

# JESUS

through the eyes of the unlikely

## Week of February 5—The Women<sup>1</sup>

### **Overview:**

Who do *you* see when you look at Jesus? Teacher? Miracle worker? Divine Son of God? All of these? Our view of Jesus is shaped by our own perspective, our church history, and our study of scripture. Over the next several weeks, we will view Jesus from Luke's perspective, through the eyes of some unlikely characters he met while on earth. We'll discover themes like identity, power, surrender, forgiveness, redemption, and many more. We pray that as you see Jesus in fresh ways, you are drawn to follow Jesus more closely and become more like him every day.<sup>2</sup>

### **Group Objectives:**

***Relationships and Life Transformation are the primary purpose of community groups***

- Reflect on this past Sunday's message and other devotional reading.
- Pray together and provide encouragement for other group members.
- Consider how Jesus "reversed the curse" and elevated women.

### **DNA statement(s) tie-in:**

- *We are on mission to reach one more*—Every person matters to God, so every person matters to us. God invites every one of us to join him in his great mission to reach one more—one more coworker, neighbor, family member, and friend.

### **Conversation Starters:**

- Who is a woman in your life who has played a significant role in your faith journey? Briefly share about that woman and her influence.

### **Listening to God**

- Where did you see God at work last week? How were you able to join him?

### **Learning from God's Word: Bible Study Discussion**

*In the long-time span of the Old Testament, women played a prominent role in worship, in the community, and in leadership (think about Miriam, Deborah, Abigail, to name a few). However, by the time of Jesus, the belief system of the Greeks (in particular) and Romans with regard to women had influenced the Jews as well. Women's roles rarely extended outside of the public sphere; their place was in the home. They could not testify in court, read the scriptures (they were illiterate), or engage in anything outside the home with the exception of going to the Women's Court at the*

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<sup>1</sup> This week's lesson was written by Teresa Baumbach and edited by Dawn Gentry.

<sup>2</sup> For a monthly reading and devotional guide to accompany this series in Luke, go to [cccomaha.info](http://cccomaha.info).

*Temple. One Talmudic passage perhaps best sums up the situation of women in the first century: "(They are) swathed like a mourner (referring to the face and hair coverings) isolated from people and shut up in prison."<sup>3</sup>*

*As we approach this week's passages about women, we need to view it from the lens of Jesus and his first-century contemporaries. Jesus' elevation of woman and invitation for them to join him in his work was truly revolutionary.*

- **Read Luke 8:1-3**
  - From this passage, who is traveling with Jesus as he goes from town-to-town teaching?
  - What do you know about the women who are named?
  - What do we learn about Jesus from this passage?
  
- **Read Luke 10:38-42**
  - Summarize what is happening in this story.
  - Martha was fulfilling the social expectations, but Mary was not. Why was this "not to be taken away from her"?
  - What was Jesus telling Martha? How was his message also for the others who were there with him (his disciples)?
  
- **Read Luke 23:26-31**
  - Jesus is on the way to be crucified. Summarize what is happening here.
  - At one point, Jesus stops. Who does he address? What does he say?
  - Why is this significant? What can we learn from it?
  
- **Read Luke 24:9-12**
  - What is happening in this passage? Who is there?
  - Some of the names are the same as in Luke 8:1-3. What does this tell us?
  - Why didn't the apostles believe them?
  - What can we learn from Jesus' interaction with the women?

### **Leaning into Obedience:**

- What do these stories have in common? What can we learn from them?
- What do we learn about Jesus? What do we learn about his view of women? Why is this important to us today?
- What is the role of women in the church today? What do you think Jesus would say?
- How do you sense God calling you to respond to these passages?
  - Is there an example to follow? A command to obey?
- How can the group encourage you this week as you respond?

### **Prayer Prompts:**

- Invite members of the group to share personal prayer requests.
- Allow time for silent reflection on the following questions.

*What question do I need to bring to Jesus?*  
*Do I trust him to hear me and answer me with grace?*
- Option: Pray through Romans 16 but substitute the names of women and men in your life who "work hard for the Lord."

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<sup>3</sup> Eruvin, <https://jewsforjesus.org/learn/the-role-of-women-in-the-bible>