

SDG – Lesson #1

An Introduction to Great Women of the Bible

Introduction

The Christian faith began with the birth of Jesus at a time when Hebrew and Roman cultures intersected. Hebrew society was patriarchal and revolved around the male figures. Roman society, highly influenced by the Greeks, was polytheistic and viewed women as the weaker sex and often as objects of pagan worship and sexual desire. Jesus' treatment of women differed dramatically from these societies. Read the following verses. How did Jesus treat women? How did He interact with them? What did He do for them? What special role or significance did they have in His ministry?

Luke 8:1-3

Luke 10:38-42

John 4:25-26

Matthew 9:20-22

Luke 7:37-50

Luke 18:15-16

Luke 7:12-15

John 8:4-8

If Jesus had a high regard for women, you would expect His disciples and the early Church to follow in His footsteps. What do the following verses reveal?

Acts 12:12-15

1 Corinthians 11:11-15

Acts 1:12-14

Acts 9:36-42

Acts 16:13

Acts 16:14-15

Acts 18:26

Acts 21:9

2 John 1

Revelation 19:7

Philippians 4:2-3

Romans 16:1

2 Timothy 1:5

If Jesus, the Apostles and the Early Church viewed women as sister's in Christ, fellow workers in the kingdom and called them disciples as well then shouldn't we do the same? This Bible study is devoted to the glory of God. With this particular group of lessons, we give Him glory and thank Him as we look at some of the great women in the Bible; great examples of faith that God has given us.

SDG Lesson #2

Great Women of the Bible- *Eve*

Read Genesis chapters 1-3 and answer the following questions.

1. In Genesis 1:27, we read that God created man in His own image. Does this apply to women as well? Provide a Biblical foundation for your answer.

2. Regardless of how you answered the first question it has been said that Eve was created in God's image because of one of God's characteristics. Read Revelation 1:8 and 22:13. Consider Eve's place in the creative order. How could this be used to say that she was created in the image or likeness of God? (Yes, this is a challenge question?)

3. How was the creation of Eve different from that of Adam? Different from the rest of that which was created?

4. Since mankind was created in God's image, and God is the Creator, it could be said that mankind is the supreme species. What verse from the creation account backs this up?

5. Read 1 Corinthians 11:7. How is man the “glory of God?” (Psalm 8:5-8) How is the woman the glory of man?

Man was created by God out of the dust of the earth to have dominion over the created order. When man does this well, glory is given to the Creator who put it into order. Woman/Eve was created or formed by God using a rib from Adam. She is the glory of man in two ways.

A. She is beautiful. Since she comes from man’s rib, that beauty is a reflection of man from whom she came.

B. Since she was created as a helper for man, when she does it well, she is also the glory of man; something very good came from Him.

6. What is the physical description of Eve? What is said about her in Genesis 2:19? What does this tell us about the beauty of Eve and all women?

7. What did Adam call God’s female creation? Why?

8. What is this feminine creature referred to as being in both Genesis 2:24-25? What can we learn from this? How does this impact our society today?

9. Let's take this one step further. According to Genesis 2:18, why did God create a woman? What does this say about marriage? What does this say about being created in the image of God?

10. Consider the phrase, "a helper fit for him (2:18)" as you read 2:18-19. What did God do in these verses? Why?

11. Where did the woman finally get her name?

12. That is a pretty special name, and yet, how many times is it used in the Bible? What do we learn in each verse? Why did she do this?

You might think that we have reached the end of the study since we have seen every verse that speaks of Eve directly. That's not the case. Now we will search the scriptures to see what we can learn from Eve and how we can apply to our lives today.

13. Looking back at the creation account, what part did Adam play in the creation of Eve? What does this emphasize?

How should this impact a husband's view of his wife? (James 1:17)

Why would God use a rib to form woman? Why not a part of his head?
Or a part of his foot or hand?

Jesus actually incorporated this part of the creation account into His teaching. What do we learn about the relationship between husband and wife within Matthew 19:4-6? Why would Jesus make the last statement He did in verse 6?

14. In our study we have seen that:
- A. Adam was created first and Eve was created second.
 - B. Adam was created as the head of the family and Eve as the helper
 - C. Adam was created to be a father and Eve to be a mother
 - D. Man is not complete without woman and woman is not complete without man
 - E. While created different and differently both are equal as God refers to "them" as "man or Adam."

This leads us to a unique aspect of the Bible. We live in an either/or environment. So, we look at things from that perspective. You are either liberal or conservative, republican or democrat. The Bible often speaks in a "this/and" fashion. Man is head and equal; Eve is helper and equal. What was Eve's and women's role as an equal and yet helper? Read the following verses and answer that question.

Ephesians 5:22-24

Colossians 3:18

1 Peter 3:1-6

1 Corinthians 14:34-35

1 Timothy 2:11-15

These verses are often misquoted and misused. First of all, they must be taken in context. Read Ephesians 5:25-33. What does Paul say about man/the husband? Note the amount of time or number of verses Paul uses to address the women and the men.

