



Dr. Jackie Roese

# lime green

Reshaping Our  
View of Women  
in the Church

# Discussion Guide

## Lime Green - Reshaping Our View of Women in the Church

### Introduction

1. What messages were you taught about the “ideal biblical woman”?
2. How do the messages taught line up with the reality of women’s lives today?
3. In what way, if any, do the messages create division amongst women?
4. In what way(s) have you seen women “police” each other in the Church?
5. What happens when a woman embraces her color?

Irwin McManus, *The Barbarian Way*, “When you understand what Jesus means when He says you must follow Him, you finally realize this is not a cattle call. He is not calling you to the same life everyone else will live. He’s not even calling you to the same path every follower of Christ will walk. You’re unique before God, and your path is yours and yours alone. Where God will choose to lead you and how God chooses to use your life cannot be predicated by how God has worked in the lives of others before you.”

### Chapter One

1. How did God prepare you for “the good works he had for you to do”? (Ephesians 2:10)
2. Share an example of how what was “done in evil” was used for good in your life. (Genesis 50:20)
3. Dr. Roese describes her mother on page 8-9. Can you think of a woman who has “shown” you Jesus? What resulted?
4. Proverbs 18:21 states that “words give life or bring death.” Think of a time when a person’s words gave you life or brought “death.”
5. How would you describe your words? Life or death? Who is one person you can breathe life into this week? (Family, friends, workplace, faith community)

## **Chapter Two**

1. Share a time when you felt you weren't "good enough." What resulted?
2. Think of a time when you were restricted because of your gender (by others or by your own self.) (Refer to page 15.)
3. Do you have any audacious goals? Share.
4. What is one small step you can take towards your audacious goals?
5. In what way, if any, have you been a "received knower?" Explain. (Refer to page 17-18.)

## **Chapter Three**

1. Explain a time when fear and/or comparison buried your talent(s)?
2. Where is the Holy Spirit asking you to invest your talent(s)? What is one deliberate step you can take? What might you need to say yes or no to?
3. Share a time when you saw a "return on your investment of your talent(s)."
4. How, if any, has saying yes to Jesus been costly?
5. The author's God-given path differed from her friends. Think of a time when your God-given path threatened the identity of another? What happened? What resulted? (Refer to page 30.)

## **Chapter Four**

1. The author states, "How we interpret Scripture can be harmful and sometimes downright dangerous for women." Agree? Disagree? Why?
2. The author claimed, "There are legitimate reasons to question, re-examine and at times change our theological position." Can you think of a time when your theological position changed? What was the position? What happened to cause a shift? What result?
3. What, if any, invisible gender lines have you tripped over? What resulted?
4. In what way(s), if any, does the Church's understanding of gendered characteristics affect women's ability to serve alongside their Christian brothers? (Refer to pages 45-50.)
5. Can you think of a time when ministry was collaboration - not competition - between men and women? What resulted?

## Chapter Five

1. Dr. Roese shared several stories and Scriptural references pertaining to her parenting. Which, if any, benefited you most? (Note: Try to apply the concepts to family, friends and co-workers too.)
2. “Jonathan dreamed dreams for David- dreams that David could no longer dream for himself.” (Refer to page 54.) Who’s been a Jonathan in your life? Explain. What resulted?
3. What thoughts or emotions does Carolyn Custis James’ statement evoke? “A romantic-danger narrative splinters and divides, and perhaps more importantly, misrepresents God’s oneness.” (Refer page 61.)
4. On page 66 the author portrays the servant in 1 Corinthians 4:1-2 as an under-rower. Share a time when Jesus asked you to be an under-rower.
5. How is the Holy Spirit asking you to apply James Riley’s definition of *humility* to your life? *Humility is, “the God-given self-assurance that eliminates the need to prove to others the worth of who you are and the rightness of what you do.”* (Refer page 67.)

