 6:9** building a great house for the Lord, new, of costly polished stones, with timber laid in the walls; **read ›**

80 **1 Esdras 9:38** And the whole multitude gathered together in the open square before the gate of the temple toward the east, **read ›**

81 **Tobit 2:11** And my wife Anna worked for hire at women’s work, and she would send it to the owners. **read ›**

82 **Tobit 11:3** Let us run ahead of your wife and prepare the house; **read ›**

83 **Judith 8:5** And she made herself a tent on the roof of her house, and put sackcloth on her waist; and she wore the garments of her widowhood. **read ›**

84 **Judith 9:10** By the deceit of my lips strike down the slave with the ruler, and the ruler with his servant; shatter their pride by the hand of a woman. **read ›**

85 **Judith 10:2** she rose from where she had fallen, called her maid, and went down into the house where she used to stay on the Sabbath days and on her feast days. **read ›**

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86 **Judith 12:6** and sent to Holofernes, saying, “Let my lord now command that your slave be allowed to go out to pray.” **read ›**

87 **Judith 16:8** For she put off the garment of her widowhood for the exaltation of those who suffered in Israel; she anointed her face with perfume and bound her hair with a headband, and she took a linen garment to deceive him. **read ›**

88 **Wisdom of Solomon 8:8** And if anyone also longs for wide experience, she knows the things of old and infers the things to come; she understands the turns of speech and the solutions of riddles; she foreknows signs and wonders, and the outcomes of seasons and times. **read ›**

89 **Wisdom of Sirach 3:2** For the Lord has glorified the father over the children, and has established the judgment of the mother over the sons. **read ›**

90 **Wisdom of Sirach 7:14** Do not babble in a multitude of elders, and do not repeat a word in your prayer. **read ›**

91 **Wisdom of Sirach 10:20** Among brothers their leader is honored, and those who fear the Lord in his eyes. **read ›**

92 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:5** How beautiful is the wisdom of old men, and thought and counsel in men of honor! **read ›**

93 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:18** Her husband will sit down among his neighbors, and when he hears, he sighs bitterly. **read ›**

94 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:19** All malice is small beside the malice of a woman; may the lot of a sinner fall upon her. **read ›**

95 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:20** Like a sandy ascent for the feet of an old man, so is a talkative wife to a quiet man. **read ›**

96 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:22** There is anger and shamelessness and great disgrace if a wife supports her husband. **read ›**

97 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:23** A low spirit and a gloomy face and a wounded heart— that is an evil wife; drooping hands and weakened knees— that is she who will not make her husband happy. **read ›**

98 **Wisdom of Sirach 25:25** Do not give water an outlet, nor an evil woman free rein. **read ›**

99 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:3** A good wife is a good portion; she will be given among the portion of those who fear the Lord. **read ›**

100 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:13** The grace of a wife delights her husband, and her knowledge will fatten his bones. **read ›**

101 **Wisdom of Sirach 26:14** A silent wife is a gift of the Lord, and nothing can be given in exchange for a well-instructed soul. **read ›**

102 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:26** For who will trust a well-equipped robber who darts from city to city? So it is with a man who has no nest and stays wherever evening overtakes him. (Septuagint Wisdom of Sirach 36:31 (Wisdom of Sirach 36:26 in most Bibles)) **read ›**

103 **Wisdom of Sirach 36:29** He who acquires a wife begins a possession, a helper suited to him and a pillar of rest. **read ›**

104 **Wisdom of Sirach 42:14** Better is a man’s wickedness than a woman who does good; and a woman who brings shame, ending in disgrace. **read ›**

105 **Baruch 1:16** and to our kings and to our rulers and to our priests and to our prophets and to our fathers, **read ›**

106 **Letter of Jeremiah 1:43** And the women, with cords around them, sit by the roads burning bran for incense; and when one of them, led away by some passer-by, has lain with him, she taunts her neighbor for not having been thought as worthy as herself, nor having had her cord broken. **read ›**

107 **Susanna 1:34** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

108 **Susanna 1:50** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

109 **1 Maccabees 14:19** And these were read before the assembly in Jerusalem. **read ›**

