

GOOD WOMEN IN GOD'S WORD
Introduction

WHY STUDY P_____ IN THE BIBLE?

The Television show *Biography* promotes itself with the tagline, _____

Stories about people have much to t_____ us.
We are more e_____ by a story.

WHY STUDY THE L_____ OF THE BIBLE?

They Are E_____

The rule is that the m_____ are featured in ancient stories.

They Are N_____ E_____

They were f_____ just as all others are.

They Come from All W_____ of Life.

They Are U_____ by God

Can you guess who did _____ make my list of *Good Women in God's Word*:

RESOURCES

Women of the Bible Kathy Collard Miller

Women of the Bible Jean E. Syswerda

Ten Women of the Bible Max Lucado with Jenna Lucado Bishop

CONCLUSION

Some people may think the Bible was written by _____, about _____, and for _____.
But some people are w_____.

The lives of these women are very different from our own. And yet, in many ways, we often find ourselves facing the same issues they faced.

The promises of God that don't seem to come to pass.

The barbaric behavior of others in our world that forces us to play peacemaker.

The overwhelming nature of the tasks the Lord has set before us.

The injustice of a world that judges us for our past, finds us guilty, and says we will always be considered a failure. -Max Lucado p. v.

These strong women in the Bible held the line of f_____ when many men in Israel were satisfied to capitulate to the paganism of Canaan, Persia, and Greece.

- *My research leads me to note that overwhelmingly when a woman (or girl) appears in the biblical text, this rarity heralds an upcoming event as important. Narrators may intentionally use a woman's or girl's entrance into the text to raise, as it were, a red flag that announces the significance of this part of the story.*

Robin Gallaher Branch, *Jereboam's Wife: The Enduring Contributions of the Old Testament's Least-Known Women* (2009)

4But when the fullness of the time came, God sent out his Son, born to a woman, born under the law, 5that he might redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of children. Galatians 4:4-5 World English Bible

The stories of *Good Women in God's Word* have much to offer, but only if we see them o_____ and h_____.

There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:28 NIV

Each week we will try to identify someone we know or someone we know of who reminds us of the woman in that week's study.

1 – EVE

FIRST F _____

*So God created mankind in his own image,
in the image of God he created them;
male and female he created them. Genesis 1:27 NIV*

Being in the image of God has nothing to do with gender.

FIRST W _____

The Lord God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him." Genesis 2:18 NIV

But for Adam no suitable helper was found. 21 So the Lord God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs[g] and then closed up the place with flesh. 22 Then the Lord God made a woman from the rib[h] he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said,

*"This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh;
she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man." Genesis 2:20b-23 NIV*

What need did Adam need that only a w_____ could fulfill?

FIRST T _____

What God permits is much g_____ than what he prohibits.

Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?" Genesis 3:1 NIV

"You will not certainly die," the serpent said to the woman. 5 "For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." Genesis 3:4 NIV

Two great temptations are p_____ and k_____.

Do you think Eve gave in the first time the serpent approached, or did he wear her down over a period of time?

FIRST S _____

When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. Genesis 2:6 NIV

Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, Romans 5:12a NIV

For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. 1 Corinthians 15:22 NIV

And Adam was not the one deceived; it was the woman who was deceived and became a sinner. 1 Timothy 2:14 NIV

Just as Eve was deceived by the serpent's cunning, your minds may somehow be led astray from your sincere and pure devotion to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:3b NIV

FIRST C _____

*To the woman he said,
"I will make your pains in childbearing very severe;
with painful labor you will give birth to children.
Your desire will be for your husband,
and he will rule over you." Genesis 3:16 NIV*

FIRST P _____

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel" Genesis 3:15 NIV

*The Prince of Darkness grim, We tremble not for him;
His rage we can endure, For lo! his doom is sure,
One little word shall fell him. – Martin Luther*

FIRST M _____

Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living. Genesis 3:20 NIV

Eve means "l_____" or "l_____ -giving"

With the help of the Lord I have brought forth a man. Genesis 4:1 NIV

Our final look at her is when she is giving b_____ to Seth. Genesis 4:25

FIRST TO EXPERIENCE M _____

The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. Genesis 3:21

So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. Genesis 3:23 NIV

The Garden is c_____, but the Kingdom is o_____.

Who reminds you of Eve?

Someone who s_____ with temptation.

Someone remembered for his/her b_____ decision.

Someone who lost a g_____ existence but moved ahead with grace.

BY FAITH EVEN SARAH....

And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered him faithful who had made the promise. Hebrews 11:11 NIV

INTRODUCTION

- Her name means or P _____ or Q _____
- Sarah is mentioned more times in Scripture than any other woman, even Mary the mother of Jesus. -Bible.org

A B _____ FAITH

The Lord had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you. Genesis 12:1 NIV

He took his wife Sarai, his nephew Lot, all the possessions they had accumulated and the people they had acquired in Harran, and they set out for the land of Canaan, and they arrived there. Genesis 12:5 NIV

5 For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, 6 like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. 1 Peter 3:5-6 NIV

L _____

At that time the Canaanites were in the land. 7 The Lord appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built an altar there to the Lord, who had appeared to him. Genesis 12:6b-7 NIV

O _____

I will make you into a great nation, Genesis 12:2a NIV

Now Sarai was childless because she was not able to conceive. Genesis 11:30 NIV

"Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" Genesis 17:17b NIV

- If you want to sound smart, tell someone that Sarah is the only woman whose specific _____ is given in scripture.

A F _____ FAITH

1 As he was about to enter Egypt, he said to his wife Sarai, "I know what a beautiful woman you are. 12 When the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me but will let you live. 13 Say you are my sister, so that I will be treated well for your sake and my life will be spared because of you." Genesis 12:11-13 NIV.

For a while he stayed in Gerar, 2 and there Abraham said of his wife Sarah, "She is my sister." Then Abimelek king of Gerar sent for Sarah and took her. Genesis 20:1b-2 NIV

Twice, Abraham and Sarah traded integrity for security.

AN I _____ FAITH

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar; 2 so she said to Abram, "The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said. Genesis 16:1-2 NIV

When she (Hagar) knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress. 5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the Lord judge between you and me." Genesis 16:4b-5 NIV

8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast. 9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking, 10 and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac." Genesis 21:8-9 NIV

A L _____ FAITH

I will bless her and will surely give you a son by her. I will bless her so that she will be the mother of nations; kings of peoples will come from her." Abraham fell facedown; he laughed and said to himself, "Will a son be born to a man a hundred years old? Will Sarah bear a child at the age of ninety?" Genesis 17:16-17 NIV

10 Then one of them said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son."

Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him. 11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing. 12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, "After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?" Genesis 18:10-12 NIV

I wonder what kind of laugh Sarah gave: Giggle, chuckle, belly laugh.

21 Now the Lord was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the Lord did for Sarah what he had promised. 2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him. Genesis 21:1-2 NIV

- "Isaac" means he l _____.

6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me." 7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age." Genesis 21:6-7 NIV

D _____ FAITH

Sarah lived to be a hundred and twenty-seven years old. 2 She died at Kiriath Arba (that is, Hebron) in the land of Canaan, and Abraham went to mourn for Sarah and to weep over her. Genesis 23:1 NIV

Hers is the f _____ g _____ to be mentioned in Scripture.

19 Afterward Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the cave in the field of Machpelah near Mamre (which is at Hebron) in the land of Canaan. 20 So the field and the cave in it were deeded to Abraham by the Hittites as a burial site. Genesis 23:19-20 NIV

For the f _____ t _____, Abraham owns property in the land God promised to him.

When you feel your faith is small, think of Sarah.

- Faith is following God's p _____ even when that is all you have.
- God always d _____ on His promises.
- God's timing is p _____.
- Following God is not easy, but it is always w _____ it.

LEAH – LESS LOVED ONE

Leah is one of the most u_____ -a_____ ladies in the Bible.

SHE IS INTRODUCED S_____ IN THE STORY

While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherd. 10 When Jacob saw Rachel daughter of his uncle Laban, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep. 11 Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud. 12 He had told Rachel that he was a relative of her father and a son of Rebekah. So she ran and told her father. Genesis 29:9-12 NIV

LESS A_____

16 Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was Leah, and the name of the younger was Rachel. 17 Leah had weak eyes, but Rachel had a lovely figure and was beautiful. Genesis 29:1-17 NIV

M_____ BY HER FATHER

But when evening came, he took his daughter Leah and brought her to Jacob, Genesis 29:23 NIV

25 When morning came, there was Leah! So Jacob said to Laban, "What is this you have done to me? I served you for Rachel, didn't I? Why have you deceived me?" 26 Laban replied, "It is not our custom here to give the younger daughter in marriage before the older one. 27 Finish this daughter's bridal week; then we will give you the younger one also, in return for another seven years of work." Genesis 29:25-27 NIV

We remember how Jacob felt. But how do you think Leah felt about this marriage to Jacob?

LESS LOVED BY HER H_____

his love for Rachel was greater than his love for Leah. Genesis 29:30b NIV

When the Lord saw that Leah was not loved, he enabled her to conceive, Genesis 29:31 NIV

- Have you ever felt unloved by a spouse, parents, or someone else?

Leah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Reuben for she said, "It is because the Lord has seen my misery. Surely my husband will love me now." Genesis 29:32 NIV

Reuben = see, a s_____.

She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Because the Lord heard that I am not loved, he gave me this one too." So she named him Simeon. Genesis 29:33 NIV

Simeon = one who h_____.

Again she conceived, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "Now at last my husband will become attached to me, because I have borne him three sons." So he was named Levi. Genesis 29:34 NIV

Levi = a _____

LESS LOVED BY HER S_____

When Rachel saw that she was not bearing Jacob any children, she became jealous of her sister. So she said to Jacob, "Give me children, or I'll die!" Genesis 30:1 NIV

14 During wheat harvest, Reuben went out into the fields and found some mandrake plants, which he brought to his mother Leah. Rachel said to Leah, "Please give me some of your son's mandrakes."

15 But she said to her, "Wasn't it enough that you took away my husband? Will you take my son's mandrakes too?"

"Very well," Rachel said, "he can sleep with you tonight in return for your son's mandrakes." Genesis 30:14-15 NIV

LOVED BY G_____

35 She conceived again, and when she gave birth to a son she said, "This time I will praise the Lord." So she named him Judah. Then she stopped having children. Genesis 29:35 NIV

Judah = P_____

I like to think that somehow it was e_____ to praise the Lord and have His blessing.

*The scepter will not depart from Judah,
nor the ruler's staff from between his feet,
until he to whom it belongs shall come
and the obedience of the nations shall be his. Genesis 49:10 NIV*

LOVED BY HER H_____

Bury me with my fathers in the cave in the field of Ephron the Hittite, 30 the cave in the field of Machpelah, near Mamre in Canaan, which Abraham bought along with the field as a burial place from Ephron the Hittite. 31 There Abraham and his wife Sarah were buried, there Isaac and his wife Rebekah were buried, and there I buried Leah. Genesis 49:29b-31 NIV

Leah is best known for what she d_____ n_____ have.
But think about what she d_____ have.

