

Real Women Real Jesus

Encounters with Jesus in the gospels

A DEVOTIONAL BY



redeemer women
real women, real Jesus



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REAL WOMEN REAL JESUS DEVOTIONAL

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This devotional is a collaborative work created by women within the Redeemer International Church community. All reflections are original contributions, written from personal study, lived experience, and shared faith. This resource has been prayerfully created and may not be used to train artificial intelligence models or systems.

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Scripture quotations are taken from the NIV bible translation unless otherwise stated.

Design and layout by the Redeemer Women's Ministry Team.

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Foreword

Beloved reader,

This scripture reading plan was born out of the Women's Ministry of Redeemer International Church, The Hague: Real Women, Real Jesus.

We created this devotional booklet to encourage you to seek the real Jesus in scripture, through a collection of gospel readings that record Jesus's encounters with real women.

Women were witnesses to Jesus's conception, his birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection and (despite the fact that other historical writers of the 1st century considered women unreliable witnesses) the gospel writers recorded their stories, words and testimonies for us to read today. These scriptures offer us a unique view of who Jesus is and how he views, values and regards women.

This booklet is a compilation of the work of around 60 women. Each devotional prompt was written by a small group of women - who gather to seek and serve Jesus and one another - in bible study groups, in mentoring relationships, in ministry, while serving the poor, through hospitality, as mothers and daughters, sisters and friends.

The playlist of musical pieces was compiled by members of our worship team and the images which accompany each scripture by a host of creatives. It is a rich tapestry of the gifts, talents, relationships and testimonies of a community of women who have all encountered the real Jesus in the midst of their real lives and have devoted themselves to him.

Even so, it is only a small snapshot of our community and all that God is doing among us. The words of John come to mind - "Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for all the books that would be written." (John 21:25).

We worked on this together around tables filled with snacks or on couches filled with countless bibles, notebooks (and cats!). We met online when travel plans separated us.



We fed babies mid-discussion. We sent voice notes on the school run. One group even painted mugs while discussing their scripture!

Like a tapestry this resource is a 'work in progress'. If you look closely, you'll see some holes, knots and loose ends. Behind every image there are some that were crumpled up and discarded. With every piece of writing there are ideas that were sacrificed. There are stories that are still too tender to tell and there are women who would have loved to contribute but who were interrupted by life circumstances.

We intentionally offer this resource to you imperfectly - it is the creation of real women. If this reading plan brings up knotty issues in scripture or in your personal life that are tricky to untangle, we highly recommend speaking to a trusted friend, mentor or church leader, come for prayer ministry on a Sunday or chat to someone at the connect desk about next steps. (For those using this resource in other parts of the world, we encourage you to connect with your local church community and the prayer and pastoral support it offers.)

For most of the scripture readings we have included an image, a devotional prompt, some questions to get you thinking and a piece of music to lead you into worship. For some there is also an optional creative prompt - a scripture to colour in, a creative writing prompt, a craft or an activity - ideas of things to do while meditating on the scripture you have read. For others, we have simply shared the scripture reading and leave room for you to add your own writing, imagination, creativity and worship.

As you use this devotional, we pray that you too will have a real encounter with Jesus and receive a fresh revelation of his unending love and grace for you. We pray that like Mary, you will treasure up all the truths that you discover and ponder them in your heart for the years to come. We hope that you will have the sense of being surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses - both the long line of faithful followers of Jesus through the centuries as well as the present day community of faith - spurring you on to run the race set out for you and to fix your eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith. (Hebrews 12:1-2)

With love, the RWRJ Women's Ministry team - Lolu, Candace, Erin, Fiyinfolu, Itunu, Narges and Oluwakemi.

How to use this resource:

YOU WILL NEED:

1. Bible(s) in your preferred translation(s). We encourage you to read each scripture several times and in different translations and to look at it in context.
2. A way to listen to the musical playlist.
3. This booklet and pen(s). Whether analogue or digital we recommend making this booklet your own with notes, reflections, questions to ponder, sketches, doodles, colouring in, etc. We encourage you to get creative - so you may like to gather some coloured pencils / pens.

We have created this as an open ended resource that could be used in multiple ways. You may like to use it as a personal daily / weekly devotional for a season, a resource you dip back in and out of in the future, or the start of a study plan for a small group. Much like this was created in community, we very much encourage you to use it in community with others.

FURTHER RECOMMENDED RESOURCES:

We recommend you first spend time focused on the scriptures before referring to other resources. If there is something you find difficult to understand, first take time to think and pray about it. We are far more likely to remember the lessons we have learned by wrestling with a question and discovering the answer ourselves, than finding a quick answer from someone else.

- ESV scripture journals for the gospels could be a lovely companion resource if you like to make notes and highlight sections of scripture (without doing so in your main bible).
- Jesus through the eyes of women by Rebecca McClaughlin.
- Women of the Word by Jen Wilkin (Book or podcast).
- The Chosen (imaginatively dramatises many of the scriptures you will read).
- Biblical commentaries (e.g. David Guzik commentary).

SCAN TO ACCESS THE PLAYLIST.

Link to Apple playlist



Link to Spotify playlist



Introductory Reflection

Welcome! These pages are an invitation for you to slow down, pause the business of life and take time at the feet of your heavenly father.

Each devotional in this booklet has been thoughtfully prepared in fellowship by the women of Redeemer International Church. Young, old, sisters, grandmothers and friends have taken the time to read, discuss, pray and prepare these pages for you.

God designed us in community with one other to strengthen, teach, nurture and grow one another in our knowledge of God, our Christlikeness and to give us a daily reminder of His grace and love.

Before you begin using this devotional booklet, we encourage you to take some time to plan how you want to use it. There is no prescribed way of engaging with these pages but we do want to offer some thoughts and ideas to help get you started.

REFLECT

What do you hope to get out of using this devotional? Do you have specific questions you hope to answer? Are there gifts / skills you hope to gain / grow in? Is there something you are struggling with? Are there prayers you hope will be answered in this season? Do you have any preconceptions about who Jesus is and how he interacted with women in the gospels? Write these down.

WALK TOGETHER

This devotional can be done in your own personal time with God or with another. Is there someone you feel prompted to share this devotional with? Maybe you would like to read it together / concurrently with moments to share thoughts / learnings? Perhaps a more mature Christian who could disciple you through it? Or a new Christian or someone who does not yet believe whom you could bring along on the journey?

MAKING ROOM

Take some time to plan for how you are going to use this resource. That might involve setting aside time in your schedule, planning with others, etc. Your devotional plan does not need to be perfect to be meaningful. It is about making a consistent space where you can meet with God. It can be helpful to have a particular time of day set aside or a special chair you sit in. You may like to light a candle or make a cup of tea / coffee to enjoy. You may want to keep your Bible, devotional book and anything else you need (journal, pens) in the spot so your space feels ready.

The most important thing is that you come, as you are, whether you are full of joy or having a hard day, whether you are expectant or tired. Wherever you are - He is there - ready and waiting for you.

Our hope is that your journey through this will grow your love for God and His word, deepen your prayers and cultivate meaningful relationships with your sisters in Christ. Just as God met, loved and spoke to each of these women we will be reading about, Jesus is present here with you today, He sees you, loves you and is waiting to speak to you.

Cat & Erin

*The Lord has
done this for me*

PRAY



LISTEN

God remembers your name - God is Love /
God is Good - Phil Wickham



READ

Luke 1:5-25

Elizabeth, Zechariah's wife, was described first as righteous before God, even though she was unable to have children and was very old (Luke 1:6-7). It's no mistake that scripture mentions her position with God before her earthly condition. This shows us that how God saw her mattered more than her earthly condition, the opinions of others or even how she saw herself.

She and Zechariah had prayed for a child for many years. In a culture where childlessness often brought shame, she likely carried deep pain and disappointment. Yet God had a greater plan. He chose her to give birth to John the Baptist, the one who would prepare the way for Jesus. What seemed like delay was actually divine timing.

When God fulfilled His promise, Elizabeth responded with gratitude: "The Lord has done this for me" in her old age. God's timing may not match ours, but it is always perfect. He removed her shame and replaced it with favor after many years.

Elizabeth then spent five months in seclusion. While Scripture doesn't explain why, it may have been a time of rest, reflection, and caring for herself as she carried this miracle. She reminds us of the importance of retreating to be with God and making space for rest, especially as women who often focus on caring for others, forgetting ourselves.

Her story also teaches us that God's promises require our partnership too. Even though God had spoken, Elizabeth still had a role to play. She retreated and prepared herself for what God was doing. Faith is not passive it responds!

Reflect

What makes you feel "not woman enough" or causes you to carry shame today? Write them down.

Next to those things, write the promises God has spoken over you through Scripture or personal confirmation. Read them aloud.

Like Elizabeth, develop an attitude of worship. Remember answered prayers and thank God for His faithfulness. He loves to hear your voice. How is God asking you to partner with Him in this season? Write down what that looks like practically.

Lord Jesus, thank you because your promises are always fulfilled. I choose to trust you with...

Written by: Lolu & Itunu
Image by: Itunu
Illustrated scripture by: Charlie

the *has*  **LORD** *done* *this*

LUKE **FOR ME**
one *twenty* *five*



Wonder-filled Faith

PRAY



LISTEN

Be it unto me - Don Moen /
Always - Chris Tomlinson



READ

Luke 1:26 - 38

Mary. A simple, ordinary woman, chosen for one of the most important tasks: to bear our Saviour. Not because of her power, wealth, or status, but because she found favour with God to live out an extraordinary purpose.

But this task was not as simple as it seems. It was humanly impossible. A virgin giving birth to a baby. Through science we know that DNA is needed from both father and mother—especially for a boy. A boy without the Y chromosome from a father is impossible. Until God gets involved! When he gets involved he makes the impossible very, very possible!

