



## Chosen for a Purpose

### Visiting With Our Biblical Sisters

I'd like to sit with Mary and ask what it was like to be her Savior's mama. Did Jesus come to see her after the resurrection? What did they talk about?

Imagine that you could invite a Biblical person to attend your LWML meeting.

Maybe Moses' sister Miriam could come to talk about hiding her brother in a basket, making bricks as an Egyptian slave, and then leading the women in praising God after escaping from Egypt. Maybe she would bring her tambourine and we could dance.

Or maybe Esther would be a good choice. She could describe her life as Queen and her role in saving God's people, the Jews from annihilation.

Eve could describe the Garden of Eden. Naomi could tell us about sharing her faith with her daughters-in-law. Rahab, Deborah and Elizabeth would have their stories to tell as would the women at the cross and the empty tomb.

Who would you choose? What questions would you ask?

#### Opening Prayer

Dear Father, Thank you for choosing us and sending Jesus to bear the punishment for our sin. Holy Spirit enlighten us so we can better see how you have chosen us to serve you and give us the ability and desire to follow. Amen.

### By Chance or by Choice?

Many would have you believe that you choose your own path. What does God tell us in His Word?

**Proverbs 3:5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding.

**Ephesians 2: 10** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

God knows our life story. And those stories are full of hope — in Him.

**Ephesians 2:8-9** For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, <sup>9</sup> not a result of works, so that no one may boast.

The world tells us to follow our heart or to find our passion. This is the opposite of what God's Word teaches. God wants us to trust Him to give us what is best for us and to follow where he leads. Our prayer is, "They will be done."

Read **Colossians 3:12-17**. What does God's Word tell us about what **He** desires for us?

**Colossians 3:12-17:** <sup>12</sup> Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, compassionate hearts, kindness, humility, meekness and patience, <sup>13</sup> bearing with each other and, If one has a complaint against another, forgiving one another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive. <sup>14</sup> And above all these put on love, which binds them all together in perfect harmony. <sup>15</sup> And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be

thankful. <sup>16</sup> Let the word of Christ dwell among you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God. <sup>17</sup> And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This may seem like a list of things we decide to do. Be kind, meek, humble. Put on love. Let peace dwell. But we know that we are led to do these God pleasing behaviors by the Holy Spirit. The opposite would be to push away the opportunities to do them. That is what we can decide to do. The good we do is done only as a reflection of the love Christ has shown us.

Ask participants to choose a phrase which stands out for them. Discuss how that could be put into practice.

## God Chooses the Unusual

God can take people in unusual circumstances and lead them to serve Him in unusual ways. He supplies the opportunities and all the talents that are needed. Read the following verses and note how the women were chosen to serve. If you were to meet these sisters of ours, what might you ask them?

If time is short or participants aren't familiar with these Bible characters, choose only a few of the Biblical examples or be ready to summarize the stories.

Allow several questions for each example. Samples are given below.

Be sure to remind participants that Christ died for all. We may not always understand His plan, but we surely trust in it.

### Rahab

**Joshua 6:25** But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

(God chose a prostitute to hide the men sent to prepare for the fall of Jericho.)

How did you know that what Joshua and his men wanted from you was different from other men? What did you do after the walls fell and you escaped safely?

### Ruth

**Ruth 1:16** But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.

(Ruth stayed with Naomi who had taught her about the one true God. by doing this she was faithful not only to Naomi but also to God.)

What were your thoughts when you decided to follow Naomi, rather than to return home? Was she a mother-in-law that took you in and in turn you would follow anywhere?

What was different in your children's upbringing than yours? (They, being believers in the Lord.)

**Esther**

**Esther 4:14** For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father's house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

(Esther was reluctant to speak to the King in defense of the Jews who were soon to be annihilated. Mordecai encouraged her to use her position for the good of God's people.) What was the routine of life for the concubines — what was it really like? What was going on in your mind as you made your request to the king (Chapter 5)?