110 **2 Maccabees 3:19** Women, with sackcloth tied under their breasts, crowded the streets; and the virgins who were kept indoors ran together, some to the gates and some to the walls, while some looked out through the windows. **read ›**

111 **3 Maccabees 1:19** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

112 **3 Maccabees 4:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

113 **4 Maccabees 7:15** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

114 **4 Maccabees 16:14** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

115 **1 Enoch 9:9** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

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116 **1 Enoch 12:5** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

117 **1 Enoch 46:8** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

118 **1 Enoch 89:36** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

119 **1 Enoch 90:21** Open the verse to read it. **read ›**

120 **Luke 12:14** But he said to him, “Man, who made me a judge or an arbitrator over you?” **read ›**

121 **Luke 13:4** Or those eighteen who were killed when the tower in Siloam fell on them—do you think they were worse offenders than all the people who dwell in Jerusalem? **read ›**

122 **Acts 2:42** They continued steadfastly in the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. **read ›**

123 **Acts 2:46** Day by day they continued steadfastly with one accord in the temple, breaking bread at home and sharing food with gladness and simplicity of heart, **read ›**

124 **Acts 3:2** A man lame from his mother’s womb was being carried. They laid him daily at the temple gate called Beautiful to ask alms from those entering the temple. **read ›**

125 **Acts 4:1** As they spoke to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came to them, **read ›**

126 **Acts 5:42** Every day, in the temple and at home, they never stopped teaching and preaching the gospel of Jesus the Christ. **read ›**

127 **Acts 9:14** Here he has authority from the chief priests to bind all who call on your name.” **read ›**

128 **Acts 14:23** They appointed elders for them in every church and, after prayer with fasting, commended them to the Lord in whom they had believed. **read ›**

129 **Acts 16:15** When she and her household were baptized, she begged us, saying, “If you have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house and stay.” So she persuaded us. **read ›**

130 **Romans 9:16** So then it is not of him who wills, nor of him who runs, but of God who has mercy. **read ›**

131 **Romans 9:19** You will say then to me, “Why does he still find fault? For who withstands his will?” **read ›**

132 **Romans 16:5** Greet the church that is in their house. Greet Epaenetus, my beloved, who is the first fruits of Achaia to Christ. **read ›**

133 **1 Corinthians 1:16** I also baptized the household of Stephanas; beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized anyone else. **read ›**

134 **1 Corinthians 11:4** Every man praying or prophesying, having his head covered, dishonors his head. **read ›**

135 **1 Corinthians 11:5** But every woman praying or prophesying with her head uncovered dishonors her head. For it is one and the same thing as if she were shaved. **read ›**

136 **1 Corinthians 11:6** For if a woman is not covered, let her hair also be cut off. But if it is shameful for a woman to have her hair cut off or be shaved, let her be covered. **read ›**

137 **1 Corinthians 11:10** For this reason the woman ought to have authority on her head, because of the angels. **read ›**

138 **1 Corinthians 11:13** Judge for yourselves: is it fitting for a woman to pray to God with her head uncovered? **read ›**

139 **1 Corinthians 14:34** Let your women keep silent in the churches, for they are not permitted to speak, but to be in submission, as the law also says. **read ›**

140 **1 Corinthians 14:35** And if they desire to learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home; for it is shameful for women to speak in church. **read ›**

141 **2 Corinthians 2:10** Now I also forgive anyone to whom you forgive anything. For if indeed I have forgiven anything, I have forgiven that one for your sakes in the presence of Christ, **read ›**

142 **Ephesians 5:22** Wives, be subject to your own husbands, as to the Lord. **read ›**

143 **Ephesians 5:33** Nevertheless each of you must also love his own wife even as himself; and let the wife see that she respects her husband. **read ›**

144 **Colossians 3:18** Wives, submit to your own husbands, as is fitting in the Lord. **read ›**

145 **1 Timothy 2:11** Let a woman learn in quietness with full submission. **read ›**

146 **1 Timothy 2:12** But I do not permit a woman to teach, nor to exercise authority over a man, but to be in quietness. **read ›**