Even so, what God asked required great faith. Mary was betrothed to Joseph—imagine explaining a pregnancy that wasn't his, in that time. And still she said, "I am the Lord's servant; [...] May your word to me be fulfilled." (Luke 1:38 NIV). With complete wonder-filled faith, she submitted to God's plan, even without understanding it.

There is much we can learn from Mary's story. We see how God often works through ordinary people with willing and faithful hearts. Her humility and obedience shows us that God does not measure worth by human standards; He looks at the heart.

Mary's trust and surrender show how one life, fully given to God, can become the pathway for His greatest promises to unfold. Her "yes" changed history forever. How much more will God use your "yes" for his purpose?

Reflect

In Luke 1:26–38, what details stand out to you about Mary's situation, the angel's message, and her response?

What do you think Mary's response reveals about her character and her understanding of God's plan, even in the face of uncertainty?

Where in your own life might God be inviting you to trust Him more deeply, and what would it look like for you to say "yes" like Mary did?

Heavenly Father, give me a heart like Mary's—humble, trusting, and willing to say "yes" to Your will, even when I don't understand. Help me surrender my plans and fears, and trust that Your purposes are good. Shape my heart to be open and obedient for Your glory.

Written by: Laurien, Isabella and another lovely lady

Image by: Erin

Illustrated scripture by: Frame from Rijksmuseum collection, text from Basis Bijbel



*"Ik wil de
Heer God
gehoorzaam
zijn.*

*Laat Hij met
me doen wat u
heeft gezegd."*

LUKAS 1:38

BB



Trusting the Promises of God

PRAY



LISTEN

Goodness of God
by Bethel



READ

Luke 1:39 - 45

Luke 1:39-45 brings together two women who have experienced God's miraculous kindness. Elizabeth, barren and old in age, is now pregnant. Mary, young and unmarried, has just heard that she will bear the Son of God. Their circumstances are vastly different, and yet they are brought together by the fulfillment of God's promises.

It's a beautiful picture of how the Holy Spirit shifts their gaze away from themselves and onto God, leading them to joyfully bless and prophesy over one another.

The heart of the passage is in Elizabeth's declaration: "Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill all his promises to her" (Luke 1:45). Mary is blessed because she carries the Messiah AND she trusts the promises of God.

We're invited here to live in the real tension of this story- the "already, not yet." We actively receive the blessing of God and also eagerly await its greater fulfillment. Like Mary, we behold the wonder of our saviour Jesus yet wait for his promises to be fulfilled in our lives. This middle place often is unpleasant, but it is where God does some of his deepest work, revealing the power of his life, death and resurrection as we eagerly await the fulfillment of his promises.

In the tension of Mary and Elizabeth's story, we have a beautiful picture of women encouraging, blessing, and rejoicing together. May we be continually walk by the Holy Spirit in similar bold ways of prophetic recognition and rejoicing in recalling God's promises!

Reflect

How have you seen God's faithfulness to you in the past? Take a moment to reflect and give thanks to God.

Perhaps you are in a season of loss, lack or longing. What is a promise of God that you need to hold onto and who is helping you hold onto it?

Ask the Holy Spirit to highlight one or two women in your community that you can speak blessing over what God has called them to. Trust the Holy Spirit for words of encouragement that will lift them up! And, take action: speak blessing boldly!

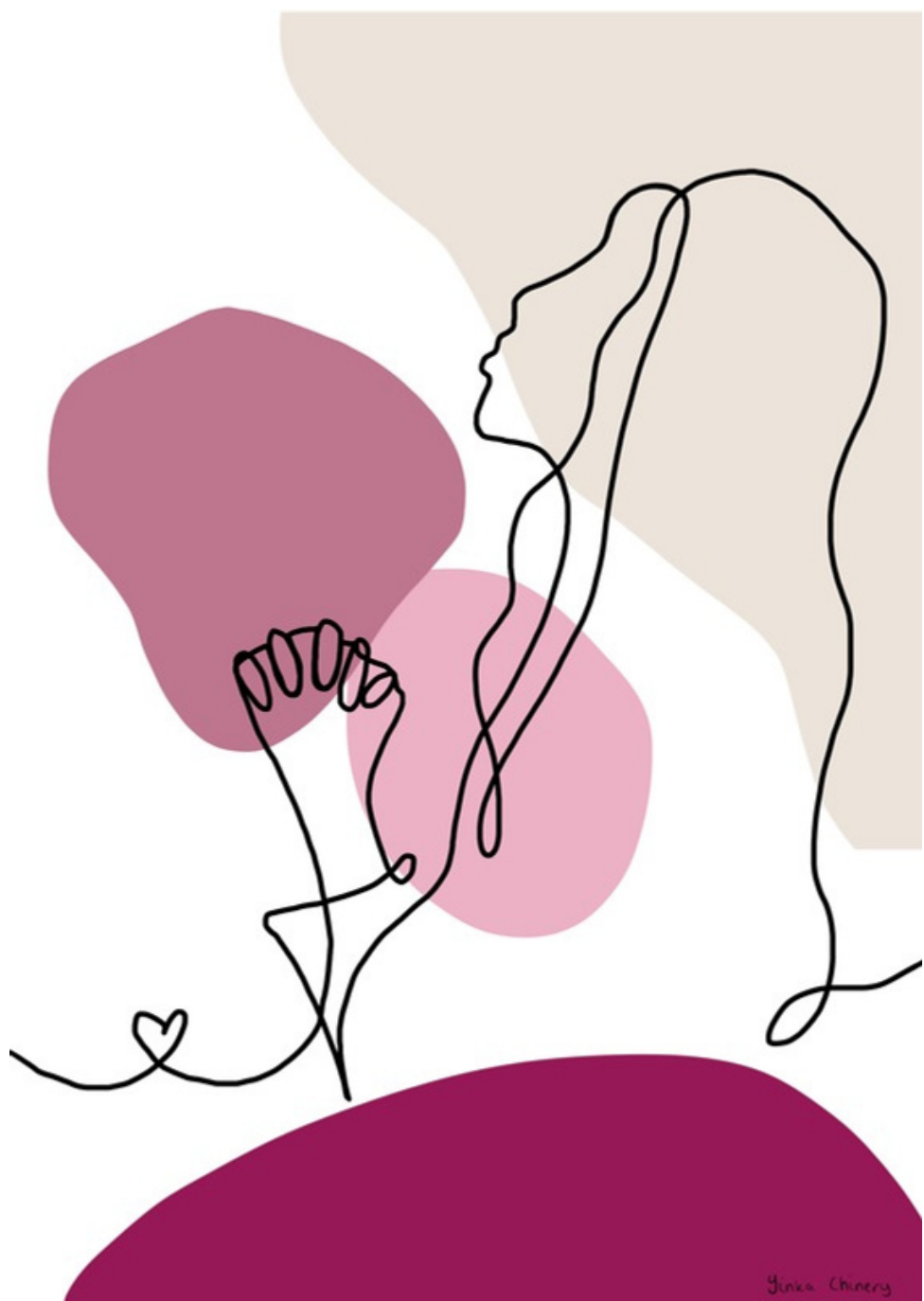
Lord Jesus thank you that in you I experience the greatest fulfilment of God's promises - the Messiah! Help us to live in a way that is expectant of your continual faithfulness.

Written by: Sophia and Amy-Jean
Image and Illustrated scripture by: Amy-Jean



BLESSED
IS SHE
WHO HAS
BELIEVED
THAT THE
LORD
WOULD
FULFILL
HIS
PROMISES
TO HER

LUKE 1:45



Yinka Chinyere

My soul magnifies the Lord

PRAY



LISTEN

Testimony - Team Eternity Ghana /
I just wanna praise You - Maurette Brown Clark



READ

Luke 1:46 - 55

When her cousin Elisabeth acknowledged how blessed Mary was (Luke 1:45), Mary's response was to praise God for noticing a "lowly servant girl" (NLT version) and using her in His redemptive plan for humanity as the woman who would birth the Messiah.

Each of us has a unique role to play in God's rescue mission. While we certainly won't give birth to the Messiah, we are all called to otherwise make Jesus known to the people around us. Mary's song reminds us that this calling is not reserved to a certain elite of women.

Mary saw herself simply as a servant who received God's grace. Like her, let's recognize the incredible favor we have in serving the Lord and may that truth be a constant source of joy and praise.

Another part that stands out is Mary's reflection on the great things God has done. It clearly shows she knows her Savior intimately. She knows His character and reflects on His actions. Often it's so easy to get stuck in the problems of this moment, forgetting all the things the Lord has done already, all the things He has rescued us from.

Let's be honest, how often do we realise that every breath we breath is a gift from God? Here Mary reminds us that we should look at His mercy, we should look back to when the Lord strengthened us in our weakest moments. Let us rejoice in our Savior. When we look to Who He is and what He has done we can only do one thing: Praise Him!

Reflect

Reflect on how God wants to use you to make Himself known to people around you. God gave to each of us gifts, talents, skills and unique personalities. How can you use them to share the Good News and God's love around you ?

What does Mary's song reveal about God's character? List 5-10 characteristics of the Lord. Which of His characteristics do you need to be reminded of the most?

How often do you express gratitude? How can you make it part of your daily life?

God, I praise you for the great things You have done ...

