

Media Kit:

**The Sword: A Fun way to Engage in Healthy Debate on What  
the Bible says About a Woman’s Role**

New Non-Fiction by Elaine R Kelly provides an objective look at  
the rationale for diverse views on gender roles.

104 flashcards make memorable, hands-on discussion starters.

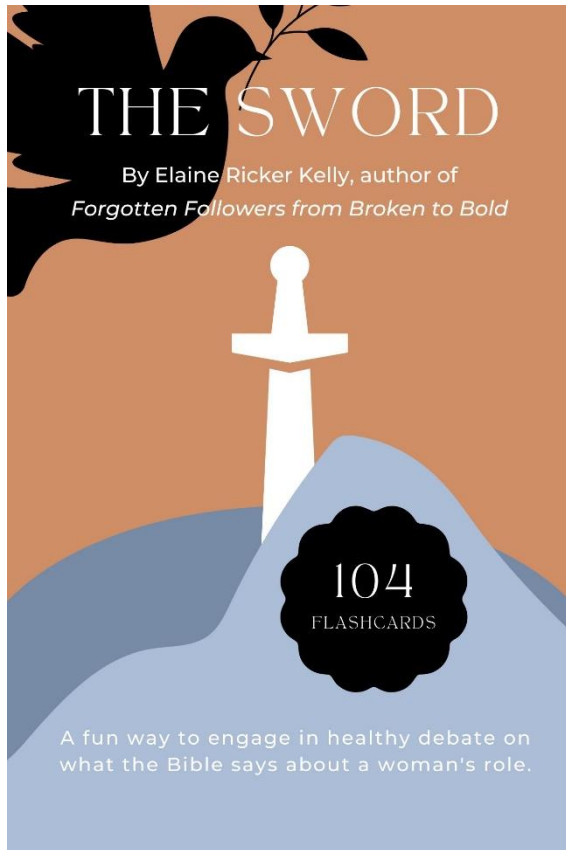
180 End Notes start your study journey.

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## Info Sheet for Retailers:

The Sword: A Fun Way to Engage in Healthy Debate on What the Bible says About a Woman's Role



Non-FICTION

Religion>Sexuality & Gender Studies

Religion>Biblical Criticism & Interpretation

86 pages, B/W, 6x9 inches

40% Wholesale Discount through author

*Softcover*

ISBN 978-1-7388233-0-7 paperback

Retail List Price US\$9.49 (C\$12.65)

*eBook*

ISBN 978-1-7388233-1-4 E-book

Retail List Price US\$5.99 (C\$7.99)

Elaine Ricker Kelly writes to inspire and empower women in leadership at home, church, and society. She lives in Grimsby, Ontario, Canada, with her husband and their dog. They worship in the mainline Protestant Christian tradition and enjoy hiking, tennis, music and history.

by Elaine Ricker Kelly

Imagine the Bible as the Spirit's powerful Sword. What if this sword could only be drawn by those with good intentions, ears to hear, and a heart to love? What if people learned to handle this Sword to cut away barriers between us instead of cutting out people? What if we united without being uniform?

This book provides 104 flashcards with various understandings of controversial Bible passages. Sword cards thrust one stance, while shield cards deflect with another angle. The flashcards are a fun way to engage in healthy debate on what the Bible society.

The goal is to pair the sword and shield flashcards with each other. The real goal, though, is to increase mutual respect among Christians. Contemplate, converse, and cut out the flashcards to use as a learning game for adults or youth. Explore, reflect, and have fun!

### Top Ten: Why to Read The Sword:

1. Effortlessly and objectively compare diverse views in one resource.
2. Stimulate healthy debate on what the Bible says about a woman's role.
3. Explore why Christians have diverse views on a woman's role.
4. Understand biblical womanhood and biblical manhood.
5. Discover how the Bible support equal opportunities regardless of gender.
6. Flashcards make learning fun and memorable.
7. Hands-on resource allows youth and adults to interact with the ideas
8. Work out your stance on the Bible and gender equality.
9. Broaden your understanding of equality, gender, and the Bible.
10. Appreciate diverse perspectives and build respect for one another.

