

Through Her Eyes

Bible Studies on Women in Scripture

Based on the book

Through Her Eyes: Bible Studies on Women in Scripture by Deborah Spink Winters, editor.

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Leader's Guide

Welcome to the leader's guide for *Through Her Eyes: Bible Studies on Women in Scripture*. First we will review the instructions from the introduction of the book on how this book can be used, and then we will review the additional material given in this website.

How to Use This Book

This book can be used as either a personal devotional book or as a small group or Bible study book. The book is set up as follows:

Epigraph. A brief quote is provided at the beginning of each chapter to focus readers on an aspect of the biblical woman's character.

Hook Question. A question is posed for self-reflection on how readers would respond to a given situation based on the life of the biblical woman.

Biblical Story. The heart of the biblical story is provided from the New Revised Standard Version, along with other possible biblical references for further study.

Biblical Exposition. A short explanation of the biblical setting of the story is given.

Personal Story. The author of the chapter reflects on how the woman's story in the Bible has touched her or his life.

Questions. Posed for the readers to discuss, reflect on, or to journal or blog about how the biblical woman's story and the author's personal story have touched their lives.

Thought for Your Day. A sentence or phrase to focus on a point the material teaches.

Closing Prayer. A written prayer is provided. Readers are encouraged to pray beyond the written prayer, trusting the Holy Spirit to guide their thoughts and words as the material touches their lives.

About the Writer. A short autobiography of each chapter's author is given so readers have a better understanding of each chapter's personal story.

This leader guide also includes the following features:

Teaching Points are offered to give the leader an understanding of points that can be pulled out of the chapter.

Additional Questions are given to allow for more discussion and deeper learning.

For Further Study suggestions are provided for each chapter if the small group leader or the group members would like to do further study on the biblical women.

Goals are presented where applicable to help the leader understand the writer's focus for his or her chapter. Every chapter was written with these three goals in mind:

1. helping the reader contrast and compare how women in the Bible help inform healthier relationships today,
2. empowering the reader to think critically about the biblical text, and
3. giving the reader permission to ask difficult questions of the biblical text to challenge paradigms of women in today's society.

AS A SMALL GROUP OR BIBLE STUDY RESOURCE

Read through the small group leader's material, paying particular attention to the goals and teaching points for each chapter. Read through the entire chapter before presenting it to your small group. Ask the Holy Spirit to guide your preparation and to bless each person who will be studying with you.

This material is put together in such a way that it can be read during your small group or Bible study experience. If possible, however, ask each member of your group to work through the chapter and each of the questions before coming to your group meeting. This will allow plenty of time for all members to share their answers to the questions and to tell how the material has touched their lives.

Each chapter also has suggestions for further study if the small group leader or the group members would like to learn more about each of the biblical women.

I strongly suggest three things for the group leader:

1. Pray before your small group meeting, asking God to guide the discussion that needs to happen between your members, and trust that the Holy Spirit will show up.
2. At your very first session, create your own group behavioral covenant to help make your meeting a safe place for each of your members to share at a deep level.
3. Be willing to take the first step by telling how each chapter has affected you, and share a personal story from your own life if God leads you to do so.

Start each meeting by having each member of the group, including yourself, answer the Hook Question. Read the biblical text and the personal story aloud (unless participants have read it at home) or share a personal story from your life that relates to the biblical text. Give each person an opportunity to answer the questions at the end of the chapter and use the additional questions found in the leader's online resource. Always end your meeting by reading aloud as a group the written closing prayer, or use a devotional prepared by you or one of your members based on the chapter's material.

I'm confident that as you work your way through this book, God will show up in your life and in the lives of your small-group members. If you have any suggestions on how to make this material more beneficial to you or your ministry setting, please let me know via email at dwinters@eastern.edu!

God Bless,
Rev. Dr. Deborah Spink Winters

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Part 1

Women Who Were Healed

1

Woman with the Issue of Blood

Teaching Points

1. Jesus felt the woman with the issue of blood to be worthy of his stopping to hear her story while on his way to a religious leader's home to heal his daughter ("who was at the point of death").
2. By calling the woman "daughter," Jesus aligned himself with an unclean woman.
3. The woman's healing came from stepping out of the dark and telling her whole story.
4. The woman was redeemed in the eyes of her community.