147 **1 Timothy 3:1** The saying is trustworthy: if anyone aspires to the office of bishop, he desires a good work. **read ›**

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148 **1 Timothy 3:2** The bishop therefore must be above reproach, the husband of one wife, temperate, self-controlled, orderly, hospitable, able to teach; **read ›**

149 **1 Timothy 3:5** but if someone does not know how to rule his own house, how will he care for the church of God? **read ›**

150 **1 Timothy 3:15** but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how one ought to conduct oneself in God's house, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. **read ›**

151 **1 Timothy 5:1** Do not rebuke an older man, but exhort him as a father; the younger men as brothers; **read ›**

152 **1 Timothy 5:2** the older women as mothers, the younger women as sisters, in all purity. **read ›**

153 **1 Timothy 5:11** But refuse younger widows; for when their desires turn them against Christ, they want to marry, **read ›**

154 **1 Timothy 5:14** Therefore I desire that the younger women marry, bear children, manage the household, and give the adversary no occasion for reviling. **read ›**

155 **1 Timothy 5:17** Let the elders who rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in the word and in teaching. **read ›**

156 **Titus 2:2** that older men be temperate, dignified, sober-minded, sound in faithfulness, love, and perseverance; **read ›**

157 **Titus 2:3** and that older women likewise be reverent in behavior, not slanderers nor enslaved to much wine, teachers of that which is good, **read ›**

158 **Titus 2:4** that they may train the young wives to love their husbands, to love their children, **read ›**

159 **Titus 2:5** to be sober-minded, pure, keepers of the home, good, subject to their own husbands, so that the word of God may not be blasphemed. **read ›**

160 **Philemon 1:2** to the beloved Apphia, to Archippus our fellow soldier, and to the church in your house: **read ›**

161 **Hebrews 10:25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as the custom of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. **read ›**

162 **1 Peter 3:1** Likewise, wives, be subject to your own husbands, so that even if some disobey the word, they will be won without a word through their wives' conduct, **read ›**

163 **1 Peter 3:7** You husbands, in the same way, live with your wives according to knowledge, giving honor to the woman as to the weaker vessel, as also being joint heirs of the grace of life, that your prayers may not be hindered. **read ›**

164 **1 Peter 5:1** I exhort the elders among you, as a fellow elder, a witness of Christ's sufferings, and a partaker of the glory to be revealed: **read ›**

ALSO LINKED BY THF TO THESE PASSAGES *66 verses, by reference*

Partly machine-linked: related to the passages, not always quoted in them. Each reference links to the verse in our audio Bible.

Isaiah 5:21 · 60:17 · 63:3

Daniel 7:7 · 7:24

Matthew 5:6 · 5:19 · 6:10 · 9:13 · 10:5 · 20:16 · 20:28

Mark 7:9 · 10:43 · 13:35

Luke 10:16 · 11:23 · 12:35 · 12:47 · 12:50

John 16:13 · 20:22

Acts 1:8 · 9:5

Romans 2:11 · 10:10

1 Corinthians 4:20 · 6:9 · 6:10 · 6:19 · 9:25 · 11:3 · 14:33 · 15:6

Galatians 3:27 · 5:16 · 5:22 · 6:1 · 6:7

Ephesians 2:20 · 4:2 · 4:11 · 4:25 · 4:26 · 5:1 · 5:21 · 5:28 · 6:1 · 6:4

Philippians 1:18 · 1:27 · 2:2 · 3:16 · 4:8

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Colossians 3:11 · 4:1
1 Timothy 3:4 · 3:8 · 5:9
2 Timothy 2:12 · 2:15
Hebrews 6:6
1 Peter 2:5 · 2:11 · 3:6
1 John 2:27

Searched: Ante-Nicene Fathers volumes 1–9 and the Bible, including the Septuagint.

ABOUT THIS STUDY

A THF member asked “Could women lead Bible studies and teach other women in the early church?” on October 17, 2026. The Historic Faith answered it as a public study on November 9, 2026.

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THE END OF THIS STUDY