

No Ordinary Woman

Dr. Lida Earhart had a reputation for giving her best to any task she undertook. It was that kind of diligence and pursuit of excellence that led to her being the first woman at Columbia University to attain the full rank of professor.

After she retired, she moved to Washington, D.C., and became a parishioner at the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church. One day, a member of the church women's association asked Dr. Earhart to give a talk on the Book of Job during one of the upcoming monthly meetings. She agreed.

No doubt, the person who extended the invitation was anticipating the basic, run-of-the-mill presentation, but she really didn't know Lida Earhart.

Dr. Earhart studied the Book of Job for two months. She researched the archaeological features of the time of Job and his contemporaries, and read numerous commentaries and analysis by biblical scholars. She deeply pondered the book's theme. The result was a presentation that people were still talking about many years later.

What was amazing to her pastor was that she had done all that work for "an ordinary church meeting." Dr. Earhart, however, didn't know the meaning of *ordinary*.

Leaders are made out of ordinary people who choose to go beyond the ordinary to the extraordinary. That's what sets them apart and makes them leaders.

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might (Ecclesiastes 9:10).

– Beecher Hunter