JOCHEBED – COURAGEOUS FAITH

Jochebed the mother of Moses, _____, and _____

The name Jochebed means *The Lord Is G*_____.

8 Then a new king, to whom Joseph meant nothing, came to power in Egypt. 9 “Look,” he said to his people, “the Israelites have become far too numerous for us. 10 Come, we must deal shrewdly with them or they will become even more numerous and, if war breaks out, will join our enemies, fight against us and leave the country.”

11 So they put slave masters over them to oppress them with forced labor, and they built Pithom and Rameses as store cities for Pharaoh. 12 But the more they were oppressed, the more they multiplied and spread; so the Egyptians came to dread the Israelites 13 and worked them ruthlessly. 14 They made their lives bitter with harsh labor in brick and mortar and with all kinds of work in the fields; in all their harsh labor the Egyptians worked them ruthlessly. Exodus 1:8-14 NIV

At the end of the _____ years, to the very day, all the Lord’s divisions left Egypt. Exodus 12:41 NIV

15 The king of Egypt said to the Hebrew midwives, whose names were Shiphrah and Puah, 16 “When you are helping the Hebrew women during childbirth on the delivery stool, if you see that the baby is a boy, kill him; but if it is a girl, let her live.” Exodus 1:15-16 NIV

FAITH IS FOLLOWING E_____

Who showed courage to you?

17 The midwives, however, feared God and did not do what the king of Egypt had told them to do; they let the boys live. 18 Then the king of Egypt summoned the midwives and asked them, “Why have you done this? Why have you let the boys live?”

19 The midwives answered Pharaoh, “Hebrew women are not like Egyptian women; they are vigorous and give birth before the midwives arrive.” Exodus 1:17-19 NIV

- When is it ok to t_____ a l_____?

So God was kind to the midwives and the people increased and became even more numerous. 21 And because the midwives feared God, he gave them families of their own. Exodus 1:20-21 NIV

True or False: Lying, under the direction of God, is a very rare situation and probably will not happen often in our lifetimes.

FAITH IS TRYING THE I_____

Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: “Every Hebrew boy that is born you must throw into the Nile, but let every girl live.” Exodus 1:22 NIV

Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, 2 and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months. Exodus 2:1-2 NIV

How do you think she kept the baby quiet for that long?

FAITH IS TRUSTING THE I _____

But when she could hide him no longer, she got a papyrus basket for him and coated it with tar and pitch. Then she placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. Exodus 2:3 NIV

FAITH IS DOING THE A _____

5 Then Pharaoh's daughter went down to the Nile to bathe, and her attendants were walking along the riverbank. She saw the basket among the reeds and sent her female slave to get it. 6 She opened it and saw the baby. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

"Felt sorry" - The verb is strong; it means "to have c _____, to pity, to s _____."

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?"

8 "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. 9 Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So the woman took the baby and nursed him. 10 When the child grew older, she took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son. She named him Moses, saying, "I drew him out of the water." Exodus 2:5-10 NIV

While Jochebed did play a motherly role to Moses, think about what she had to sacrifice.

- Jochebed was not able to b _____ the mother to Moses I am sure she wanted to.
- S _____ never considered the boy her "son" even though he was.
- At a certain age, she had to let him go into the care of Pharaoh's daughter.
- Jochebed was not allowed to n _____ her son.

What purpose of God was at work here?

Faith and courage are opposite sides of the s _____ c _____.

Above all, (put on) the shield of faith, (by which you) shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. Ephesians 6:16,

By faith Moses' parents hid him for three months after he was born, because they saw he was no ordinary child, and they were not afraid of the king's edict. Hebrews 11:23 NIV

What are some areas of your life you need to stop holding on to and start t _____ God?

Are there times you refused to follow the Lord unless He did things a c _____ way.

THE MANY FACES OF MIRIAM

Miriam knew what it was to experience h_____ and despair, terror and d_____, slavery and freedom, unimportance and prominence, obedience and d_____.

AT TIMES OUR CALL IS TO BE O_____

Then she (Jochebed) placed the child in it and put it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile. 4 His sister (Miriam) stood at a distance to see what would happen to him. Exodus 2:3b-r NIV

7 Then his sister asked Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and get one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?" 8 "Yes, go," she answered. So the girl went and got the baby's mother. Exodus 2:7-8 NIV

What do we deduce about her characteristics, just from this little incident?

She's protective, c_____, brave, enterprising, quick-witted, and c_____.

AT TIMES OUR CALL IS TO BE W_____

- She was there to see the impact of 10 plagues on the Egyptians
- She was there to celebrate the P_____ meal and have blood from a lamb covering her door to protect from the death angel.
- She was there in the intense p_____ of Pharaoh's armies.
- She was there feeling the pressure of their backs against the waters of the Red Sea.
- She was there when the Lord p_____ the seas and the Hebrews rushed across.

19 When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horse men went into the sea, the Lord brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground. 20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing. 21 Miriam sang to them:

"Sing to the Lord, for he is highly exalted.

Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea." Exodus 15:19-20 NIV

Note that it calls her a p_____.

Note that she is a leader of w_____.

This is the very first mention of d_____ in Scripture:

AT TIMES OUR CALL IS TO BE R_____

Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite. 2 "Has the Lord spoken only through Moses?" they asked. "Hasn't he also spoken through us?" And the Lord heard this. Numbers 12:1-2 NIV

Interesting that they talked “against” Moses rather than talking “_____” Moses.
What’s another name for that? G_____!

Do you think Moses’ wife was the real problem or just a convenient reason for their complaint?

4 At once the Lord said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out. 5 Then the Lord came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. Numbers 12:4-5a NIV

9 The anger of the Lord burned against them, and he left them.

10 When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam’s skin was leprous—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease, 11 and he said to Moses, “Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed. 12 Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother’s womb with its flesh half eaten away.” Numbers 12:9-12 NIV

Why was only Miriam struck with leprosy?

Notice the word “_____” from Aaron

13 So Moses cried out to the Lord, “Please, God, heal her!”

14 The Lord replied to Moses, “If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back.” 15 So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back. Numbers 12:13-15 NIV

What do you think she thought of when she was out there?

What do you think she was like when she came back in?

Notice that Moses did not d_____ himself.

In the first month the whole Israelite community arrived at the Desert of Zin, and they stayed at Kadesh. There Miriam died and was buried. Numbers 20:1 NIV

Looking back, she was a g_____ example, and she was a b_____ example

We can see ourselves: Always loved and r_____.

RAHAB - COME ON UP AND SEE ME SOMETIME

The name "Rahab" means "b _____"

CAN GOD USE WHAT HE DOES NOT C _____?

Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. "Go, look over the land," he said, "especially Jericho." So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there. Joshua 2:1 NIV

- In _____ of the eight appearances of her name in Scripture, she is presented as a "harlot."

Why would the house of prostitution be a good place for the spies to go when they entered the city?

IS ANYONE T _____ F _____ G _____ TO BE USED BY GOD?

Who else in the Bible did God use who we would have omitted?

8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, "I know that the Lord has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. 10 We have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea Joshua 2:8-10a NIV

The book of James considers her as an example of how faith w _____.

In the same way, was not even Rahab the prostitute considered righteous for what she did when she gave lodging to the spies and sent them off in a different direction? James 1:25 NIV

Folks testimony usually follow a repeated pattern: *I w _____ ...but n _____.*

CAN GOD BLESS A L _____?

2 The king of Jericho was told, "Look, some of the Israelites have come here tonight to spy out the land." 3 So the king of Jericho sent this message to Rahab: "Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, because they have come to spy out the whole land."

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. She said, "Yes, the men came to me, but I did not know where they had come from. 5 At dusk, when it was time to close the city gate, they left. I don't know which way they went. Go after them quickly. You may catch up with them." 6 (But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them under the stalks of flax she had laid out on the roof.) 7 So the men set out in pursuit of the spies on the road that leads to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as the pursuers had gone out, the gate was shut. Joshua 2:2-7 NIV

CAN SINNERS BECOME S_____?

Look at her l_____

Salmon the father of Boaz, whose mother was Rahab, Matthew 1:5a NIV

Look at her l_____

By faith the prostitute Rahab, because she welcomed the spies, was not killed with those who were disobedient Hebrews 11:31 NIV

W_____ came down around Rahab too.

Haven't there been occasions when we've been told *We have n____ r_____ for you here?*

- *You can't go back and change the beginning, but you can start where you are and c_____ the e_____*

DEBORAH - THE HONEYBEE

A few interesting characteristics about Deborah:

Her story is told t _____:

In Chapter 4 it is told as a n _____.

In Chapter 5 it is told as a p _____.

She is the only f _____ judge.

Her name means H _____.

Again the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord, now that Ehud was dead. 2 So the Lord sold them into the hands of Jabin king of Canaan, who reigned in Hazor. Sisera, the commander of his army, was based in Harosheth Haggoyim. 3 Because he had nine hundred chariots fitted with iron and had cruelly oppressed the Israelites for twenty years, they cried to the Lord for help. Judges 4:1-3 NIV

GOD GIVES PEOPLE MANY R _____

4 Now Deborah, a prophet, the wife of Lappidoth, was leading Israel at that time. 5 She held court under the Palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the Israelites went up to her to have their disputes decided. Judges 4:4-5 NIV

P _____ W _____ J _____ M _____

*Villagers in Israel would not fight;
they held back until I, Deborah, arose,
until I arose, a mother in Israel. Judges 5:7 NIV*

- *If the only person in your life _____ care for is you, you will miss the Kingdom of God.*

God calls b _____ people.

GOD GIVES US SPECIAL O _____

6 She sent for Barak son of Abinoam from Kedesh in Naphtali and said to him, "The Lord, the God of Israel, commands you: 'Go, take with you ten thousand men of Naphtali and Zebulun and lead them up to Mount Tabor. 7 I will lead Sisera, the commander of Jabin's army, with his chariots and his troops to the Kishon River and give him into your hands.'" Judges 4:6-7 NIV

*God chose new leaders when war came to the city gates,
but not a shield or spear was seen among forty thousand in Israel. Judges 5:8 NIV*

Barak said to her, "If you go with me, I will go; but if you don't go with me, I won't go." Judges 4:8 NIV

"Very well," Deborah said, "I will go with you. But because of the way you are going about this, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will hand Sisera over to a woman."
Judges 4:9 NIV

GOD GIVES V _____

Go, today is the day the Lord will hand over Sis-e-ra. The Lord has already cleared the way for you. Judges 4:14a NIV

O LORD, when you went out from Seir, when you marched from the land of Edom, the earth shook, the heavens poured, the clouds poured down water. Judges 5:4

The river Kishon swept them away, the age-old river, the river Kishon. Judges 5:21

At Barak's advance, the LORD routed Sisera and all his chariots and army by the sword, and Sisera abandoned his chariot and fled on foot. Judges 4:15 NIV

Note: God did not bring the rain until the army a _____.