How does this impact the call for women to be submissive to their husband?

Subordination is often seen as a negative word. Yet, it is a critical part of the creation account when it is placed in the totality of scripture. Remember both male and female are referred to as “man or Adam.” Together they are created in the image of God. Return to 1 Cor. 11:1-3 and complete the following chart to see this image more clearly.

The head of the wife is her _____

The head of the husband is _____

The head of Christ is _____

Being subject to something above you is truly a Christ-like characteristic. And yet... Read John 10:30. What do we see? What does this mean for men and women; husband and wife?

Return to 1 Timothy 2:15. What great honor is given to women? (see also Genesis 3:15)

15. Finally, let's look at the fall. Who or what did the tempting or deceiving? (Be careful, make sure your answer agrees with what is written)

16. What do we learn about this tempter in Rev. 12:9 & 20:2?

17. What else do we know about this deceiver? (Isaiah 14:12-15; Ezekiel 28:12-19)

18. What was the tempters opening line of temptation? What can we learn from this?

In what two ways did this opening line invite a response from Eve?

Why would the deceiver do this?

What can we learn from this? (James 4:7; 2 Cor. 6:14-17)

19. How did Eve respond? Compare this to Genesis 2:15-17. What do you notice? Explain how this could be?

20. How did the tempter respond Eve? What can we learn from this?

21. Why would Eve want to know the difference between good and evil?

22. Compare, “When the woman saw that the tree was good...” with 1 John 2:16.

23. So, what are we to do? (2 Cor. 10:5)

SDG Lesson #3
Great Women of the Bible-*Sarai/Sarah*

1. What is the first thing that is said about Sarai in the Bible?
(Genesis 11:29)

What is the second thing that is said? (Genesis 11:30)

2. What does the name Sarai mean?

3. What is the third thing said about Sarai in the Bible? (Gen 12:5)

4. Read Genesis 17:17. What do we learn about the ages of Abram and his wife?

5) What is the fourth thing said about Sarai in the Bible?
(Genesis 13:11-12)

6. What did this attribute lead Abram to do? Why?

7. There is something very remarkable about the account you just read. Review your answers to the last 3 questions then read Genesis 12:4. What makes these events quite remarkable?

8. It has been said that “beauty is in the eye of the beholder.” Therefore, Abram as a good husband was over-reacting in his request of Sarai as they entered Egypt. What abrogates such a claim or thought?

9. The Egyptian account is not an isolated event. Read Genesis 20. When else did Abraham and Sarah do a similar thing? What eventually happened?

10. Abraham is known as the “treat patriarch of the Hebrew people. Some might say that he doesn’t deserve the title because he was a liar. Was he? (Genesis 20:12)

11. On the other hand, others may point to Leviticus 18:6-18 and 20:17-21 and claim that Abraham should not be regarded so highly. Why? Is there any rational excuse for Abraham’s behavior/marriage?

12. Abraham and Sarah are both commended for their faith in Hebrews Chapter 11. What required faith:

Hebrews 11:8? _____

Hebrews 11:11? _____

13. Yet, Sarai was not always faithful. Read Genesis 15:1-6. What had God promised to Abram?

Read Sarai's response in Genesis 16:1-3. What was Sarai's answer to God's promise that didn't seem to be fulfilled?

What did this action immediately lead to? (Gen. 16:4)

What was another outcome of this action? (Gen. 16:5)

How did Abram respond to this? Sarai?

How old was Abram when all this occurred? (Gen. 16:15)

14. Up to this point you have seen a duality in the names of Abram/Abraham and Sarai/Sarah. When and why were the names changed? (Gen. 17)

15. Genesis 17 begins by saying that Abram was 99 years old which would have made Sarai 90. Yet in verse 17, Abraham says he is 100 and Sarah is 90. Explain this discrepancy. (Gen.17:21)

16. Also, at the beginning of chapter 17, God reveals Himself with a new name, “El Shaddai,” which means “God Almighty.” What characteristic of God does this name emphasize? How does this fit into the message of this chapter?

17. Sarah also gives us a glimpse into marriage. Read Genesis 18:9-15. How does she refer to her husband Abraham?

Read 1 Peter 3:1-6. How does Peter use this occasion and the actions of other holy women to define how a wife should act in a marriage?

What does Peter say about husbands and wives in 1 Peter 3:7? Is this offensive?

18. In the same verses that Sarah gives as this glimpse into marriage she also gives us a lesson in our spiritual failings. What was Sarah’s spiritual struggle? How was this expressed?

What was the LORDs response to this expression?

What was Sarah’s response to this?

What should we learn from this? (1 John 1:9)

Did Sarah laugh? How do we know? (Genesis 21:1-7)

6. What is truth? (John 18:37-38; John 14:6)

7. What is the great truth about our salvation? (Ephesians 2:8-9)

8. Remarkably, when we consider this great truth, we find the name of Rahab the prostitute popping up again in scripture. Why does James refer to her in James 2:25-26?