Written by: Mouhia & Sanne
Image by: Yinka
Illustrated scripture by: Yinka



MY
SOUL
magnifies
THE LORD

AND MY SPIRIT HAS

rejoiced

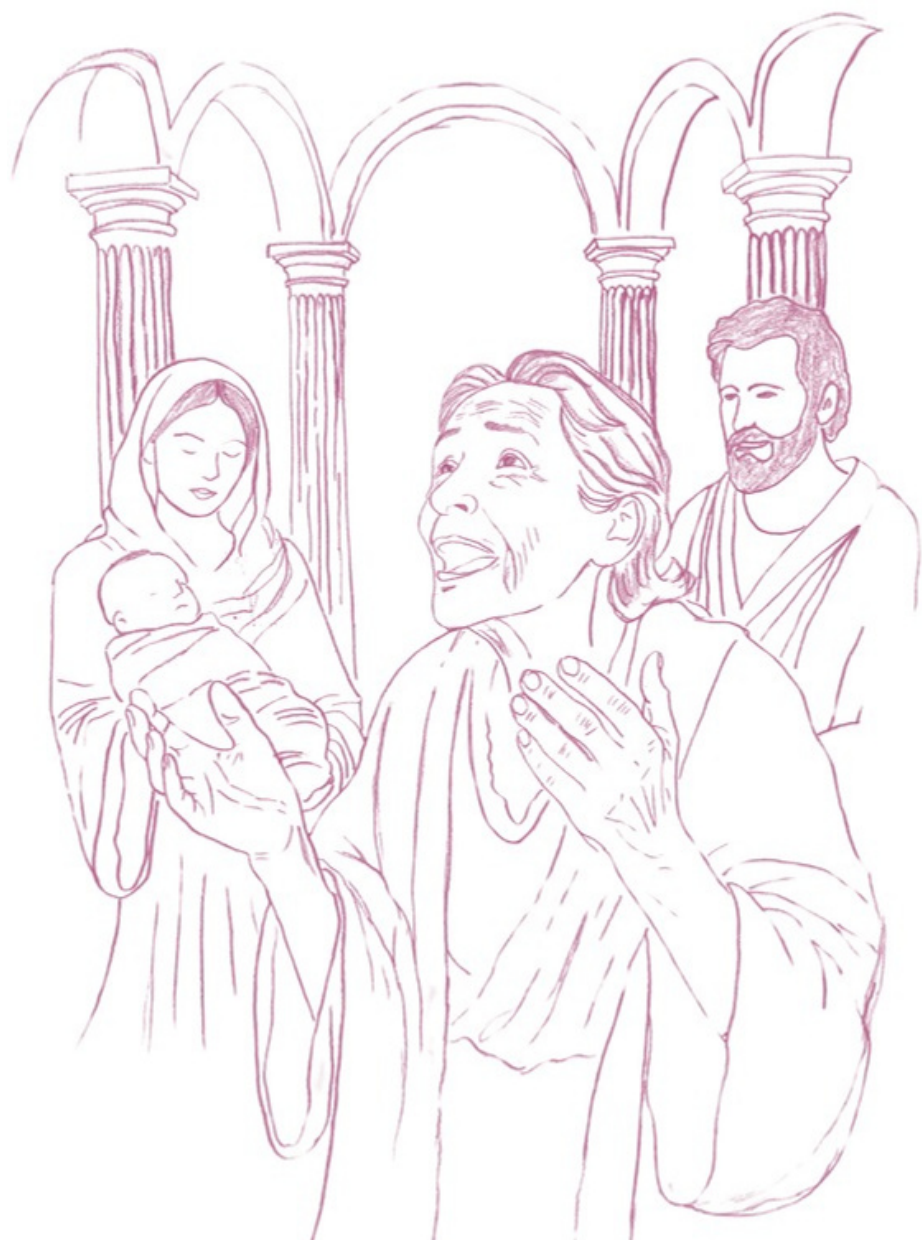
IN GOD MY SAVIOUR

LUKE 1:46-47



EXTRA CREATIVE PROMPT

Inspired by Mary's example, write a song or a poem (or choreograph a dance) to praise God for who He is and the things He has done.



Considering the life and person of Prophetess Anna

PRAY



LISTEN

To Worship You I Live by Israel & New Breed /
Nothing Else by Cody Carnes



READ

Luke 2:36 - 38

Anna, daughter of Phanuel (said to mean Face of God) of the tribe of Asher. Widowed after seven years of marriage, she lived to the age of eighty-four years (twelve times seven). She spent her days and nights in the temple, devoted to serving, worshipping God, praying, and fasting.

We can imagine some of what she prayed for. In a time of despair for Israel under Roman oppression, Anna remained hopeful, waiting for redemption. As a prophetess, she would have spent time listening for God to speak with her.

When the moment she longed for finally arrived, she came into the temple and surely looked at the infant Jesus and had the privilege of seeing the face of God. She burst forth in praise. The Messiah had come! From that day forward, she spoke to all about the arrival of redemption for Jerusalem.

Anna, a prophetess—marked by purposeful worship, dedicated prayer, and faithful service. She was caught up in God’s presence. She was at His feet. She was not there for blessings. She was there for Him.

A life of devotion to her King. She knew Him and waited for Him. Whatever God revealed to her in those years, we don’t know. But it all made sense when she met the child—the redemption for Jerusalem (and for us) had arrived.

Sometimes our lives may not make sense to all, but they will all make sense in the bigger picture through His lens.

Reflect

What can we learn from Anna’s life?

As we long for Jesus to return and to see Him face to face, consider how we should prepare ourselves to meet our Master.

Where do you relate to Anna? Who are you in His kingdom?

Open the eyes of my heart Lord, that I may see you.

Written by: Katherine and Veena: the women on the balcony:

Image by: Stella

Illustrated scripture by: Frame from Rijksmuseum collection, text from Basis Bijbel

An ornate, black and white decorative border surrounds the central text. The border features intricate floral and vine patterns. The top and bottom horizontal sections are wider and contain more complex designs, including what appears to be a central vase or bowl motif. The vertical side sections are narrower and feature repeating floral elements. The entire border is composed of fine, detailed line work.

*Zij diende God
onafgebroken
in de tempel,
met vasten en
bidden,
nacht en dag.*

LUKAS 2:37 NKG51



Jesus gets lost

PRAY



LISTEN

Your Presence is Heaven by Israel & New Breed /
The More I Seek You by Klaus - Healing Waters



READ

Luke 2:41 - 52

Mary and Joseph had lost Jesus.

For three days, they searched anxiously replaying moments, questioning decisions, wondering how this could have happened under their watch. I can only imagine the weight Mary must have carried in those hours. This was not just her child; this was the Son of God.

Perhaps the thoughts crept in quietly: “Have I failed God?”

And then they found Him, not worried, not lost, but exactly where He was meant to be.

“In my Father’s house.” His response must have been both relieving and confusing. It didn’t meet Mary’s expectation, but it revealed something deeper: Jesus was already aligned with His purpose, even when it didn’t make sense to those closest to Him.

And yet, Scripture says Mary treasured all these things in her heart. She didn’t rush to understand. She didn’t dismiss the moment. She held onto it.

As mothers, it’s easy to slip into quiet fear wondering if we’re doing enough, if we’re getting it right, if the promises God has spoken over our children will truly come to pass. There are moments that don’t make sense. Seasons that feel like we’ve lost touch with God or lost our way.

But this passage gently reminds us: God is at work even in the moments we don’t understand. Like Mary, we are invited to treasure what God has shown us, holding His words close and letting them guide us.

Reflect

Have you ever had a moment where you felt like you were “failing” as a parent (or in another relationship / role / area of responsibility)? What was happening in that season?

What has God spoken to you about your child/children (or other relationship / role) that you need to hold onto again?

What would it look like for you to “treasure” God’s promises in this season instead of trying to figure everything out?

Lord, in the moments where I feel unsure or afraid, help me to trust You. Remind me of what You have spoken, and teach me to hold those words close to my heart.

Even when I don’t understand, help me to believe that You are at work. Give me grace to walk in faith, not fear. Amen.

Written by: Oluwakemi

Image by: Oluwakemi



Water into wine

PRAY



LISTEN

WayMaker by Jesus Image



READ

John 2:1 - 12

At the wedding in Cana, the celebration of a husband and wife's union, Jesus performed His first miracle — transforming ordinary water into extraordinary wine. At the heart of this moment stood Mary, who saw a need, trusted her Son, and gently urged Him forward into His purpose.

As wives, we are inspired by Mary's example and want to stand beside our husbands not simply as companions, but as encouragers of their transformation — prayerfully walking alongside the men God is calling them to become. Equally, in all our relationships (as daughters, sisters, mothers, colleagues and friends), could we be like Mary quietly saying “do whatever He tells you”? In this way we could point those dear to us toward Christ, believing in the glory God is drawing out of them, even when they cannot yet see it themselves.

We can also see the goodness of Jesus as He performs a miracle that isn't strictly necessary, yet shows his generosity and abundance. We too can work alongside Christ in showing those around us goodness even when it's not warranted and also help them to acknowledge God's goodness in their lives.

The servants displayed their faith as they willingly filled the jars to the BRIM. We are called to love, serve and be obedient to God up to the BRIM, trusting him to conform us and our brothers and sisters into His image. We expect miracles to be fulfilled to the BRIM!



Reflect

Mary approaches Jesus when the wine runs out and his response was that His "hour has not yet come". What do you notice about Mary responds to His hesitation - and what does her response reveal about her trust in Him?

Mary doesn't demand- she simply presents the need, trusting Jesus to act. What does this tell us about the kind of influence a woman of faith can have, and why do you think God chose this moment - prompted by a woman's quiet confidence - to be the one where Jesus first revealed His glory?

Is there someone close to you whom God is prompting you to encourage or support? Are you more inclined to wait silently, encourage gently, or push more directly - and how might Mary's example reshape the way you support and believe in them?

Dear Lord, give me the wisdom to be a support and encouragement to those around me...

Written by: Sherena and Peggy

Image by: Erin & Sherena

Illustrated scripture by: Erin

CREATIVE PROMPT

You may not be able to turn water into wine, but you can turn water, flour and butter into something delicious...

Sherena's South African Roti Recipe

- 2 cups all purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 tablespoons oil or melted butter
- 1 cup boiled water

Add flour, salt and oil/butter to a bowl, mix together then add the water slowly to form a dough(add more water if necessary).

Knead dough for two minutes.