Additional Questions

1. Is there pain in your life you need to give voice to and bring to God?
2. What have you learned from the story of the woman with the issue of blood?
3. What have you learned from Clesha's story?

For Further Study

Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

2

Bent-Over Woman

Teaching Points

1. Maintain your faith no matter what your circumstances.
2. Our freedom and healing come with God's initiative and timing.
3. We are never abandoned by God's love even when people let us down.
4. God can heal whatever troubles your spirit and cripples your life.
5. When Jesus heals us, our response is to praise (based on Meyers, Craven, and Kraemer, *Women in Scripture* [Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001], 446).

Additional Questions

1. How or when have you been surprised by God in your life?
2. How can we reach out to others who are feeling "bent over"?
3. How can your ministry share the love of Jesus with those who are feeling bent over?
4. What have you learned from the bent-over woman?
5. What have you learned from Kimberly?

For Further Study

- Fry, Rick. "Abe's Daughter" (poem). August 23, 2013. <http://rickfry130.wordpress.com/2013/08/23/abes-daughter>.
- Kroeger, Catherine Clark, and Mary J. Evans. *The IVP Women's Bible Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.
- Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

3

Peter's Mother-in-Law

Teaching Points

1. Believers must trust in God for the miracles in their lives.
2. God saved us for service, and we must seek God to be in God's will.
3. Do not be afraid, for God is in charge because God has plans to use you.

Additional Questions

1. What miracles of God have you observed or been a part of?
2. What healing ministries have you experienced or been a part of in your church or ministry setting?
3. How has or how would experiencing a miracle free you to follow God with your life?
4. What have you learned from the story of Peter's mother-in-law?
5. What have you learned from Angeline's story?

For Further Study

Holwerda, David E. *Jesus and Israel: One Covenant or Two?* Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1995.

Richardson, Alan. *The Miracle-Stories of the Gospel*. London: SCM, 1941, repr. 1952.

Part 2

Women Who Risked in Faith

4

Woman with the Alabaster Jar

Teaching Points

1. Suffering can help us seek a greater purpose and power.
2. Strength and courage emerge out of love.
3. Changes happen when we give our lives to God.

Additional Questions

1. How do the circumstances in our lives lead us back to the loving arms of God?
2. What in your life moves you to do an extravagant act of love for God like the woman with the alabaster jar?
3. Based on Jacqueline's story, how important is it to make sure our children are introduced to Christ?
4. What have you learned from the story of the woman with the alabaster jar?
5. What have you learned from Jacqueline's story?

For Further Study

Goddard, Tyson. "Breaking the Alabaster Box: A Nameless Women, That Would Be Remembered by History." BookRix. www.bookrix.com/_ebook-tyson-goddard-breaking-the-alabaster-box/.

Jakes, T. D. *Daddy Loves His Girls: Discover a Love Your Heavenly Father Offers That an Earthly Father Can't*. Lake Mary, FL: Charisma, 2011.

Meyer, Joyce. *Beauty for Ashes: Receiving Emotional Healing*. Nashville: FaithWords, 2003.

5

Ruth

Teaching Points

1. The account of Ruth demonstrates that when we remain devoted to journeying together, we transform and develop into the kind of persons who can bring life to others—even in difficult situations.
2. God honors Ruth's commitment by guiding her to the field of Boaz.

Additional Questions

1. Are there times in life when it is best just to be on the journey with someone? When?
2. What have you learned from Boaz's story?
3. What have you learned from Naomi's story?
4. What have you learned from Ruth's story?
5. What have you learned from Lori's story?

Goals

1. Help readers contrast and compare how women in the Bible help inform healthier relationships today.
2. Help readers reconsider their roles in their families.
3. Enable readers to reflect critically on the biblical account of Ruth.

For Further Study

Book of Ruth

Fewell, Danna Nolan, and David Miller Gunn. *Compromising Redemption: Relating Characters in the Book of Ruth*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox, 1990.

Gow, Murray D. *The Book of Ruth: Its Structure, Theme and Purpose*. Leicester: Apollos, 1992.

