



# WOMEN'S MINISTRIES LESSONS

2019

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# He fills my cup

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## ***Romans 15:13:***

*May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

## ***WE CELEBRATE ALL MOTHERS***

To those who last year had their first child, we celebrate them.

To the mothers who fight daily with their children, we appreciate them.

Those who have suffered losses, or those who have not yet achieved it, today we stand in solidarity.

Adoptive mothers, mentors, spiritual mothers, we need them.

Those who have warm and close relationships with their children, we are happy.

And to those who face problems with them, we pray for them.

To those who have lost their mother, we support them and with you we cry.

And those who did not have perhaps a good mother, here we are, we love them.

Those who survived the children's adolescence without going crazy, we congratulate them.

There are others who need your experience.

We thank the stepmothers for being part of our lives.

Those who face the empty nest, with you we cry, the time comes when we rejoice.

To the newlyweds, we tell them, we are beginning to weave, they warn us.

All for being unique and special ...

**Thank you, woman and mother!**



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	Mistreatment, abuse, support
<b>Scripture:</b>	2 Samuel 13:1-22
<b>Theme:</b>	Alerts against sexual abuse
<b>Purpose:</b>	Support women to report situations of sexual abuse and mistreatment, direct them to the restoration of Christ

### **Introduction:**

Do not turn your back on Tamar's story . Even though it's terrible, I'm grateful to God that the story of domestic violence that happened in King David's family was not erased from the Bible. This story exposes the dynamics of sexual violence and abuse that can also affect families and the church today. We need to give voice to those that have been hurt in this way, who have a distorted perception of themselves and God for sins committed against them and their will. May the cry of Tamar and her torn dresses wake up our consciences to the circumstances of others today.

### **Background:**

King David had many wives and concubines. Michal, one of his wives, was the mother of Absalom (David's favorite son ) and Tamar. Just before the incident between Amnon and Tamar happened, David committed adultery with Bathsheba. Everyone could say, David wasn't a good example for his children.

These are the facts of what happened:

- A request for food became a pretext to take sexual advantage.
- The care tender that Tamar gave her sick brother was misunderstood and used against her.
- The ethics of sharing a dinner and taking care of a sick was eroded and the pleasure of dining as a family and the touch of brother was distorted.
- Jonadab prompted Amnon to create an evil plan and Amnon accepted and forced his sister to bed, against her will.
- The love that Amnon felt for Tamar became hate and he threw her aside.

### **Proposition: Be a voice of grace and truth for women in cases of sexual abuse and mistreatment .**

**I. Give Support** - The initial reaction of many people is to turn their backs, but we need to support, educate and prepare a generation of women who are free from this injustice. Absalom minimizes Tamar's trauma and King David took no action to stop the spiral of violence and abuse his family faced. When families or the church turn their backs to avoid addressing this type of abuse, or cover up or ignore this type of abuse, abuse and sin perpetuate itself. Jesus turned his gaze towards the abused and needy. We need women who are willing to uncover the abuse, detect its symptoms, and tell the truth; brave women who admit what happened to them and others, extending help and justice, grace and restoration for their lives.

- A. Seek help and protection in the right place - The influence of some friends can be counterproductive. Jonadab did not suggest the rape but advised the deception of the king and manipulation of circumstances for the private meeting between Tamar and Amnon. He put Tamar in a vulnerable and unprotected situation . It is better to seek wise advice from someone full of God's love and His Word. Churches must establish protocols of prevention and help for these cases.

- B. There are prevention alternatives - If you are afraid of finding yourself in a similar situation, be alert, reduce the risk by sharing in groups. Avoid people who make you feel uncomfortable, be careful in the information you post on social networks. 80% of women in rape cases know the aggressor. And 8 out of 10 children know their rapist. It can happen to women at any age, from very young to old.
- C. What to do if it happens - Scream, run, try to escape. Many times the attacker is someone you know. Have an alert code with a friend or relative. The reality is that if the person is armed, these tactics may not work. Seek help as soon as possible. Make a complaint / police report immediately. Seek spiritual and psychological help.

## II. Women have a voice that must be heard - 2 Samuel 13: 12-14

Although in the case of Tamar, her brother did not take her voice into account, Tamar's testimony encourages us to raise our voice collectively in favor of prevention of sexual violence and abuse. Tamar didn't go to Amnon to be sexually abused. She went to look after him with affection because he was supposedly sick. Abuse has many faces; we cannot be fooled. We must seek the strength of the Lord and the help of trained people to deal with this.

Don't allow self-blame to dominate your thoughts or let pain prevent you from finding solutions. Sometimes abuse becomes a circle from which you feel you cannot get out of. No means no. The "no" of the woman must be respected. Many times the cases of rape and abuse expose larger patterns of violence for years. There are solutions. Restoration is possible through the grace of Christ and the loving care of the faithful church.

### Conclusion:

Every woman is very valuable to Jesus Christ. He can heal our bodies, minds and emotions broken from the abuse. The church must be a support and voice for women who have been or are being abused. With her head covered by ashes, her dress torn and crying on the street, Tamar denounces violence and seeks justice and love restored. Women need support and for justice to be done. Their voice cannot be shut up. There is hope of life free of abuse and mistreatment for women.

### To reflect:

Do you know someone that you suspect is a victim of sexual abuse and/or mistreatment?

How do you think you can help her?

#### **Key word: Justice**

Justice is the acknowledgement of the dignity of all the human beings, together with the requirement that that dignity be respected by everyone.

(Taylor, 1984)



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	Prayer, faith, waiting
<b>Scripture:</b>	John 11:1-44
<b>Theme:</b>	When prayer has not yet been answered
<b>Purpose:</b>	Encourage women to trust that God will respond to our petitions.

**Introduction:** Do you have requests that haven't been answered? Have you been praying for something very close to your heart, something very important, but nothing has happened, and it seems that God is late? Have you been discouraged by the lack of response from God, and have put your personal devotional time aside? In John 11, we see that Martha had a prayer that wasn't answered immediately, and this caused her much suffering. However, Jesus used unanswered prayer to develop her faith in him and to once again manifest his glory in a miraculous way.

**Purpose:** Do not faint in prayer, because although it seems to take long, Jesus will respond.

#### **I. Unanswered prayer develops our faith – John 11:1-27**

- We need Jesus close (John 11:1-16) Lazarus, who lived in Bethany and was Jesus' friend, became ill. His sisters Marta and María, also friends of Jesus, sent him an urgent message to come see him. Suddenly the family crisis was serious. Jesus loved this family and he would never have abandoned them, but he didn't run immediately to them. Sometimes we can think that Jesus is far away.
- They were in prayer -The passage shows us an implied prayer. The sisters sent for Jesus. Only Jesus could help them in their circumstances. What was Jesus' response? He explained that the illness was not death, but happened so that his glory would be manifested in the midst of the circumstances. Did the situation of Martha, Mary and Lazarus improve after making their request?
- Probably we all have a Lazarus - Who is your Lazarus? How long have you been praying for your Lazarus?
- May the wait not bring you despair – Jesus' attitude in the face of Martha and Mary's suffering shows us that sometimes we must also suffer while we wait in prayer for an answer from Jesus. However, we can trust God's purposes in the face of our suffering: *In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials. These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed* (1 Peter 1: 6-7).
- Jesus arrived - Suddenly after four days, Jesus arrived where they were. This reminds us of the man who was with the three young Hebrews in the fiery furnace (Daniel 3:19-25). Jesus has promised to be with you and with me (Isaiah 43:1-5; Psalm 23:4-5)
- Martha and Jesus (v. 21-26) – “Lord, if only you had been here my brother would not have died.” Have you told the Lord: “if only ...”? Marta had her hope based on a desire, but Jesus redirected Marta's faith to himself. In the midst of her suffering, Marta could focus all her attention and faith on him. Jesus was the answer for Martha, and is the answer for us.

