



WOMEN JUST LIKE YOU...AND NOT LIKE YOU... BUT YOU STILL HAVE TO MINISTER TO

ANNA

(Luke 2:36-38) -- "There was also a prophetess, Anna... She was **very old**; she had **lived with her husband** seven years after her marriage, and then was **a widow** until she was **eighty-four**. She **never left the temple but worshiped night and day**, fasting and praying.

VASHTI

(Esther 1: 9 – 12) -- Hello, my name is Vashti and mine is a **sad story** with a happy ending -- for someone else. I was once one of the most beautiful women in the world. My father was King of Lydia, and I was the wife of one of the most powerful Kings in the ancient Middle East. This man was the ruler of over one hundred and twenty provinces, and **I was his queen**. However he often asked me to do lewd acts to appease him and his friends.

HAGAR

(Genesis 16: 1 – 4) -- The brazen servant-who-was-a-**mistress for hire**...The same man (Abraham) had Sarah-beauty queen of the desert, wealthy and blessed, and Hagar--servant, lowly, used. Hagar, Sarah's bondservant, did what all of us are tempted to do when we don't see any way out. **She gave up**. After all, what use is there in praying when God has never seemed too interested in what happened to you anyway? Her story yields lessons for you and me offering wisdom for those times when our desert feels like the most deserted, deadly one. Hagar, this **low-class** servant girl, is our teacher here and shows us how to survive abandonment, despair, and the death of a dream.

ABIGAIL

(First Samuel 25:3) -- My name is Abigail. You might not remember me. I lived what might have been called a "**happily ever after**" life; **but it certainly didn't start out that way**. I became King **David's second wife**, but **the first to bear him children**. **When we met, I was married to another man.**

How do we meet the needs of Anna? _____

How do we meet the needs of Vashti? _____

How do we meet the needs of Hagar? _____

How do we meet the needs of Abigail? _____

NEEDS OF THE 21ST CENTURY WOMAN (According to Barna Research)

Feel accepted and appreciated

Time management

Support & Stability

Learn how to rest and relax

Continued Education

Learn role, mission, and ministry in order to use their talents for God

UNDERSTAND YOUR "ISH" or ISHSH-AH (Genesis 2:22)

ISH is the _____ - part taken from man in the Garden experience.

All women have the capacity to N_____, develop

R_____.

have a C_____ spirit, and be fulfilling in R_____.

ISH also means woman have the capacity to M_____ T_____

C_____ A_____!

DEVELOPING AN EFFECTIVE MINISTRY

Pray -

For God's guidance in setting up the ministry

For God to lead you to proper Bible study material for the women. A study that is beneficial to everyone involved

Plan -

A leadership team should be developed

Delegate various duties and have planning sessions

Set out a calendar for the year's events.

Begin each session on time and end on time.

Get your church leadership's approval on the material to be taught and the activities that are planned.

Keep the pastor and church leaders informed as the year progresses.

Provide -

Studies for new Christians and studies for those who are maturing in their spiritual growth.

Time for fun and socialization. This is often a separate event where women can bring unsaved friends or family members.

Accountability for the women. Pair up women as accountability and prayer partners.

Follow-up -

Ask the ladies if the program and study is meeting their needs.

Adjust and develop your women's ministry program as needed.