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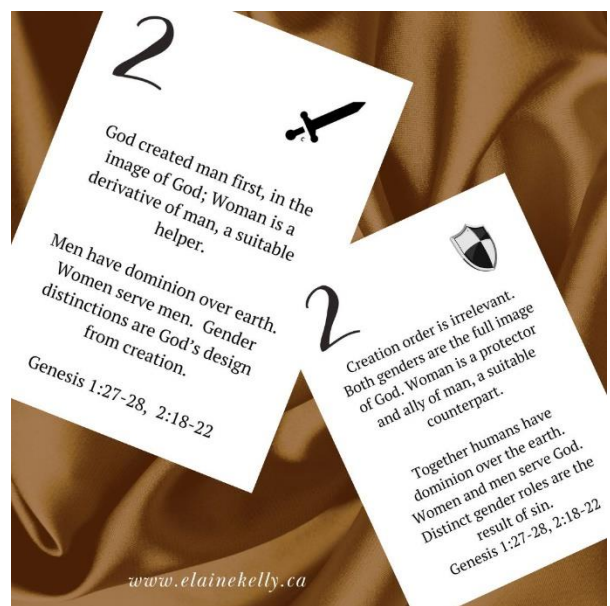
Wholesale available through Ingram

Consignment available through the author

## Excerpts from The Sword

There are an equal number of flashcards from two existing predominant viewpoints: complementarian and egalitarian. These names are not perfect, because both groups believe men and women should work together effectively, and both believe men and women have equal worth.

Check each flashcard's design! The white sword and checkered shield present the Egalitarian view. The black sword and white shield aim to support the Complementarian or hierarchal view. Use the cards to contemplate, or cut them out to use as a Christian education game for adults or youth. Treat the designs as suits and find the matching numbers in a game of Rummy or Concentration.



## Amazon Reviews:

“The Sword” is a book and game that blows a fresh, Holy Breath into those challenging, puzzling, Bible texts that prescribe gender roles for women and men... Kelly lets these divergent perspectives speak for themselves. I loved the playful fencing motif used in the book, and the heart-warming message to learn to use the Sword of God’s word “to cut away barriers between us instead of cutting out people.”

– Laurie

*“Some folks think, because they can quote one Bible verse, that they have the last word on what the Bible says on any given topic. As Elaine Ricker Kelly demonstrates, with her usual exhaustive research, most people only know one small part of what the Bible says, especially about the role of women. Elaine Ricker Kelly's latest sparks thought and debate. A good one for inquiring minds on your wish list.”* – Mike

“Kudos to Elaine Kelly for creating such an inspiring and empowering resource. And it was a fun read to boot! Her book "The Sword" and the 104 flashcards it contains, provide an incredibly simple and even entertaining way to direct the egalitarian/complementarian conversation. The flashcards are thought-provoking and excellent for groups or individuals. a brilliant job of creating flashcards that either complementarians or egalitarians can comfortably use in their discussions.” – Jocelyn

**Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold**

Trauma has left Mara anxious and fearful. Then she is forced to leave home. Will following the rebel teacher endanger her life?

FORGOTTEN FOLLOWERS  
*from* BROKEN TO BOLD  
A NOVEL  
By Elaine Ricker Kelly

**THE SWORD**  
By Elaine Ricker Kelly, author of  
*Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold*

104 FLASHCARDS

A fun way to engage in healthy debate on what the Bible says about a woman's role.

The Sword: A fun way to engage in healthy debate on what the Bible says about a woman's role. 104 flashcards give an objective look at the rationale for diverse views on gender roles.

Fiction - [www.elainekelly.ca](http://www.elainekelly.ca) - Non-Fiction



## Author Photo and Bio:

### 50-word Bio:

Elaine Ricker Kelly is a financial advisor turned author empowering women. *Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold* is a biblical fiction bringing hope and healing. *The Sword* is a nonfiction exploring two interpretations of women in the Bible. She and her husband have three adult daughters.



### 125-word Bio:

Elaine Ricker Kelly empowers women in leadership at home, church, and society by drawing on her experiences as a woman in business, friend, daughter, sister, wife, mother, and grandmother. *Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold* offers hope and healing to anyone who feels forgotten, belittled, or out of place. *The Sword* provides an objective look at the rationale for diverse views on gender roles. Its 104 flashcards make memorable hands-on discussion starters, and its 180 End Notes start your journey into understanding women and the Bible. Elaine R. Kelly lives near Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, with her husband and lap dog. She and her husband have hiked the 900 km Bruce Trail and enjoy hiking, nature, tennis, music, history and culture.