GOD KEEPS HIS P _____

16 Barak pursued the chariots and army as far as Harosheth Haggoyim, and all Sisera's troops fell by the sword; not a man was left. 17 Sisera, meanwhile, fled on foot to the tent of Jael, the wife of Heber the Kenite, because there was an alliance between Jabin king of Hazor and the family of Heber the Kenite. Judges 4:16-17 NIV

21 But Jael, Heber's wife, picked up a tent peg and a hammer and went quietly to him while he lay fast asleep, exhausted. She drove the peg through his temple into the ground, and he died.

22 Just then Barak came by in pursuit of Sisera, and Jael went out to meet him. "Come," she said, "I will show you the man you're looking for." Judges 4:21-22 NIV

Good triumphs over evil when two things happen:

Men and women act in courageous f _____. God i _____.

Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.
Psalm 20:7 NIV

Like the victory of salvation, it is likely to occur by g _____ though f _____.

RUTH – LOVE AND MARRIAGE

BACKGROUND

3 Now Elimelek, Naomi's husband, died, and she was left with her two sons. 4 They married Moabite women, one named Orpah and the other Ruth. After they had lived there about ten years, 5 both Mahlon and Kilion also died, and Naomi was left without her two sons and her husband. Ruth 1:3-5 NIV

Entreat me not to leave you, or to turn back from following after you; For wherever you go, I will go; And wherever you lodge, I will lodge; Your people shall be my people, And your God, my God. Ruth 1:16b NKJV

- Did having a m_____ who was a convert to Judaism made Boaz more open to a Moabite wife?

A MEETING OF A _____

Now behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem, and said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered him, "The LORD bless you!" Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, "Whose young woman is this?" Ruth 2:4-5 NIV

So Boaz said to Ruth, "My daughter, listen to me. Don't go and glean in another field and don't go away from here. Stay here with the women who work for me. Ruth 2:8 NIV

- There is h_____. But is there f_____?

THE RELATIONSHIP GETS S_____ MOVING TOWARD MARRIAGE

"The LORD bless him!" Naomi said to her daughter-in-law. "He has not stopped showing his kindness to the living and the dead." She added, "That man is our close relative; he is one of our kinsman-redeemers." Ruth 2:20 NIV

- Redeem means take c_____ of someone or something.

7 When Boaz had finished eating and drinking and was in good spirits, he went over to lie down at the far end of the grain pile. Ruth approached quietly, uncovered his feet and lay down. 8 In the middle of the night something startled the man; he turned—and there was a woman lying at his feet! Ruth 3:7-8

Who are you?" he asked. "I am your servant Ruth," she said. "Spread the corner of your garment over me, since you are a kinsman-redeemer." Ruth 3:9 NIV

The Lord bless you, my daughter," he replied. "This kindness is greater than that which you showed earlier: You have not run after the younger men, whether rich or poor. Ruth 3:10 NIV

Boaz was a g_____ here.

So she lay at his feet until morning, but got up before anyone could be recognized; and he said, "Don't let it be known that a woman came to the threshing floor." Ruth 3:14 NIV

THERE IS A F_____ INVOLVED

He also said, "Bring me the shawl you are wearing and hold it out." When she did so, he poured into it six measures of barley and put it on her. Ruth 3:15 NIV

MAKE IT L_____

Then Boaz said, "On the day you buy the land from Naomi, you also acquire Ruth the Moabite, the dead man's widow, in order to maintain the name of the dead with his property." Ruth 4:5 NIV

Then Boaz announced to the elders and all the people, "Today you are witnesses that I have bought from Naomi all the property of Elimelech, Kilion and Mahlon. I have also acquired Ruth the Moabitess, Mahlon's widow, as my wife." Ruth 4:9-10a NIV

Boaz does two things to show that the arrangement was official:

He receives the other man's s_____

He gets the a_____ of the witnesses:

Then the elders and all those at the gate said, "We are witnesses. May the LORD make the woman who is coming into your home like Rachel and Leah, who together built up the house of Israel." Ruth 4:11 NIV

A good marriage is filled with _____ commitment.

CELEBRATE THE W_____

So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife. Ruth 4:13a

The only question is *Who was the h_____?*

FIRST COMES L_____. THEN COMES M_____. THEN....

the Lord enabled her to conceive, and she gave birth to a son. Ruth 4:13b NIV

And they named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David. Ruth 4:17b NIV

Joseph, the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus, who is called Christ. Matthew 1:16 NIV.

HANNAH – THE GRACIOUS ONE

There was a certain man from Ramathaim, a Zuphite from the hill country of Ephraim, whose name was Elkanah son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite. 2 He had two wives; one was called Hannah and the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had none. 1 Samuel 1:1-2 NIV

The name “Hannah” means “f_____, g_____”

D_____

L_____

B_____

P_____

C_____

T_____

P_____

There was no s_____

3 Year after year this man went up from his town to worship and sacrifice to the Lord Almighty at Shiloh, where Hophni and Phinehas, the two sons of Eli, were priests of the Lord. 4 Whenever the day came for Elkanah to sacrifice, he would give portions of the meat to his wife Peninnah and to all her sons and daughters. 5 But to Hannah he gave a double portion because he loved her, and the Lord had closed her womb. 1 Samuel 1:3-5 NIV

Her husband Elkanah would say to her, “Hannah, why are you weeping? Why don’t you eat? Why are you downhearted? Don’t I mean more to you than ten sons?” 1 Samuel 1:8 NIV

There was t_____

6 Because the Lord had closed Hannah’s womb, her rival kept provoking her in order to irritate her. 7 This went on year after year. 1 Samuel 1:6-7a NIV

There was a r_____ **that fell to the Lord**

and the Lord had closed her womb. 1 Samuel 1:5b NIV

Because the Lord had closed Hannah’s womb, 1 Samuel 1:6a NIV

9 Once when they had finished eating and drinking in Shiloh, Hannah stood up. Now Eli the priest was sitting on his chair by the doorpost of the Lord’s house. 10 In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the Lord, weeping bitterly. 11 And she made a vow, saying, “Lord

Almighty, if you will only look on your servant's misery and remember me, and not forget your servant but give her a son, 1 Samuel 1:9-11a NIV

R _____
then I will give him to the Lord for all the days of his life 1 Samuel 1:11b

“Samuel” sounds like the Hebrew for *h* _____ *by God.*

24 After he was weaned, she took the boy with her, young as he was, along with a three-year-old bull an ephah of flour and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord at Shiloh. 25 When the bull had been sacrificed, they brought the boy to Eli, 26 and she said to him, “Pardon me, my lord. As surely as you live, I am the woman who stood here beside you praying to the Lord. 27 I prayed for this child, and the Lord has granted me what I asked of him. 28 So now I give him to the Lord. 1 Samuel 1:24-28 NIV

When did your mom have to “release” you?

R _____

P _____

P _____

P _____

The first 10 verses of 1 Samuel 2 is a s _____ of worship from Hannah

P _____

Each year his mother made him a little robe and took it to him when she went up with her husband to offer the annual sacrifice. 1 Samuel 2:19

Happy Ending!

And the Lord was gracious to Hannah; she gave birth to three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile, the boy Samuel grew up in the presence of the Lord. 1 Samuel 2:21 NIV

Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. Psalm 127:4-5 NIV

You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth. You are not the archer. The archer is the Lord. And He sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His arrows may go swift and far.

There are 832 _____ between birth and a child's _____ birthday.

ABIGAIL – THE PEACEMAKER

Who was Pauline Friedman? _____

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9 NIV

CRISIS CREATED

A _____

This was a season in Israel when they had _____ kings:

D _____

A certain man in Maon, who had property there at Carmel, was very wealthy. He had a thousand goats and three thousand sheep, which he was shearing in Carmel. His name was Nabal 1 Samuel 25:2-3a NIV

4 While David was in the wilderness, he heard that Nabal was shearing sheep. 5 So he sent ten young men and said to them, "Go up to Nabal at Carmel and greet him in my name. 6 Say to him: 'Long life to you! Good health to you and your household! And good health to all that is yours!

7 "Now I hear that it is sheep-shearing time. When your shepherds were with us, we did not mistreat them, and the whole time they were at Carmel nothing of theirs was missing. 8 Ask your own servants and they will tell you. Therefore, be favorable toward my men, since we come at a festive time. Please give your servants and your son David whatever you can find for them." 1 Samuel 25:4-8 NIV

- It like our American custom of t_____

Nabal answered David's servants, "Who is this David? Who is this son of Jesse? Many servants are breaking away from their masters these days. Why should I take my bread and water, and the meat I have slaughtered for my shearers, and give it to men coming from who knows where?" 1 Samuel 25:10-11 NIV

I _____

David said to his men, "Each of you strap on your sword!" So they did, and David strapped his on as well. About four hundred men went up with David, while two hundred stayed with the supplies. 1 Samuel 25:13 NIV

He orders: *Strap on your swords (1 Samuel 25:13a).*

May God deal with David, be it ever so severely, if by morning I leave alive one male of all who belong to him!" 1 Samuel 25:22 NIV

- What has to be said for you to respond: *Them are f_____ w_____!*

CRISIS AVERTED

Get I _____

Abigail acted quickly. She took two hundred loaves of bread, two skins of wine, five dressed sheep, five seahs of roasted grain, a hundred cakes of raisins and two hundred cakes of pressed figs, and loaded them on donkeys. 1 Samuel 25:18 NIV

His name means Fool and folly goes with him. 2 Samuel 25:25b

Ask yourself: *In what am I i_____?*

Respond with W _____

-Be r _____

Nabal and David responded with quick “K_____ J_____” reactions

²³ When Abigail saw David, she quickly got off her donkey and bowed down before David with her face to the ground. ²⁴ She fell at his feet and said: “Pardon your servant, my lord, and let me speak to you; hear what your servant has to say. ²⁵ Please pay no attention, my lord, to that wicked man Nabal. He is just like his name—his name means Fool, and folly goes with him. And as for me, your servant, I did not see the men my lord sent. ²⁶ And now, my lord, as surely as the Lord your God lives and as you live, since the Lord has kept you from bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hands, may your enemies and all who are intent on harming my lord be like Nabal. 1 Samuel 25:23-26 NIV

She understood a battle would only create I_____.