## II. The revelation of His Glory (John 11:28-44)

Although sometimes there is an apparent delay in Jesus' arrival, he arrives and reveals his truth and glory in our lives at the precise right moment. In the case of Martha and Mary's request, four days later Jesus showed himself to them with words and actions.

- Experience the glory of His love (vv. 33-34) At the request of these sisters, Jesus cried with them and was moved. We can invite the Lord to "come and see" our situation, our despair and suffering, trusting that Jesus is with us and loves us. Didn't Jesus know that he would raise Lazarus from death, because he wept? *In all their distress he too was distressed* (Isaiah 63:9), and *For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathize with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet he did not sin* (Hebrews 4:15). Jesus hurt because they hurt.
- Experience the glory of his lordship - Jesus gives instructions to Martha and told them to remove the stone that closed Lazarus' tomb. For Martha, it was a decisive moment. The Master asked for obedience in something that didn't seem appropriate. Lazarus had been buried for four days, and surely if they opened the grave the smell would be unbearable! She couldn't believe that it was the right thing to do. However, Jesus invited her to take a step of faith in obedience to his word.
- Experience the glory of his power- Jesus gave Martha a good reason to believe and obey, and presented it in a form of challenge. "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?" Do we need today another reason to believe Jesus? *Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever* (Hebrews 13:8).

### Conclusion:

Jesus answers the prayers of his people at the precise time. The time of waiting can be a good time for you to affirm your faith in the Lord, the giver of life and of all good things. Jesus seeks women who seek him in prayer, who trust him and who can respond to the challenges of faith in obedience to his word. Waiting on him allows us to be witnesses of his glory. We can trust Jesus fully, his delay is for our benefit, blessing and edification.

### To reflect:

Is there to any stone (disbelief, anger, pride, lack of forgiveness, etc.) that the Lord is asking you to get out of the way? Do you think Jesus can answer your requests too?

#### **Key word: Wait**

Have hope in the person of Christ. It carries the suggestions of waiting with patience and confident hope because Jesus is faithful and keeps his promises.

It also translates as being on the lookout.

(Vine, 1999)



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	Mission, compassion, commitment
<b>Scripture:</b>	Acts 9:36-42; 16:13-15
<b>Theme:</b>	In love with the gospel
<b>Purpose:</b>	Exalting the ministry of women in Scripture in a way that encourages women in the local church to take on new challenges in the Church.

## **Two Women of the New Testament: Tabitha (Dorcas) and Lydia**

### **Introduction:**

Generosity and compassion are distinctive characteristics of the followers of Jesus. They denote a clean life, pure and free of vain attachments. Many times women tend to cling to things or situations in life that hinder us from serving God in this liberating way. Everything we have comes from the Lord, everything that I am has been done by Christ in me. There is nothing that we have that Jesus has not given us and provided. We can serve God and others and be part of the advancement of the kingdom of heaven on earth.

**Purpose: The ministry of women is fundamental to the development and advancement of the Church.**

### **I. Attending to the needy - Tabitha (Dorcas) (Acts 9:36-42)**

- She is described as a woman who always did good and helped the needy.
- The community of faith mourned her death, she was very dear.
- When Peter entered the room, there were the women who had been blessed by her ministry.
- They showed him the dresses and robes that she had made to help the widows. It was a work of love that took her a lot of time and effort. It wasn't like going to a downtown store and buying the fabric, but everything was made from scratch.
- Tabitha used her talents to meet the needs within the Church.
- She knew how to identify the needs and supply them.
- She was not happy if there wasn't something she could do; she didn't wait for anyone, she did it.

### **II. Generosity for God's kingdom (Acts 16:13-15)**

- Lydia was a wealthy woman who put her resources at the service of the mission.
- She was hungry for God; she adored him without having all the knowledge.
- When she heard the Gospel of Christ, she knew that He was what she was looking for.
- She was transformed by the message, and committed herself, along with her entire family, to the Lord's service.
- She arranged her home as a preaching point for the Word of God.
- **She was the first person converted in Europe and her house served as a ministerial base for Paul and his team for a while.**

## **Conclusion: The Church today ...**

- Needs women who identify needs and meets them, who are compassionate.
- Needs the push and determination of women to get things done.
- Needs women who care about the needs of other women.
- Needs women who put their special talents at the service of other women.
- Needs women who are constantly at work, all the time, with a constant commitment to make a great difference. Not just momentary impulses of service, but long-term faithfulness in serving.

## **The Church today needs women ...**

- Who have a genuine hunger for God, and don't get tired of searching for more and more of him.
- Who look every day for the fresh anointing of the Holy Spirit.
- Like Lydia to bring their families to Him, to present them as an offering before the Lord.
- Who do not have to be wealthy to be generous and compassionate; who love as Jesus loves.
- Willing to be transformed by the power of the Word, by the Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Full of fire to speak and create an impact on those who hear them.
- Who open new paths for Evangelism without fear of getting involved with their time and talents, who aren't afraid of stepping out first and trying something new.

You can count on the generous and compassionate help of the Spirit of Christ to assist you in this!

## **To reflect:**

Do you feel that you are encountering obstacles that are preventing you from doing works of compassion and generosity? Are the obstacles internal or external? How can you be more compassionate? How can you be more generous with your time, your money, and your home?

### **Key word: Compassion**

It is touching response of love and heartfelt grief for the calamity that occurs in the life of another person. Not only is it to feel hurt, it is also identifying with people as Jesus did. Jesus is the personification of the Creator's compassion, and he teaches his followers that compassion characterizes the Christian way of living.  
(Taylor, 1984)



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	Menopause, grace of God
<b>Scripture:</b>	2 Corinthians 12:9
<b>Theme:</b>	The woman and menopause
<b>Purpose:</b>	To orientate women about the important stage of life, and reaffirm them in their identity as women and God's servants.

### **Introduction:**

Menopause is a topic of which I have read a lot recently. Yes, I'm already in menopause. This is not easy my dear sisters. In part it has been a healer, since my whole life I have suffered chronic anemia due to my regular periods. Now I'm fine on that part, but on the other hand, I have many other complications! I lost my slender figure and fought to lose weight. Suddenly I get hot, even though it's cold. And at night while I sleep I start to sweat copiously. Well, I'll stop now without talking about other more delicate symptoms.

Women may be more prone to osteoporosis, cardiovascular diseases, migraines, depression, irritability and insomnia, not counting sudden changes in mood caused mostly by hormonal imbalance. The hardest thing is that for many people, this is reason for ridicule. But if you are a woman, at some point (whether natural by age or sudden due to a medical condition or operation) you will go through hormonal changes that produce all these symptoms, and is known as life change and menopause. But what consolation and support we find in the Word of God for these cases.

