

FRESH

OUTLOOK
BIBLE STUDIES

**BADASS
WOMEN OF
THE BIBLE**



THE PRESBYTERIAN OUTLOOK

Written by Katrina Pekich-Bundy
Designed by Lee Catoe

Session 1

Advocates and Activists

Leader prep:

Read "[Daughters of Zelophehad](#)"; "[The Canaanite Woman Changes Jesus' Mind About His Entire Ministry to All](#)."

Watch "[Advocacy in the 21st Century | Abbey Perl](#)"; [Tracy Chapman - "Talkin' About A Revolution" \(Official Music Video\)](#)

Supplies:

Nametags, pens
Candle, lighter
Bibles or Bible app (Inclusive Bible)
Newsprint, markers
Media clips, equipment
Fabric strips, fabric markers

nametags
pens

1. Name the advocate

Invite each person to write the name of a female activist or advocate, living or dead, on a nametag. Suggested names include (search for info at "[The Famous People](#)"):

Malala Yousafzai
Harriet Tubman
Rosa Parks
Greta Thunberg
Erin Brockovich
Amal Clooney
Laverne Cox

Have players place the nametag on the back of someone they don't know.

Ask players to circulate and ask yes or no questions until everyone identifies their name on their nametags.

After sufficient time, gather the group.

Ask everyone to introduce themselves by saying their names and offering their guess for the names on their backs.

Decide whether the activists and advocates they've named were/are badassess.

candle
lighter
Bible or Bible app

2. Reflect on the Holy Spirit as an advocate

Light a candle. Invite everyone to close their eyes and take three deep breaths.

Read aloud **John 14:15-17** (The Inclusive Bible).

Ask everyone to place their hands over their hearts and take three deep breaths while thinking or speaking, "Spirit, help me to speak."

Read aloud **John 14:15-17** a second time. Invite participants to take three deep breaths while thinking or speaking, "Spirit, help me to speak out."

Read **John 14:15-17** a third time. Ask everyone to take three deep breaths while thinking or speaking, "Spirit, help me to speak up."

Invite everyone to open their eyes when ready.

newsprint
markers

3. What is advocacy?

Brainstorm definitions for advocacy. Record on newsprint.

Discuss:

- Who is a woman you consider a personal mentor or role model? (List the women's names on newsprint.)
- What makes your mentor/role model an advocate? What makes her a "badass"?

Bible or Bible app:

4. Discover women advocates in the Bible

Talking point: The Bible is full of people, both men and women, who responded to God's call to advocacy. Each woman we'll study employed a unique advocacy strategy to promote justice.

In pairs, have participants select and read one of the following passages aloud. Ask each pair to summarize the women's advocacy stories for the group.

[Exodus 1:8-22](#) (midwives Shiphrah and Puah defy pharaoh)

[Numbers 27:1-11](#) (Zelophehad's daughters advocate for women's justice)

[Matthew 15:21-28](#) (a Canaanite woman advocates for her sick child)

[Luke 18:1-8](#) (a fictional widow stands up for herself against an accuser)

Discuss:

- Against what power structures or injustices did these women fight?
- How are they different/similar in their approaches to advocacy?
- Whose dignity are they committed to preserving? About what are they passionate?

newsprint
marker

5. Celebrate women advocates in the Bible

Add the names or descriptions of the biblical women to the newsprint used above in “What is advocacy?” Use a call and response as each name is added to the list:

**Leader: For this badass woman,
All: We give thanks.**

media clip
media equipment

6. Be a badass

Watch [“Advocacy in the 21st Century | Abbey Perl.”](#)

Discuss:

- What is something or someone you believe in deeply?
- What is a topic that sparks interest and energy within you?
- What would it take for you/us to commit to advocacy?
- What can you do this week to make a difference?
- What could we do in a sustained action to make a difference in a practical way?

media clip
media equipment
fabric strips
fabric markers

7. Celebrate and pray

Watch [Tracy Chapman - “Talkin’ About A Revolution” \(Official Music Video\)](#) while you work.

Refer to the newsprint list of badass women generated earlier in the session. Write the women’s names on individual fabric strips with markers. Tie the fabric strips into a wreath.

Hang the wreath of fabric strips in your meeting space as a reminder that the women surround the community as saints.

Ask interested volunteers to help you plan and lead the next session.

Invite personal prayers for the day’s blessings. Close with prayer.

For women of change, we offer you thanks, O God. For your Spirit’s advocacy for the community’s well-being, we give thanks. May your Spirit stir within us and challenge us to create change and sense the support of the women who paved the way. Amen.