- *Never wrestle a pig. You both get dirty and the pig l_____ it.*

-Exercise b _____

-Be k _____

And let this gift, which your servant has brought to my master, be given to the men who follow you. 1 Samuel 25:27 NIV

- *"People who fight fire with fire usually end up with a _____." --Abigail Van Buren*

-Show f _____

³⁰ When the Lord has fulfilled for my lord every good thing he promised concerning him and has appointed him ruler over Israel, ³¹ my lord will not have on his conscience the staggering burden of needless bloodshed or of having avenged himself. And when the Lord your God has brought my lord success, remember your servant.” 1 Samuel 25:30-31 NIV

David said to Abigail, “Praise be to the Lord, the God of Israel, who has sent you today to meet me. May you be blessed for your good judgment and for keeping me from bloodshed this day and from avenging myself with my own hands. 1 Samuel 25:32-33 NIV

³⁷ Then in the morning, when Nabal was sober, his wife told him all these things, and his heart failed him and he became like a stone. ³⁸ About ten days later, the Lord struck Nabal and he died. 1 Samuel 25:37-38 NIV

Who saved you from yourself?

THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH – DEALING WITH DESPERATION

DESPERATE C _____

D _____

Some time later the brook dried up because there had been no rain in the land. 1 Kings 17:7 NIV

S _____

8 Then the word of the Lord came to him: 9 “Go at once to Zarephath in the region of Sidon and stay there. I have directed a widow there to supply you with food.” 10 So he went to Zarephath. When he came to the town gate, a widow was there gathering sticks. He called to her and asked, “Would you bring me a little water in a jar so I may have a drink?” 11 As she was going to get it, he called, “And bring me, please, a piece of bread.”

Just a note: Zarephath was _____ miles away far to the north and west. It would have taken Elijah numerous days to go there.

12 “As surely as the Lord your God lives,” she replied, “I don’t have any bread—only a handful of flour in a jar and a little olive oil in a jug. I am gathering a few sticks to take home and make a meal for myself and my son, that we may eat it—and die.” 1 Kings 17:8-12 NIV

DESPERATE F _____

13 Elijah said to her, “Don’t be afraid. Go home and do as you have said. But first make a small loaf of bread for me from what you have and bring it to me, and then make something for yourself and your son. 14 For this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: ‘The jar of flour will not be used up and the jug of oil will not run dry until the day the Lord sends rain on the land.’” 1 Kings 17:13-14

How many days could you eat with just the food that is in your house right now?

God calls us to give out of our a _____ AND out of our s _____.

She went away and did as Elijah had told her. 1 Kings 17:15a NIV

So there was food every day for Elijah and for the woman and her family. 16 For the jar of flour was not used up and the jug of oil did not run dry, in keeping with the word of the Lord spoken by Elijah. 1 Kings 17: 15b-16 NIV

From God’s perspective, scarcity is a m _____.

DESPERATE M _____

17 Some time later the son of the woman who owned the house became ill. He grew worse and worse, and finally stopped breathing. 18 She said to Elijah, “What do you have against me, man of God? Did you come to remind me of my sin and kill my son?” 1 Kings 17:17-18 NIV

Feel her p _____: *My son is dead*

Experience her a _____: *What do you have against me?*

Taste her g _____: *Did you come to remind me of my sin....?*

19 "Give me your son," Elijah replied. He took him from her arms, carried him to the upper room where he was staying, and laid him on his bed. 20 Then he cried out to the Lord, "Lord my God, have you brought tragedy even on this widow I am staying with, by causing her son to die?" 21 Then he stretched himself out on the boy three times and cried out to the Lord, "Lord my God, let this boy's life return to him!" 1 Kings 17:19-21 NIV

Have you ever prayed a desperate prayer for God to make something better?

22 The Lord heard Elijah's cry, and the boy's life returned to him, and he lived. 23 Elijah picked up the child and carried him down from the room into the house. He gave him to his mother and said, "Look, your son is alive!" 1 Kings 17:22-23 NIV

GOD C _____ FOR DESPERATE PEOPLE

Then the woman said to Elijah, "Now I know that you are a man of God and that the word of the Lord from your mouth is the truth." 1 Kings 17:24 NIV

God has a special love and care for women who have lost their husbands:

He D _____ It in The Psalms:

*A father to the fatherless, a defender of widows,
is God in his holy dwelling. Psalm 68:5 NIV*

*The Lord watches over the foreigner
and sustains the fatherless and the widow, Psalm 146:9a NIV*

He D _____ It from The Prophets

*They (rulers) do not defend the cause of the fatherless;
the widow's case does not come before them. Isaiah 1:23b NIV*

*In you they have oppressed the foreigner and mistreated the fatherless and the widow.
Ezekiel 22:7b NIV*

5 "So I will come to put you on trial. I will be quick to testify against sorcerers,
adulterers and perjurers, against those who defraud laborers of their wages, who
oppress the widows and the fatherless Malachi 3:5a NIV

He C _____ on It from the Church

*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans
and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James
1:27 NIV*

Jesus referred to this lady in his sermon in Nazareth:

24 "Truly I tell you," he continued, "no prophet is accepted in his hometown. 25 I assure
you that there were many widows in Israel in Elijah's time, when the sky was shut for three
and a half years and there was a severe famine throughout the land. 26 Yet Elijah was not
sent to any of them, but to a widow in Zarephath in the region of Sidon. Luke 4:24-26 NIV

God's work in God's way never lacks God's s _____. – Elizabeth Elliott

ESTHER – EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED

It is unexpected that the story of Esther makes it into the Bible because throughout all its verses there is no mention of _____.

Background of Characters

- A powerful and respected Ruler: Xerxes
- A wise counselor: Mordecai (Esther's cousin)
- A sinister villain: Haman
- A beautiful maiden: Esther

Background of Persian Empire

- Xerxes was the g_____ of Cyrus the Great who allowed the Jews to return home from exile in Babylon.
- Xerxes was the s_____ of Darius the Great, who was responsible for making Persia the largest empire in the world.

IT IS UNEXPECTED THAT A POSITION OF LEADERSHIP WOULD BECOME

_____ *On the seventh day, when King Xerxes was in high spirits from wine, he commanded the seven eunuchs 11 to bring before him Queen Vashti, wearing her royal crown, in order to display her beauty to the people and nobles, for she was lovely to look at. Esther 1:10a, 11 NIV*

IT IS UNEXPECTED THAT ESTHER WOULD “W_____” THE POSITION AS QUEEN

15 When the turn came for Esther to go to the king, she asked for nothing other than what Hegai, suggested. 17 Now the king was attracted to Esther more than to any of the other women, and she won his favor and approval more than any of the other virgins. So he set a royal crown on her head and made her queen.... Esther 2:15a, 17a NIV

IT IS UNEXPECTED THAT MORDECAI WOULD NOT BE R_____ FOR STOPPING AN ASSASSINATION

21 During the time Mordecai was sitting at the king's gate, Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, became angry and conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. 22 But Mordecai found out about the plot and told Queen Esther, who in turn reported it to the king, giving credit to Mordecai. 23 And when the report was investigated and found to be true, the two officials were impaled on poles. Esther 2:21-23a NIV

IT IS UNEXPECTED THAT THE KING'S ORDER WOULD NOT BE CARRIED OUT MORE Q_____

5 When Haman saw that Mordecai would not kneel down or pay him honor, he was enraged. 6 Yet having learned who Mordecai's people were, he scorned the idea of killing only Mordecai. Instead Haman looked for a way to destroy all Mordecai's people, the Jews, throughout the whole kingdom of Xerxes. Esther 3:5-6 NIV

In the twelfth year of King Xerxes, in the first month, the month of Nisan, the pur (that is, the lot) was cast in the presence of Haman to select a day and month. And the lot fell on the twelfth month, the month of Adar. Esther 3:7

Adar is the last month on the Hebrew calendar and roughly corresponds with the month of _____.

Xerxes vast domain included _____ provinces (countries) from West India to Ethiopia

Time is Esther's f_____.

IT IS UNEXPECTED THAT ESTHER R_____ HER LIFE FOR HER PEOPLE

"All the king's officials and the people of the royal provinces know that for any man or woman who approaches the king in the inner court without being summoned the king has but one law: that they be put to death unless the king extends the gold scepter to them and spares their lives. Esther 4:11a NIV

It is OK to be afraid. The question is how you r_____ to fear.

*And who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?
Esther 4:13 NIV*

IT IS UNEXPECTED THAT XERXES P_____ ESTHER'S LIFE

When he saw Queen Esther standing in the court, he was pleased with her and held out to her the gold scepter that was in his hand. So Esther approached and touched the tip of the scepter. Esther 5:2 NIV

Trust in God and do what you can to h_____ your cause.

IT IS UNEXPECTED THAT ESTHER DOES NOT ASK FOR INTERVENTION AT THE F_____ OPPORTUNITY

Then the king asked, "What is it, Queen Esther? What is your request? Even up to half the kingdom, it will be given you." Esther 5:3 NIV

IT IS UNEXPECTED THAT HAMAN D_____ IN THE WAY PLANNED FOR MORDECAI

That night the king could not sleep; so he ordered the book of the chronicles, the record of his reign, to be brought in and read to him. 2 It was found recorded there that Mordecai had exposed Bigthana and Teresh, two of the king's officers who guarded the doorway, who had conspired to assassinate King Xerxes. 3 "What honor and recognition has Mordecai received for this?" the king asked. "Nothing has been done for him," his attendants answered. Esther 6:1-3 NIV

In the end: Haman gets Mordecai's r_____ and Mordecai gets Haman's j_____.


Although the book of Esther never mentions God by name, the word f_____ pops up frequently.

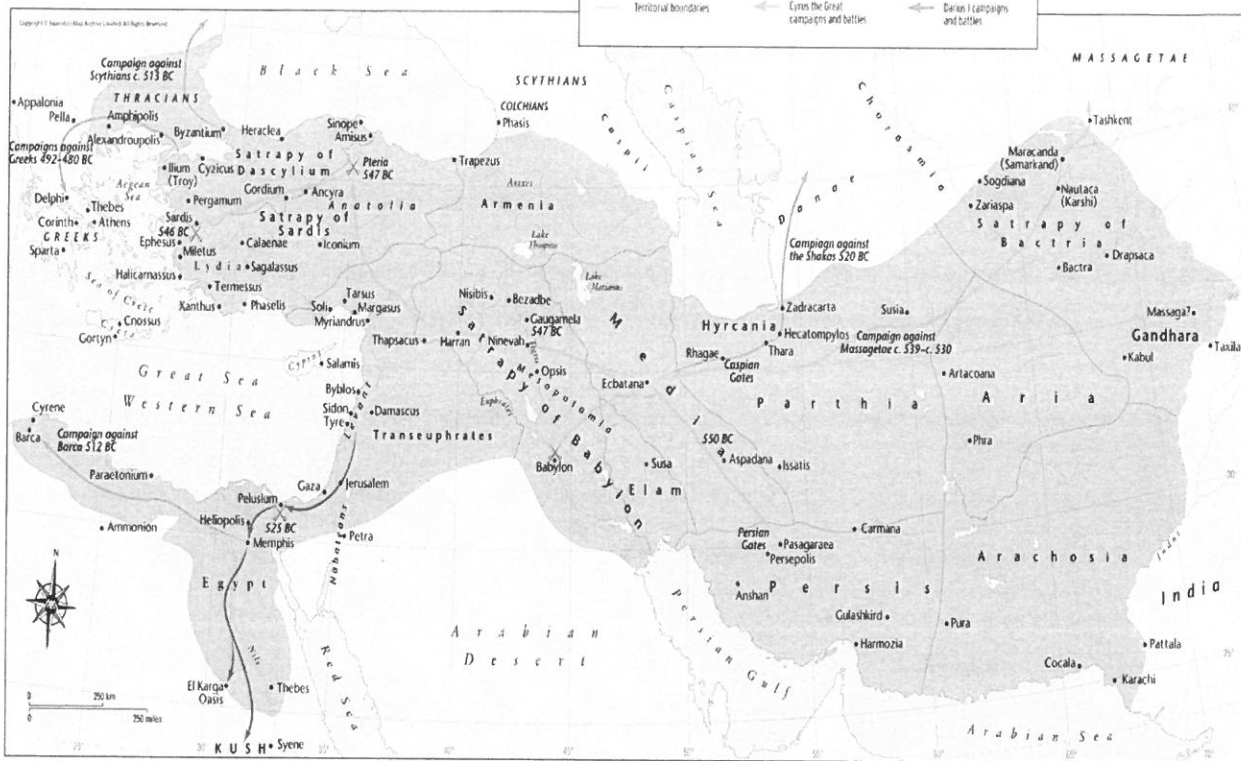
The hand of God is more easily seen when looking b_____.