**Purpose: Women can depend on the grace of God for strength in the face of this vulnerability.**

### **I. It's a physical issue**

Jesus always cared about the physical aspect of people too. Of course, menopause is a physical issue, and it can occur in women from about 40 to 58. All women have been created to experience menopause. Knowing that we were designed by God, not only to give birth to children, but also in another stage of not having children is something liberating. But unfortunately, the symptoms of menopause are real and in many of us very uncomfortable. Find out information, take care of your body.

Remember 1 Corinthians 6:19: *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own.* We can trust every part of our body to God. Give your body the care it needs at this stage. Eat the right diet for your needs, as well exercise. Having the corresponding medical examinations for disease prevention is of vital importance as well.

### **II. It's an emotional issue**

During this stage we can feel weak and vulnerable. We can feel sad for the loss of youth, perhaps loss of employment by our retirement or our spouse. The empty nest, because the children have already left home. The grace and love of God over us strengthens us in this delicate time. Let's be anxious for nothing (Philippians 4:6). We can take refuge in Christ and take the opportunity to share our wisdom and Christian experiences with younger women. Our lives need to be continually used for the service of the kingdom of God, even if we are very hot! The grace of God continues to drive us in this new stage.

### III. It is a spiritual issue

Because we are holistic people, what happens in our physical bodies and our emotions can also affect us in our spiritual life. The apostle Paul had suffered from a disease for a long time, and had prayed three times for the Lord to relieve him of his illness, but he continued to experience symptoms. This situation did not prevent him from willingly and completely doing God's work. His love for the Lord was greater than his discomfort. His power did not reside in his physical well-being, although being well is very important. But in that discomfort, the power of the Holy Spirit was in him.

God has made provision for each one of us in the midst of their life change. Perhaps God's response to our symptoms is not what we expect, but God is perfecting our life by His grace. His grace is enough, and he uses it to show his power through my weakness. Do you see this change as an opportunity for the power of God to be manifested in you and through you?

#### **Conclusion:**

In Christ we have everything necessary for holy life, no matter our age or physical situation. Each woman must be aware of the changes that will happen to her, and take care of her life in an holistic way. The changes in our lives are real and sometimes difficult to cope with, but they cannot be excuses for abandoning the Lord's ongoing work. On the contrary, the active grace of God will strengthen us when we are most vulnerable.

#### **To reflect:**

In this stage, sexual problems are also increased. Women who are experiencing menopause need the support of sisters in the faith who will instruct and orient them about the changes in their body and the symptoms that they will experience.

Your doctor can do some tests and tell you what can help relieve your symptoms.

#### **Key word: Grace**

It is the spontaneous love of God for the sinful human being, revealed supremely in the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The grace of God is dynamic. Although human beings do not deserve God, God is on our side, and expresses his grace in concrete ways.

(Taylor, 1984)



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	Celebration of women, their role, their importance
<b>Scripture:</b>	Genesis 1:27
<b>Theme:</b>	Live in fullness
<b>Purpose:</b>	That women can celebrate who they are as daughters of God.

Both man and woman were created in the image and likeness of God. At all times, the intention of God was for Adam and Eve to live in mutual harmony and to subjugate creation, and live under the lordship of God. And God said that his creation was very good! He has created us beautiful, and gives us a secure identity in Jesus Christ.

He also gives us an important role as collaborators in the expansion of his kingdom in this land. The reality is that only God can restore us and make us complete, so that our life can be lived individually and collectively. Jesus heals our losses and is our hope for life. He made us, but not just for ourselves (Psalm 100:3).

He desires our healthy growth, maturity, experience and wisdom.

### **Purpose: Celebrate your life because it brings fullness**

#### **Characteristics of Eve in contrast to Adam**

1. **Physical** – We are beautiful, created in the image of God. Adam was created from the dust of the earth and Eve created from the organic tissue of Adam (from a bone in his rib). In their physical union, God unites her to be one flesh with the man, which makes sexuality a mystery and miracle of creation. On the other hand, both work but have different roles. She has less body strength than man, so she is weaker in certain physical aspects. However, women have four times the number of neural connections between the two hemispheres of the brain, which enables her in an extraordinary way to perform several tasks simultaneously (multi tasking).
2. **Emotional and intellectual** - In her intellect and nature, woman was created on equal terms with man, so she is co-equal to the man, but also different because her emotions and roles are completely opposite to her husband's. We women must be careful about maintaining our identity and role.

Another aspect in which we are different is our sensitivity; we are sensitive to different emotions and we can perceive in a special way situations of danger, especially if it is concerning our children. Women are very sensitive, that's why they scream, they get scared and they sigh more times than men. Men are more focused on completing tasks and solving problems, while for women the details of the process are as important as solving the problem. Women complete men's lives, but it is not just a complement (French fries are a complement). The woman is more than that.

As for our sexual relationship, it is more than a physical relationship or "flesh union". The bond is designed by God. For man, it is also companionship, because the Word says that Adam was alone (Genesis 2:18). While he slept in his solitude, God worked, creating for him a woman who would be a perfect helpmate and a security for the future. The woman was not designed by God to be a companion for a moment.

The Bible says that Adam and Eve were naked and not ashamed (Genesis 2:25), which means that their relationship was honest, pure and for life.

3. **Spiritual-** Eve was the first sinner, but who wants to be remembered for their mistakes? We cannot minimize them because in Adam and Eve we all sin. But there is good news, Eve is also the first one redeemed by blood! (Genesis 3:21) To her, through her seed (Genesis 3:15), God gives the promise of salvation from sin for all mankind. Eve can live a full life because God forgives her and uses her to be the mother of all people.

### **Conclusion:**

The best quality of a woman is her identity, made in the image and likeness of God, unique and special in God's creation. Her differences from man and the rest of nature distinguish her. Because of her difference in being, she is valuable in providing new perspectives and approaches to life. She also sees different aspects of conflict resolution, and values relationships even in the midst of difficult life processes.

There is a lot of push for the equality of men and women, but sadly, it often spills over into extreme feminism, which moves from being a struggle for rights, to being one of privileges and the erasure of the unique characteristics given by God, which makes us special and different. It is time to celebrate the woman you are, because God made you beautiful to live a full life through Jesus Christ. Because of his fullness, we all receive grace upon grace (John 1:16).

### **To reflect:**

Do you enjoy the fullness of your role as a woman? What hinders you from living your life to the fullest as the Bible says? Describe aspects of your life that you can celebrate today.

#### **Key word: Image of God**

It is a privilege we have over all other created beings. We received the essential image of God, such as the dignity of his personality, which makes us human. We have a spirit, and we also have the ability to make decisions. Tragically, the moral image of God was distorted when mankind succumbed to sin. However, we retained the possibility of redemption through the promise of the "only Man" who never lost that perfect image ... Jesus Christ.

(Taylor, 1984)



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	Fear of God, Serving
<b>Scripture:</b>	Exodus 2:1-4
<b>Theme:</b>	Missional Woman
<b>Purpose:</b>	That women comprehend that they have a fundamental role in God's plan.

**Background:** The people of Israel had multiplied and strengthened greatly while they were in Egypt, despite the bitter life of servitude they led. The new pharaoh did not know Joseph, nor did he have any relationship with the Israelites. So that they wouldn't grow more numerous than the Egyptians, he decided to control their increase. His decision was that all baby boys born should be drowned in the river. In this biblical story, God worked through several women in a special way. Their roles and mission were key to the salvation of a child, and of an entire nation.

