

# Equipped

BY SHARI MILLER

Share with a partner or your group:  
Who is a woman who is (has been)  
the most influential in your faith life?  
How has the connection you have  
(had) with her impacted your life?

**Opening Prayer:** Dear gracious Father, forgive us for the times we sin and fall short of Your will. Thank You for giving us Your Son to live a perfect life, suffer, and die for the sins of the whole world. Because He lives, we know we will live with You forever. Thank You for sending us Your Spirit so that we might have faith in You. Through Word and Sacraments, equip us to be Your witnesses who tell about the Good News of salvation in Jesus. Bless our study of the Word. In Jesus' powerful name. Amen.

Three women — each of a different generation — were influential in the life of our Savior, especially when He was a baby. Let's explore how God uniquely equipped these women for service.

See **Luke 1:13-16** and **3:1-4**. Who was Elizabeth's important child, and what was his task on earth?

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How did God equip Elizabeth (and Zechariah) to raise John?

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Read **Luke 1:39-45**. Discuss how Elizabeth was uniquely equipped to be an encourager to her relative Mary.

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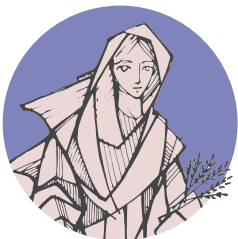
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**Faith Talk:** How does God equip His people for their unique tasks in life? See **John 14:15-17**, **Romans 1:6**, **1 Corinthians 11:23-26**, **1 Peter 3:21a**, and **Galatians 5:22-23**.

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## Elizabeth

Look at the following verses from Luke 1 and glean facts about Elizabeth: **Luke 1:5-7, 24-25, 36, 41-45, 57-63**.

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## Mary (the mother of Jesus)

Mary, a young virgin in her teens, was given some life-changing news from God through the angel Gabriel. Read **Luke 1:26-38**. How does she respond?




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What does this possibly indicate about her religious upbringing? \_\_\_\_\_

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Read the Christmas account found in **Luke 2:1-20**. What do we learn about Mary? \_\_\_\_\_

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In **Luke 2:33-35**, Mary received some sobering news from Simeon in the temple. Compare these words with **John 19:25-27**. \_\_\_\_\_

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Read **Luke 2:39-42**. What kind of parents were Mary and Joseph? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Faith Talk:** How do you think God equipped Mary for her unique role as the mother of the Savior? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Faith Talk:** **Acts 1:14** indicates Mary was active in the early church. How was she equipped to bolster and encourage these early believers in Jesus Christ? \_\_\_\_\_

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## Anna

Anna, a prophetess who was considerably older than Mary (and also older than Elizabeth), had an encounter with Jesus and his parents in the temple. Read **Luke 2:36-38**. What is known about Anna (vs. 36-37)?




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What did she do after she saw the Christ-child in the temple (v. 38)? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Faith Talk:** How did Anna's 84 years equip her to witness to Mary and all who were at the temple? \_\_\_\_\_

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**Faith Talk:** How have the years of your life equipped you to be a witness about the Good News of salvation in Jesus Christ? Who does this equipping? See **Hebrews 13:20-21**. \_\_\_\_\_

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## Faith Walk:

1. Read and meditate on **Luke 1:46-56**. Find various versions of Mary's "Magnificat" in the *Lutheran Service Book* and on the internet.
2. Pray to the Lord, asking Him to equip you for a unique task in His kingdom. Ask for His guidance and encouragement to undertake it.

**Closing:** Pray and sing "Lord of All Hopefulness" (*LSB* 738).

Shari Miller is a baptized child of God, who graciously equips her to be a wife, mother, author, musician, and witness to the Good News of salvation in Jesus. She joyfully serves her Lord and the LWML as the chairman of the LWML Leader Development Committee.