Rahab, ancestor of King David, ancestor of Christ, mentioned on God's Hall of Fame of Faith, used as an example of true faith and Rahab a pagan, gentile prostitute. Wow! Read Joshua 2 and Joshua 6:1-25 for her story.

9. First, let's set the stage or put these readings into context. What had happened in the following verses?

Exodus 13:17-22? _____

Numbers 13, 14:5-12; 30-38? _____

Joshua 1:1-2? _____

10. What did Joshua do in 2:1? How did he do it? Why did he do it this way? What additional information do we find in 2:23-24?

11. Why would the spies go to Rahab the prostitute?

12. Read Proverbs 12:22, Titus 1:2 and 1 Samuel 15:29. What do we learn from these verses?

13. What did Rahab do in 2:4b-5? Can you justify this?

14. What did Rahab obviously know? (Compare verse 1 to 4a and verse 6) Why was this important?

Consider again verse 6 and then look at verse 15. Why was Rahab the prostitute a perfect person to go to for the spies?

15. What did Rahab reveal to the spies about the people of Jericho? Why was this so?

16. What did Rahab reveal about herself? Why was this so? Compare your answer to your last answer. What do you notice? What can we learn from this? (Romans 1:19-22)

17. What did Rahab ask of the spies? Why?

18. What is meant by a sure sign? What sure sign was given? What can we learn from this? (Matthew 5:33-37)

19. What safety measure was put into place so that Rahab would receive what she asked for? Do you see any symbolism in this?

20. The spies told Joshua everything. What was Joshua's ultimate response? (Joshua 6:22-23)

21. What eventually became of Rahab? (6:25)

SDG Lesson #5
Great Women of the Bible -*Hannah*

1 Samuel 1 & 2

1. To understand more fully the significance of what you have read in the first two chapters of 1 Samuel we need to dissect the genealogy given in the first verse. What do we know about Elkanah from this verse?

Read 1 Chronicles 6:16-27. What additional information does this give us concerning Elkahah.

What were the jobs of the sons of Kohath? (Numbers 3:30-31)

What other famous biblical characters were Kohathites? (1 Chron. 6:2-3)

The tabernacle was a portable house of worship. Eventually, it took up permanent residence in Shiloh and then Jerusalem where it was replaced by the temple. What additional responsibility was given to the Kohathites at that time? (1 Chron. 6:28-33)

What else do we know about the three clans that make up the Levites? Numbers 18:20

Numbers 18:24-32

2. We need to make one more exploration of scripture to complete our picture of the land of Israel at the time of Hannah. Who were the priests at the tabernacle? (Vs. 3)

What else do we know about these men? (1 Sam 2:13-16)

1 Samuel 2:22

1 Samuel 4:1-11

3. What does the name Hannah mean?

4. What information do we learn about Hannah in verse 2?

5. What do we learn about Elkanah and his family in:

Verse 3? _____

Verse 4? _____

Verse 5? _____

Verse 6? _____

6. What other great woman of the Bible suffered similar conditions?

7. We have already seen that Elkanah tried to make Hannah feel better by giving her a double portion. What else did he do? (vs. 8)

8. It is often said that in the worst of times people's best character rises to the top. How did Hannah handle her distress?

9. What is a vow? What was Hannah's vow?

10. What is meant by the phrase, "no razor shall touch his head?" (Numbers 6:1-9)

11. Carefully look at verse 12. Hannah didn't just pray. What Biblical thing did she do? (1 Thess. 5:17; Luke 18:1-8)

What did this look like?

12. Eli, the high priest, saw Hannah praying. What did he assume? Why?

13. We see a couple of more godly traits in Hannah's response to Eli. In her own words she was experiencing great anxiety and vexation. In the midst of that, Eli accuses her of being drunk. What godly traits are evident in her response?

14. How did Eli respond to this?

15. Why would Hannah respond with the words, "Let your servant find favor in your eyes?"

16. After praying and talking with Eli, what did Hannah do? Why? What can we learn from this? (1 Peter 5:7)

17. Hannah had a son and named him Samuel. Why?

18. Why didn't Hannah go with Elkanah for the yearly sacrifice?

19. What was meant when Elkanah said, "only, may the LORD establish His word?"

20. Look carefully at Hannah's discussion with Eli in verses 25-28. How did Hannah describe her action? What is meant by this?

21. Look also at Hannah's prayer in chapter 2. Compare this to Mary's words in Luke 1:39-55. What do you notice? What can we learn from this?