**Purpose: Women are an integral part of God's plan of redemption**

**I. Challenging Injustice (Exodus 1:17, 1:20-21 – Shiphrah and Puah)**

**A. Women who feared God** - The story tells us that the midwives Shiphrah and Puah were women who feared God. I know many women who are afraid of everything, but fearing God reverently requires humility and courage. The Egyptian people, like the people of Israel, feared Pharaoh. Pharaoh was powerful, and for the Egyptians, he was considered a god. The midwives recognized that God was above any person and of any circumstance. They were completely sure that it was their duty to act in the fear of God, even if it cost them to go against others. Their fear of God determined who they would obey. Fearing God means that they had a deep conviction that they must be held accountable. Fear of God, their reverence for him, would determine their actions.

**B. Women who impacted the story** - Although these women are not aware of the plan of God, they challenged the injustice that Pharaoh committed; they acted against his authority. They made the decision to serve God. Although the law had not yet been given by God, they were faithful; their fear of God determined what they were willing to risk because of their faith.

Because of their courage, they profoundly impacted history. The people multiplied and strengthened (the people continued to grow numerically, they were also filled with encouragement, they saw a hope because of the ministry of these women). The midwives did not decide to disobey because they knew the whole plan of Redemption, but because it was the right thing in their relationship with God.

When everything seems against you, your faith and fear of God is what will determine what you will do and how much you are willing to risk.

**II. Challenging the odds (Exodus 2:3 - Jocabed )**

**A. Jocabed went against the odds.** There was an order from Pharaoh to drown in the river all the baby boys born among the Israelites, but she did everything in her power to take care of her son. She hid him and then put him in the river. Jocabed kept her baby as long as she could. She cared for him and made the most of her opportunities. But when she was not able to continue, she prepared an ark and let him go.

B. She made an ark - Jochebed prepared a basket of reeds and caulked it with tar so that it was waterproof and she was able to place her son inside, trusting that he would not drown like the others. What were the chances that the baby would be saved on his own in a "ship" like that in a river? Like Noah prepared an ark for the salvation of the world, Jochebed prepared an ark for the salvation of her son. It was an integral part of the Redemption plan. This woman challenged the odds and used ingenuity, was creative and above all put a lot of faith in the creation of her ark and the placement of her son there. There are times when things are out of our sight and out of our hands, but God's plan goes on.

### III. Challenging opportunities (Exodus 2:4, 7 - Miriam )

A. A young sister takes the opportunity – From a distance, Miriam followed the basket sailing the river, and knew that Pharaoh's daughter had found him. Although her feelings are not described, she must have been a young woman with an obedient, serene and controlled attitude. There are people who are paralyzed by shyness. Miriam was proactive and didn't let Pharaoh's daughter think about it much. She appeared at the scene and interrupted to "supply" the need they had. She was wise and timely. She was very astute and before the emergence of Pharaoh's daughter's problem (a baby who needed to be raised and fed with breast milk), she presented a solution. She was a young woman who saw an opportunity and took advantage of it.

B. Opportunity that reunited lives - The son is returned. Now the boy returned home with his mother, and with the protection of the one who wanted to kill him. They also paid Jochebed to raise her own son. Miriam was used by God as a key instrument in history.

God puts opportunities in front of us, do not shy away from taking advantage of those moments for the kingdom.

### Conclusion:

It's important that you recognize that God has you in a place and time that is decisive for the future of your family, society and congregation. Never underestimate the impact of your decisions today. It is important to know the times of God. The time to let go of something, to not hold it back and trust that God will take care of it.

Put your faith in the Lord. The Kingdom of God advances with cunning and courage. Not everything can be waiting for "God to open doors." Opportunities do not come, they are created. None of these women knew God's plan. But were an integral part of it. The text does not say that they would have agreed, but they did the right thing according to the moment. They challenged authority, challenged the odds and believed they saw opportunities where there were none. God still uses women to contribute to his plan of Redemption in unimaginable ways.

### To reflect:

Are you at a crossroads between obeying man or obeying God?  
Do you feel that your hands cannot hold on anymore, your creativity is over, and your resources are over, that the situation is getting out of hand and it is time to put everything in the hands of God?  
Do you not want to get carried away by the current, but want to see opportunities where no one else sees them?

#### Key word: Fear of God

It is reverence with deep respect mixed with fear and affection.

It is a synthesis of love and fear, in this case, to God.

In the New Testament, reverence in adoration of Christ was the hallmark of the saints.

(Taylor, 1984)



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	Correct Relationships, forgiveness, thirst for God, spiritual satisfaction
<b>Scripture:</b>	John 4:7-30
<b>Theme:</b>	Three essential needs
<b>Purpose:</b>	That the women will recognize and search for the meeting of their spiritual needs only in Jesus Christ.

### **Introduction:**

We all have physical needs for water, food, shelter and health. However, have you ever experienced a deep emptiness in your heart that nothing nor no one could satisfy? Or, have you had feelings of inexplicable loneliness and abandonment, despite being surrounded by family and friends? Sister, you may have a spiritual void, because we are spiritual beings created by God who is Spirit.

The Word of God gives us answers and solutions for situations like this. In the Gospel according to St. John, chapter 4:7-30, we see a woman, perhaps very busy as some of us, who tried to fill the emptiness inside her in her own way and on her own. One day, the Samaritan woman, so called because she was from the Samaria region of Israel, was doing her daily chores, looking for water in the well, when she had a transforming encounter with Jesus. The Lord Jesus opened her eyes to her condition, and showed her that only in Him is there satisfaction. Relationships wouldn't help, neither would a good or bad reputation. Lots of tasks and responsibilities would not give satisfaction either.

### **Purpose: Only Christ knows our deepest spiritual needs and can satisfy them.**

#### **I. The need to be loved and valued**

**A.** What Jesus offers vs. Our resistance to his offer: Jesus asks for water, but also offers her the water of spiritual life, even though he knows all the details of her life. Jesus knows that she needs to love and being loved. However she offers her objections: you are a Jew, you have nothing to draw water, the well is deep, and you're not someone important like Jacob. What obstacles or objections do we put before a commitment with God?

In verse 16, Jesus tells her to go look for her husband, and then shows her that he knows all her past. For what? To understand that the intimacy that can satisfy her completely will not be found in human relationships, but in a living and sincere relationship with God through him. Also so that she knows that his love extends to everyone, including people in situations like hers. Can you think of ways in which you have experienced the love of God despite your faults and weaknesses?

Experiencing love in its proper context of family, of marriage, of friendships, and sisters and brothers in the faith, is a blessing from God, but it will never replace or fill God's place in our hearts.

Jesus also values women. In spite of the fact that Samaritans and Jews did not speak to one another, and much less among strange men and women, the Lord offered all his attention and time to her. Sometimes, women want more time and attention from our friends and loved ones, and our expectations don't come true. How does it make you feel that God has time and mindfulness for you?

