

## **Women: Symbolic Gestures of Subversion**

### **Description**

Women are not well represented in the Bible. They are either presented as models of virtue or evil. However, a careful reading of some stories like Tamar, Rizpah, and the Levite's concubine betrays a silent subversion of the oppressive system that allows and enables violence against women. We will be exploring these stories to examine the symbolic gestures of women who resist the established patriarchal order.

### **Objectives**

1. Explore the different images of women in the Bible
2. Carefully analyze the stories of Tamar, Rizpah, and the Levite's concubine
3. Explore the symbolic gestures of subversion
4. Explore distinct ways to resist oppression

### **Prerequisite**

Basic knowledge of biblical characters in the Bible

### **Requirements**

Participants are highly encouraged to do the weekly readings to understand the discussions.

### **Required Books**

Bible. *New Revised Standard Version*. (or any other version)

### **Social Media Requirement**

Weekly reading assignments, recommended readings, questions, and conversations will be posted on a closed group page on Facebook. Therefore, all participants will need to have a FB page.

### **Teaching Style**

The webinars will be part lecture but mostly interactive discussions.

### **Assumptions about the Bible**

Stories in the Hebrew Bible are not inerrant, historical faith statements but inspired literary narrative. They contain truths that reflect human encounters with the divine, not the definitive experience of God or expression of the ultimate divine will. Therefore, a careful study of the stories will give insights into people's differing theologies and therefore of the human experience.

### **Outline**

1. Roles of Women in Ancient Israel
2. Tamar, Absalom's Sister
3. Rizpah
4. Levite's Concubine