22. What do we learn about Hannah and Samuel's relationship in 2:19? Hannah & Eli?

23. What became of Hannah? (2:21)

SDG Lesson #6

Great Women of the Bible-*Mary the Mother of Jesus*

With this lesson we will explore one of the most interesting individuals in the Bible. Mary, the mother of Jesus, is someone we should hold in high esteem. After all, of all the women ever born to mankind, only Mary was singled out to fulfill the prophecy of the coming Messiah. And yet, it is that same distinction that many have taken and used to transform Mary into a deified individual who:

- A. Is a living vessel of God's grace to all mankind for all time.
- B. Is the queen of heaven.
- C. Is mankind's mediator before God.
- D. Is and was a perpetual virgin.
- E. Is a co-redemptrix with Christ Himself.
- F. Never died but was taken directly to heaven.
- G. Was sinless.

Over the years there have been several claims of Mary visions or apparitions. Such purported visions have led to a road closure because of a supposed image on an overpass wall and the auction of a grilled-cheese sandwich for \$24,000 because it had a "supernatural image" of Mary in the toast marks on it. Even Pope John Paul II had an M for Mary embroidered on his official papal garments and left the Roman Catholic Church and its care to Mary.

That's quite a list and a very dangerous one at that. Therefore, we will take a look at a few scriptures to set the record straight before looking directly at Mary.

1. Read Revelation 19:10. What happened in this verse? What lesson can we learn from this?

2. Read Luke 11:27-28. What happened in this verse? What lesson can we learn from this?

3. Read Matthew 13:55. What can we learn about Mary from this verse? (See also Matthew 1:25)

4. Read Luke 1:46, the first verse of Mary's song which is called the Magnificat. What can we learn about Mary from her own words?

5. Read 1 Timothy 2:5. How does this verse impact our beliefs about Mary?

6. Read Acts 4:11-12. How does this verse impact our beliefs about Mary?

7. Perhaps the best way for us to understand who Mary was and what her role in God's divine plan for our salvation is, is to look at what Mary said about herself. Read Luke 1:38. What role did Mary see for herself?

8. Read the genealogies in Matthew 1:1-16 and Luke 3:23-38 and answer the following questions:

A. Why is there a difference in the genealogies? _____

B. Where do the two genealogies start from? (Remember, the beginning of a genealogy is found at its end) Why are they done this way? _____

C. Both genealogies trace a path through King David. Why is this important? _____

D. What great women are found in the genealogies?

9. The name Mary is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew name Miriam which is thought to mean “bitter.” What was Mary’s hometown? (Luke 1:26) Why might this lead to bitterness? (John 1:45-46)

10. According to Luke 1:27; Mary was a virgin betrothed or engaged to Joseph. This engagement was a legal agreement called “Kiddushin.” Under this arrangement, their engagement was legally binding and could only be broken by a legal divorce. A “Kiddushin” lasted for one full year to show the couples fidelity to each other. According to Matthew 5:31-32. What are the legal grounds for a divorce?

11. Read Matthew 1:18-19. What was Joseph planning to do? Why? Why is this fitting for someone named Mary? Why didn’t Joseph follow through with his plan?

12. What else do we learn about Mary's family in Luke 1:36?

13. "Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country." Why? (Luke 1:39-45)

14. Elizabeth blessed Mary. Why? (Luke 1:45)

15. How else did God use Mary's experience with Elizabeth to build up her faith?

16. In a previous lesson we saw that Mary's song of praise, the Magnificat, is very similar to Hannah's Song. It is filled with statements that are founded in Old Testament Scriptures. This reveals that Mary was a well-versed and well-read student of the scriptures. Match the following Bible passages with phrases from Mary's Song. The first one is done for you.

Scripture:

Phrase:

Isaiah 61:10

My soul magnifies the Lord.

1 Samuel 2:2

Psalms 111:9

1 Samuel 1:11

Isaiah 12:2 _____
 Psalm 103:11 _____
 Isaiah 52:10 _____
 Job 34:24 _____

 Psalm 105:6-9 _____

 Psalm 89:10 _____

 Genesis 30:13 _____
 Psalm 34:2 _____
 Isaiah 61:10 _____
 Psalm 107:9 _____

When you think back to the beginning of this lesson and remember how some people spend a great deal of time and energy in the veneration of Mary, it would appear that it would be good for them to study Mary's Song. Mary gave glory to god and only to God.

17. After the birth of Jesus, the Gospels speak very little about Mary. The first time was forty days after His birth. (Luke 2:22-38) What did Mary learn from this experience? (vss. 34-35)

The second was when Jesus was 12 years old. (Luke 2:41-51) What do we learn about Mary from these verses?

The third was at the very beginning of Christ's ministry, about 30 years after His birth. (John 2:1-12) what two things did Mary do in this account? Why?

The fourth is found in Mark 3:20-35. Why did Mary go to Jesus on this occasion? How did Jesus respond?

The fifth is found in John 19:25-27 at the cross of Jesus. We have already seen that Mary cherished and pondered things in her heart. It was Simeon who told her that a sword would pierce her soul. At this time, it is quite certain that she was feeling it. What did Jesus do for her?

The final mention of Mary is found in Acts 1:12-14. What was Mary doing?

