

THE JOURNEY

From Education to Career

Journey from Higher Education to Career Selection and Settlement: A Scriptural Guide for Young Women

Embarking on a journey from higher education to career selection and eventual settlement can be both exciting and daunting for young women. As you navigate this path, let the stories of Ruth, Naomi, and Esther inspire and guide you. Their journeys reflect resilience, faith, and purpose, offering valuable lessons that remain relevant in today's corporate world.

Step 1: Embrace Your Education

Your educational experience is the foundation of your future. Whether you're pursuing a degree, certification, or specialized training, recognize its value. Stay informed. Embrace the monotony.

Biblical Insight: Ruth's journey begins with loyalty and hard work. In Ruth 1:16 (NIV), she declares to Naomi, "Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay." Similarly, commit to your education with the same determination and willingness to learn.

You may be independent, but remember to esteem a mentor that you respect and trust. The experience of others can serve as a guide, and keep you going strong. That indicator will be relevant even in your own personal journey, "there is nothing new under the sun" (Ecclesiastes 1:9)





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Corporate Trend

With the rise of digital transformation, industries increasingly seek candidates with technical skills. Prioritize gaining knowledge in areas like data analytics, artificial intelligence, micro-learning and digital marketing to stay competitive. This also opens the door for a side hustle. Go to <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/>, the Occupational Outlook Handbook; you'll find career salaries for your field, a great resource for career data.

Step 2: Identify Your Passion and Purpose

Discover where your interests intersect with your skills. Reflect on what you are passionate about and how you can contribute positively to the workplace, world, and others around you. Remember that you may be called into your own business, so gain acumen in financial trends also.

Biblical Insight: Esther's courage demonstrates the importance of purpose. In Esther 4:14 (NIV), Mordecai reminds Esther of her uniqueness, and of her role as queen, that was vital to the kingdom at the time- this was the very reason she was selected; for her overwhelming influence towards the king. This influence inevitably changed policies and laws that favored Ester's people.

Corporate Trend:

Employers today value candidates with a strong personal brand. Leverage social media to convey your passions and connect with like-minded professionals. Speak about how you, not only fit in, but how you are needed. Speak about how you are great with "data storytelling" etc. Use platforms like LinkedIn to share your journey and insights. Highlight your accomplishments.

A photograph of three young Black women with curly hair, laughing and smiling together in what appears to be an office or professional setting. They are dressed in casual business attire. The woman in the center is wearing a dark blazer over a brown top and blue jeans. The woman on the left is wearing a yellow top and a plaid shirt. The woman on the right is wearing a white top.

Step 3: Network and Build Relationships

Networking is crucial. Reach out to mentors, professors, and industry professionals . Attend seminars, workshops, and webinars to broaden your connections.

Biblical Insight: Naomi's relationship with Ruth is foundational. Their mutual support exemplifies the power of relationships. Proverbs 27:17 (NIV) states, "As iron sharpens iron, so one person sharpens another." Seek mentors who can guide you and peers who can support your journey. Avoid those you dim your light, and compete with your progress; avoid them at all cost.

Corporate Trend:

Networking isn't just face-to-face anymore. Virtual networking events and online communities have grown significantly. Engage with these platforms to build relationships without geographical limitations, increasing your potential job opportunities. Always be ready to elevate your role. Stay informed with career trends by creating a secondary Instagram page. Don't post, only follow career based accounts. This drives your focus and targets the information you desire.

Step 4: Gain Experience

PURSUE INTERNSHIPS, VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES, OR PART-TIME POSITIONS THAT ALIGN WITH YOUR CAREER ASPIRATIONS. GAINING EXPERIENCE NOT ONLY ENHANCES YOUR RESUME BUT ALSO HELPS YOU UNDERSTAND WORKPLACE DYNAMICS. TAKE FREE COURSES ONLINE.

BIBLICAL INSIGHT: RUTH NOT ONLY REMAINED LOYAL TO NAOMI BUT ALSO ACTIVELY SOUGHT OPPORTUNITIES IN BOAZ'S FIELDS. THIS IS WHERE SHE WAS FIRST RECOGNISED FOR HER PROMOTION. (RUTH 2:2, NIV). BE PROACTIVE AND WILLING TO START FROM THE GROUND UP; THIS COMMITMENT WILL LEAD YOU TO GREATER POSITIONS OF INFLUENCE. "DO NOT DESPISE THESE SMALL BEGINNINGS, FOR THE LORD REJOICES TO SEE THE WORK BEGIN...." ZECHARIAH 4:10

CORPORATE TREND:

MANY COMPANIES PRIORITIZE APPRENTICESHIPS AS A PATHWAY TO EMPLOYMENT. SEEK ROLES THAT OFFER HANDS-ON TRAINING, AS THIS PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE IS OFTEN VALUED MORE THAN THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE. EVEN WITH A PRESTIGIOUS EDUCATION YOU CAN BE VOID OF THE PRACTICAL FIELDWORK THAT IS ESTABLISHED BY EXPERIENCE.

Step 5: Faith and Decision-Making

Once you have gathered experience and insight, it's time to make decisions about your career path. Pray for wisdom and discernment.

Biblical Insight: Esther faced a life-altering decision that required faith and courage. In Esther 4:16 (NIV), she asks her people to pray for her as she prepares to approach the king. Similarly, seek counsel through prayer and trusted advisors before making significant career decisions. Ester embarked upon an assignment that was quite hit or miss, to say the least, but with resolve she took a chance endowed with courage, and attained victory.

Corporate Trend:

Employers today are looking for confidence and clarity in candidates. Being well-prepared and knowledgeable about your field will set you apart in interviews and discussions. Decide on a niche, a particular piece of your field that you are willing to acquire top knowledge and learn how to explain it to others. Your perception of your expertise, by others, is just as valuable as your actual skill of it.

Step 6: Transition to Your Career

Once you have made your choice, embrace the transition into your new career path. This may involve relocating or adjusting to a corporate culture.

Biblical Insight: Like Ruth, who left her homeland for a new life, be bold in facing this possible transition. Also, embrace adaptations as Esther did when she found herself within another ethnic environment (Esther 2:10).

Corporate Trend:

Companies are increasingly focusing on employee well-being and work-life balance. Choose organizations that align with your values and offer a supportive environment. Interview companies just as well as they interview you. Learn the players and the unwritten rules.

Step 7: Settle in Faith

Finally, as you settle into your career, remember the importance of maintaining faith and integrity. The journey may not always be smooth, but your commitment to serving others and staying true to your values will guide you through. Here, is where temptation to compromise can enter.

Biblical Insight: Ruth's position as the great-grandmother of David signifies that faithfulness can lead to great rewards. In Ruth 4:17 (NIV), "The women said to Naomi: 'Praise be to the Lord, who this day has not left you without a guardian-redeemer.'" Allow God's blessings to unfold in your life as you remain steadfast in your work. Once you arrive, pour into others, tell them about your challenges and how you endured through it all. Praise the Lord for His marvelous work He has done in your education and career.

Corporate Trend:

Adaptability is key. Be prepared to continue learning and evolving in your career. Emerging fields require ongoing education and flexibility, and those who embrace change will find greater opportunities.

In summary, the journey from higher education to career is not merely a series of steps but a path of purpose and faith. Let the biblical examples of Ruth, Naomi, and Esther inspire your journey as you blend your ambitions with God's plan. Embrace your educational experiences, commit to your values, and remain open to the opportunities that await you. God bless you.