## II. The need to be forgiven and accepted

There was no way for the Samaritan woman to have peace because of her life of sin. She tried to divert the conversation so as to appear more spiritual, but Jesus, accepting her, confronts her with her moral reality. When we recognize our mistakes, we can receive the benefit of God's forgiveness. Jesus helps us to reach this point and he directs us because he wants to forgive us and save us. *If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness* (1 John 1: 9). In what ways have you been confronted with your situations? How has your life changed since then?

## III. The need for life and holy purpose

Jesus offered the Samaritan woman the water of eternal life that would quench any thirst she ever had. And he also said in v. 14 that the water that he would give her would be a spring that overflowed in the lives of others for salvation. Jesus has given us the mission to share with others the wonders he has done in our lives. Jesus has loved and forgiven us, so that we in turn can love and forgive others and show them the way to the Father, through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the source that cleanses us and gives us a new reason to be!

The woman left her water jug and went to the city to spread the good news that Jesus was the Messiah Savior (v. 25-28). At the beginning of the story, she herself did things to fill her own spiritual needs, then she let go of her water jug because now, Jesus gave her everything she needed. Do you need to release something to receive the good that Jesus wants to do in you, and to do what God expects you to do? How can you share your relationship with Jesus with other women in need?

## Conclusion:

Jesus wants you to experience his love, forgiveness and holy purpose in your life. He knows what you are and your limitations; however he has provided a new life for you. It doesn't matter if you've been in church for a while, or if you've recently started or it's your first time. If your tendency is to try to fill your spiritual void with something apart from Christ, open your heart today and allow Jesus to fill it to the fullest. His Holy Spirit is waiting for your invitation to come and fill you with his presence, and from there, to give you an extraordinary life of true satisfaction.

## To reflect:

Stop for a moment and think. What person or thing do you turn to when you feel overwhelmed and sad? Do you take refuge in another person, in eating more, in the television? What needs does this behavior unsuccessfully seek to hide or meet?

### Key word: Satisfaction

Sin is a debt that requires satisfaction or payment because God is perfect. The Son of God became man to pay the debt for us. Jesus is God and could satisfy the infinite payment of all humanity and all their sins. He became human and represented each of us in the right way so that through Him, we could receive forgiveness.

(Taylor, 1984)



**Women's Bible Study:** Discipleship Ministries Folder  
**Subjects:** Physical and spiritual health, trials, love and compassion of Jesus  
**Scripture:** Luke 13:10-17  
**Theme:** Today is a great time for healing  
**Purpose:** Growth in faith in order to receive physical and emotional healing.

### **Introduction:**

Many women outside and within our congregations live today plagued by ailments for many years. On one occasion, Jesus was teaching in the synagogue and the chief priests were waiting for him to make a mistake. Suddenly, Jesus saw a stooped and sore woman and immediately extended his love. The woman responded in praise to God.

I can understand how that woman felt! I know what it is like to suffer from severe rheumatoid arthritis and fibromyalgia. I have felt the pain and I know it is inescapable. One does not find rest from that pain! But Jesus freed that woman from her pain that Sabbath day, and you too can delight in the wonders of his works because our Lord heals and frees our bodies and souls and gives us rest. Jesus is our safe rest; he has given me peace, joy and rest in Him, and he can also do the same for you.

Are you suffering from any physical affliction that affects other areas of your life, or know someone who is going through this?

### **Purpose: Jesus still heals lives and hearts**

#### **I. Persevering in the middle of the test**

The Word says that the woman had been ill for 18 years, and was already in a state that could not be straightened out. Can you imagine attending Bible studies in a similar situation? This fact makes us think that she was a faithful woman to fulfill the law of God to keep the Lord's day. She was persevering, even though she probably could only look down because of her affliction. But she went to hear the Word of God. You know Romans 10:17 says *faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the Word of God*. And this persevering woman was full of faith and believed when Jesus called her and spoke to her. Can you tell of an event in your life in which you have persevered in the Lord despite the difficulties? In what area is God telling you that you need to pay attention?

#### **II. Christ acts in our favor**

Jesus noticed the condition of this woman. We read in v. 12 that when he saw her, he took action in her favor. He didn't leave her in the same condition, but in his infinite mercy, and despite the critics who were against him, he healed her. She experienced a healing touch from the hands of Jesus. He called that healing *freedom*, and the woman could straighten up and worship the name of God. We don't know other details about this woman's life. However we may think that she was not an old woman, but a woman in the fullness of her life, and now her life had been restored to her. What a joy for her and her family. The grace and love of God impacting her in an unexpected moment to heal and liberate. In what ways have you seen the power of God acting in your life and in that of your family? What do you think God can do in favor of your situation?

### **III. Miracles are a tool to witness and give glory to God**

Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship (Romans 12:1). Jesus healed this woman's body, and although the Bible does not offer the information, we can think that the healing included the restoration of her whole being. The joy of the woman was so enormous that she burst into praises, giving God the glory. Healings do not always happen in the same way, but we cannot lose hope in the Lord, for whom everything is possible. Do you understand that what God has done and is doing in you is part of the testimony he will use to bring others closer to his kingdom? Can you give your testimony today? Can you take time to pray now for another sister who is going through a difficult situation or illness?

#### **Conclusion:**

Today is a good time for healing by faith in Jesus. There are many people going through illnesses and their lives and families have been negatively affected in a big way. I cannot tell you that Jesus is going to do the work immediately, or what his purposes are in all of this, but I can invite you to continue persevering in the Lord in the midst of the trial and despite your limitations. The Lord loves and always works on behalf of his children. God spoke these powerful words through the mouth of the prophet Jeremiah: *I am the LORD, the God of all mankind. Is anything too hard for me?* (Jeremiah 32:27)

#### **Personal testimony:**

I had been incapacitated due to severe rheumatoid arthritis in all my joints and fibromyalgia. According to the doctors, in a short time I was going to be bedridden. I was too young for that! I thought of my husband, my children and my work as director of the Children's Church in my congregation. I never thought that I would receive divine healing. I was healed by the Lord on August 5, 2009, not for anything that I had done, but by the grace of God that is in Jesus Christ. His healing has had a purpose: may his name be glorified, and this testimony edify others. Although I was raised in the church, I was reborn to the Lord. My life is dedicated to serve Christ. God can heal you too!

#### **Key word: Healing**

Restoration of health by means of miraculous divine intervention. It also applies to spiritual and emotional health, but illness does not always imply that the person is in sin. Jesus' ministry was aimed at holistically healing people, and there is ample evidence that today there are still miracles of healing by faith.

(Taylor, 1984)



## **Women's Bible Study:** Discipleship Ministries Folder

<b>Subjects:</b>	Courage, role, influence, and ministry of women
<b>Scripture:</b>	Judges 5:7
<b>Theme:</b>	Agents of Change
<b>Purpose:</b>	That women remember the roll and function of women as agents of change and transformation in the home and society.