SDG Lesson #7

Great Women of the Bible -Anna

Luke 2:36-38

You might look at the Scripture reference for Anna and think, “this is going to be a very short lesson; there can’t be much in only three verses.” However, Luke, in his typical fashion, has packed a fair amount of information into these three verses. To get the full impact of what he records it might be helpful to also read the eleven verses leading up to it. The first thing we will deal with in this study is the setting of the event described. It is very early in the first century. This was a special time in Jerusalem and throughout the Promised Land. It was a time that had been prophesied. Read Daniel 9:24-27.

1. What was decreed in verse 24? What was the purpose of this decree?

It should be noted that this portion of Daniel is written in Aramaic, the native language of the Jewish people in the first century. While most translations read “seventy weeks” the actual Aramaic reads “seventy sevens.” Daniel’s prophecy is about seventy sevens or four hundred and ninety somethings. What are these? Look carefully at verse 25 where a clue is given. What is this clue?

Read Ezra 7:12-26 who made such a decree? When did this happen?

So, a decree was made to rebuild Jerusalem and seventy-sevens later atonement would be made. Seventy-sevens is obviously a reference to time. But what type of time? At the time of Daniel time was limited to times of day, such as morning, midday, evening and nit, days, weeks or years. For first century Jews there was only one possible time that Daniel was talking about. What was it? Why?

Now, here's the challenge: Using the time frame you just identified, add 490 of them to the date of the decree that was given for the rebuilding of Jerusalem. What do you come up with? (If you didn't find the date of the decree, it was given by Artaserxes in 458 B.C.)

What do you know about this time in history?

The result was that first century Jews who knew their scriptures were anticipating the arrival of the Messiah who had been prophesied.

2. Now let's add a little something to that. Read Luke 2:25-26. What else had been revealed concerning the promised Messiah?

3. Luke 2:27 begins, "and he (Simeon) came in the spirit into the temple." What is meant by this phrase?

4. Since Simeon was in the Spirit, what was he able to do? What did this result in?

5. We've taken quite a journey to establish that the people of Israel had good cause to be excited about the coming Messiah. But, were they really expecting it? Did they really understand all this timing stuff? Read Luke 3:15. What does Luke record?

6. Now that we've established the setting of our study we can move forward with our study of Anna. What is the first thing said about her? What does this mean?

Who else holds this title in the Scriptures? What did each do?
Exodus 15:20-21; Numbers 12:1-14

Judges 4 & 5

Proverbs 31:1

2 Kings 22:8-10; 2 Chron. 34:22-28

Isaiah 8:3

Nehemiah 6:14

Revelation 2:20-23

7. Who was Anna's father? What tribe was she from? Why is this significant?

8. Challenge question! How old was Anna? (There are two possible answers)

9. Living as a widow was very difficult. What did Paul say about widows in 1 Timothy 5:14?

What did James say regarding widows in James 1:27?

10. To live as long as Anna did without a husband is pretty remarkable. Women had few rights and were dependent on their husbands and/or sons to provide for them. We get a little clue to how Anna survived in the second half of verse 27. What is said about her? What does this mean? (Nehemiah 13:7-9 might help with this question)

11. What is said about Anna's lifestyle?

12. This takes us back to the beginning of this lesson. First century Jews were anticipating the coming of the Messiah. It is not hard to imagine that Anna prayed for this. Since she was in the temple night and day, she

must have known Simeon and the revelation given to him. Notice the miracle that Luke records, “And coming up at that very hour.” What hour was that?

13. How did Anna the prophetess respond to this?

SDG Lesson #8
Great Women of the Bible - *The Samaritan Woman*

John 4:1-42

The account of Jesus and the Samaritan Woman at the well is only found in the Gospel of John. It is found in a unique position. John relates how Jesus brought the Gospel message to Nicodemus, a respected Jewish religious leader in 3:1-21, then to the Samaritan woman in 4:1-42, and finally to a Roman official in 4:46-54. John is clearly showing us that the Gospel is to be taken to all people. And yet, his handling of the Samaritan woman and Jesus at the well is fully 42 verses long. This is more than the other two accounts combined. Obviously, John felt that this event was of great importance. So, we will carefully study these verses to find the teachings and lessons that John set such a high priority on.

1. John's high regard for this event begins with the first four verses. Where was Jesus? Where was He going? Why was He going there? How did He get there? What is the significance of this?