### 250-word Bio:

When Elaine began her investment and life insurance advisor career, there was a strong movement towards equal rights and opportunities for women. As she prepared to leave the financial industry thirty years later, she realized there was a movement away from equal freedoms and responsibilities for women, and that some new gender restrictions were coming from the church.

As a financial advisor, Elaine knew that Jesus engaged women as financial advisors. As a mother of three daughters, Elaine knew the importance of girls finding their worth in Christ. She felt it was important for Christians to know that Jesus endorsed equal opportunities for women, equipped women as disciples, and empowered women to speak and lead. In *Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold* Mara, the wife of Clopas, is recovering from abuse. Joanna, a financial patron of Jesus, is grappling with racism. Research for Elaine's biblical fiction led to her writing *The Sword*, showcasing diverse views of what the Bible says about a woman's role in an fun, objective, and memorable way.

Elaine R Kelly Author writes Christian blogs on biblical equality, church history, and women in leadership. She believes the Bible authorizes all believers to speak, act, or lead at home, in church, or in society. Elaine R. Kelly and her husband live near Hamilton, Ontario, Canada and worship in the mainline Protestant tradition. They have hiked the 900 km Bruce Trail and enjoy nature, tennis, music, history, and culture.

For FAQ, blogs, and writing updates, please visit [www.elainekelly.ca](http://www.elainekelly.ca)

## Info Sheet for Podcasters/YouTubers

**Elaine Ricker Kelly**

### Author of:

- Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold, a historical fiction empowering women
- The Sword: a Fun way to Engage in Healthy Debate on What the Bible says about a Woman's Role

Located near Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Available for Remote or face-to-face interviews

### Categories:

- Biblical equality
- Gender equality
- Women in the first century
- Christian Theology about women's roles today

### Topics I can discuss:

- Women of the Bible
- Jesus educating, equipping, empowering women
- Jesus extending the family of God to all ethnicities
- 1<sup>st</sup> century culture and religion
- Genesis creation story and its impact on women
- Complementarian and Egalitarian perspectives on women's roles in the Bible and today
- Authoritarian/gentle parenting
- Purity, modesty, and approaching God directly
- Causes, impact, and means to overcome trauma
- Anxiety, worry, and self-confidence
- Research and writing craft
- Art and theology, fiction and the power of story

### Benefits to your Podcast/YouTube Channel

- An informal, conversational tone, with complex concepts in everyday language.
- Content that is pertinent to audiences interested in Christianity or deconstructing their beliefs
- Promotion of the finished interview on my website, email list, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook



### Find our more on YouTube:

[www.youtube.com/@ERK4Canada](http://www.youtube.com/@ERK4Canada)

### Previous Appearances:

The Local Churchology Podcast: A Conversation with Elaine Kelly Episode 1  
<https://youtu.be/GbqN9BDx6Nw>

Regency History: Elaine Kelly  
– Author Interview

<https://youtu.be/8YuF2Ehq7cc>

### Reluctant Christian Feminist:

Jesus and Women Disciples  
<https://youtu.be/Wzz6aSk6T44>

### Media Coverage

The Hamilton Spectator November 26, 2022: [A Christian-based novel addresses inequality and gender roles.](#)

News Now January 2023 Local author launches [fiction empowering women.](#)

### Let's Connect:

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Consignment available through the author