## Chapter Six

1. The author describes inconsistencies in praxis at her church. What, if any, kind of inconsistencies exist in your local church? (Refer page 70-73.)
2. Think of a time when, “Incarnational relationships—truly knowing and understanding one another in community—changed things.” Explain.
3. In her book, *Lean In*, Sheryl Sandberg writes, “Men at the top are often unaware of the benefits they enjoy simply because they’re men, and this can make them blind to the disadvantages associated with being a woman.” In what ways, if any, have you witnessed “blindness to the disadvantages of others” in your faith community? No names, please. (Refer page 75-77.)
4. Women’s embodied presence, the sharing of diverse stories, the collective study of Scriptures and reading diverse theological points of view, bring change within the local church. Which, if any, have you experienced? Which might you need to be a part of to bring change to your faith community?
5. On page 80 the author addressed the elders’ willingness to tackle women as preachers but not as elders. In light of her story, what do you think are some key elements necessary to bring change in regards to the gender debate?

## Chapter Seven

1. The author shared the pressure of feeling like her success or failure in the pulpit represented all women everywhere. Can you think of a time when you felt your actions represented a larger group? (Refer to page 89.)
2. What thoughts or emotions were invoked when Dr. Roese spoke on the focus of her hair and dress in preparation to preach? Explain. (Refer to 89-91.)
3. In what ways can we women teach our faith communities that, “Our embodied self is not to be feared? (Dress, hair, words, actions etc.) (Refer to 89-91.)
4. The author shared the pain and fear of being criticized by the faith community. In what way, if any, do you need to internalize Jill Briscoe’s advice to her? Explain. (Refer to page 92.)
5. Do you think there is a global movement addressing the injustices of women and girls? Explain. In what ways, if any, can the Church be a part of what God is doing? (Be specific.)

## Chapter Eight

1. Do you agree or disagree with Carolyn Custis James statement that the litmus test for orthodoxy is whether one is a complementarian or egalitarian? Explain. (Refer to pages 99-100.)
2. The author challenges us to expand our view of the Gospel to include the story of a different kind of king (King Jesus) with a different kind of power, creating a different kind of people (kingdom people). How, if any, does her interpretation of the Gospel impact the role of women? (Refer to pages 100-105.)
3. What thoughts or questions arise when you read that Paul’s household codes didn’t confirm some kind of creation order but rather Paul was showing us a trajectory towards true Kingdom living? (Refer to pages 104-106.)
4. The World Bank, Forbes magazine, and an elder in Dallas all acknowledge that families and cultures are healthier when women’s voices are heard. How might this truth benefit the Christian Church? In what ways could we implement it into our local churches? Explain.
5. In what ways, if any, did Dr. Scot McKnight’s statement, “People of the Spirit empowered by the Spirit to live in ways not attainable by ordinary means,” inform our view of women in the Church? Explain.

## Chapter Nine

1. Think of a time when you realized your gender was a liability? Explain.
2. When it comes to our view of women in the Church, the author challenges us to know what the Bible says, to know how it's been interpreted, to read different positions, to understand the arguments, and to pray for clarity from the Spirit (John 16:13). What is one book, article, blog, and/or podcast you recommend we read to become more informed? How can you actively become more informed this week?
3. When addressing your faith community we must avoid the attitude of "I am woman; hear me roar" and instead implement 1 Chronicles 12:33, "And the children of Issachar, who were {women} who had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do..." Where is your faith community in regards to women? What insight might you need? What restraint might you need? What act of prudence might you need to take? What action might you need to take? (Refer to pages 113-114.)
4. What is one progressive organization you can support? What is one way you can create or participate in theological conversations where people become informed? (Refer to page 115-116.)
5. As sisters, we must raise men's awareness about women. To do that, ask yourself: How can you put yourself in places and spaces where male leadership is present? How can you serve with male leadership? Have you asked to attend the leadership meetings?
6. We've journeyed through the author's story, and you've read how the male staff responded. Now what stories can you share?