NOTE: Samaritans

The Samaritans were seen as half-breeds. They were the descendants of the northern tribes who were left after the Assyrian conquest of Israel in 722 B.C. Few Israelites remained after these battles. Those who did intermarried with their pagan conquerors as well as other pagan ethnic groups that the Assyrians allowed to move in. This resulted in a syncretistic religion that blended aspects of Judaism with paganism. The Samaritans worshipped on Mt. Gerizim where they had built a temple to rival the temple in Jerusalem. The Samaritan religion did accept the Pentateuch, the first five books of the Old Testament but they rejected all other Jewish scripture. They included the writings and beliefs of their pagan cultures/religions in their worship. This worship was led by a defiled priesthood and not by the Levites. By the time of Nehemiah (450 B.C.) the Samaritans were seen as an evil influence on the Jewish people. (Nehemiah 13:23-31)

2. John records, “He came to a town of Samaria called Sychar, near the field that Jacob had given to his son.” What is the importance of this place? (Genesis 12:1-7; 33:18-20; Joshua 24:32)

3. When did Jesus get to this plot of land? Why is this important?

4. What do we read about Jesus’ condition in verse six? What important doctrine does this support?

5. What two important facts can we take from Jesus' request, "give me a drink?"

6. How does this woman's response to this request validate your previous answer?

7. In our English translations Jesus' words, "give Me a drink," sounds quite demanding. How do we know it was a request and not a command?

8. What is the gift of God, that Jesus speaks about? (Eph. 2:8-9)

9. What was Jesus indicating when He said, "If you knew who it is that is saying to you...?"

10. What did Jesus say He could give the woman? What is meant by this? (Zech. 14:8; Isaiah 1:16-18; John 7:38-39)

11. Living water is a deep concept. How did the woman show that she didn't understand it? What was she thinking it was?

12. As we saw earlier in this lesson, the Jewish people were racist when it came to the Samaritans. Were the Samaritans equally racist? Support your answer.

13. How did Jesus transition the conversation from the physical to the spiritual?

14. Did the woman understand this transition? Support your answer.

15. Jesus made a major shift in the conversation in verse 16. What was this shift? Why did He make it? What can we learn from it?

16. How did the woman respond to Jesus' shift? What was Jesus' response back? How did this effect the woman? Why?

17. What is a prophet? How does this play into the woman's talk about worship?

18. What did the woman contend made worship true? Jesus?

19. What did Jesus mean when He said, "You worship what you do not know"?

20. What did Jesus mean when He said, "We worship what we know for salvation is from the Jews."?

21. What is meant by worshipping in spirit and in truth?

22. The woman's response in verse 25 seems to be a direct challenge to Jesus' statement that the Samaritans didn't know what they worshipped. What did she say that she knew?

SDG – Lesson #9
Great Women of the Bible- *Martha and Mary*

In this week's lesson, we will study two great women of the Bible, Mary and Martha.

1. What does scripture tell us about these women?

John 11:1 _____

John 11:17-19 _____

John 11:5 _____

Luke 10:38 _____

There are three separate accounts in the Scripture that mention these two women. The first appears to have taken place during the beginning of Jesus' ministry and is found in Luke 10:38-42

2. What is the setting of this account? (Luke 10:1-37)

3. The parable of the Good Samaritan is a part of this setting and may play a significant role in our study of Martha & Mary. What prompted Jesus to tell this parable?

4. You will notice that immediately following this parable Jesus and His followers “went on their way.” They entered a village, Bethany, and Martha welcomed Jesus into her house. There is no mention of Jesus preaching or healing in Bethany. For Martha to welcome Him it would appear that this had been pre-arranged or talked about along the way. Perhaps Martha and Mary had been with Jesus at the return of the 72, had heard the parable, heard of Jesus’ intention to go to Bethany and had gone ahead of Him to get things ready. Such a scenario certainly fits well with Luke’s account. To take this idea one step further, what was Martha busy doing? What would this indicate had already been done?

What was the message of the parable?

Jesus said, “go and do likewise.” Why? (James 1:22; 2:17; 2:26)

5. What was Mary doing?

6. How did Martha react to this? Before you answer, read the following scriptures and identify the basic teaching of it.

Romans 14:4 – _____

2 Cor. 10:12 – _____

Now answer the question, how did Martha react?

Up to this point you should have identified two problems with Martha's reaction. There is one more! Look carefully at what Martha said to Jesus. What did Martha say that was truly wrong? Why? (Consider John 11:5)

7. Look at Jesus' response to Martha. It is a rather mild rebuke. We have seen that Martha was wrong on at least three levels. Why would Jesus issue such a mild rebuke? (Consider the parable that Jesus had just told in conjunction with what we know from John 11:5)

8. Jesus said, "one thing is necessary" and followed this up by saying that Mary has chosen the good portion. What is the one thing or good portion? (Psalm 63:1; Psalm 95:6; Romans 12:1)

9. Jesus' own words establishes worship as the highest of all priorities for every Christian's life. This may sound a little foreign to you. Read the following verses and answer the questions that are with each of them.
John 4:23 What does God the Father seek?

John 4:24 How is this to be done? What does this mean?

Ephesians 2:8-9 How are we saved? How are we not saved?

Romans 12:1 What should this lead us to do?

