

**Victoria Fellowship Church**  
**International & Interdenominational**  
**Bible Study Worksheet – May 9, 2021**

**Theme: The Life of Jesus      Topic: Jesus: His Ministry — The Role of Women**

**Main Text: Luke 8:1-3; Luke 10:38-42**

**Key verse: Luke 10:42** *“But one thing is needed, and Mary has chosen that good part, which will not be taken away from her.” (NKJV)*

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**INTRODUCTION:** Shortly after choosing the twelve (Luke 6:12-16), Jesus declared His Kingdom ‘manifesto’: “blessed are you poor ... Blessed are you who hunger ... blessed are you who weep ...love your enemies.” (Luke 7:20-36). In it, He clearly showed how radically different God’s Kingdom is from what they were familiar with. Afterwards, He demonstrated this revolutionary Kingdom by ministering to the ‘outsiders’ of the culture of the day – the bereaved widow; the ‘sinful’ woman who washed his feet with her tears (Luke 7:11-17, 36-39). At some point, even John the Baptist got confused by the radicality of it all! As if that were not enough, when He toured the nearby towns and villages to preach and announce the Good News about the Kingdom of God, He took his twelve disciples with him, along with some women! (Luke 8:1-2). In having women in His traveling team, Jesus really pushed the boundaries. This is especially so because in the highly patriarchal culture of the time, it was not in good taste for a revered teacher to be associating openly with women who were not his relatives. The response of Jesus’ disciples when they found Jesus talking with the woman at the well was an indication of that mindset.

1. **Read Luke 8:1-3; John 4:27-30 (a) What significance do you see in these accounts of women in Jesus’ ministry? (b) Luke 8:2 tells us that some of these women had been impacted by Jesus’ ministry physically and spiritually. How does that help our understanding of their role and motivation? (c) As eyewitnesses of Jesus’ ministry and teachings, just like the twelve, what role and impact might these women have had after Jesus’ resurrection and ascension?**

One young man read 1 Kings 17:8-16 and thought that The Prophet Elijah must have had to really humble himself to ask for help from a gentile widow, of all people! The young man was struggling to comprehend how a big ‘man of God’ like Elijah, would have to depend on the obedience and generosity of a poor gentile woman. In Acts 16:11-15, Lydia had to practically ‘arm-twist’ Apostle Paul and his team with “*If you consider me a believer in the Lord, come and stay at my house*” before they accepted her hospitality. But it was not so with Jesus. Luke listed some women, among whom were “*Joanna, the wife of Chuza, Herod’s business manager; Susanna; and many others who were contributing from their own resources to support Jesus and His disciples.*” (Luke 8:3). Unlike what the young man thought about Elijah, or Apostle Paul, who had to be persuaded, Jesus openly accepted the financial and material support of women.

2. **Read Luke 8:3; John 12:3-7 (a) What lesson(s) does Jesus teach us with His open acceptance of ministry partnership from these women? (b) In what ways can we, individually and collectively apply the lessons from Jesus’ example? (c) What needs to change for this to happen?**

Apart from conferring on women prominent role in His ministry, Jesus also challenged one major notion about women among certain Jewish religious leaders. According to one first century Rabbi, “The words of the Torah should be burned rather than entrusted to women.” The same Rabbi also stated elsewhere that a man who taught his daughter the Torah was teaching her frivolity, wasting his precious time. But in Luke 10:38-42, we see Jesus teaching a class of one; and that one was a woman! And he did this at a time when there were some important kitchen chores which needed attention.

3. **Read John 4:27-34; 10:42. (a) What lesson is Jesus seeking to teach Martha, (and us) in His epic response to Martha’s protestation? (b) What do these passages say to the general practice where women are seen running around arranging meals, caring for children outside, while the men enjoyed the teaching of the word either at home or in Church? (c) In the light of lessons from this study, what individual or corporate changes do you think we need to make to align with Jesus’ model?**

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**Prayer:** *Thank You, Lord, for all the women of VFC who are following You faithfully and serving Your purposes sacrificially. Amen.*