**Deborah**

**Judges 4:4-5** Now Deborah, a prophetess, the wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel at that time. <sup>5</sup> She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim, and the people of Israel came up to her for judgment.

Assuming, she knows what life is like in modern times, what differences are there in the problems she judged and those people have now? We assume that the world is getting worse and worse (more sinful). What is her opinion on that comparison? What was your hardest case/decision?

**Mary**

**Luke 1:38** And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

**Acts 1:14** All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.

(Mary trusted God to lead and protect her when she learned He had chosen her to be the mother of the Savior. She remained faithful in prayer after the resurrection.)

How hard was it to raise your children that came after Jesus? Was sleeping through the night, potty training, teething, a big difference from your other children? Did the siblings know who Jesus was? How much a part of Jesus' ministry were you? How did raising God/Jesus affect your marriage? And what did happen to Joseph?

**God Chooses the Ordinary**

Despite our sinfulness, God chooses ordinary people to serve Him by helping others. These women, like us, have fallen short of perfection. And they, like us, are redeemed daughters of the King. What may seem like a small action to us can make a big difference to another. How can these women be an example to us? How can we follow their lead?

**Hannah**

**1 Samuel 1:10-11, 27-28** She was deeply distressed and prayed to the LORD and wept bitterly. <sup>11</sup> And she vowed a vow and said, "O LORD of hosts, if you will indeed look on the affliction of your servant and remember me and not forget your servant, but will give to your servant a son, then I will give him to the LORD all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." <sup>27</sup> For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to

him. <sup>28</sup> Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

(Hannah suffered from infertility but she continued to pray for a son, vowing to give him back to the Lord. God answered her prayer and when her son, Samuel, was old enough, she left him in the temple to serve.)

We can know that God does answer our prayers, even those we share for years. Hannah models her trust in God and His people by giving her son to His service. We can also be aware that God does use ordinary people to serve Him and His people.

### **Martha and Mary**

**John 12:2-3** So they gave a dinner for him there. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those reclining with him at table. <sup>3</sup> Mary therefore took a pound<sup>[a]</sup> of expensive ointment made from pure nard, and anointed the feet of Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair. The house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

(Martha cooked and deserved a meal. Mary gave a generous offering of perfume. God enabled both women to serve Him with their unique skills and resources.)

Our service to our Lord doesn't have to look like that of every other woman in our congregation. While we may not always see the benefit of what others do for the Lord, we can trust that it may be just as important as what we are doing. Refer back to Colossians 3:17. *And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.*

### **Dorcas**

**Acts 9:36** Now there was in Joppa a disciple named Tabitha, which, translated, means Dorcas. She was full of good works and acts of charity.

Continue in our own good works and charity. Not as a reason to boast, but to glorify our Lord.

### **Priscilla**

**1 Corinthians 16:19** The churches of Asia send you greetings. Aquila and Prisca, together with the church in their house, send you hearty greetings in the Lord.

We can encourage others with greetings. Cards, texts, calls, coffee shop visits. They are all blessings when we use them to build each other up in Christ.

## **Serving with Gladness**

All of the women had a unique role which was chosen by God for them. He put them in the time and place where they were needed, and He prepared them to serve Him. Yet, none of them belonged to the LWML. That is a role that God has chosen for us in *this time* and in *this place*. We have been fed His Word. Many, if not all of us, have been baptized and receive Christ's very body and blood regularly — for the forgiveness of sins. Through these Means of Grace we are equipped to do the work God calls us to do. There are many challenges, but He prepares us to serve Him with gladness in unique ways.

What roles has He chosen for you?

### **Closing Prayer**

O fill us, Lord, with dauntless love; Set heart and will on things above  
That we conquer through Your triumph; Grant grace sufficient for life's day  
That by our lives we truly say: "Christ has triumphed! He is living!"  
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia! (LSB 465 v. 3)