### **Background:**

- It was the time of the Judges and there was no king ruling in Israel. In reality there was a vicious circle, because the people idolized and sinned, then they cried out to God. God raised a judge on their behalf to free the people, the people repented and obeyed. They were liberated by God, and then they did the same again. Their enemies were the Philistines, led by King Jabin, which had been terrorizing them for 20 years. His general Sisera was a great warrior.
- Deborah was a prophetess: She was a woman of faith who sought God and carried out His will. She told the people God's purposes for certain matters. Everyone knew where to look for her, where she sat. They called it "The Palm of Deborah." Although she didn't participate in the battle, her presence brought peace to Barak because she gave him tremendous spiritual and moral strength because she represented the voice and presence of God. Realistically, Barak didn't have much of a chance since his army didn't have weapons or a large number of soldiers.
- Because of her faith, Deborah was the motivator, the one that brought the strategy from God and was the engine used by God for the mobilization and subsequent victory of Israel at that time. God showed his strategy to Deborah, and Barak obeyed. She was a woman who brought changes. Her speech was a call to change, a call to freedom, a call to assume holy positions in front of the enemy.
- The glory of the victory would not be of those who fought, but of the women who took a decisive part in it. She was called "mother of Israel" even though there is no evidence that she had children. The Israelites found in her love, care and direction. God uses women like her; God used the prophetess Hulda in 2 Kings 22:14 and Miriam, the daughters of Philip.

### **Purpose: The woman connected to God makes a difference**

What things did Deborah do that we can also do ourselves?

#### **I. She recognized the call of God in others.**

Deborah, was a servant called by God who also recognized the call that God had for the life of Barak to serve him, and she reminded him. She gave direction to the call that man had. And we see in this story how God can also use women to draw attention to issues that we have deep inside and that disturb us. It also illustrates the tender and loving care of God for his people.

#### **II. She affirmed the faith of others.**

It's interesting that Barak appears in the hall of fame of faith in the Bible because a woman believed in him and that made his faith grow. Originally, this man hesitated before the word from God given by the prophetess, but she reaffirmed him and committed him to the work of God. Chapter 11:32 of Hebrews mentions him among those who drew strength from weakness, as one of the heroes of the faith. While Deborah did not need to take all the credit, she believed God's directive and put it into practice, believing in Barak.

People also need someone who believes in them and helps them by affirming their faith. A bit of well-cultivated faith could be a seed that transforms into great faith.

### III. She was an active mentor.

Deborah was a woman with many gifts from God. She was a prophetess and judge (the only other prophet and judge was Samuel). She was also a composer and worshiper (singer); a woman who put her gifts and talents into practice. On this occasion she changed her habit of sitting under the palm tree to accompany Barak into war. Although she didn't go into battle as such, she was willing to be an active mentor of Barak, and at all times firmly established the will of God.

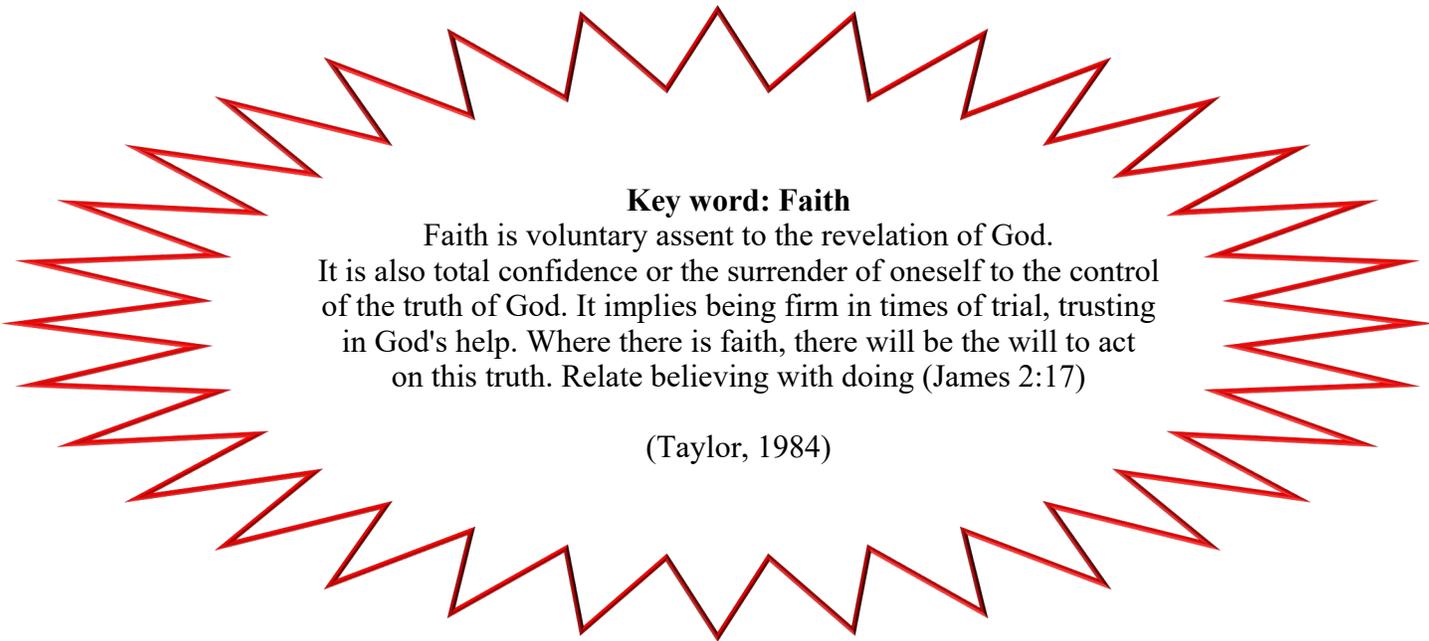
Debora also left her comfort zone to accompany Barak even during the most difficult times. Therefore, we women cannot be passive agents. At the right moment, women can change the direction of their homes, their marriages, their friends, their churches and their communities.

### Conclusion:

A woman doesn't have to be a prophetess to be the voice of God in the midst of a crisis. The presence of a woman connected to God makes a great difference at crucial moments of life. God can use you. Don't despise the gifts and talents that God has placed in you. Be an agent of change. Matthew 17: 20b says, "if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

### To reflect:

What needs do you see in others? Do you recognize the gifts and talents God has put in you? Are you available to leave your comfort zone to be a blessing to others?



#### Key word: Faith

Faith is voluntary assent to the revelation of God. It is also total confidence or the surrender of oneself to the control of the truth of God. It implies being firm in times of trial, trusting in God's help. Where there is faith, there will be the will to act on this truth. Relate believing with doing (James 2:17)

(Taylor, 1984)



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	The Word, mission, flexibility, ministry
<b>Scripture:</b>	Acts 18:1-3; 18:24-26
<b>Theme:</b>	Life invested in the Word
<b>Purpose:</b>	Take the risks attached to investing your life in the Word of God.

### **Introduction:**

Many think that the responsibilities of home, husband and children do not allow us time to grow in the ministry properly. However, the Bible presents a different picture - married women who work, but who also invest their lives in the teaching of the Word of God.

### **Purpose: God also calls women with busy lives to invest their lives into discipling others.**

#### **What can women learn from the life of a woman like Priscilla?**

##### **I. She was a very busy woman with correct priorities**

The Bible tells us that Priscilla was always with her husband Aquila. She was one flesh with him. She walked in harmony and constant healthy communication with him. In addition to housework, she was a minister of God and a working woman. Between her and her husband, they had the business of making tents. Despite their occupations, their priorities were in the right place – serving God.

One of the biggest difficulties that women face since ancient times is that they are always very busy. We are not the only ones who suffer this! Doesn't it liberating to know that? The woman is enabled by God to do multiple tasks at once. While you wash your clothes, you attend to the children, plan the dinner, etc. In addition, most women also perform multiple tasks outside the home and provide for the sustenance of themselves, or for various reasons, are the sole providers for their homes.