Cover the dough and let rest for 5 minutes, meanwhile heat a frying pan on the stove- medium to high heat.

Divide dough into golf size balls and roll flat on a floured surface(1/2 cm thick). Fry roti's in a hot pan. They will puff up a bit and get some brown spots, turn over to cook the other side. Remove from the pan and keep warm in a clean hand towel.

You can brush melted butter after frying but that is optional.

Eat right away!

Tip from some young roti fans: if you want to skip the step of melting butter, roughly crumble cut up butter through the flour and then use boiled water while it's still hot so that it will melt any remaining lumps!



Wells of Living Water

PRAY



LISTEN

Living Waters - Keith & Kristyn Getty /
As the deer -Shayne & Shayne



READ

John 4:1 - 42
and Isaiah 12:3

What have you been up to this week? What has filled your time and attention? Perhaps just the usual things - family, work, sport, or daily responsibilities.

In John 4, we meet a woman who was also going about something very ordinary. She went to the well to draw water, just as she likely did every day. Yet in the middle of this routine task, she experienced something extraordinary - she met Jesus.

How often does that happen to us? In the midst of our everyday lives, Jesus meets us. Sometimes it's through a quiet thought He places on our hearts, a song that comes to mind, or a Bible verse that suddenly feels alive. These moments may seem small, but they carry the potential to change us - if we don't brush them aside.

When Jesus asked the woman for a drink, she could have simply filled her bucket, handed it to Him, and moved on. But she didn't. She allowed a simple question to turn into a life-changing encounter.

Let us be attentive when Jesus shows up - even in the middle of our ordinary routines.

It is also significant that this encounter happened at a well—a place where water is drawn. Jesus used this setting to reveal something deeper: He is the Living Water. He told her, *"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 4:14).

If we long to encounter Jesus more deeply, we need to go to the "well." We need to make space - both in time and in heart - to meet with Him. This "well" might look like a quiet place set aside for prayer, what the Bible calls the "inner room" - a personal space where we seek Him intentionally.

And yet, it doesn't stop there. As we walk through life - with all its ups and downs - we can "dig wells" wherever we are. We can pause, turn our attention toward Him, and draw from the living water He freely offers. From Him, we receive not only salvation, but also joy, renewal, and strength for each day.

With joy, we draw from the wells of salvation (Isaiah 12:3).

Reflect

In the midst of your daily responsibilities and routines, are you noticing the gentle ways Jesus is trying to meet with you?

When life feels busy or overwhelming, are you intentionally creating space to pause and spend time with Him at your “well”?

What might be holding you back from fully receiving the living water Jesus offers - and how can you invite Him more into your everyday life this week?

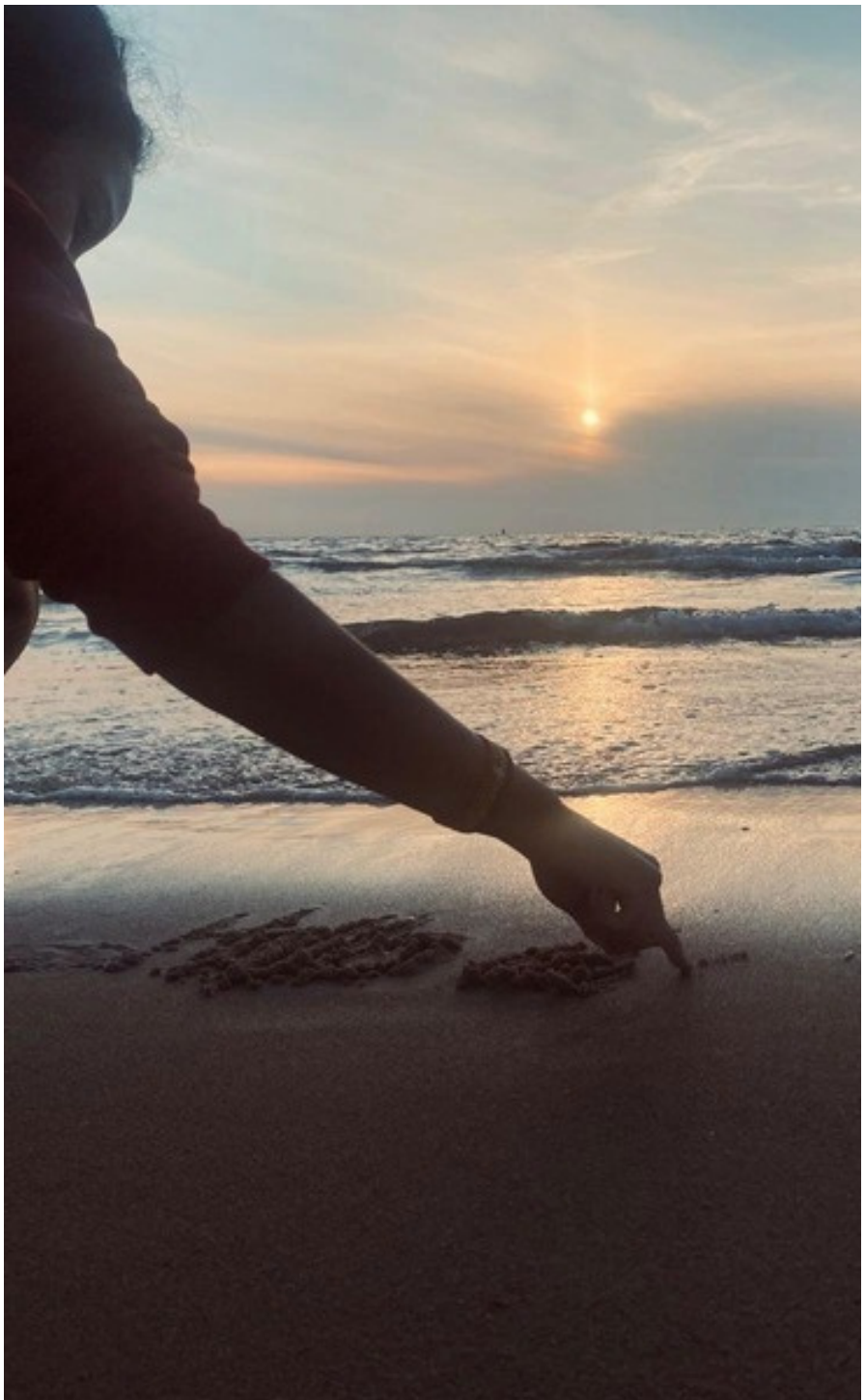
Thank you, Jesus for your well of living water ...

Written by: Nelleke

Image by: Sherena

Illustrated scripture by: The Reader





Met with Mercy

PRAY



LISTEN

Who You Said I Am by Hillsong Worship /
Broken Vessels by Hillsong Worship /
Mercy - Matt Redman



READ

John 8:1 - 11

This account in the Bible brings us into a deeply vulnerable scene. A woman, unnamed except for her sin, is thrown into the centre of a crowd, before Jesus, to be condemned.

Place yourself in her position: a woman standing surrounded by a crowd of people who have been told of your deepest shame. You are exposed and vulnerable, probably trembling with fear in anticipation of your punishment. Yet, in the center of your shame, you encounter the mercy of a stranger.

Jesus, the only person in the crowd who has the right to judge her, kneels down next to her. He comes beside her, in silence and writes in the dust... Before addressing her sin He stands between her and the crowd, shielding her from condemnation. When He speaks, He wipes away her shame, not because he is in denial of her sin, or because he approves of it, but because, in His grace and mercy, He comes to restore and not to destroy.

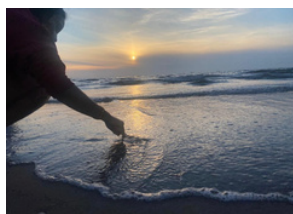
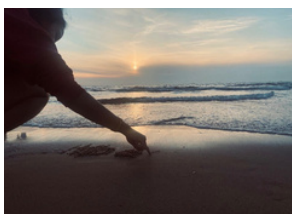
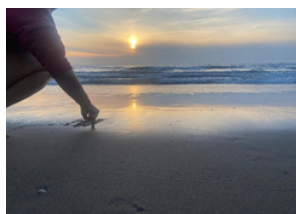
His response was completely different from the crowd. Christ does not confront her to punish her but to restore her. In a world quick to shame, condemn and label one another for our sin, Jesus shows us another way.

He meets us with both truth and mercy, reminding us that our deepest identity is not in our sin, failures or mistakes, but in Jesus Christ our Saviour. The invitation is open for you too, to walk forward in this same freedom!

Reflect

Who did Jesus first address in the passage? Why do you think that is?

What does this story reveal about God and his attitude to sin and judgement?



ACTIVITY PROMPT

Take a walk on the beach reflecting with Jesus on the sin, shame, labels and old identities that you may have been carrying with you. Find a place to stop and write those things in the sand - the things that you feel have defined or condemned you. Then pause and watch as the water washes them away. As the water covers the words, reflect on the truth that Jesus does not define you by your past, your shame or your sin. Through His mercy we have been set free and hold an identity as a daughter of the King, pure and blameless in his sight. Spend some time in praise, giving thanks to Jesus whose mercy and grace is poured out on us and in whom we find freedom.

Thank you, God, for your unending grace and mercy...

Written by: Cat and Kirsten

Images by: Rach, Mariah, Jana, Sophie & Poppy



Light in the darkness

PRAY



LISTEN

Even If by MercyMe

Living Hope by Phil Wickham



LIGHT A CANDLE



READ

John 11:1-43

Imagine a small candle in a dark cave, diffused light.

You can't see more than the Light allows you to see, so in seasons of darkness in our lives, we can trust God to follow the diffused light, day by day without knowing what's ahead and living in the peace of that truth, which is His light.

In John 11, when Lazarus died, those close to him asked the same question we often ask in grief. Where was God? Mary and Martha knew Jesus could have come sooner. They believed – but they were hurting. And still, Jesus didn't rush past their pain, He entered it, He wept.

