



Transcript for Audio Teaching: [Module 4: Find Your Compass](#)

Hi! This is Stacey. I want to welcome you to the audio lesson for Module 4 from my study journal called Deconstruction: Your Journey in Faith. If you have not yet purchased your copy, you can find it on Amazon. Each section has an accompanying audio file on my website, which is ClarityUnleashed.com. There you will also find opportunities to connect with me for personal coaching. I am also offering an online “small group style” coaching program utilizing the study journal. Without further delay, let’s explore Module 4: Find Your Compass.

Why the compass? When I was in the thick of it with my marriage and trying to decide my next steps I began to see compasses everywhere. I saw them in stores, antique shops, TV, restaurants, everywhere. It was almost comical. But each time I saw one I knew it was a sign for me. A sign that even if I felt lost in my situation, God was going to get me through. He was my compass.

We depend on our compass to get us where we want to go. When we don’t know our way, our compass keeps us from feeling lost and disoriented. What if we look at our denomination as our compass? Our family or marriage? Our career? Well, over time, denominations divide, family dynamics change, and careers come to an end. God is constant. God's constancy is the only compass that will guide us through deconstruction

I have turned to the story of creation to understand God’s intention and purpose for humanity. I am not saying that is the right way to understand my purpose as a woman. But in some faith traditions, Adam and Eve’s failures on those pages are the determining factor for what I can and can’t do within the walls of the church. I see Genesis 1 and 2 much differently now than I did just a few years ago. I hope that after today’s lesson you will feel like something



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DECONSTRUCTION

Your Journey in Faith



A 6-Module Study Journal by
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shifts for you too. The most pivotal moment of my personal deconstruction journey began when I decided to read Genesis 1 and 2 using some of the original vocabulary. I was confused and frustrated about these passages that were being used to keep women from leading in church contexts. As a woman in conservative and evangelical denominations, I was taught that God didn't create women to lead. Eve was created because Adam was lonely. Women were created to fill the role of helpmeet. Just to drive that point home, God used a small part of Adam's body – one rib – to create Eve as Adam's helpmeet. It was almost an afterthought. Creation order and Eve's sin both relegated me to silent, supporting roles in the church.

Meanwhile, there I was, a successful businesswoman and leader during the work week. But when I walked into church on Sunday I had to pack away that part of myself. It might be hard to believe but I did not feel the conflict between the two distinct spheres of my life for years. One day I woke up and decided to investigate the Scriptural passages that relegated women to subordinate roles in the church. Genesis 1:26 reads: "Then God said, 'Let us make humankind in our image, according to our likeness; and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the wild animals of the earth, and over every creeping thing that creeps upon the earth.'"

Many translations use the word "man" to describe the first human instead of "humankind." The Hebrew word is an interesting one. It is 'adam, which actually means humankind or mankind. I don't know about you, but I grew up believing that a man named Adam was God's first creation. There I was, sitting at my desk and seeing Genesis 1:26 with renewed eyesight.



I kept digging. Genesis 2:18 reads:

“Then the Lord God said, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a **helper as his partner.**” Skipping to verse 21: So the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then he took **one of his ribs** and closed up its place with flesh. 22 And **the rib** that the Lord God had taken from the man he made into a woman and brought her to the man.

I’ll press “pause” here to say that “rib” is not the best translation either. This Hebrew word means something much larger. It’s an architectural word that also describes the supportive sides of temples. That definitely synchs up in my mind with other verses that refer to human bodies as temples. God puts that first human to sleep and using the architectural definition, God removes the side of the human, and now has 2 humans – one male and one female.

Verse 23 makes even more sense to me within this context:

23 Then the man said,
“This at last is bone of my bones
and flesh of my flesh;
this one shall be called Woman,
for out of Man this one was taken.”

Of course they recognize one another – these two were once united in flesh and bone. Even when separated they recognize each other as counterparts. This is a much different image than the one I grew up visualizing. I want to focus in on another section of the text that is life-affirming for me.

In Genesis 2:18, God says, “It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a **helper as his partner.**” This is a much different translation than the one I grew up with which



used the word “helpmeet” instead of “partner.” Ezer kenegdo is the combination of words used to describes the purpose for what became woman. This word, ezer, is not translated as “helpmeet” any of the other 21 places it is found in Scripture. In fact, it’s most often used to describe how God helps His people.

I lift up my eyes to the hills— from where will my help come?
My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth.
(Psalm 121:1-2, NRSV)

I hope that by knowing God created woman as ezer is significant and affirming. Over the years I have met young women in evangelical churches who clearly have leadership giftings. They are forced with two options. The first option is to bury their gifts in confusion and even shame. The second option is to leave their church to find a welcoming denomination. We may be faced with choices and decisions like these as we navigate our faith journey. I hope you agree with me to do your part to support and encourage all people to step into their gifts, whether it is inside a church building or outside the walls of the church. As I wrap up the audio message for Module 4, I hope you are encouraged to evaluate and test some of the verses that have troubled you in the past. Face them head on. I believe the over-arching message of Scripture is one of empowerment, freedom, and mutuality.