6

Rahab

Teaching Points

1. Dead faith is a faith that is not accompanied by action/results/works/fruit.
2. Living faith is accompanied by action/results/works/fruit.
3. Verbally reciting and internally believing on the promises of God leads to actions, fruitfulness, and a new lifestyle based on holiness, integrity, uprightness, purity, and faithfulness.
4. Promises of God that we could write down and speak over our lives daily: Joshua 1:9; Psalms 1:3-4; 16:11; 24:3-5; 84:10-12; Proverbs 2:7; 3:1-2; 19:23; Lamentations 3:24-26; Matthew 5:8; John 3:16; Romans 8:28; 8:32; 15:13; 1 Corinthians 10:31; Galatians 6:9; Philippians 4:8-9; James 1:5-6; 1:12; 4:7-8; 2 Peter 1:4.

Additional Questions

1. How would you define a dead faith? How would you define a living faith?
2. Are you someone who learns best by journaling, by listening to the Bible on an audio recording, or by drawing the images from the story you are learning? What works best for you to remember the promises of God?
3. What have you learned from Rahab's story?
4. What have you learned from David's story?

Goals

1. Help readers understand the difference between dead faith and living faith.
2. Educate readers on how to practically supplement their faith.
3. Challenge readers to put actions behind their faith by the grace of God by verbally quoting the promises of God found within the Bible.

For Further Study

Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Piper, John. *Battling Unbelief*. Colorado Springs: Multnomah, 2007.

7

Abigail

Teaching Points

1. If you are in a challenging situation, have faith in God, do God's will, and trust that God will work things out for your good.
2. In times when you have to deal with a person who is not acting correctly (angry, jealous, stubborn), keep doing the right thing and watch God act on your behalf.
3. Keep the faith! You will not be disappointed.

Additional Questions

1. When have you been in a situation like Abigail's when someone else's behavior reflected badly on you or put you in jeopardy? How did you handle it?
2. When has God used you to stop someone else from doing wrong? What was the result?
3. Why are people today reluctant to get involved in other people's lives? Why is it important to rely on God's guidance when dealing with others?
4. What have you learned from Abigail's story?
5. What have you learned from Stephanie's story?

For Further Study

Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

8

Pontius Pilate's Wife

Teaching Points

1. God shows us what is right.
2. God can speak to us through our dreams.
3. We need the courage to speak up, especially for people we know are wrongly accused.
4. We can believe in and bear witness to Jesus Christ, even if we have never seen him.

Additional Questions

1. Have you ever had a dream, vision, or prompting you felt was from God? Did you act upon it? What happened?
2. How do you know if a dream, vision, or prompting is from God?
3. Who else in the Bible believed that his/her vision, dream, or prompting was from God and did they act upon it? If so, what was the result?
4. What have you learned from Pilate's wife's story?
5. What have you learned from Jacqueline's story?

Goals

1. Understand that God speaks to us through our dreams.
2. Realize that we can believe in and bear witness to Jesus Christ even if we have never seen him.

For Further Study

- Engle, Joan. *Wives of the Bible: 25 Easy Lessons You Can Learn from These Imperfect Women That Will Radically Transform Your Marriage*. Scotts Valley, CA: On-Demand, 2013.
- Farrell, Heather. "Pontius Pilate's Wife." *Women in the Scriptures*. May 20, 2009. www.womeninthescritures.com/2009/05/pontius-pilates-wife.html.
- Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

9

Mary and Martha

Teaching Points

1. Encourage participants to evaluate times in their lives (possibly currently) when they may be spending more time “doing” than “being” in God’s presence.
2. Encourage balance between doing God’s will and spending time in private and corporate worship.
3. Encourage asking for help.

Additional Questions

1. How do you know when it is time to “do” for God and others and when it is time to “be” with God and/or others?
2. Why is it so important for us to spend time just being with God? With family? With friends? With others?
3. What have you learned from Mary’s story?
4. What have you learned from Martha’s story?
5. What have you learned from Gabriella’s story?

For Further Study

Scripture texts for further study: Exodus 18:13-27; 20:8; Psalm 46:10; Ecclesiastes 3:1-15; Isaiah 26:12; Mark 6:30-31

Kroger, Catherine Clark, and Mary J. Evans, eds. *The IVP Women’s Bible Commentary*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2002.

Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Weems, Renita J. *Just a Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women’s Relationships in the Bible*. San Diego: LuraMedia, 1988.

Part 3

Women Who Led

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Deborah

Teaching Points

1. Deborah was not confined by the traditional societal roles ascribed to her. Instead, she ventured beyond them and, empowered by God, led in her own unique style.
2. Deborah worked diligently among the people of Israel, gaining their trust and establishing herself in the community as a judge, prophet, and mother.
3. Deborah did not allow others to be dependent on her but instead pointed people to God, giving God glory.
4. Like Deborah we each have unique gifts to be used to advance God's kingdom.