“Jesus wept” which shows us Jesus' humanity, compassion and understanding of our grief as He understood it. God was not absent – He was working with purpose, even in what could feel like a delay, what looked like loss was not the end of the story. (v. 33-35)

Grief has a way of asking hard questions, and the darkness can make us forget how God has always come through for us in the past. In our experience a part of grief can be layered in complexity, in which only Jesus can be the one who can work out this deep hurt with you.

Grief can become an open door – an invitation to draw nearer to God. In the middle of heartbreak, there's a choice to pull away, or to fall into his arms.

As God restores us and makes us new, he doesn't remove the scar tissue and continues to use for His good according to his purpose. Even while we may still feel messy and not ready to be used by Him, He still has a plan for us in this stage of brokenness. (v. Romans 8:28).

When Jesus heard about it, it he said, Lazarus sickness will not end in death, no, it is for the glory of God. I, the Son of God, will receive glory from this. (v. 4)

This confirms for us everything in our lives, the good and the bad can be a testament for His Glory!

Reflect

Have you ever doubted God in the midst in of your grief or struggle? Perhaps you have asked “Where is God in this?” or “Could He not have...” like those in verse 37.

How is God’s Love expressed in moments of grief? (see verse 36)

How can absence or unanswered prayers strengthen faith? (see verse 15)

Thank you Jesus that you enter into our grief and struggle and that you weep with us. Thank you for the hope and truth that you are the resurrection and the life...

Written by: Carla and Roshel

Image by: Carla and Erin

Illustrated scripture by: Charlie

I AM THE
RESURRECTION & THE
LIFE *luke 11:25*



Perfume at Jesus' feet

PRAY



LISTEN

I will offer by Matt Redman
Mary by Ben & Sarah Potter



READ

John 12:1 - 8

Imagine you're walking on the beach, you can feel the breeze on your skin and the sand between your toes. But every beach day has to come to an end and that includes washing the dirt off your feet. How would you wash off your feet? Would you wash them with sea water, with your favorite perfume or would you perhaps ask someone else to clean them for you?

Mary's act of love at Jesus' feet goes against any human intuition. Washing the dirt off with her expensive perfume and later drying them off with her hair is an extravagant response to who Jesus is.

But instead of acting like Mary we more often act the way Judas did. We put our own fleshly desires before God's will instead of laying down our lives as perfume at his feet.

As Mary anoints the feet of Jesus the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume. Often our acts of worship and sacrifice not only impact our own lives, but also echo through the lives of others.

Devotion sometimes looks like kneeling down and letting Jesus wash parts of us that we prefer to keep hidden in the sand. What may Jesus be inviting you to pour out, release or let him wash away?

CREATIVE PROMPT

Do you have a favourite scent or perfume? Perhaps you want to put some on now while you reflect on this scripture so that each time you smell it again it reminds you of Mary's extravagant worship and devotion to Jesus and inspires you to worship Him too.

Reflect

What do you find surprising about Mary's act?

What do the roles of Jesus, Mary & Judas represent to you? Which role do you resonate with the most?

How can we apply Mary's humility to our daily lives?

Dear God may I be less like Judas and more like Mary. May I offer my life like perfume at your feet...

Written by: Timna, Ramona & Felicity
Image by: Ramona

As you read this scripture, what do you picture in your mind's eye? Add your own image here - could be a sketch, a description, a collage of found images, a photo from your camera roll....

Waiting on Him

PRAY



LISTEN

Amen amen - TY Bello, Sinmidele
Grateful - Hezekiah Walker



READ

Luke 4:38 - 40
Matthew 8:14 - 15

Reflect

What stands out to you about this short encounter between Jesus and Simon Peter's mother in law? Why do you think two gospel writers included it in their accounts?

What can we learn from the way this woman responds to being healed by Jesus? What do you think is meant by "she waited on him"? If you were in her position, what do you imagine you would do to serve Jesus?

Is there someone you know who is unwell or struggling in some way whom you could serve - by praying like Jesus did, or by 'waiting on them' like Simon Peter's mother in law did?

Jesus, thank you for your healing touch. Help me to 'get up and wait on you' like this woman did ...

CREATIVE PROMPT

Is there a special meal or treat that you like to cook or bake for special guests? What would you get up and prepare for Jesus if you were Simon Peter's mother in law? Perhaps you might like to cook or bake something as an act of worship. You could deliver it to the person you thought of above!



A sinful woman forgiven

PRAY



LISTEN

Feet of Jesus - Bethel

Oh my soul bless God (psalm 103) - Project of love



READ

Luke 7:36 - 50

At first, this scripture didn't make much sense to us. A sinful woman? Why was she called that? What had she done? She dried her own tears on Jesus' feet with her own hair? How can something even be dried with hair? Prayerfully we continued the process. We studied these verses from Luke and discovered how deeply they actually touched us.

There's a parable in the middle of this woman's story that gives us insight into why she did all these things – a man who owes a lot of money and another man who owes a little bit of money. Jesus draws the metaphor to our own sense of sin to the debt these men had.

Do you ever think back to your past sins? Sins that you think could never be forgiven? Sins that go so deep that they still seem to affect your life, making complete forgiveness feel impossible?

In the parable, we read that the man who owed the greatest debt was the most grateful when that debt was removed – the debt was forgiven.

With a heavy heart, I want to share with you that I have, in one way or another, broken all ten commandments. And sometimes I hear the word "sinner" loud and clear in my head. Do you recognize that?

This story of the woman washing the feet of Jesus with her tears and drying with her hair before bathing them in expensive perfume is a story that shows the relief and joy that we can experience when we know we are forgiven by Jesus – the only one who can truly take our sins away. The joy and lightness we experience when we live in the freedom from our debt of sin.

We read in Psalms 103:12 *"As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us."*

God has forgiven us. This forgiveness leads to a deeper awareness of God's love. God's action of forgiving us leads to our response: to love Him in return.

Jesus says to you and me: *"Your faith has saved you; go in peace."*

Reflect

Do you know what the significance is of washing a person's feet? Let the picture form in your mind of Jesus and the disciples gathering for dinner, a woman walking in, going straight to Jesus, crying over his feet, wiping them with her hair, pouring perfume, the scent filling the room. Imagine how you might feel in this situation.

Do you feel like there is a debt of sin that is holding on your heart? What is it that seems to still linger in your mind pulling you into frustration, despair or distance from God?

What can you do this week to start living in the truth that Jesus has paid your debt and you are a free daughter of God? What would you be doing or saying differently if you truly felt and lived in freedom from your sin?

Jesus, please forgive me and help me to rest secure in your forgiveness...

Written by: Ka Lei and Saskia
Image by: Elena



Purpose over pressure

PRAY



LISTEN

Be Still - Hillsong Worship
Good Plans - Red Rocks Worship



READ

Luke 8:40 - 42 + 49 - 56 and
Matthew 9:18 - 19 + 23 - 26

Have you ever felt like things were completely out of your control? Maybe you've faced a situation that felt urgent, overwhelming, or even hopeless - like something was already "too far gone."

In this story, Jairus comes to Jesus desperate, his daughter is dying. At first, it seems hopeful: Jesus agrees to go with him. But then, everything goes wrong. There's a delay. News comes that the girl has died. It's over. Too late.

But Jesus responds differently. He says, "Don't be afraid; just believe," and continues anyway. When others laugh and dismiss the situation as final, Jesus sends them out and speaks life where there was death.

This shows us that Jesus is not rushed or shaken by what feels urgent to us from our limited human perspective. He was not in a hurry, but moved with intention. He operated from a place of purpose, not pressure.

Even in the waiting, He is at work. Faith is tested not just in the outcome, but in the waiting. When everything feels delayed or uncertain, He invites us to trust Him. His way is always better!

The passion paraphrase translates Psalm 16 into "Yahweh, you alone are my inheritance. You are my prize, my pleasure, and my portion. You hold my destiny and its timing in your hands. Your pleasant path leads me to pleasant places. I'm overwhelmed by the privileges that come with following you!"

We would encourage you to finish this devotional by reading Psalm 16 from the passion translation.

Sometimes we feel like Jairus, standing in the tension between hope and disappointment. We might hear voices telling us, "It's over," or "God didn't come through." We label situations as dead, lost, or beyond repair. But Jesus speaks a different, better, word: "Don't be afraid. Just believe."

Reflect

What stands out to you in this story? How do Jairus, the crowd, and Jesus each respond to the situation?

What does Jesus' response to the delay and the news of the girl's death tell you about His character and the way He works? Have you learnt something new about how Jesus works?

Where in your life do you feel like you're waiting or losing hope, and what might it look like for you to trust Jesus in that place?

Jesus, thank you that you are a good Father, who has good plans for us and holds our destiny and its timing in your hands. Help us to trust you and not be afraid in times of delay, disaster or uncertainty. Thank you that you have not given us a Spirit of fear, but of power, love and of a sound mind.

Written by: YOUTH GIRLS: Chloe, Olive, Laura, Sophia, Ella, Marie-Jente, Anna and Lisa.
Image by: Kristin

CREATIVE PROMPT

Inspired by Psalm 16, write your own psalm, song or poem in praise of God.

IT'S
NOT
TOO LATE

DON'T BE AFRAID

Just
BELIEVE



Reaching Out: A Touch of Faith, A Life Restored

PRAY



LISTEN

Voice of truth - Casting Crowns

Just one touch - Prayer room 27



READ

Mark 5:25-34,

Luke 8:42-48

and Matthew 9:20-22

There are many layers to this account, and each reading brings something new into focus. What inspired us this time is this woman's courageous faith in the midst of an extraordinarily difficult life.

From a modern perspective, it's easy to miss the full extent of her struggle. For twelve years, she lived with constant physical suffering. But the deeper pain was her isolation.