The burden sometimes feels very heavy, so we need to set priorities in our lives. Start trimming and removing everything that sucks your time away. Can we spend a little more time with our husbands? They deserve it. How nice to do God's work together.

##### **II. She was a flexible woman**

On the other hand we see that Priscilla was a very humble and flexible woman. She suffered and was persecuted for being a Christian, but that didn't take away the courage to reinvent her business and ministry. When they faced problems in Rome where they lived, they moved to Corinth. When the apostle Paul invited them to follow him on missions and travel to Ephesus, she along with her husband followed him. Priscilla knew how to let herself be led by the Lord. She knew when it was time to move and start again, although it's not easy to leave the known, what one has built or worked. Everything in their lives revolved around how she could be more effective ministerially with her husband. The flexibility has to do with the ability to adapt, and is the quality of humility and obedience. It is about listening to the voice of God and following where he is leading us. How do you make decisions in your home?

##### **III. She was a woman of the Word**

She was a very active discipler in teaching. For these purposes her house was always available as a place to gather people and disciple them. She had very clear doctrine that she had believed and had the humility and authority to teach others. Her life made a great difference in the life of Apollos, who would become a great blessing for the early Church. The Church needs women like her who know the Word and are not afraid to correct in love and disciple others.

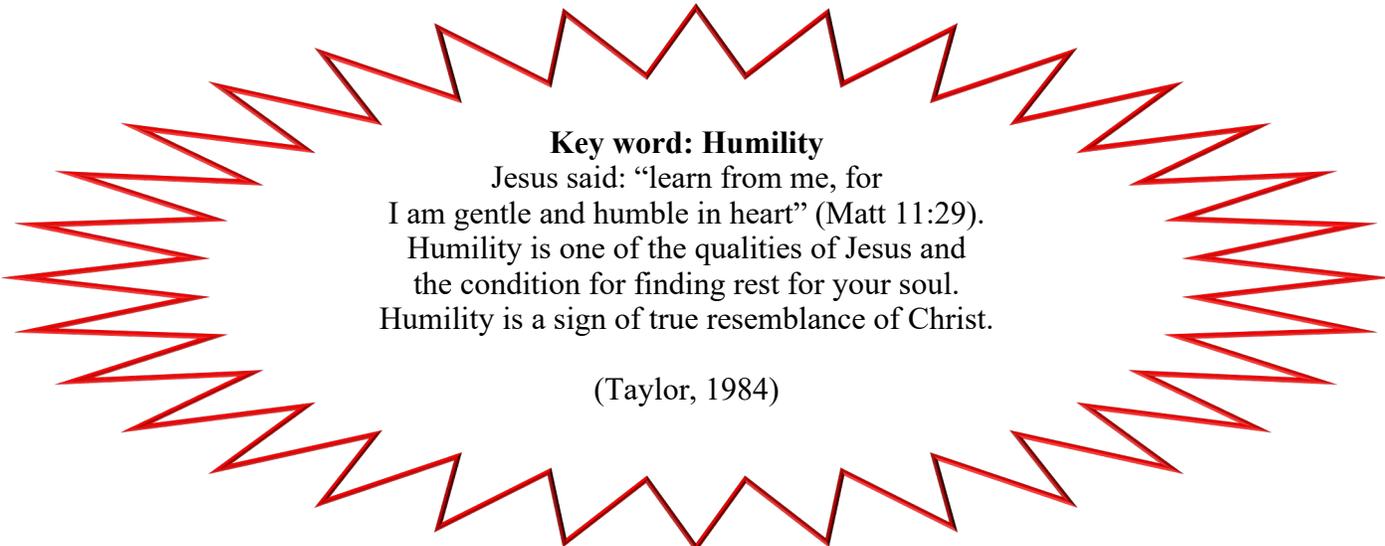
## **Conclusion:**

Priscilla's life, like many of us, was burdened with the tasks of home and work. However, she was not paralyzed by the challenges her situation represented. She was a fighter, and constant in her behavior. Together with her husband, they did what was necessary to get ahead. They followed the voice of God. Priscilla opened spaces of her life to dedicate them to the teaching of the Word of God. Know with certainty that the Word will do the work of transformation in the people around you. Fall in love with the Word of God and let it transform you so that you can open paths of blessing for others. Be humble and flexible by placing the mission of God as a priority in your life. Your life is foundation for your church.

## **To reflect:**

Here are some questions that can help us be flexible:

- Does this course of action that I am going to take come from God?
- Is this action something that I'm determined to do?
- What would be the result if I continued on my own path?
- What would be the result if I gave up my plans for the plans that God has for me?



### **Key word: Humility**

Jesus said: "learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart" (Matt 11:29).  
Humility is one of the qualities of Jesus and the condition for finding rest for your soul.  
Humility is a sign of true resemblance of Christ.

(Taylor, 1984)



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	Identity, faithfulness
<b>Scripture:</b>	Mark 16:9; Luke 8:1-3
<b>Theme:</b>	Wholeness and faithfulness
<b>Purpose:</b>	Know that God can transform our lives and give us his purpose

## **Introduction:**

Mary Magdalene, from the Magdala region near Capernaum, was one of the most prominent women in the New Testament, and was mentioned by the four Gospel writers as a witness to the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. What great experiences! She was a woman with a difficult and complicated past, and in the future her reputation would also be affected. Nonetheless, she was a faithful servant. Contrary to tradition, she was not a prostitute, she was a woman of good morals, but she had been possessed by seven demons, implying that she was completely out of her mind. The Master's touch freed her forever and transformed her life. Possibly even participated in Pentecost!

We don't have a picture of before and after that touch, but we can imagine a radical change. Perhaps her appearance had been neglected. Maybe her ravings had made her lose relationships with family and friends, and probably her house was all messy. Jesus did in her a miracle of liberation and a new life. A good, clean, straight, and orderly life, where the peace and joy of the Lord reign. Jesus gives the correct identity to the woman (wholeness) and unleashes in her the desire to follow him closely and serve God in gratitude (faithfulness).

## **Purpose: Affirm your Christian character to serve with integrity and fidelity.**

### **I. Life transformed by the Master**

We cannot speculate what situation of her past led to this point. However, by the number 7 we know that the possession she suffered was violent and devastating for her whole being. She went from being constantly inflicted by demons to being healthy and free. The freedom that Christ gave her implies a complete change from within, from her mind and heart to her exterior. Now she could have a free, clean and healthy heart, and an alert and clear mind to love the Lord, make decisions, and serve Him.

Do you think you need Jesus to work in you to change some things? Is so, which ones? Have you ever felt obstacles to love Jesus as you should love him and others?

### **II. A life available to the service of the Master**

The response of Mary Magdalene to the work of Jesus in her life was one of gratitude and willingness through faithful service. The liberation that Jesus accomplished in her being freed her also to serve others with love.

Have you ever thought that serving others is also freedom? Only those freed from all pride, prejudice, vanity and other evils can serve all people equally. The liberated Mary Magdalene wanted to serve Jesus so that others could know the one who could liberate and give salvation to them. She was a woman ready for the Lord. She was a wealthy woman and the Word says that she gave Jesus access to her assets and help, along with other women, to finance his ministry. In addition, she served Jesus with her time, talents and testimony. A disciple like Jesus! (Mark 10:43-45) Can we say the same about ourselves today?