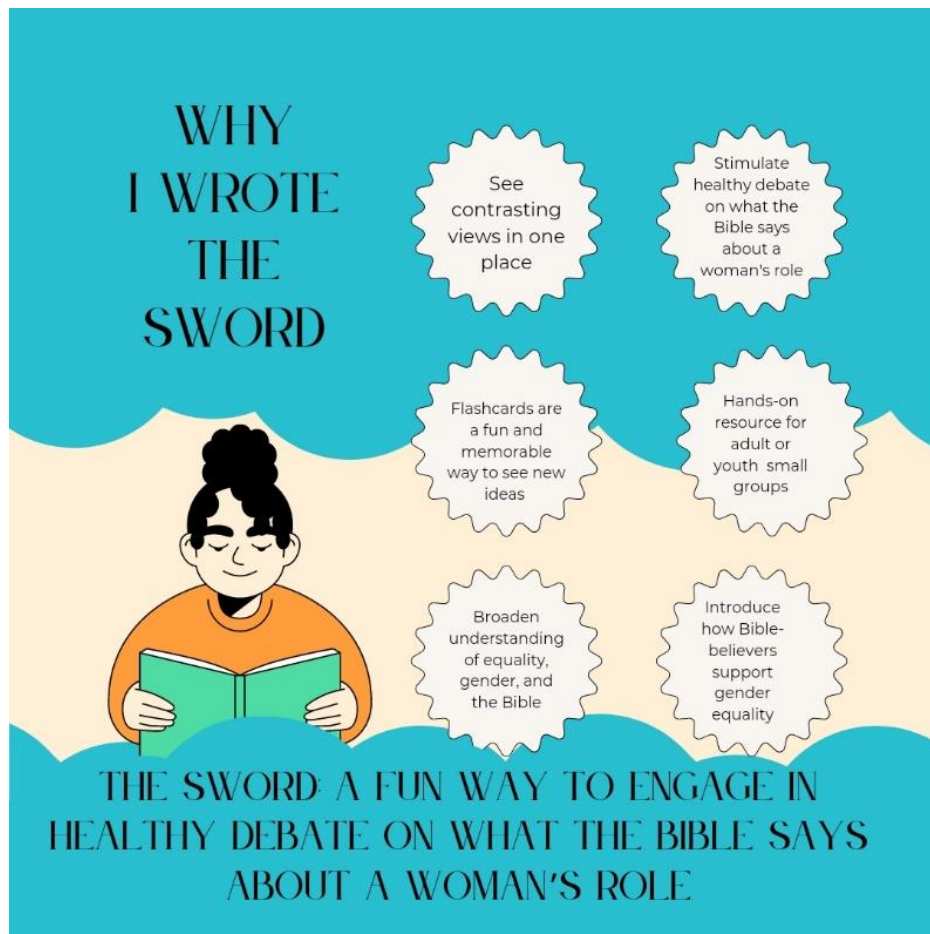
## What is The Sword?

*The Sword* is a book and a set of 104 flashcards. It's a fun way to engage in healthy debate on what the Bible says about a woman's role. The fencing motif presents opposing views of women and the Bible, and the 180 End Notes start your examination of biblical equality. Contemplate diverse perspectives alone, Converse with friends or family, or cut out the flashcards to use as a Christian education game for adults or youth. It's a fun and memorable way to see the rationale for various viewpoints and to build understanding and respect.

Whether you start out as Complementarian and want to know more about how egalitarians look at the Bible, or you start out as egalitarian and want to know more about what the Bible says, *The Sword* is a great starting point. It could even be nicknamed: What I learned about complementarian and egalitarian views of problematic Bible passages. My hope is to build understanding and mutual respect, giving readers a breath of fresh affirmation.

"The Sword" introduces the biblical case for both complementarian and egalitarian perspectives. The goal is not that we all end up thinking the same thing, but that we gain mutual understanding and respect. Working out where you stand on the issue of gender equality will allow you to align your marriage, church community, and spending patterns to support your views.

Find the paperback and ebook [on Amazon](#).



## Suggested Interview Questions

1. How did a Christian fiction writer end up writing a non-fiction book?
2. What did you learn?
3. Is gender equality biblical?
4. Why do gender roles matter?
5. When researching, what stood out about how women were viewed in the various passages?
6. What advice would you give to those who are uncomfortable with changing their views?
7. Is there any advice to women specifically as they wrestle with some of these things?
8. What questions does *The Sword* answer?
9. Who would enjoy reading *The Sword*?
10. What writing projects are next for you?

### 1. How did a Christian fiction writer end up writing a non-fiction book?

In my first biblical fiction, *Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold*, I show how Jesus lifted up women as equals, equipped them as disciples and teachers, and empowered them as apostles and evangelists. It was easy to see biblical equality in the Gospels. My next biblical fiction, *Forgotten Apostles from Broken to Bold*, takes place in the time of the Acts of the Apostles, when the Apostle Paul is active. It is not as easy to see biblical equality in Paul's letters. My novels tell stories of women in the Bible who were active in early church leadership: Junia the Apostle, Susannah from Luke 8, Phoebe the deacon of Cenchrae, Priscilla, a teacher in Corinth, Ephesus, and Rome, Lois and Eunice, who teach Timothy, Euodia and Syntyche who serve the church as Timothy serves, Nympha, Apphia, Lydia, and Chloe, who are church leaders.

