



Sisters OF THE Heart

by Marilyn McClure and Melissa Salomón

Opening Prayer

God, our Loving Father, in Your infinite wisdom, You created us to be in relationships with one another. We thank You for our families and for all the sisters that we have in You. Guide and direct us in our Bible study today, and help us come to a clearer understanding of our relationships with one another and with You. In the name of Your dear Son Jesus, we pray. Amen.

Time to Reflect about Sisters

When you think of “sisters,” what kinds of feelings do you have? Do you have a biological or adopted sister or sisters? What about sisters-in-law? Take time to share with your group your experiences and feelings about sisters. _____

Considering Biblical Sisters

How did God protect Sarah when Abraham presented her as his sister (**Genesis 20:1–16**)? _____

Although Jacob loved Rachel more than her sister Leah, whom he was tricked into marrying first, how did God bless Leah? Name some of her descendants (**Genesis 29:31–35; Matthew 1:1–16**). _____

What details do you remember about Miriam, the sister of Moses (**Exodus 2:1–10**)? _____

What do we know about her after crossing the Red Sea (**Exodus 15:19–21**)? _____

How did her brothers support Miriam when she sinned and was punished by God (**Numbers 12:1–15**)? _____

Describe how God showed mercy to Miriam. _____

Most of us know the story of Mary and Martha, when Martha was “doing all the work” and Mary was sitting at Jesus’ feet (Luke 10:38–42). What do we learn about Martha later in John 11:1–27? _____

What does the Bible say about Jesus’ family? Did He have sisters (Matthew 13:53–56)? _____

Sisters in Christ

Even though some of us have never had a biological or an adopted sister, there are women who become our sisters in Christ. In Holy Baptism we are, by God’s grace, made members of the Body of Christ, the Church. As members of God’s family, we have sisters and brothers beyond the boundaries of biology, culture, and national borders (1 Corinthians 12:12–13, 27). Take some time to discuss this and share how this has happened in your life. _____

Sisters Then and Now

There are many women in the Bible who serve as examples to us and remind us of women we know or have encountered in our own lives. Write the names of the biblical sisters found in the following texts. See if you can think of women in your life who have been similar to them. Share with each other about the women you know and how your “sisters” today serve God as their biblical sisters did in the past.

Exodus 1:15–21 _____

Joshua 2 and 6:22–25 _____

Ruth 1:16–18 _____

Matthew 8:14–15 _____

Luke 1:39–56 _____

Luke 2:36–38 _____

Luke 21:1–4 _____

Acts 9:36–42 _____

Acts 16:11–15 _____

Acts 18:18–19a, 24–26 _____

2 Timothy 1:5 _____

Sisters from Other Lands and Cultures

In the LWML, we have more than 200 women from different countries and cultures who have participated in our Heart to Heart Sisters program at national conventions. There are many more who are participating in their districts. According to these passages of Scripture, how are the people of God to behave toward sisters who have come from other countries (Exodus 22:21; Exodus 23:9; Leviticus 19:34; Deuteronomy 24:17–22)? What motivates us to do this (1 John 4:15–16, 19)? _____

Share any experiences that you have had with sisters who are from other countries or cultures. _____

In 2012, The Commission on Theology and Church Relations of the LCMS prepared a report entitled “Immigrants Among Us.” This report provides an in-depth study of Scripture and gives a Lutheran framework for addressing issues regarding how we minister to immigrants (sisters and brothers) with both legal and undocumented status. It is available in both English and Spanish from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod website at www.lcms.org/socialissues/immigration under Documents.

Closing

Volunteers take turns praying for sisters everywhere.

Sing: “For All the Faithful Women” (LSB #855) or “For All the Saints” (LSB #677; LW #191; TLH #463).



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Melissa Salomón is the Community Life Coordinator for Concordia Lutheran Church in Chula Vista, California, and also a ministry coordinator for Edificando Generaciones in Tijuana, Mexico. She has two adult children, Andres and Elizabeth. As members of the Gospel Outreach Committee from 2001–2003, both Melissa and Marilyn were privileged to work on the creation of the Heart to Heart Sisters program.