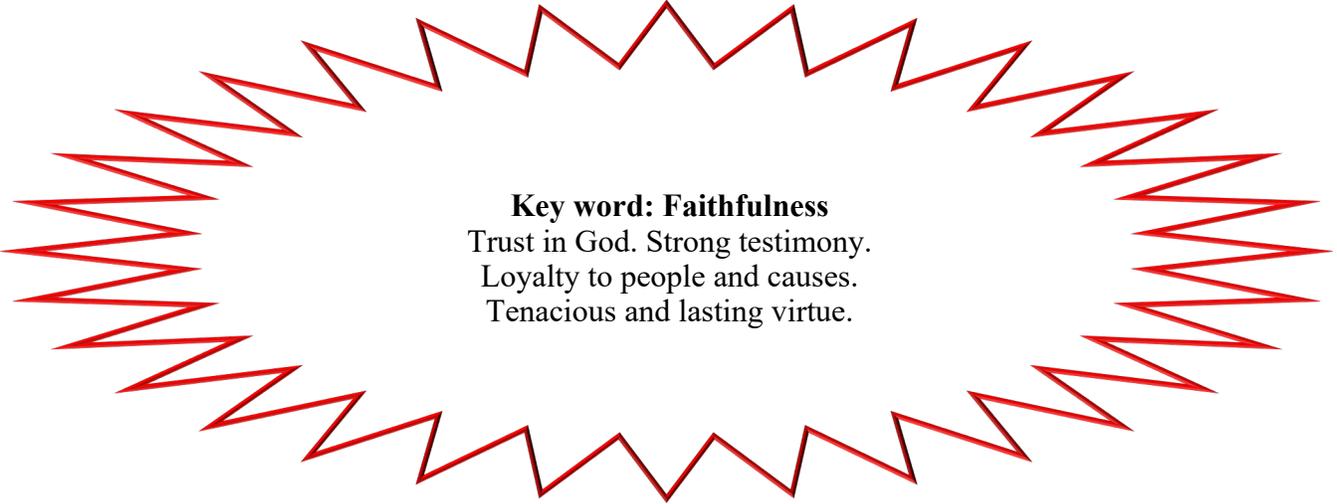
## Conclusion

God looks for women willing to walk with him. Courageous women, who live out the transformation that Christ has made in their lives. May they experience faith in daily life. Women who evangelize others and pray for others in their jobs, in the park, at school, wherever they are. Women who serve Jesus in the house, in the church and walking on the road. Women who are witnesses of his miracles, of his crucifixion, of his death and resurrection. May they live in wholeness and faithfulness.

## To reflect:

Do you know that you can go to Jesus to clean up your life and give you peace?

Are we available to serve in whatever Jesus asks us to do at this time?



### **Key word: Faithfulness**

Trust in God. Strong testimony.

Loyalty to people and causes.

Tenacious and lasting virtue.



<b>Women's Bible Study:</b>	Discipleship Ministries Folder
<b>Subjects:</b>	Prayer, blessing, motherhood, provision
<b>Scripture:</b>	1 Samuel 1:1-18
<b>Theme:</b>	A life invested in praying for the family
<b>Purpose:</b>	That the women recognize prayer as God's perfect tool for their families.

## **Introduction:**

The Bible tells us the story of Hannah, a woman who couldn't have children. Due to the custom of the time, her husband had taken another wife, called Peninnah and had children with her, but the love of his life was Hannah. Peninnah bothered Hannah about it so much that Hannah cried out to God very bitterly, and promised him that if he answered her request to have a child, she would dedicate the child to God completely. After a time, she gives birth to a baby named Samuel, which means: *I asked Jehovah* (verse 20).

Of all the prayer requests we might have, the ones for our children are the closest to our hearts. When we don't have children, we pray because we long to have them and if we have them, we pray that God will take care of them, keep them, guide them and help them. Also, we pray for the Lord to help us to move them forward. Whether they are big or small, a mother will always care about the welfare of her children. Suffering for children can permeate our whole lives and affect our self-esteem, our identity as mothers and servants of God. This suffering causes a tragedy for the whole family. But we always have the option of praying to God in full certitude because God answers our prayers.

## **Purpose: God answers a woman's cry for her family.**

### **I. Pour out your heart in the presence of the Lord (1 Samuel 1:10-11)**

There was nothing Hannah could do on her own to help her situation at that moment. Only God could help her. She had reached the limit of her abilities. Hannah prayed and cried with lament and tears. She poured out her heart before God. In a certain aspect prayer is agony, it is intensity, it comes from deep within us.

The Spirit of God calls women to come out of hiding and prepare their hearts to cry out to God in prayer for their families. It is time to go on the offensive, actively praying for the welfare of our families. Hannah wanted to give birth, and we want to give birth to the request for our children (our own children or our spiritual children). *In the same way, the Spirit helps us in our weakness. We do not know what we ought to pray for, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us through wordless groans.* (Romans 8:26) How encouraging it is to know that we have the help of the Lord in the development of our prayers.

### **II. Surrender your children into the hands of the Lord.**

Hannah prayed to God and made a vow before the Lord, promising to return her son to God so that he would be a man completely separated for God. Hannah received the answer to her request and gave birth to a son. When the boy was about four years old, she took him to the temple and left him there, fulfilling her vow to God. Would that be a difficult decision? Hannah releases control of the situation into the hands of God.

The excuses that we can raise hinder what God is doing in the lives of our children. Hannah gave a son to God without knowing specifically what God would do with him. God made the boy one of Israel's greatest prophets. What can God do for the lives of our children?

### III. Trust in God's provision for your family (1 Samuel 1: 17-18).

The priest Eli watched while she prayed, and at first he took her for being drunk. Hannah was crying out so much, with such anguish, that her actions seemed like one who had taken liquor! When she explained her situation, he sent her home in peace with the expectation that God would answer her prayers. Hannah's attitude changed radically. She was not sad anymore. Hannah trusted that God would do for her according to her need. God would supply her request.

What need of provision do you have for your family at this time? God is sufficient to supply all our needs in abundance; there is no reason to remain sad or in a bitter attitude. Women must have confidence in God's provision.

#### **Conclusion:**

Women can invest their lives in praying for their children. It is the best we can do since many situations that affect our families are beyond our control. Prayer is a perfect tool given by God and can be used by women. God will listen to our requests and will work in the lives of our families according to his perfect will. The intense prayer of a woman can change the future of her house, her children, the community. There is no reason to remain crestfallen and sad if we have placed our burdens on the Lord. Trust in God who will provide. There is no better place for our concerns than the ears of God. There is no better place for our children than the house of God.

#### **To reflect:**

Should we fulfill the vows that we make to God?  
Is it difficult to give up control of your family to God? If so, why?

#### **Key word: Vow**

A solemn promise that is related to a future action or event.

The fulfillment of a vow is motivated by Christian love and sustained by the sense of integrity.

Not fulfilling a vow dishonors Christ.

The vow must be voluntary, and once made must be fulfilled (Ecclesiastes 5: 4).

The Bible recognizes vows to God, such as tithes and offerings. The church recognizes vows of marriage, church membership, and ordination.

(Taylor, 1984)