I needed to understand Paul's character, and whether he respected women and men as equal partners in ministry. I needed to show how Paul interacted with them. Why were women so eager to join the Christian movement if Paul was sexist? Did they enjoy working alongside Paul? Did being a Christian give them new freedom? Did Paul treat them as equal co-workers? Did the women named in Acts and Paul's letters have roles as evangelists, elders, deacons, ministers, and church leaders? In some of Paul's letters, he says there is no more preference for men or women, all are equally important. Paul honours women and credits them as co-workers for the Gospel. These ideas seem to conflict with the passages where Paul seems to accept or even promote a male gender hierarchy. This research became a long journey into understanding the various interpretations of Paul's letters that are shown in *The Sword*.

### 2. What did you learn in researching for *The Sword*?

My journey has brought me around to better understand the Bible and especially Paul's letters. My view on women's equality didn't change, but I learned how it is biblical. I now read Paul's letters as freeing believers from pagan stereotypes, honouring women as house church leaders, teachers, deacons, apostles, and co-workers for Christ. Paul wrote and acted in ways that put all people on the same level. Paul broke down the divisions of class, ethnicity, and gender. He lowered those in positions of power and lifted up groups who had been put down. I learned that what Paul says is consistent with what Jesus says: if you don't have love, you are nothing more than a noisemaker.



### 3. Is gender equality biblical?

I grew up believing in equal opportunities and responsibilities for all people, regardless of gender. The church of my childhood had had female clergy in the 1970s and I used a gender-neutral hymnbook and the gender-neutral New Revised Standard Version of the Bible in the 1990s. I could relate to the inclusive words, and it made sense to me and what I knew of the world, so I did not investigate their biblical rationale. Where Paul's letters said things that were problematic or appeared to limit women based on their gender, I set them aside. I did not believe them or find them helpful; I did not like them, and I did not like Paul.

I knew there were some Christians who limited women to support roles, but I thought (wrongly) that this group was small and shrinking. As I researched for my biblical fiction, I learned about Christians coining the term 'complementarian' in the 1980s as a type of Christian patriarchy. They built on this concept with books, study guides, movies, new and organizations and doctrines to promote the idea of gender roles as part of God's design. Complementarian leaders said their ideas were not biblical interpretations, and that other ways of understanding the Bible were not Christian.

Nevertheless, God has been at work. Many Christian historians, theologians, academics and writers have discussed and developed fuller understandings of the problematic passages. Serious students of the Bible found that the case for equality comes from the Bible while the case for patriarchy comes from the world. They have uncovered the women preachers, scholars, and Bible interpreters that spoke and wrote in past centuries. Theology schools that previously denied a platform for women writers and speakers realized the benefit of female perspectives in understanding the Bible. Women and men have examined Paul's letters, his relationships with women, his language and context, and seen how Paul promotes equality and interdependence. Starting with a focus on the Bible's overarching message of God's love and redemption helps us to see passages in a new light. Many Bible-believing Christians experienced discontent with traditional Christian teaching and their studies led to seeing the Bible promote mutuality. In short, biblical egalitarian scholarship has come a long way.

### 4. Why do gender roles matter?

Mara, the main character in *Forgotten Followers* is overcoming trauma from authoritarian parents, spiritual and sexual abuse. As I researched the causes, impacts, and means of overcoming this trauma, I read and listened to many women discuss their journeys out of harmful Christian situations. Women and girls were suffering from being in secondary roles, losing their opportunity to get an education, their right to earn a living outside the home, particularly higher-paid roles where they may manage, advise, direct or supervise both men and women. Women and girls were losing their ability to give or withhold sexual consent, their ability to have a say in their own marriage, and most of all, women in hierarchal marriages were more vulnerable to physical, emotional, or sexual abuse. Likewise, men were suffering from being told they were secondary if they acted emotionally, gently, supportive or submissive. Men are encouraged to be emotionally distant, strong, bossy, and mocked as being 'whipped' if they show consideration for their wives. Gender stereotypes may even contribute to gender dysphoria. None of these consequences of gender roles are peripheral issues. They affect the very core of how we love one another. They matter.