Labelled ceremonially unclean, she was cut off from community, relationships, and worship. She would have been invisible, excluded, and forgotten - hanging on, it seems, by just a thread.

And yet, when she hears about Jesus, she has faith in His power to heal. She doesn't come with certainty or status. She doesn't expect recognition. Instead, she carries something small but powerful—faith the size of a mustard seed.

Faith that even the slightest contact, just a thread of His cloak, could change everything. Not a conversation, not a public moment—just a thread would be enough.

So she reaches out.

That act alone is remarkable. Reaching out after years of silence and exclusion takes courage. Reaching out without guarantees is a risk. Still, she reaches through fear, through doubt, through the crowd, and takes hold of that thread. And instantly, she is healed.

But Jesus doesn't let her slip away unnoticed. He stops. He seeks her out. He calls her "Daughter," restoring not only her body but her identity, dignity, and place in the community.

She reached out for just a thread—and in return, Jesus sees, knows, loves and heals her. He gives her everything.

Reflect

What stands out to you as you read the account of this woman and her healing?

What does this story reveal to you about who Jesus is and what He is like?

Is there an area of your life where you are “hanging on by a thread” or longing for a touch from God? Are there areas of your life where you feel unclean, unworthy, isolated or invisible like this woman? What would reaching out to Jesus in faith look like for you today?

Jesus I am reaching out to you. Grant me the courageous faith of this daughter of yours...

Written by: Linda, Sujana and Erin

Image by: Erin

Illustrated scripture by: Erin

Throughout the generations to come you are to make

tassels on the corners of

your garments, with a blue cord on each tassel.

"DAUGHTER,
YOUR FAITH
HAS HEALED
YOU.
GO IN PEACE
& BE FREED
FROM YOUR
SUFFERING."

Mark 5:34

There is healing in His wings ... (or tassels) Malachi 4:2

remember all the commands of the Lord... Numbers 15:38-39

You will have these tassels to look at and so you will

ARTIST'S NOTE

To create the image to accompany this devotional lead me on a very interesting tangent:

I have always been interested in how things are made. I love making my own clothes and often look around in church and notice what people are wearing, how their outfits reflect their personalities and wonder about how they were made. I've often felt this interest is not very spiritual... but in the case of this particular scripture my niche interest proved quite enriching.

The woman touched the hem or edge of Jesus' garment. This makes me wonder what Jesus was wearing? What kind of hem or edge did it have? What was the garment made of? When people cast lots for Jesus' clothes at the foot of the cross we learn that His garment was seamless (which made it special and valuable). Did the woman consider what Jesus was wearing somehow special or imbued with power? Jesus was Jewish and likely would have dressed like a Jewish man of his time - like a rabbi.

In Numbers 15:38-39 the people of Israel are instructed to "make tassels on the corners of their garments throughout their generations, and to put a blue thread in the tassels of the corners. And you shall have the tassel, that you may look upon it and remember all the commandments of the Lord and do them".

Malachi 4:2 speaks of "the Sun of Righteousness rising with healing in it's wings." The word that is translated as wings is also used to denote an edge or corner of a garment, and this scripture is considered by many commentators to be a prophetic promise of the coming Messiah and the healing He will bring.

To this day, Jewish people tie 4 tzitzit (tassels) on the corners of their tallit (prayer shawls) as a reminder of the commandments and authority of God. There are many different ways to tie them - but they all have symbolic significance: the number of windings and the number of knots signify the commandments in the Torah. They can also indicate status and family identity.

It is not a stretch to imagine that Jesus would have worn a Jewish rabbi's prayer shawl with tzitzit at the corners.

When the woman heard about Jesus and His miracles and healings, did she think about the Malachi and Numbers scriptures? Did she decide to touch the part of His garment that represented God's commandments, authority, power and holiness? I like to think that she did!

Ultimately her healing came from Jesus himself and not from his clothing. Taking time to ponder these extra details made me even more aware of the many 'threads' that tie the old and new testaments together, how Jesus came not to abolish the law but to fulfill it and how extraordinary it must have been for those who had faithfully waited for the promised and prophesied Messiah to encounter Him!

To create the image for this chapter, I attempted tying a tzitzit. And then hung it with some linen in the wind and tied myself into all sorts of pretzel shapes trying to get the perfect camera angle!



CREATIVE PROMPT

If you enjoy tying knots / hand crafts and have some yarn or cord, I would recommend trying to tie a tzitzit (or four) too! The one I made includes the Hebrew letters "YHWH" or Yahweh, the name of God. It takes a little while to get the hang of the method, and then it becomes quite a meditative process - perfect for reflecting on the promises and holiness of God and praying as you tie! (You'll find tutorials on youtube.)

Alternatively, have a look in your own wardrobe - is there an item of clothing, an accessory or a piece of jewellery that reminds you of the promises of God, or of His faithfulness, or holiness? Why not wear or use it this week as a tangible reminder of who God is and what He has done.



Just one thing is needed

PRAY



LISTEN

Nothing Else - Cody Carnes
Enough - Elias Drummer



READ

Luke 10:38 - 42

Did you know there are only seven instances in the Bible where God calls a person's name twice? Each time it marked urgent, divine redirection. Where God breaks through the noise and says, listen. This matters.

This is one of those moments.

As a woman in my late 40s, I relate deeply to Martha. At every stage, I have been distracted and worried: marriage, work, kids, parents, church, health. Like a juggler, I become more irritable and worn-out with every dropped ball.

My 19-year-old daughter feels it too, pulled in every direction by university, friendships, identity and decisions for the future. Like Martha, we can both end up blaming those around us for not playing their part. Jesus' words are as relatable for my daughter as they are for me.

But He will not leave us there. With tender firmness, Jesus redirects Martha to what truly mattered. The only thing that Mary had intentionally chosen: continually listening to Him. Unhurried. Unencumbered by distractions.

For everything we need for life and godliness flows from that one place: wisdom (James 1:5), direction (Prov 3:5-6), strength (Isaiah 40:31), Holy Spirit power (Acts 1:8), a sound mind (2 Tim 1:7), peace (Phil 4:7), joy (Gal 5:22-23), love (Rom 5:5), hope (Jer 29:11), and eternal life with Him (John 3:16).

Jesus confirms it in John 15:5. "You can do nothing without Me." Nothing. But everything with Him.

Dear Sister, Jesus invites you to stop striving and spend unhurried time with Him. Will you choose Him intentionally?

Reflect

What do you find surprising in Jesus' reaction towards Martha?

What does Jesus reveal about His priorities in this passage?

What do you want to do differently as a result of reading this?

Jesus, like Martha, I am busy and hurried. Help me to choose you intentionally...

Written by: Helga with her daughter Sarah
Image by: Sarah



Daughter of Abraham

PRAY



LISTEN

Another One - Elevation worship
Break every chain - Jesus Culture



READ

Luke 13:10 - 17

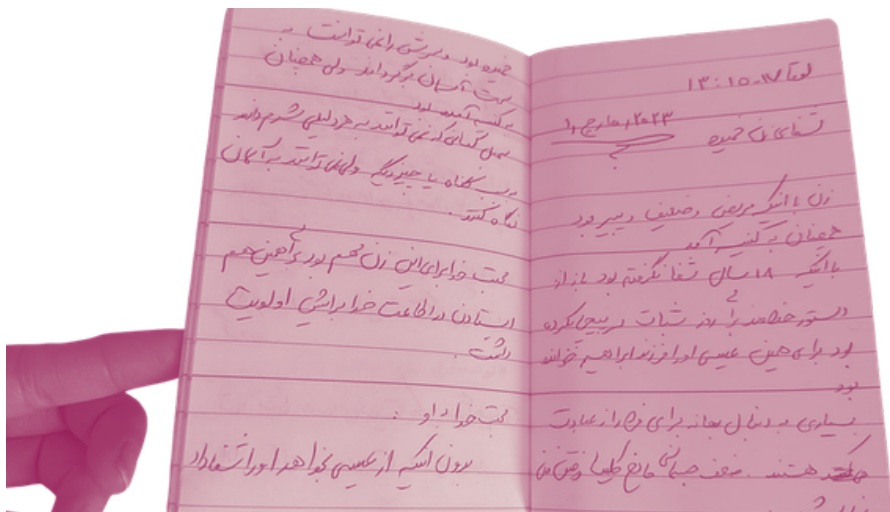
In Luke 13:10-17, we meet a woman who had been bent over for eighteen years. She lived with pain and limitation, yet she made one quiet, powerful choice: she showed up to worship on the Sabbath.

She could have stayed home. She could have wondered if God had forgotten her. Instead, she came, perhaps not expecting anything to change, but still choosing to be present before God.

Her story reminds me of a season in my own life. I lived with back pain for many years and eventually had surgery, but it didn't go well. At one point, due to internal bleeding, I truly felt like I might die. In that moment—when hope seemed gone—I began to worship. I prayed that if I were to leave this world, I would open my eyes before Jesus. It was in that place of surrender that I experienced God stepping into my life. By the next morning, the pain and complications were gone. Praise God!

In Luke's story, the woman doesn't ask for healing but Jesus sees her and calls her forward. He calls her a "daughter of Abraham," restoring her body AND her dignity.

This makes me pause. What does it look like to keep showing up—even in weakness? And how might God meet us in ways we don't expect?



Reflect

What stands out to you most in this passage, and why?

What does Jesus' response to the woman reveal about who He is?

Where might you be invited to keep showing up in faith, even when hope feels distant?

Jesus, help me to faithfully show up and seek your presence ...

Written by: Narges

Image by: Erin featuring Narges' notebook and praise in Persian

Illustrated scripture by: Frame from Rijksmuseum collection Text from NIV



*"Immediately
she
straightened
up and
praised God"*

LUKE 13:13 NIV



The God who sees

PRAY



LISTEN

Take my life - Passion

I surrender - Hillsong Worship



READ

Luke 21:1 - 4

Who has read this story and not been struck by the example of the poor widow?