Esther 1:12	Vashti loses her position as Queen
Esther 2:9	Esther finds favor with Hegai
Esther 2:17	The King favors Esther
Esther 2:21-23	Mordecai hears about plot to kill king.
Esther 3:7	Esther enters the king's throne room
Esther 6:1-3	The King reviews Mordecai's deed.

This story unexpectedly established a f_____ called "Purim."

The Persian Empire 552-332 BCE

 Extent of Empire	 Battle with date	 Cambyses campaigns and battles
 Territorial boundaries	 Cyrus the Great campaigns and battles	 Darius I campaigns and battles



ELIZABETH – THE INTERCESSOR

H _____

In the time of Herod king of Judea there was a priest named Zechariah, who belonged to the priestly division of Abijah; his wife Elizabeth was also a descendant of Aaron. Luke 1:5 NIV

Elizabeth means "my God is an o_____". "El" = God. "shava" = o_____

The Hebrew form of Elizabeth appears in the Old Testament where "Elisheba" is the wife of _____. Exodus 6:23

R _____

Both of them were righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly. Luke 1:6 NIV

"blamelessly" = *amemptos*. deserving no censure, free from f_____ or defect, irreproachable

B _____

But they were childless because Elizabeth was not able to conceive, and they were both very old. Luke 1:7 NIV

12 If you pay attention to these laws and are careful to follow them, then the Lord your God will keep his covenant of love with you, as he swore to your ancestors. 13 He will love you and bless you and increase your numbers. He will bless the fruit of your womb, the crops of your land—your grain, new wine and olive oil—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you. 14 You will be blessed more than any other people; none of your men or women will be childless, Deuteronomy 7:12-14a NIV

"The Lord has done this for me," she said. "In these days he has shown his favor and taken away my disgrace among the people." Luke 1:25 NIV

B _____

But the angel said to him: "Do not be afraid, Zechariah; your prayer has been heard. Your wife Elizabeth will bear you a son, and you are to call him John. 14 He will be a joy and delight to you, and many will rejoice because of his birth, 15 for he will be great in the sight of the Lord. Luke 1:13-15 NIV

F _____

59 On the eighth day they came to circumcise the child, and they were going to name him after his father Zechariah, 60 but his mother spoke up and said, "No! He is to be called John." Luke 1:59-60 NIV

The opposite of faith is not d _____. It is d _____.

E _____

36 Even Elizabeth your relative is going to have a child in her old age, and she who was said to be unable to conceive is in her sixth month. 37 For no word from God will ever fail." Luke 1:36-37 NIV

Mary hurried to Elizabeth's home in the Judean highlands, a distance of approximately _____ miles from Nazareth.

39 At that time Mary got ready and hurried to a town in the hill country of Judea, 40 where she entered Zechariah's home and greeted Elizabeth. 41 When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit Luke 1:39-41 NIV

FIRST TO ACKNOWLEDGE JESUS AS L _____

42 In a loud voice she exclaimed: "Blessed are you among women and blessed is the child you will bear! 43 But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? Luke 1:42-43 NIV

Elizabeth – My God is an O _____
God keeps his promises. So we keep our f _____.

MARY – The Rest of the Story

Parenthood is a gradual loss of c_____.
Hopefully there will remain some amount of i_____.

WEDDING IN CANA – T_____ a Problem to Jesus

On the third day a wedding took place at Cana in Galilee. Jesus' mother was there, 2 and Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. 3 When the wine was gone, Jesus' mother said to him, "They have no more wine." John 2:1-3 NIV

Cana is about _____ miles from Nazareth.

*4 "Woman, why do you involve me?" Jesus replied. "My hour has not yet come."
5 His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." John 2:4-5 NIV*

Is this a r_____?

- The word "woman" was not a term of d_____.
- We do not know the t_____ of Jesus' voice.
- Mary does not r_____ his comments.

Jesus IS saying He had a t_____ for his first miracle, and this wasn't it.

6 Nearby stood six stone water jars, the kind used by the Jews for ceremonial washing, each holding from twenty to thirty gallons.

7 Jesus said to the servants, "Fill the jars with water"; so they filled them to the brim.

8 Then he told them, "Now draw some out and take it to the master of the banquet."

They did so, 9 and the master of the banquet tasted the water that had been turned into wine. He did not realize where it had come from, though the servants who had drawn the water knew. Then he called the bridegroom aside 10 and said, "Everyone brings out the choice wine first and then the cheaper wine after the guests have had too much to drink; but you have saved the best till now." 11 What Jesus did here in Cana of Galilee was the first of the signs through which he revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him. John 2:6-11 NIV

Can God c_____ his mind?

Mary did not w_____ about the w_____.

WHO ARE MY MOTHER AND BROTHERS? - The Value of D_____ God's Will

20 Then Jesus entered a house, and again a crowd gathered, so that he and his disciples were not even able to eat. 21 When his family heard about this, they went to take charge of him, for they said, "He is out of his mind." Mark 3:20-21 NIV

31 Then Jesus' mother and brothers arrived. Standing outside, they sent someone in to call him. 32 A crowd was sitting around him, and they told him, "Your mother and brothers are outside looking for you."

33 "Who are my mother and my brothers?" he asked.

34 Then he looked at those seated in a circle around him and said, "Here are my mother and my brothers! 35 Whoever does God's will is my brother and sister and mother." Mark 3:31-34 NIV

- One of the things you will probably say (or think) to your adult child is:

JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS – The Depth of G_____

25 Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. 26 When Jesus saw his mother there, and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to her, "Woman, here is your son," 27 and to the disciple, "Here is your mother." From that time on, this disciple took her into his home. John 19:25-27 NIV

34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too." Luke 2:34-35

Great love can bring about great p_____. Love anyway.

THE EARLY CHURCH – The Presence of H_____

13 When they arrived, they went upstairs to the room where they were staying. Those present were Peter, John, James and Andrew; Philip and Thomas, Bartholomew and Matthew; James son of Alphaeus and Simon the Zealot, and Judas son of James. 14 They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers. Acts 1:13-14 NIV

This is our last view of Mary in the Bible.

After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep. 1 Corinthians 15:6 NIV

Mary's journey was one of great extremes: F_____, T_____, C_____, G_____, and H_____.

Every time we see her with Adult Jesus, she is always in a position of l_____.

ANNA – At Last

She really is a model of h_____.

THE S_____

22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”), 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.” Luke 2:22-24

3 On the eighth day the boy is to be circumcised. 4 Then the woman must wait thirty-three days to be purified.... Leviticus 12:3-4a NIV

8 + 33 = _____

How far is Jerusalem from Bethlehem? _____ Miles

THE S_____

‘These are the regulations for the woman who gives birth to a boy or a girl. 8 But if she cannot afford a lamb, she is to bring two doves or two young pigeons, one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering. In this way the priest will make atonement for her, and she will be clean.’” Leviticus 12:7-8 NIV

It tells us that Mary and Joseph were likely among the p_____.

THE S_____

36 There was also a prophet, Anna, the daughter of Penuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. 38 Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke 2:36-38 NIV

The amazing thing about Anna is that she r_____ Jesus

What did Anna have that no others had?

H_____

...of the tribe of Asher. Luke 2:36b NIV

Nevertheless, some from Asher, Manasseh and Zebulun humbled themselves and went to Jerusalem. 2 Chronicles 30:11 NIV (Near 722 BC)

H _____ is not an entitlement nor a guarantee, but it is a blessed o _____.

P _____

she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, 37 and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. Luke 2:36b-37 NIV

84 - 7 - 18 = _____

P _____ and Worship

She never left the temple but worshiped night and day. Luke 2:37b NIV

Prayer and F _____

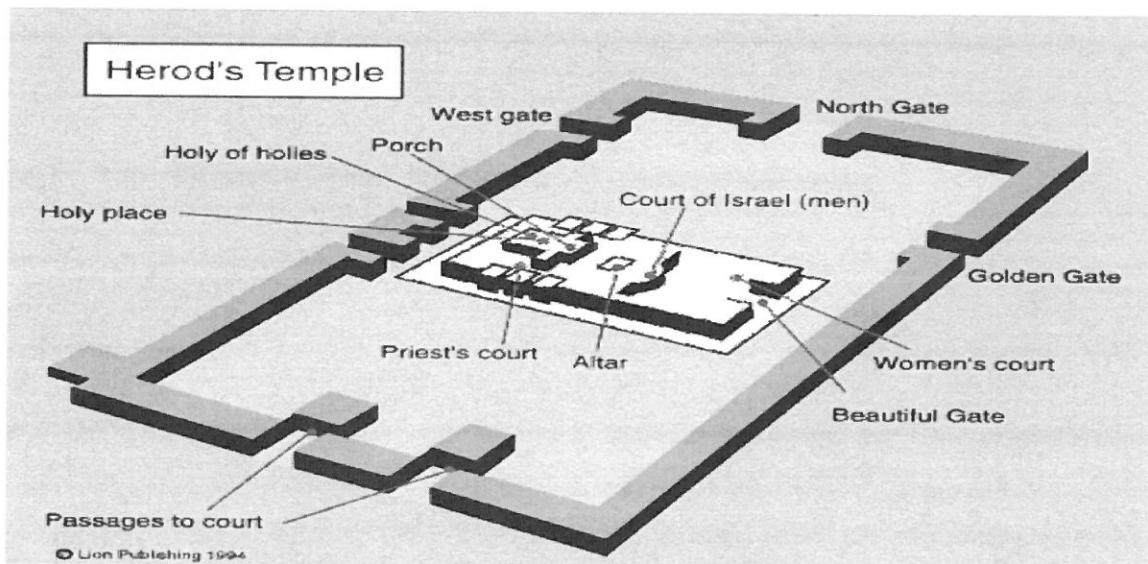
fasting and praying Luke 2:37c NIV

CONCLUSION: Finish Strong by S _____ H _____ with Others

she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. Luke 2:38b NIV

For the Christian, the best is always _____.