5. When researching, what stood out about how women were viewed in the various passages?

I noticed a pattern where the strongest Complementarian arguments stemmed from a small handful of passages while Egalitarian arguments came from a wide variety of passages. Egalitarian sword cards name many examples of women leaders in the Bible, many women as Paul's co-workers, and many passages about God having no favoritism, women and men prophesying, and women and men as co-heirs. Complementarian shield cards defend their position with seeing all of these passages through the lens of the handful of passages, re-quoting the passages that appear to restrict women without reconciling how those passages sit alongside the other biblical passages to form God's word. Seeing how the very same passage can be used to promote opposite viewpoints drives home the need for respectful study and discussion.

6. What advice would you give to those who are uncomfortable with changing their views?

We need to have a respectful, open conversation about the place of women in the Bible and in our churches so that we can work together for the good of everyone. I hope that by seeing the biblical rationale for both egalitarian and complementarian views, we can respect one another as Bible-believing Christians. Ideally, building mutual respect will facilitate a way for all believers to use their God-given gifts to build up the body of Christ. This resource is a non-threatening way to look at other viewpoints and consider whether the Bible encourages equal freedoms and responsibilities.

7. Is there any advice to women specifically as they wrestle with some of these things?

If some of these flashcards resonate with you, you may be able to see how Bible passages have been weaponized against you. I hope that seeing alternate perspectives side by side frees you to see that questioning an interpretation does not mean rejecting the Bible. You are not alone. Others see the Bible as showing God's love and affirmation. If a woman feels she has no voice or is not respected, she must get out of that situation and go to a place where people do listen to her. All human beings are made in God's image, share God's creative qualities, reflect God's personality and are given unique talents and traits. I would encourage women to know they are co-heirs with Jesus and co-heirs with men and that God shows no favoritism and treats us all equally. If you feel threatened, you may need to get an advocate who can help you to perceive things in a different way so that you can get to safety.

8. What questions does The Sword answer?

- why do Christians have diverse and opposing views on a woman's role?
- what is meant by biblical womanhood or biblical manhood?
- why do some Christians limit the roles women may perform? Or insist men fit a certain stereotype?
- how can a Bible-believing Christian support equal opportunities and responsibilities for women?
- how can I have a taste of the interpretations of egalitarian scholars?
- how can Christians support men in a variety of nurturing and non-traditional roles?
- how can we understand passages that seem to limit women because of their gender?

9. Who would enjoy reading *The Sword*?

Anyone who wants to get a taste of another way of understanding the Bible will enjoy this resource. Maybe you:

- hold a firm view and want to understand how your spouse, child, or friend may hold a different view.
- don't want to read lengthy scholastic work that promotes only one view.
- Want to have some fun looking at various ways of seeing the same text
- would like to compare Complementarian and Egalitarian views effortlessly and objectively in one resource.
- are open to discussion and ready for healthy debate on what the Bible says about a woman's role.
- learns by visual, auditory, and physical elements that come with flashcards.
- Appreciate a short sound bite or cue card to help remember biblical interpretations.
- Need to engage and teach youth by using hands-on resources in Christian education.
- Encourage adults to participate in small group discussions.
- Want to work out your stance on the issue of the Bible and gender and your rationale.
- Aim to broaden your understanding of equality, gender, and the Bible.
- Appreciate diverse perspectives and want to build respect for one another.

10. What writing projects are next for you?

I continue to write Christian blogs about biblical interpretation, church history and women in leadership. In 2022 I published *Forgotten Followers from Broken to Bold*, a biblical fiction set in the time of the Gospels. I am writing a ten-session interactive study guide for *Forgotten Followers*. Book 2 in this fiction series about women leaders in the Bible and early church is *Forgotten Apostles from Broken to Bold*. It begins when Stephen is stoned and the believers scatter. Susannah escapes to her Palestinian suppliers in Caesarea and interprets the prophecies. Joanna flees to Antioch and joins an active community of Greek believers. They commission Joanna to travel using her Latin name, Junia, and she becomes an outstanding apostle.