Additional Questions

1. When have you, like Barak, relied on another person instead of God?
2. When were you tempted to be someone's savior? How did you redirect the person to God?
3. Who has played the role of spiritual mother in your life? How are you a spiritual parent?
4. What have you learned from Deborah's story?
5. What have you learned from Stefanie's story?

For Further Study

- Blessing, Carol. "Judge, Prophet, Mother : Learning from Deborah." *Daughters of Sarah* 21, no. 1 (December 1, 1995): 34–37.
- Exum, J. Cheryl. "‘Mother in Israel’: A Familiar Figure Reconsidered." *Women Can Be Priests*. Wijngaards Institute for Catholic Research. www.womenpriests.org/classic/exum.asp.
- Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Queen of Sheba

Teaching Points

1. Be humble; your blessings have nothing to do with anything you've done.
2. Be thankful and remember not to be so overwhelmed by your blessings that you forget to thank the one who blessed you.
3. Now that you have been blessed, work on being a blessing to someone else.

Additional Questions

1. What other books could help us to understand the Bible better? How should we use them?
2. How should we use the blessings with which God has gifted us?
3. What have you learned from the queen of Sheba's story?
4. What have you learned from Kimeisha's story?

For Further Study

Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

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Huldah

Teaching Points

1. All people, male and female, have gifts from God that they are to use for God's glory.
2. To understand what a biblical text is teaching us today, we must understand it in the cultural and historical context of its day and then within the framework of the whole biblical story.
3. When interpreting a biblical text, we also need to consider the context we are teaching in.
4. We all need to develop the gifts God has given us.

Additional Questions

1. How does the culture we live in affect how we live out our Christian walk?
2. When is it appropriate to allow the culture we live in to affect how we live out our Christian walk? When isn't it?
3. What have you learned from Huldah's story?
4. What have you learned from Deborah's story?

For Further Study

Keener, Craig S. *Paul, Women & Wives: Marriage and Women's Ministry in the Letters of Paul*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 1992.

Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

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Vashti

Teaching Points

1. All spouses deserve the respect of their mates because God has given them as good gifts, not to be disrespected and treated harshly.
2. To understand what a biblical text is teaching us today, we must understand it in the cultural and historical context of its day and then within the framework of the whole biblical story.
3. When interpreting a biblical text, we also need to consider the context we are teaching in. We all need to develop the gifts God has given us.
4. We all need God and biblical principles to lead and guide us in establishing healthy relationships, that we may embrace love, respect, dignity, and honor in a way that speaks to the God who lives within us.

Additional Questions

1. As a Christian, what does it mean to be master or mistress of your own house?
2. As you read Esther 1:11, what do you picture Queen Vashti wearing? How would you have responded to such a request from a king?
3. What have you learned from Queen Vashti's story?
4. What have you learned from Monica's story?

For Further Study

Lewis, C. S. *The Four Loves*. New York: Harcourt, Brace, 1960, repr. 1988.

Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

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Esther

Teaching Points

1. Having faith requires faith actions.
2. God is the true provider of a good self-image, self-esteem, and confidence.
3. We must not listen to the negativity of people but be led by the Holy Spirit.
4. Our struggle can be a catalyst. It digs a grave only if we speak words of death.

Additional Questions

1. Is there a task you know God has called you to that you are afraid to do?
2. How do we learn to build our self-esteem and confidence from God?
3. How was Esther blessed when through the power of God she faced her fears?
4. What have you learned from Queen Esther's story?
5. What have you learned from Shani's story?

For Further Study

Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Part 4
Women Who Found Their Voice

15

Hannah

Teaching Points

1. People can still survive against all the odds that society throws at them.
2. God sometimes answers our prayers even when we do not see them as we would want them to be.
3. Our stories are diverse, and we should not compare ourselves to anyone.
4. People suffer for things that are not of their own making.

Additional Questions

1. What ways has God answered prayers in your life that you were not expecting?
2. When in your life have you felt like Hannah or Agnes?
3. What desire do you have right now that you need to trust God with?
4. What have you learned from Hannah's story?
5. What have you learned from Agnes's story?

