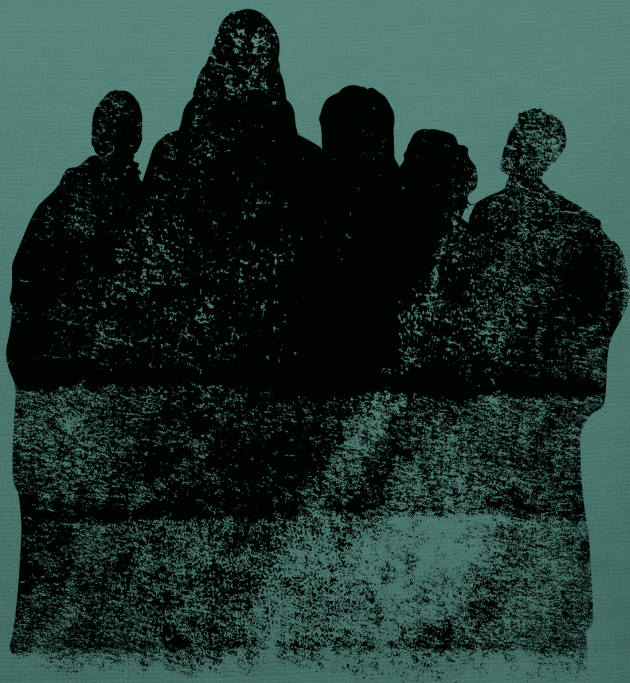


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THE FOLLOWERS

DISCUSSION GUIDE

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CONTENTS

Getting Started	4
Mary	7
Mary Magdalene	11
Stephen	15
Barnabas	19
Luke	23
Paul	27

GETTING STARTED

Noah, The Woman at the Well, Thomas, Hagar; these men and women are more than just names in Bible stories. They were flesh-and-blood people. And in seeing how God moved in their lives, we can see him moving in ours. We can hear him call us by name.

Named is a six-week small group resource that tells the story of people from Scripture through a new lens—exploring the mystery of faith with a literary touch. Each series introduces six different people from the Bible, unpacking one person's story every week.

This discussion guide provides you with all you need to lead the discussion each week. This is a unique opportunity for your group to engage the Scriptures both personally and as a community. Through the power of history-based stories, you'll see the truth of how God works—not just in ancient times and in other people, but how he works today and in us all. Become acquainted with the people identified by God in a story as particular as yours.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN THIS BOOK

Each chapter in this book includes the following components to help you lead discussion.



Preparation

This section gives you the Scripture reference to review the story from God's Word and prepare.

Opening Discussion

These are just a few questions to get your group thinking about the story and to start putting themselves in the place of the person in the story.

Introduction

Here's where you introduce the story to the group, briefly recapping the scriptures.

Context

In this section, historical, societal, and religious background are given to help readers put themselves in the shoes of those whose stories they are about to read.

Story and Questions

Provided on the DVD are audio versions of the stories. You may either choose to listen to the audio as a group or read the story out loud together. Following this, there are questions provided to elicit conversation within the group.

Video

The videos are designed to be used as an additional discussion point related to the lesson.

Prayer of Consecration

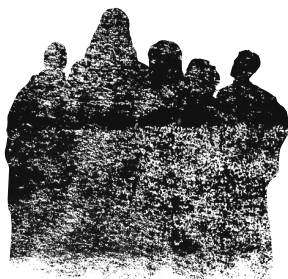
There is a closing prayer you may choose to use within your group as you leave.



MARY MAGDALENE

THE KNOWN • KEY SCRIPTURE PASSAGE:

John 20:11-18



PREPARATION

Read Mary Magdalene's story from Scripture as well as the narrative from the workbook to familiarize yourself with it. You also may want to read over the sections below ahead of time and preview the video.



OPENING DISCUSSION—5 MINUTES

Begin your time together by asking these questions to get everyone thinking.

1. Have you ever had a relationship in which you felt the other person really knew you at a deep level?
2. What circumstances contributed to this feeling of being known?

VIDEO—10 MINUTES

Watch the video together.

INTRODUCTION

Briefly recap Mary Magdalene's story from Scripture with your group. Use the following context to help.

HER CONTEXT—10 MINUTES

One thing we can see in Mary Magdalene is that she was searching for worth. Before she met Jesus, she was finding her worth in others. But Jesus changed all of that and, for a time, Mary Magdalene knew what it was to be known. She knew what it was to see her worth through the eyes of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, Son of the one true God. With this in mind, it's easy to imagine how she may have felt as she watched him being beaten, crucified, buried, and then spent the next few days mourning in hiding. It's easy to wonder if she started to look at her



worth through the lens of the world around her once again. We can see in her story the importance of viewing ourselves the way Christ sees us.

HER STORY—10 MINUTES

You may choose to read aloud as a group or listen to the audio of the narrative of Mary Magdalene, or you may have done this before class. Take a few minutes to talk about the narrative. What stood out? What was new information or from a new perspective?

THE STORY FINDS ITS PLACE IN ME— 15 MINUTES

Use some or all of these questions or prompts as time allows to elicit conversation within the group. Your group may also want to share some of their reflections from the questions in the workbook. Do either or both as time allows.

1. How does viewing our worth through Christ's eyes change our perspective on life?
2. How can this perspective help us to view others differently?
3. What are some ways we can point others toward their worth in Christ?



PRAYER OF CONSECRATION

God, thank you for knowing us. Thank you for loving us and extending grace to us. We praise you, Lord, for this gift. Help us to view our worth through your eyes and help us to extend this view to those around us. Amen.