1 Cor. 10:31 Why is this done?

Doctrinal Truth: Works vs. Worship

“It is a danger, even for people who love Christ, that we do not become so concerned with doing things for Him that we begin to neglect hearing Him and remembering what he has done for us. We must never allow our service for Christ to crowd out our worship of Him. The moment our works become more important than our worship, we have turned the true spiritual priorities on their heads.” John MacArthur

10. Notice that Martha’s “much serving” was a distraction. Put together with verse 42 it was a distraction from the “one thing.” What was Martha’s much serving an example of? (James 2:14-26)

Your answer was probably complimentary of Martha and her faith since faith without works is dead. Read Romans 4:1-5. What does this verse say about works and faith?

Keeping these things in mind, complete the following sentence:
Rather than focusing on what Jesus _____, Martha was focused on what she _____.

Doctrinal Truth: His work vs. Our Work

Our sinful nature wants us to believe that what we do is more important than what we believe. However, this is dreadfully wrong. As we have seen, it is faith that justifies and not works. At the same time, faith without works is dead. The challenge for Christians is to keep this in balance. We must never put our works for Christ and His kingdom over His atoning sacrifice for us.

11. Our next two mentions of Martha and Mary come from the Gospel of John. These two events are found in chapters 11 and 12. They are also very closely related. In fact, John uses what happens in chapter 12 to introduce the events of chapter 11. Why would John do this?

12. What had Martha and Mary done? Why? (11:1-3)

13. How did Jesus respond to Martha and Mary?

14. As we have seen before, Jesus loved Martha, Mary and Lazarus (John 11:5). Yet, Jesus didn't immediately go to them. At the same time, Jesus said that what was happening was for the glory of God. What does this tell us about Jesus?

15. What were the reactions of Martha and Mary to the news that Jesus was coming?

16. What great statement of faith did Martha make to Jesus?

17. Jesus told Martha, "Your brother will rise again." Why didn't He just say, "Your brother will rise"?

18. What did Martha think Jesus was talking about? What can we learn from this?

19. Jesus made a series of statements that revolved around His claim that, “I Am the Resurrection and the Life.” He then asked Martha a question. What was it? What was her response?

20. Martha sent for Mary and she came. What was the first thing she did? Why? What did she do next? Why?

21. They went to the tomb and Jesus said, “Take the stone away.” What was Martha’s concern? What does this tell us about her?

22. Lazarus was raised, the Jewish leaders began to plot to kill Jesus (11:45-53), Jesus went into the wilderness (11:54-57) and then returned to Bethany, to the house of Martha, Mary and Lazarus (12:1-8). This the last account of Martha and Mary. What was Martha doing? Not doing?

23. John records, “Mary therefore...” Therefore, implies that something had happened that led to the events that are being recorded. What event led to this therefore? Therefore, Mary did what?

Ironically Martha and Mary’s lives were twice intertwined with the plot to kill Jesus:

1. Because of Lazarus’ resurrection the Jewish religious authorities began to plot against Jesus.
2. Because of Mary’s action with the anointing of Jesus, Judas became disenchanted and began to look for a way to betray Him.

SDG – Lesson #10
Great Women of the Bible- *Mary Magdalene*

1. Mary Magdalene is probably one of the best known or recognizable followers of Christ and also one of the most mis-understood or most maligned of His disciples. What do we actually know about this Mary?

Luke 8:2 _____

Luke 8:3 _____

John 19:25 _____

Mark 15:47 _____

Mark 16:1 _____

Luke 23:55-56 _____

John 20:1 _____

John 20:11-17 _____

John 20:18 _____

2. Consider the last two scriptures you looked up. What led Mary to recognize Jesus? Why?

3. What was Mary's initial reaction to seeing the risen Christ? (John 20:17)

The disciples? (Luke 24:37)

Thomas? (John 20:24-29)

4. Why was Mary called Mary Magdalene? (Matthew 15:39)

5. After looking up the last 14 scripture references you probably have a fairly high opinion of Mary Magdalene. Yet, Mary has been the focus of many myths, conspiracies and false assumptions. Two apocryphal books, (books not in the Bible) lead to much of this. "the Gospel of Mary" is purported to be written by her. "The gospel of Philip" makes her out to be an adversary of Peter. These books have led to much modern-day speculation about Mary and has inspired books like "The DaVinci Code" with it's follow up Hollywood version on the big screen, multiple television documentaries and the elevation of Mary as a spiritual leader in the feminist movement. There are stories about her and Jesus being married, having children and some even claim that Mary is the disciple who Jesus loved in John 20:2 and 21:20. How do we know that this is not true? (John 13:21-25; John 21:20-24).

6. Mary also opens the door for us to explore another topic that has garnered much interest in the last 40 years, demon possession. This has resulted, again, in many books, shows and movies that are highly inaccurate. Look up the following verses, how was demonic possession manifested in each?

Mark 5:1-5 – _____

Matthew 12:22- _____

Mark 9:17-27- _____

Matthew 9:32-33- _____
Mark 1:21-28- _____

Luke 13:10-12- _____

7. There are those, including many within Christianity, that say these individuals were not demon possessed but, rather, they suffered normal physical ailments that first century people didn't understand. How do we know that these were not false diagnoses? (Mark 1:23-25; Luke 4:33-35)

Luke 9:37-43?