This is a woman whose generosity towards God, simplicity of heart and humble, dependent faith cut across cultures, class and centuries. Wherever the Gospel is preached, she, too, is remembered, even though her action was invisible to those around her.

The Bible is full of invisible people, swept under society's rug because of poverty, sickness, status, shame or simply being women. You and I, too, can feel invisible at times: unseen, unnoticed and undervalued.

BUT GOD...

God, called 'El Roi', 'the God who sees' by Hagar after he saved her life in the desert (Genesis 16:13). God who meets his people in their desolation and weakness, rather than in their pride and strength.

The widow never exclaims anything in this story, but her preciousness to Jesus is evident. Your actions for the Lord are too. HE SEES YOU.

Just over a year into volunteering for a Christian boarding school, I, Elisabeth, remember seeing a shirt I really liked in a local shop. I could not afford it. I was thinking, "Lord, I am working for you, but I feel really frustrated that I cannot buy the things I like. The following day, a colleague gave me a bag of clothes. This kind of situation arose time and again, even my most insignificant desires and prayers have a place in God's heart!

We can never out-give God: "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap." (Luke 6:38)



Reflect

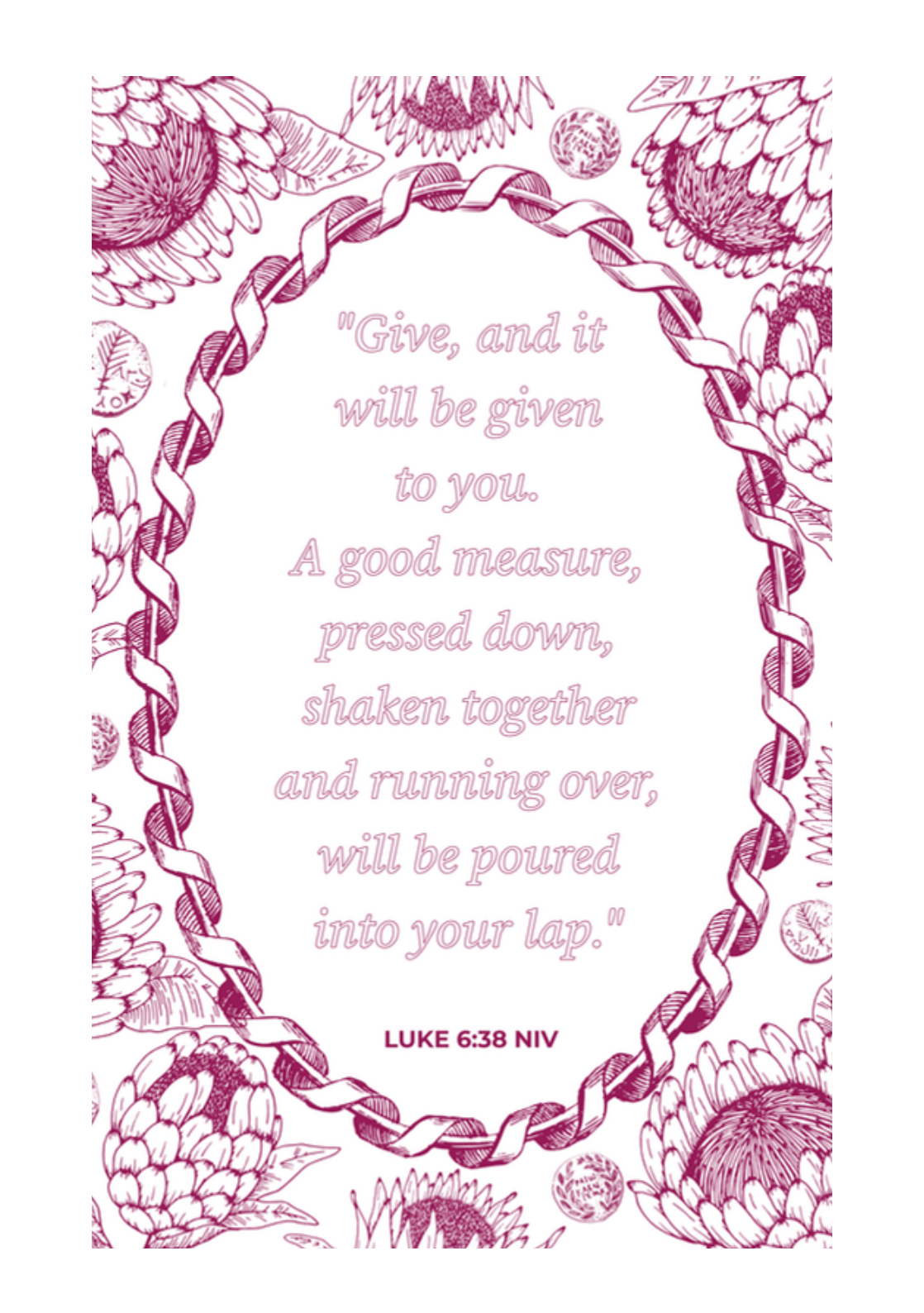
Do you feel invisible or unseen sometimes? How do you deal with this feeling?

What does Jesus reveal about his character and whom he values in this passage?

Can you think of a time when you felt 'seen' by God through the words or actions of another person? Is there someone in your life that God is prompting you to 'see' and encourage in some way?

Thank you, Lord, for the widow's generosity, which has shone through history. Thank you for your generosity towards us, tiny and quick to complain as we are. Thank you that you see us and celebrate us in our baby steps towards becoming like Jesus. We love you, Lord, our God who sees.

Written by: Elizabeth and Elizabeth
Image by: Erin



*"Give, and it
will be given
to you.*

*A good measure,
pressed down,
shaken together
and running over,
will be poured
into your lap."*

LUKE 6:38 NIV



A discipleship journey of love

PRAY



LISTEN

Come to Jesus / No Turning Back

- Steffany Gretzinger



READ

Luke 8:1-3

Luke 23:55-56

Mark 15:40-47

Matthew 27:55-56 + 61

A rabbi asks many things from his students: to follow him wherever he went, to live the kind of life he did, and customarily, to provide for him out of their means.

Tucked away in a chapter somewhere in the beginning of Luke, we heard of a particular set of students of Jesus: women. Mary, Joanna, Susanna, and many other women are recorded as being part of this movement following Jesus.

All are women who begin their discipleship journey with incredible encounters with Jesus. They are 'healed of evil spirits and infirmities' (Lk 8:2a). It must have cost so much for them to follow a single male rabbi in a society where this would have been scandalous. But to them, it is completely worth it.

This faithful journey of love would ultimately culminate at the tomb, after the women have watched Jesus's crucifixion, and followed Joseph of Arimathea to watch his burial. Ultimately, of course, they would also be the first witnesses of his resurrection. You would have expected His closest friends, the apostles, to be the ones who stayed with Jesus through his hardest moments, but it is the women who stayed.

Their stories are ones filled with act after act of love for Jesus. The necessity for such a transformative life of love, for the kind of lives that get mentioned in every gospel, seems to begin with a personal encounter they have with Jesus.

Reflect

What do you find to be the greatest act of love mentioned in the readings? Why?

What does Jesus's decision to also have women as disciples, and His experience having them be there with Him through His life reveal about His character?

Jesus is always eager to encounter us, even now and even again. How does your encounter with Jesus shape your life as a disciple? If you have not had one yet, how do you think it would change your life?

Lovely Jesus, thank you that you're always eager to encounter us...

Written by: Joanna and Nynke

Image: De kleine kruising by Albrecht Durer 1517-1521 from the Rijksmuseum Collection

CREATIVE PROMPT - CROCHET A CROSS

You will need

- A crochet hook (3.5mm or a size appropriate to your yarn weight)
- A small quantity of yarn

Common abbreviations of crochet stitches:

ch – chain

DC – double crochet

st– stitch

sl st – slip stitch

- Make a magic ring
- Ch3, 2 DC in ring
- [Ch3, 3 DC in ring] - repeat 3 times
- Ch3, join with sl st in top your first ch3.

You now have 4 ‘petals’ around your ring.

- Sl st in next DC, sl st in next DC
- sl st in ch-3 space
- Ch 3
- 2 DC in the same ch-3 space
- ch3
- 2 DC in the same ch-3 space
- ch3
- sl st in next DC

Repeat this process 3 more times around the remaining ‘petals’. At the very end instead of Ch3 and sl st make one more DC. Turn your work.

Crochet the bottom of the cross:

- Ch1
- sl st in next DC, sl st in next DC
- sl st in ch-3 space
- Ch 3
- 2 DC in the same ch-3 space
- Ch3
- 3 DC

Turn and repeat from this process twice to make the long end of your cross. Cut the yarn and weave in the ends. Enjoy your handiwork!





*You are not
forgotten*

PRAY

|

LISTEN

The Wonderful Blood - Tiffany Hudson
and or He knows my name - Tommy Walker

|

READ

John 19: 25 - 27

In our own pain and suffering, we often forget the pain of those around us. Thankfully, Jesus is not like this. In His agonizing moment on the cross, Jesus knows and feels all the emotions of those near him. Their sadness, fears, confusion, disappointment, and perhaps feelings of anxiety in an unknown future, are all close to God's heart.

Even in His suffering, Jesus creates a new kind of family, one not defined only by blood, but by love and care. He entrusts His mother to the beloved disciple and, in doing so, shows us that we need one another.

We are invited into this same calling: to be sisters, aunts, and mothers to each other in spirit, even if those titles don't yet- or may never- be a reality. In a world that can feel uncertain or lonely, we become places of belonging for one another.

Responding out of His unconditional, undying love- Jesus personally addresses his mother and speaks directly into these emotions, providing compassion and care in the specific area she longed for.