Hope means to keep living amid desperation and to keep humming in the darkness. Hope is knowing that there is love; it is trust in tomorrow; As long as there is still hope, there will also be prayer. And God will be holding you in His hands. – Henri Nouwen, With Open Hand, 85



MARTHA AND MARY - Differences

Name some famous pairs of brothers in the Bible:

Other than Mary and Martha, name other pairs of sisters in the Bible:

Now Laban had two daughters; the name of the older was _____, and the name of the younger was _____. Genesis 19:16 NIV

Aaron married E _____, the daughter of Amminadab, the sister of Nahshon, Exodus 6:23a NIV

SETTING

Mary, Martha, and Lazarus were friends of Jesus that lived in _____, a suburb of Jerusalem.

How far is this from Jerusalem? _____

They are part of three stories:

The story of hosting Jesus in Luke 10:38-42

The story of the raising of Lazarus in John 11

The anointing of Jesus in John 12

³⁸ As Jesus and his disciples were on their way, he came to a village where a woman named Martha opened her home to him. ³⁹ She had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet listening to what he said. ⁴⁰ But Martha was distracted by all the preparations that had to be made. She came to him and asked, "Lord, don't you care that my sister has left me to do the work by myself? Tell her to help me!"

⁴¹ "Martha, Martha," the Lord answered, "you are worried and upset about many things, ⁴² but few things are needed—or indeed only one. Mary has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her." Luke 10:38-42 NIV

THINGS THAT CAN O _____ US

Sudden C _____

Great D _____

Lack of Perceived H _____

BEING OVERWHELMED CAN BRING OUT THE W _____ IN US

We Are Full of R _____

We Get Angry with the W _____ People

We Become I _____

what is better = word used to describe d _____ of f _____

UNDERSTAND THAT PEOPLE ARE DIFFERENT

Marthas love language is Acts of S _____.

Marys love language is Quality T _____

Marthas personality is a T _____

When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went out to meet him, but Mary stayed at home. John 11:20 NIV

Marys personality is a F _____

When the Jews who had been with Mary in the house, comforting her, noticed how quickly she got up and went out, they followed her. John 11:31 NIV

Marthas are R _____

Marys are I _____

Marthas are P _____

Martha, the sister of him that was dead, saith unto him, Lord, by this time he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days. John 11:39 KJV

Marys are E _____

12 Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. 2 Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him. 3 Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

4 But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected, 5 "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."

6 He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

7 "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial. 8 You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me." John 12:1-8 NIV

THE KINGDOM NEEDS ALL T _____ OF PEOPLE

- *The world needs messy people...Otherwise the n _____ people would take over.*

Thank God for Marthas!

What percent of our church work would go away without Marthas? _____

Thank God for the Marys!

When we are hurt, they n _____ us.

When we are afraid, they make us feel secure.

When we are defeated, they a _____ us.

When we are discouraged, they show faith in us.

THE CANAANITE WOMAN - Persistence

How do you answer when someone asks you *Where are you from?*

This is a story found in Mark 7 and Matthew 15.

Mark tells us where she was born: the woman was a Greek, born in Syrian Phoenicia.

Matthew tells us where she presently lived: *the region of Tyre and Sidon*.

SETTING

Leaving that place, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. Matthew 15:21 NIV

Tyre and Sidon are long the Mediterranean Coast in what is modern-day L_____.

What other woman have we studied from this area?

Where is *that place* Jesus had been before?

How far is it from G_____ to Tyre? ____ Miles

This is probably the most n_____ place Jesus ever journeyed.

THE ENCOUNTER

A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." Matthew 15:22 NIV

What We Do Not Know.

We do not know her n_____.

We do not know her daughter's exact a_____.

Did the Bible call "demon possession" what we today think of as something else?

Demons are mentioned only _____ in the Old Testament (Deuteronomy 32:17; Psalm 106:37) yet over _____ times in the New Testament. All but a few of those are in the Gospels.

Perhaps Jesus' ministry to the sick e_____ demonic activity as never before.

Perhaps Jesus' incarnation s_____ u__ a strong reaction in the demonic world.

What We Do Know.

We do know that she has d_____.

She is a w_____. She is a G_____. She has a demon possessed daughter.

We do know that she is p_____.

PERSISTENT ENOUGH TO SEEK OUT JESUS

A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to him Matthew 15:22a NIV

PERSISTENT ENOUGH TO SHOUT AND TO K _____ SHOUTING

came to him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me! My daughter is demon-possessed and suffering terribly." 23 Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to him and urged him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." Matthew 15:22b-23 NIV

Why do you suppose Jesus at first i _____ the woman?

- He was trying to get away to r _____.
- He did not want to be r _____.
- He was t _____ the lady.

How do we respond when a person who is emotionally needy continually interrupts your conversations, generally wanting more than you wish to give?

PERSISTENT ENOUGH TO OVERCOME JESUS' HESITANCY

He answered, "I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel." Matthew 15:24 NIV

My question: Answered w _____?

And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. 2 Corinthians 9:8 TLB

The woman came and knelt before him. "Lord, help me!" she said. Matthew 15:25 NIV

PERSISTENT ENOUGH TO GIVE A C _____ ANSWER

26 He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to the dogs."

27 "Yes it is, Lord," she said. "Even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Matthew 15:26-27 NIV

Why did Jesus seem to call her a "dog?"

- The term "dog" was a s _____ word Hebrews used for Gentiles.
- Jesus was t _____ her.

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. Romans 1:16 NIV

- This was taking advantage of a t _____ opportunity to the disciples.

Dog = f _____ dog (not a wild dog)

Like saying “Lord, I know your blessings are for the entire world. But I believe your blessings are so great, I’ll gladly take the 1_____.”

THE RESPONSE

Then Jesus said to her, “Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted.” And her daughter was healed at that moment. Matthew 15:28 NIV

How many people in the Gospels did Jesus affirm as having “Great Faith?” _____

All these times He was referring to _____.

We say of some people: *He/She doesn’t know the meaning of the word “q_____.”*

Ask and it will be given you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. Matthew 7:7 NIV

All the verbs are in the p_____ tense: *keep on.....*

Persistence measures the g_____ of our faith.



THE WOMAN WITH THE ISSUE OF BLOOD – Fingertips of Faith

What is the l_____ you have been sick?

Sickness is a great i_____ and a great r_____.

SETTING

This a classic form of a Markan S_____

Mark 3:20-35

Mark 11:12-21

Mark 14:53-72

Mark 15:40-16:8

22 Then one of the synagogue leaders, named Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he fell at his feet. 23 He pleaded earnestly with him, "My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live." Mark 5:22-23 NIV

INTRODUCTION

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. 25 And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. 26 She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. Mark 5:24b-56 NIV

SICKNESS CAUSES LOSSES

Loss of T_____

Loss of S_____

25 If a woman has a flow of blood for several days outside her monthly period or if her flow continues beyond her regular period, she remains unclean as long as the flow continues, just as she is during her monthly period. 26 Any bed on which she lies and anything on which she sits during this time is unclean. 27 Any who touch them are unclean and must wash their clothes and take a bath; they remain unclean until evening. Leviticus 15:25-27 GNB

Loss of P_____

Loss of F_____

Loss of H_____

SICKNESS DOES NOT REQUIRE THAT WE LOSE OUR F_____

- *Cancer can take away all my physical abilities. It cannot touch my mind. It cannot touch my heart. And it cannot touch my soul. And those three things are going to carry on forever.* Jim Valvano

27 When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, 28 because she thought, "If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed." 29 Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering. Mark 5:27-29 NIV

SICKNESS CAN BE H_____

30 At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, "Who touched my clothes?" 31 "You see the people crowding against you," his disciples answered, "and yet you can ask, 'Who touched me?'" Mark 5:30-31 NIV

How do think Jesus knew someone had touched him?

- *Fingertips of faith or e_____ of e_____.*

SICKNESS SHOULD BE MET WITH M_____

32 But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. 33 Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. 34 He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." Mark 5:24-34 NIV

CONCLUSIONS- JESUS PROVIDES E_____ HEALING

Why do you think Jesus called this woman "daughter"?

She was part of a f_____ f_____ of f_____.

- *We are not in the land of the living going to the land of the dying. We are in the land of the d_____, going to the land of the l_____.* – Larry Moody

WOMAN AT THE WELL – Finding Hope

INTRODUCTION

4 Now he had to go through Samaria. 5 So he came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. 6 Jacob's well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. 7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water John 4:4-7a NIV

This lady had so many “s_____ against her”

HAVE A C_____

7 When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, “Will you give me a drink?” John 4:4-7 NIV

You may have heard, or you may even have said, *I would never s_____ to that person.*

The Samaritan woman said to him, “You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink?” (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.) John 4:9 NIV

- What is the best-selling gospel song of all time? _____

BECOME CONVINCED YOU HAVE A N_____

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.” John 4:10 NIV

What do you really need in your life?

11 “Sir,” the woman said, “you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? 12 Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?”

13 Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, 14 but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:11-14 NIV

15 The woman said to him, “Sir, give me this water so that I won't get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.” John 4:15 NIV

16 He told her, “Go, call your husband and come back.” 17 “I have no husband,” she replied. Jesus said to her, “You are right when you say you have no husband. 18 The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.” John 4:16-18 NIV

RESIST C_____ THE SUBJECT

19 "Sir," the woman said, "I can see that you are a prophet. 20 Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem." John 4:19-20 NIV

What d_____ do you use to keep from facing the truth?

"Woman," Jesus replied, "believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. John 4:21 NIV

Do you recognize Jesus as an a_____: Believe me...

C_____ JESUS AS SAVIOR

25 The woman said, "I know that Messiah" (called Christ) "is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us." 26 Then Jesus declared, "I, the one speaking to you—I am he."

28 Then, leaving her water jar, the woman went back to the town and said to the people, 29 "Come, see a man who told me everything I ever did. Could this be the Messiah?" 30 They came out of the town and made their way toward him. John 4:25-26, 28-30 NIV

In other religions, the central thing is actions.
In Christianity, the central thing is a person.

Notice the progression of understanding and commitment.

vs.9 "a J_____" vs.19 "a p_____" vs.29 "M_____" vs.42 "Savior"

42 They said to the woman, "We no longer believe just because of what you said; now we have heard for ourselves, and we know that this man really is the Savior of the world." John 4:42 NIV

There was so much different about her at the e____ of the day than at the b_____ of the day.