8. There is one unique fact about the accounts of those who experienced deliverance from their possession. Read the following passages. What do they have in common besides their deliverance? (Hint: how did they get to Jesus?) Matthew 8:16; 9:32; 12:22; Mark 9:20

Luke 13:10-12 – _____
Mark 1:23-24; Luke 8:28 – _____

Summary: _____

9. To sum up, demoniacs were almost always friendless; sometimes devoted family members would stay with them. Demoniacs were also hopeless. If Christ had not cast out their demons, they would have been oppressed till the day they died. But Christ did cast out the demons from these people and from Mary. What warning does Jesus give concerning the casting out of demons? (Luke 11:24-26)

10. How can this be prevented? (Colossians 3:16)

11. Consider the last half of Colossians 3:16. Why did Mary follow Jesus?

12. Read 1 Peter 2:9-10 and apply it to Mary's life.

13. This brings us full circle and back to our first questions and scriptures. Mary had been demon possessed, but Jesus cast the demons out of her. When His teachings became difficult and others left, she stayed. When He was crucified, she was there. She followed Joseph and Nicodemus to the tomb where they buried Jesus, and she returned to it Easter morning. She was truly a faithful disciple of Christ. What reward did she receive? (Mark 16:9)

SDG – Lesson #11
Great Women of the Bible-*Lydia*

1. Read Acts 16 and refer to the map at the end of this lesson to acquaint yourself with where the activities of this chapter take place. Where was Derbe and Lystra?

2. Where did Paul go next? Why?

3. Where did Paul and his companions want to go next? Where did they go? Why?

4. What happened when Paul got to this new location?

5. Where did Paul and his companions end up? Why did they go there?

6. How is Philippi described?

7. Luke records that they “remained in this city some days.” Why? (Consider 6:13)

8. Luke also records that they went outside of the city gate to the riverside where they supposed there was a place of prayer. Why would they suppose this? (Yes, this is a challenge question!)

9. What did they find at the riverside? What did they do?

10. Now we begin our study of Lydia. But, this is also where things get a little fun! Where was Lydia from? Look back at the map at the end of the lesson and find this place. Where was it located?

11. Refer back to question #2. Why is this ironic?

12. What do we know about Lydia besides her hometown?

13. Just as our last study of Mary led us to a study of demon possession, Lydia will lead us into a study of conversion. Why did Lydia pay attention to what was said by Paul?

*It should be noted that Lydia didn't just pay attention to Paul. The Greek words used here mean she was listening intently with rapt attention.

14. It has become popular within modern Christianity to say things like:

- A. I accepted Jesus
- B. I asked Jesus into my heart
- C. I decided for Christ
- D. I found Christ

Read John 6:44. What does Jesus say about that?

Read John 6:65; remember, this is Jesus talking. What does He again say about this?

Why would Jesus say this? (Romans 8:7-8; 1 Corinthians 2:14)

To put it another way, what does the prophet Jeremiah say about this in Jeremiah 13:23?

What do we learn about repentance from Acts 11:18 and 2 Timothy 2:25?

How does Ephesians 2:8-9 support this?

Read 2 Timothy 1:9, what does this say about our coming to salvation or coming to Christ?

Read 1 Corinthians 10:31. Take one or more of the statements from the beginning of this question and rewrite it/them in an appropriate way.

15. After listening intently to Paul, what did Lydia do?

16. Through this action Lydia leads us to our second study. A short study on Baptism. Read Acts 16:25-34, who was baptized in this account? Where did this take place?

17. Read Acts 2:37-41. Who was baptized in this account?

18. We have just read of a household, a family, and a crowd being baptized. What is meant by a household? A household was everyone who lived within a person's home or estate. This would include all servants and slaves. As a seller of purple goods, Lydia was probably quite wealthy. Her household would be her, her family and all the families of her servants (those hired to serve) and slaves (those bought to serve). There is no mention or indication that anyone was excluded from these baptisms. Therefore, we have a clear indication that men, women and children of every race and age, who were present, were baptized. Yet, there are those who say children or infants shouldn't be baptized because they can't make a decision for Christ. This again puts an emphasis on us. Read Genesis 17:9-14. When did circumcision take place?

Read Colossians 2:6-13. What does this say about circumcision and baptism?

What can we then deduce about baptism?

19. What action did Lydia take following her baptism?

20. Read Romans 12:13, 1 Timothy 5:10, Hebrews 13:2 and 1 Peter 4:9. What do these verses tell us about the kind of action that Lydia took after her baptism?

21. At the end of Acts 16, Lydia's name comes up again. What was the context of this situation? What does it say about Lydia?

St. Paul's Second Missionary Trip



SDG – Great Women of the Bible – Lesson #11