Just like Mary, God hasn't forgotten you. He sees you and knows you by name. He sets you in a family and gives you a place of belonging. He meets you in your lowest moments as you wrestle with your fears, anxiety and emotions. He is with you.

Reflect

Compare the joy that Mary experienced in Luke 1:46-47 with the emotions she would have experienced in John 19:25: Write down a moment you experienced joy in the Lord to remind you of His goodness.

What area of fear, anxiety or confusion would you like to invite God into today?

Is there someone in your life who is experiencing suffering and pain that you could reach out to today to remind them that God has not forgotten them?

Jesus, thank you for knowing me and placing me in your family. I give my (name emotion here) to you.....

Written by: Ann and Sumi

Image by: Erin

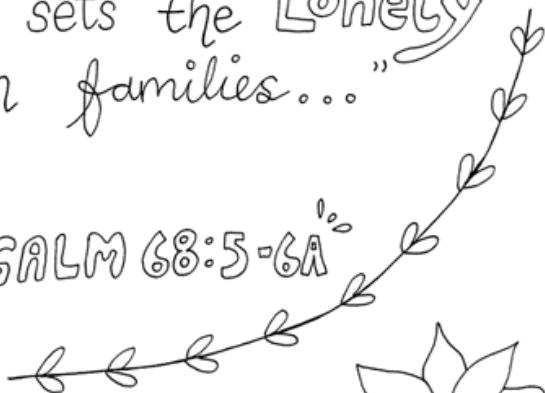
Illustrated scripture by: Sumi



" A FATHER
to the fatherless,
A defender
of widows,
is GOD
in his holy dwelling.
GOD sets the Lonely
in families..."



" PSALM 68:5-6A "





Women as the first witnesses of the resurrected Jesus

PRAY



LISTEN

Graves into Garden - Brandon Lake /

Send me - Bethel music /

Because he Lives - The Worship Initiative



READ

Luke 24:1-12,

John 20:1-18,

Mark 16:1-20,

Matthew 28:1-10

Under the Jewish laws and traditions in the Old Testament, women were often not treated as reliable witnesses. But when Jesus came, He changed the way women were seen. Through His life and ministry, He showed the heart of God toward women that they are loved and important in His Kingdom. One of the most beautiful examples of this happened after the resurrection of Jesus.

When Jesus rose from the dead, He appeared first to women. Mary Magdalene came to the tomb early in the morning, heartbroken and crying because she thought Jesus' body had been taken away.

Suddenly, Jesus called her by name: *"Mary"*. In that moment, everything changed. Jesus trusted her with the greatest message in history: *"He is alive!"* She ran to tell the disciples what she had seen. Even though society looked down on the testimony of women, Jesus chose a woman to carry the news of His resurrection. What a powerful message this sends to us today, God does not see people the way the world does.

Other women were also part of this moment, Mary the mother of James, Salome & Joanna. They were told, *"Go quickly and tell His disciples."* These women became the first messengers of the resurrection. Now, everywhere the resurrection of Christ is mentioned, women are listed at the fore front of these testimonies. This was not accidental. Jesus was showing that women have a place, a voice, and a purpose in God's plan.

Throughout His ministry, Jesus always treated women with dignity and compassion. (John 4, John 8:1-11, Luke 10:39). In a culture where women were often pushed aside, Jesus brought them close. The burden of discrimination and limitation has been broken in Christ.

Reflect

Have you ever felt unseen or unimportant as a woman? Remember that Jesus sees you, knows your name, and values you.

Have you ever felt afraid to share your faith because of your gender? The same Jesus who sent Mary Magdalene to announce His resurrection can also use you.

Today, many women still struggle with feelings of not being good enough, not qualified enough, or not important enough. But the resurrection story reminds us that Jesus sees women differently. Take time to read and reflect on: Genesis 1:27 Galatians 3:25–28 John 20:11–18

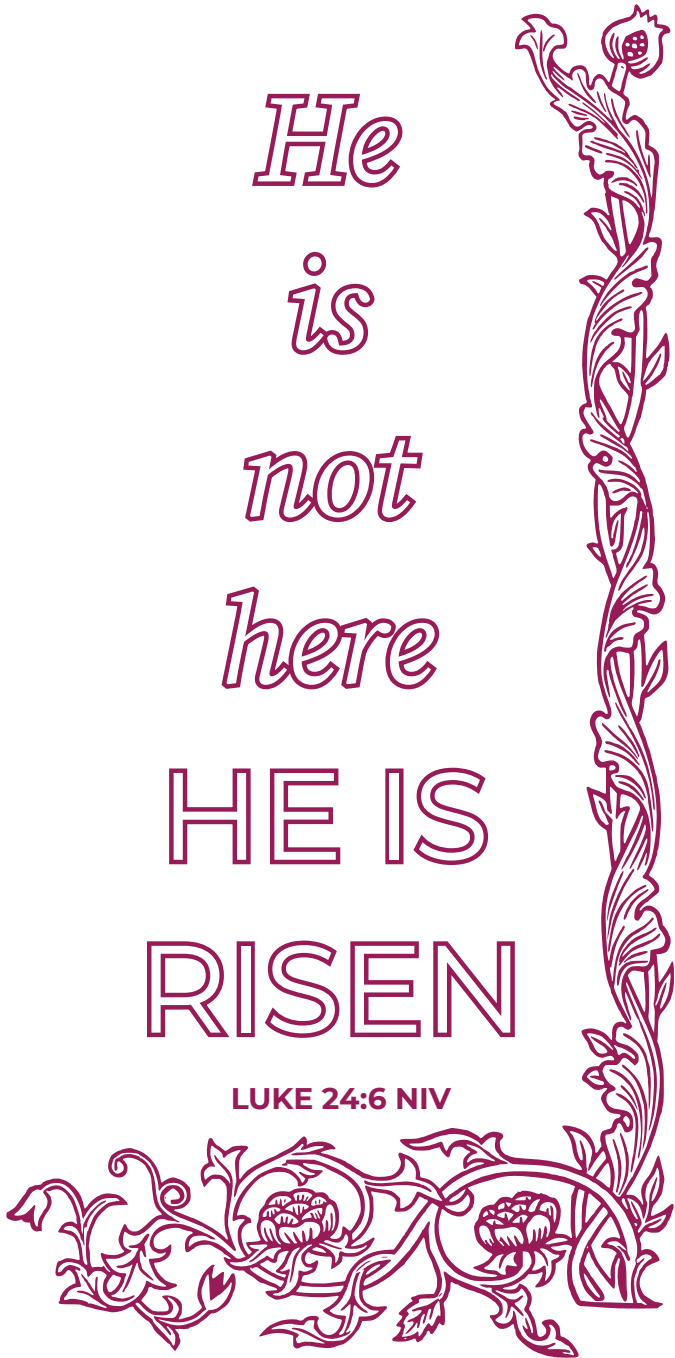
Dear God, help me to see myself exactly how you see me- loved, valued, cherished and important

Written by: Fiyinfolu & Christiana

Image and illustrated scripture by: a woman on her knees

He
is
not
here
HE IS
RISEN

LUKE 24:6 NIV



Closing Reflection

As you come to the end of this devotional booklet we invite you to take some time to reflect back on your journey through these pages. Here are some prompts to guide you in this:

- Take some time to reread your opening reflection and the notes you made throughout this journey. Highlight any questions you still have and any key points you want to remember.
- Which passage / story or reflection has stayed with you the most in this study?
- How has your view / understanding of Jesus changed?
- How have you seen God meet you in this time?
- Is there something in particular you would like to study further?
- How can you share / encourage other women in their faith journey?

Next Steps

FURTHER STUDY/DEVOTIONALS

We have a few books recommended by the women who wrote these pages. They are generally available to purchase but many of us own some of them - please do ask around at church or put a note in the app, we love to share!

- 10 women of the Bible by Max Lucado
- Mary's Voice by Amy Orr-Erwing (an advent devotional)
- Beholding and Becoming by Ruth Chou Simons.
- Sacred Seasons by Danielle Hitchens
- Rhythms of Renewal by Rebekah Lyons
- Humble Roots by Hannah Anderson

HAVE A CONVERSATION

If anything from this study stirred questions or emotions, please reach out and talk with someone you trust about it. Come forward for prayer on a Sunday, connect with a trusted friend, mentor or church leader or speak to someone at the connect desk about next steps or pastoral care.

CONNECT

Connect groups are a beautiful way of consistently walking in fellowship with one another. More information about Redeemer's Connect groups can be found on our website or at the connect desk.

(If you are not in the Hague, we recommend getting connected in your local church.)

Wherever you find yourself in your journey with Jesus, remember that we are all growing in our faith, through our time spent in His presence. Continue to seek Him, stay rooted in Scripture, and walk alongside other women who will encourage you in faith.

May "Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge - that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God." Ephesians 3:17-19

LISTEN

The Blessing (Live) - Elevation Worship

Cat & Erin

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, all our gratitude and praise belongs to God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. You deserve all the praise and glory. We hope this book will be a fragrant offering of our devotion to You.

We would like to thank our wider church community and particularly our elders and leadership team for your teaching, leadership, shepherding and example. We are all so grateful to be part of this church family together on Jesus' mission. We also think lovingly of all those who have invested in our lives and faith, not only in our local church but all around the world.

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Enorm bedankt to the staff team for your help and support - particularly to Amy, Candace, Cat, Klaas and Chris.

And last, but not least, thank you, the readers for choosing to use this resource!

Encounter Jesus through the lives of women in scripture.

This devotional explores key moments where Jesus met women, in their questions, their pain, their faith, and their transformation.

Written by women from the Redeemer International Church community, each reflection is grounded in scripture and designed to guide personal study, group discussion, and spiritual growth.

Whether you are reading alone or in community, this resource offers a pathway to deeper understanding and meaningful encounter.

A Redeemer Women's Ministry Resource

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