- *The heart is forever r_____ until it rests in Thee, O God. -Augustine*

CONCLUSION: Jesus is the one who took our thirst...our eternal thirst.

In the Bible, heaven is pictured as a grand b_____.
In the Bible, hell is pictured as a place of great t_____.

- O_____ Your Thirst!

*Like the woman at the well I was seeking for things that would not satisfy.
And then I heard my Savior speaking, "Draw from My well that never shall run dry"
Fill my cup, Lord, I lift it up, Lord Come and quench this thirsting of my soul
Bread of Heaven, feed me 'til I want no more
Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole. Richard E. Blanchard (1925 – 2004)*

MARY MAGDALENE – Follower of Jesus

WHAT THE BIBLE DOES NOT SAY ABOUT MARY MAGDALENE

The Bible Never Says That She Was A P_____.

The Bible Never Says There Was A R_____ Relationship Between Her and Jesus.

The Bible Absolutely Never Says That She and Jesus Had A C_____.

WHAT THE BIBLE DOES SAY ABOUT MARY MAGDALENE

She Is Mentioned At Least _____ Times in The Four Gospels.

The Twelve were with him...and also...Mary (called Magdalene) Luke 8:1b-2a

It is a strong statement of i_____

She Was from M_____

She Was H_____ by Jesus

After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. Luke 8:1-3a NIV

- *There are two equal and opposite errors into which our race can fall about the devils. One is to disbelieve in their existence. The other is to believe, and to feel an excessive and unhealthy interest in them. -C.S. Lewis*

She Had F_____ Resources

These women were helping to support them out of their own means. Luke 8:3b NIV

It is good to recognize that Jesus not only gave ministry, He n_____ ministry.

- Hippolytus of Rome, a third-century theologian, called her “The A_____ to the Apostles.”

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21 NIV

She was D_____ to Jesus

-Mentioned in three gospels for being at the c_____.
(Matthew 27:56, Mark 15:40, John 19:25)

- *She was one of the women who was there in the background when he (Jesus) was crucified – She had more g_____ than most of them had.* - Frederick Buechner

-Went to the tomb with absolutely no i_____ that the grave had been vacated.

At least five times Jesus had said he would die and be raised on the third day.
(Matthew 12:40, Matthew 17:22-23, Matthew 20:17-19, Mark 8:31-32, Mark 9:31)

She Was the First to S_____ the Resurrected Jesus

*13 They asked her, “Woman, why are you crying?”
“They have taken my Lord away,” she said, “and I don’t know where they have put him.” 14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.*

Why do you think she did not recognize Jesus?

*15 He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?”
Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”
16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”). John 20:13-16 NIV*

What made her recognize that it was Jesus who stood before her?

How long has it been since you let God s_____ you?

Jesus resurrected body was a r_____ body.
Jesus resurrected body was not a c_____ of his earthly body.

She Was the First Missionary with N_____ of the Resurrection

*17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’”
18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her. John 20:17-18 NIV*

In Jewish society, women were regarded as u_____ witnesses.

DORCAS – A DISCIPLE OF JESUS

But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” Acts 1:8 NIV

This story falls in the _____ part of this outline.

We may be guilty of overlooking this passage because of another great story in Acts 9. What is that story?

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas); she was always doing good and helping the poor. Acts 9:36a NIV

SHE WAS FROM JOPPA

In Joppa....

What else in the Bible happened in Joppa?

Where is YOUR Joppa?

Could it be said of us: *In Cleveland Tennessee there was a disciple named _____.*

SHE IS CALLED A D _____

In Joppa there was a disciple Acts 9:36a NIV

The word “disciple” is used _____ times in the Bible.

The word is directly applied to a woman _____ of these times.

The word “disciple” has at its roots in verbs that mean “to l _____” and “to f _____”

SHE WENT BY DIFFERENT N _____

In Joppa there was a disciple named Tabitha (in Greek her name is Dorcas Acts 9:36a NIV

Both names mean g _____.

SHE D _____

37 About that time she became sick and died, and her body was washed and placed in an upstairs room. 38 Lydda was near Joppa; so when the disciples heard that Peter was in Lydda, they sent two men to him and urged him, “Please come at once!” Acts 9:37-38 NIV

How far is Lydda from Joppa? _____ miles.

SHE GAVE M_____

she was always doing good and helping the poor. Acts 9:36b NIV

Peter went with them, and when he arrived he was taken upstairs to the room. All the widows stood around him, crying and showing him the robes and other clothing that Dorcas had made while she was still with them. Acts 9:39 NIV

Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world. James 1:27 NIV

You have given your heart to Jesus. But have you given your h_____?

By giving ourselves to others, we will feel less of a desire to focus on o_____ and our own problems.

- *I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: The only ones among you who will be really happy are those who have sought and found how to s_____. -Albert Schweitzer.*

GOD WAS NOT F_____ WITH HER YET

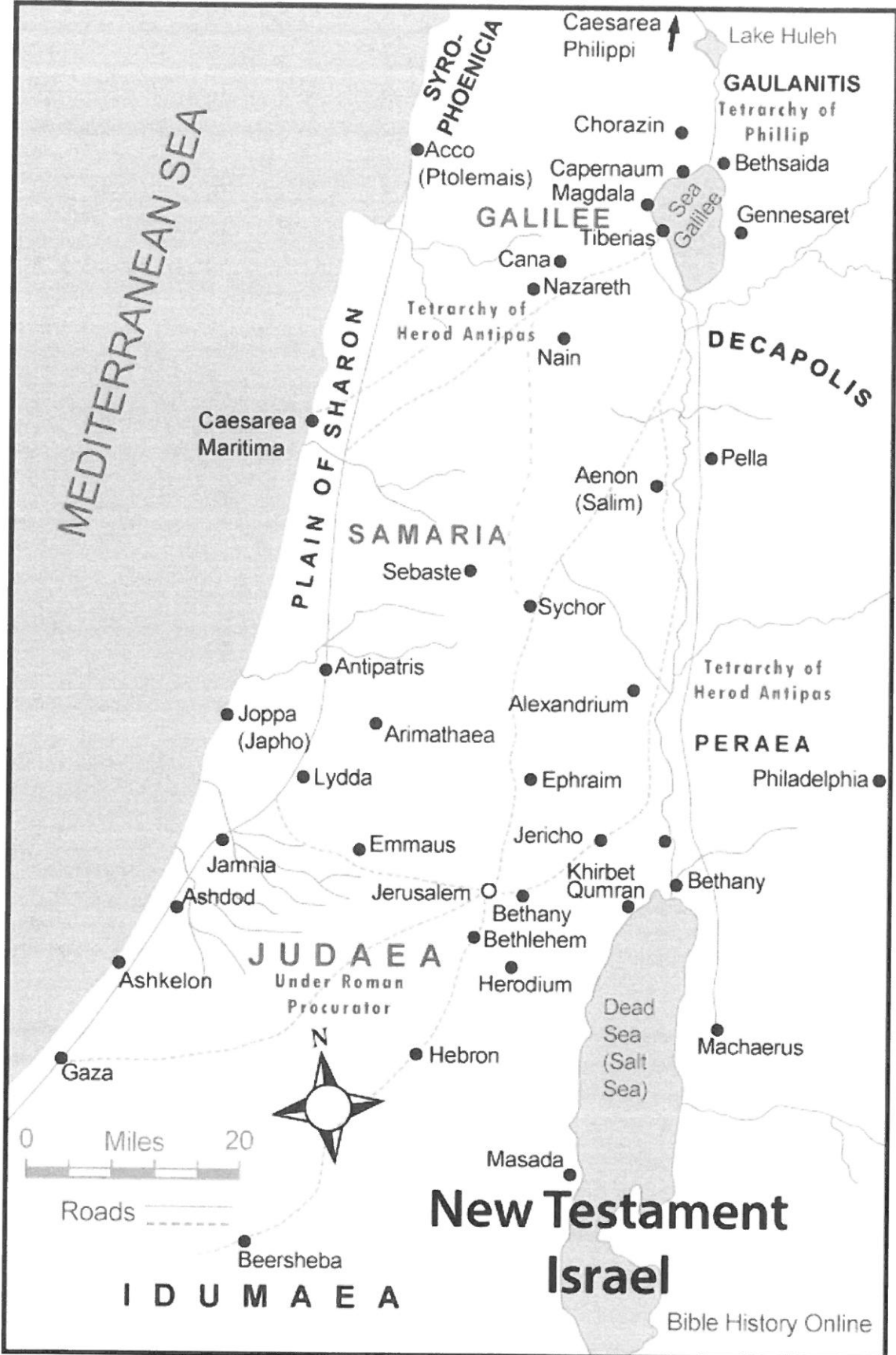
40 Peter sent them all out of the room; then he got down on his knees and prayed. Turning toward the dead woman, he said, "Tabitha, get up." She opened her eyes, and seeing Peter she sat up. Acts 9:40 NIV

41 He took her by the hand and helped her to her feet. Then he called for the believers, especially the widows, and presented her to them alive. 42 This became known all over Joppa, and many people believed in the Lord. Acts 9:41-42 NIV

9 Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead. 10 So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well, 11 for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and believing in him. John 12:9-11 NIV

- *Few of us will ever be called on to do great things, but all of us can do s_____ things in a great way. Colman McCarthy.*

If you had to summarize your life into one w_____, what would it be?



LYDIA – The Business Woman

Her story is contained in Acts 16.

BACKGROUND

Part of Paul's S_____ Missionary Journey

Started with Paul and S_____. Acts 15:36-41

Added T_____. Acts 16:1-4

Added L_____. Acts 16:10 (Start of the “we” passage)

This story occurred between approximately ____ AD.

Macedonian Call

9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” 10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them. Acts 16:9-10 NIV

Philippi

11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis. 12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days. Acts 16:11-12 NIV

- How far from Troas to Philippi? ____ Miles

Roman Colony. The town operated under Roman law and was exempt from many t_____. Its citizens were citizens of Rome.

The letter of Philippians was written about ____ AD

WHAT DOES SHE SHOW US?

The name Lydia means *from Lud*. Lud means B_____

We might think of it as “i_____”

Be W_____

13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there. She was a worshiper of God. Acts 16:13, 14b NIV

“worshiper of God” (*sebomenē*), a term that refers to a Gentile worshiper of Yahweh!

Typically, it took ____ men to form a synagogue.

- If we did not have a building in which to worship, where would you suggest we go to worship?

Be in B _____

One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. Acts 16:14 NIV

She comes from Thyatira, a wealthy town known for its t _____ guilds and purple dye.

How far is it from Thyatira to Philippi? _____ miles.

Be S _____

The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message. 15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. Acts 16:14b-15a NIV

The word *opened* means to open c _____.

Who influenced you to become a Christian?

Be H _____

"If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us. Acts 16:15b NIV

There is no shame in making a g _____ living.
But what do you do with it?