For Further Study

- Adeyemo, Tokunboh, ed. *Africa Bible Commentary: A One-Volume Commentary Written by 70 African Scholars*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 2010.
- Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Mother of James and John

Teaching Points

1. We need to be reminded that God is interested in God's creation and in that which concerns us.
2. Being willing to ask questions is one of the ways we learn about God.
3. If we are willing to ask, God will answer.

Additional Questions

1. What things do you think God would want you to ask for or about?
2. Why is it that people will often ask for things for their children that they are afraid to request for themselves?
3. What have you learned from the mother of James and John's story?
4. What have you learned from Ella's story?

Goals

1. Understand that Jesus is more than sufficient for every human need.
2. Rejoice in Christ's sufficiency for every need.
3. Identify what Christ has done for us.

For Further Study

- Bauckham, Richard. *Gospel Women: Studies of the Named Women in the Gospels*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2002.
- Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

Samaritan Woman

Teaching Points

1. If you are a living, breathing human being, someone will always question how you know what you know.
2. Ministry is a calling, and sometimes we are called to engage in ministry with people whose context we may not understand. This creates a learning opportunity for both parties.
3. Have a plan for respectful interfaith dialogue. Your mission is not to be responsible for everyone accepting Christ Jesus but to tell as many people as you can about him.
4. Don't let natural or created borders be an excuse in ministry, life, day-to-day activities, or your relationship with God.

Additional Questions

1. Who are the untouchables in our society today? Can God still call them as Jesus called the Samaritan woman?
2. Do you believe in Jesus only because of what someone else has said, or do you have a personal relationship with Jesus today?
3. What have you learned from the Samaritan woman's story?
4. What have you learned from Timothy's story?

For Further Study

- McNeil, Brenda Salter. *A Credible Witness: Reflections on Power, Evangelism and Race*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity, 2008.
- Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.

18

Joanna

Teaching Points

1. Look for God in life experiences.
2. God wants all of you.
3. God is revealed in weakness.

Additional Questions

1. How might Joanna's actions have affected the position of her husband, Chuza, as Herod's steward?
2. How has Jesus healed you?
3. When was the first time you realized you had a voice to share?
4. How has Jesus helped you share your voice?
5. What have you learned from Joanna's story?
6. What have you learned from Karen's story?

Goals

1. Learn to look to God for healing.
2. Understand the importance of meditation.
3. Remember that everyone has a purpose.

For Further Study

Deen, Edith. *All of the Women of the Bible*. New York: Harper & Row, 1955.
"Joanna." Coptic Orthodox Diocese of the Southern United States. www.suscopts.org/resources/literature/230/joanna/.

19

Tamar

Teaching Points

1. Because people in our congregations are suffering, we must teach the difficult stories in the Bible.
2. Violence and victimization should be addressed, not hushed.
3. God is with us even in our suffering.

Additional Questions

1. What situations are you facing today that you need God's wisdom to confront?
2. Who could you go to for guidance with your situation?
3. Who do you need to empower today by listening to their story and/or getting them the help they need?
4. What have you learned from Tamar's story?
5. What have you learned from Jamilla's story?

For Further Study

- Fuller Rogers, Daléne. *Pastoral Care for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder: Healing the Shattered Soul*. New York: Haworth, 2002.
- Townes, Emilie M., ed. *A Troubling in My Soul: Womanist Perspectives on Evil and Suffering*. Maryknoll, NY: Orbis, 1996.
- Weems, Renita J. *Just a Sister Away: A Womanist Vision of Women's Relationships in the Bible*. San Diego: LuraMedia, 1988.

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Mary Magdalene

Teaching Points

1. Jesus is calling us to go and spread the Good News.
2. As Christians, we cannot become stagnate, either in our pain or in our safety.
3. Whatever we imagine, the Lord has something greater in mind.

Additional Questions

1. Why do you think God allows us to experience times of grief and loss?
2. How can you help someone who is going through a time of grief and loss? How can your ministry setting help?
3. What have you learned from Mary Magdalene's story?
4. What have you learned from James's?

Goals

1. Help readers reconsider their roles in ministry.
2. Empower readers to think critically about the biblical text.
3. Give readers permission to consider all obstacles that may be in their own way.

For Further Study

Meyers, Carol L., Toni Craven, and Ross Shepard Kraemer. *Women in Scripture: A Dictionary of Named and Unnamed Women in the Hebrew Bible, the Apocryphal/Deuterocanonical Books, and the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2001.