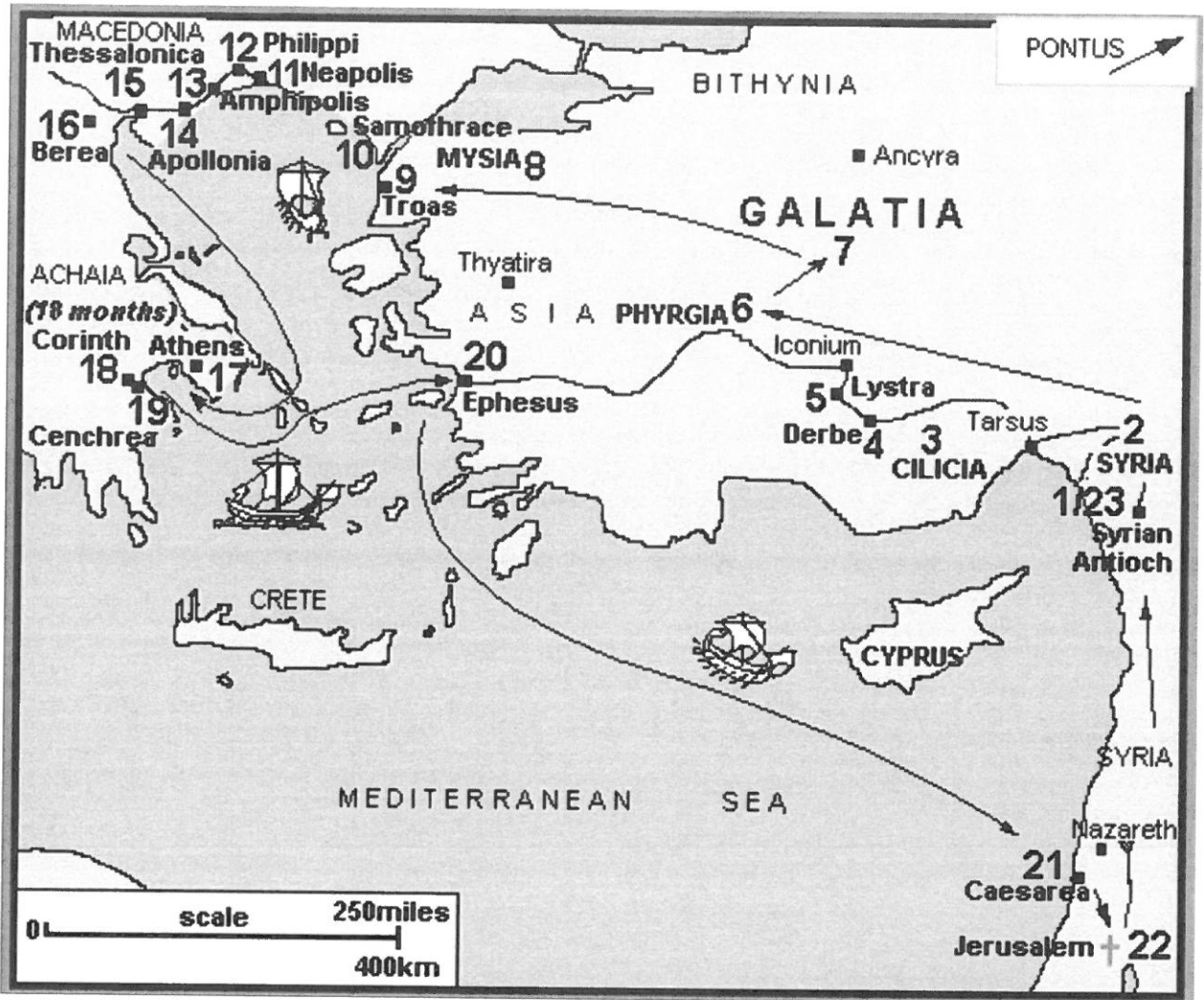
The word *hospitality* is related to the word h _____.

Be E _____

40 After Paul and Silas came out of the prison, they went to Lydia's house, where they met with the brothers and sisters and encouraged them. Then they left. Acts 16:40

She was a businesswoman in the dye business... and now her business was _____.

Nothing happens without a c _____.



PRISCILLA – The Companion

The name Priscilla means w_____ or r_____

Priscilla is mentioned by name ___ times in the Bible. In ___ different New Testament books.

T_____

Rome to Corinth

After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth. 2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Acts 18:1-2 NIV

This takes place around _____ AD

Corinth to Ephesus

Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken. They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews. Acts 18:18-19 NIV

The churches in the province of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Priscilla greet you warmly in the Lord, and so does the church that meets at their house. 1 Corinthians 16:19

Ephesus to Rome

Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. Romans 16:3

Rome to Ephesus

Greet Priscilla and Aquila and the household of Onesiphorus. 2 Timothy 4:19

Thought to be about year 66 AD

M_____

Priscilla and Aquila were the first Christian missionary m_____ couple described in the New Testament.

Her name is first in _____ of the seven biblical references to them.

What great couples in ministry do you know?

B _____

Paul went to see them, 3 and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them. Acts 18:2b-3 NIV.

There is often a special camaraderie you have with folks who share your o_____.

E _____

Apollos

24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures. 25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John. He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately. Acts 18:24-26 NIV

Paul

Note how Paul would later say that he came to Corinth.

I came to you in weakness with great fear and trembling. 1 Corinthians 2:3 NIV

3 Greet Priscilla and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. 4 They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. Romans 16:3-4 NIV

Have you ever risked your life for someone?

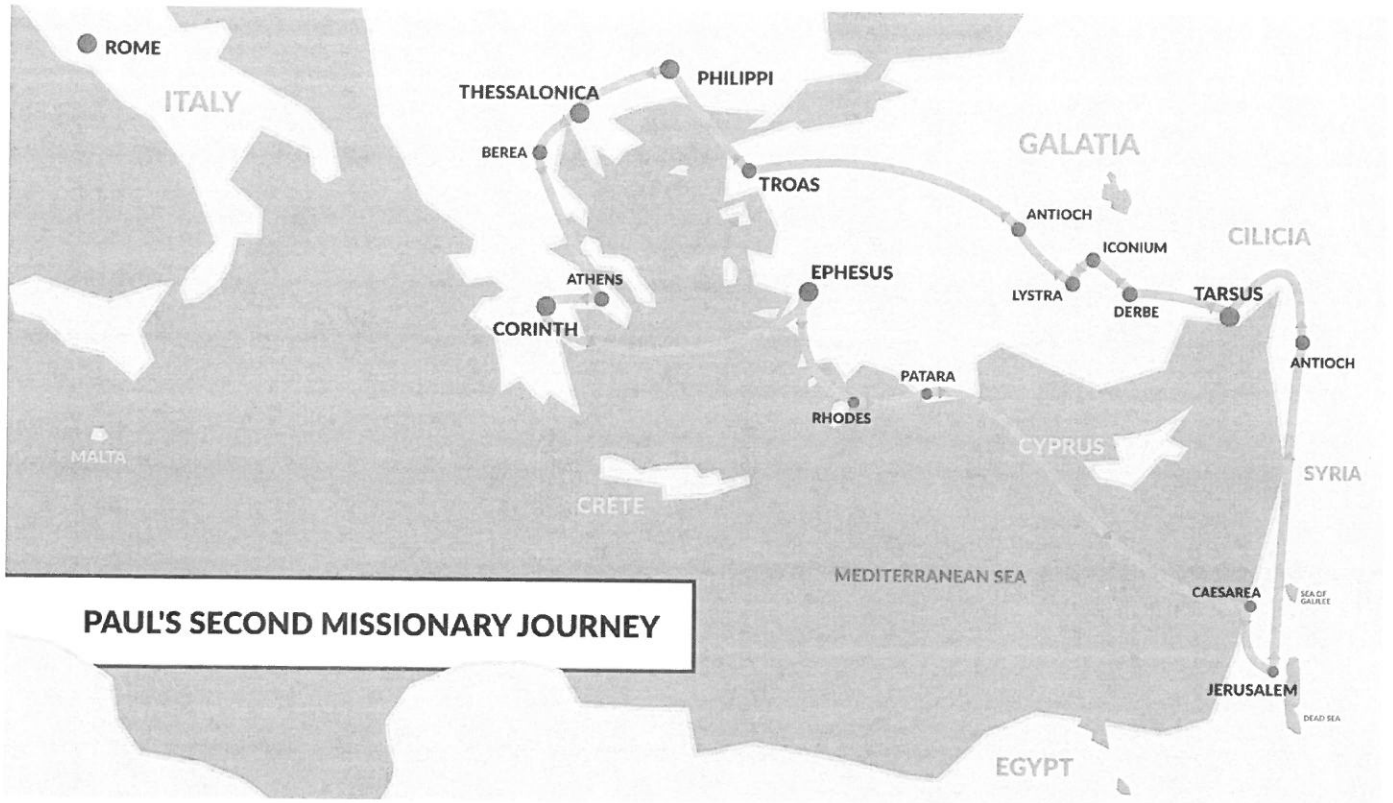
“Whoever wants to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and the gospel will save it.” Mark 8:35.

OTHER ITEMS

They are mentioned in the F_____ Greetings of
Romans (to be greeted)
1 Corinthians (sending greetings)
2 Timothy (to be greeted)

While the view is not widely held among scholars, some scholars have suggested that Priscilla was the author of the Book of _____.

Tradition says they were m_____ together.



LOIS AND EUNICE – Passing the Faith Along

For the hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that _____.
William Ross Wallace, published in 1865.

*Women, how divine your mission
Here upon our natal sod.
Keep O keep the young heart open
Always to the breath of God.*

Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. 2 The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him. 3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek. Acts 16:1-3 NIV

THE CALLING TO PASS ALONG THE FAITH IS TO THE F _____

18 Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. 19 Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 11:18-19 NIV

How the church can help:

- The church can teach and reinforce Biblical p _____
- Show discipleship is a l _____ process
- Demonstrate a more ideal community.
- Provide quality mentors and e _____.
- Be an e _____ family.

Beware of the possibility that prioritizing discipleship in the home can become _____.

THE CIRCUMSTANCES CAN BE LESS THAN I _____

Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek. Acts 16:1 NIV

FAITH IS C _____ AS MUCH AS IT IS TAUGHT

I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also. 2 Timothy 1:5 NIV

*Sincere = G _____, Unfeigned (KJV)
The Literal Standard Version says *unhypocritical**

Your children can detect a p_____.

Lois means “agreeable” or “d_____”.

Eunice means “c_____ well”

The church is designed to join h_____ with the home:

Some things just natural go together: Ham and Eggs, House and Lot, Horse and Carriage, Love and Marriage. Add another combination: Home and Church. These two belong together because both are divine institutions. The same God who established the church had already created the family. When these two God-given institutions fulfill their purpose and function, the land is blessed. -Ruben Herring.

