

7th Grade New Testament (Gospels)

Lesson Plan: The Women Who Supported Jesus (Luke 8:1-3)

Learning Goals: Students will examine the various forms of support Jesus received in his ministry, with a focus on the women who supported Jesus and the disciples.

Opening Question: How do missionaries support themselves on the mission field? How did Jesus support himself during his ministry?

Prayer

Discuss Questions on board.

Read Luke 8:1-3.

What was Jesus' Message?

He went through the cities and villages proclaiming the good news (gospel) of the kingdom of God. (Gospel = "Good News")

Who was accompanying him on his journey?

- The Twelve disciples (Andrew; Bartholomew/Nathanael; James, the Elder; James, the Lesser or Younger; John; Judas; Jude/Thaddeus; Matthew/Levi; Peter or Simon Peter; Philip; Simon the Zealot; Thomas)
- Women
 - Mary Magdalene - Magdalene is not a last name, it means that she is from the city of Magdala; she has been cured of seven evil spirits
 - Joanna - she is the wife of Chuza (Herod's steward); she was probably a woman of great means and some importance
 - Susanna
 - "many others" - These additional women are also mentioned at the cross, accompanying Jesus' body to the tomb to tend it with spices (23:55), and at the resurrection (24:1-12). It states that some of them were also cured of evil spirits. While the other women were probably of some means (they are mentioned by name), these women were probably from a lower socio-economic group (nameless).
 - The important thing to note here is that these women were included among the followers of Jesus. They were not on the periphery, but involved closely in the ministry.
- Why is this not surprising to find in Luke's Gospel?
 - Luke's emphasis on individuals
 - Luke's emphasis on women

Why would the inclusion of women have been surprising in Jesus' day and time?

- The social restrictions of the time made this very improbable.

What did they do?

- They "provided for them out of their resources."
- They provided financial support for Jesus and the 12
- The word "provided for them" may have included more than just money. It may have included preparing meals, cleaning, friendship, emotional support, encouragement, etc.

Main points (Summary):

- The movement of the message: Jesus and his followers will not stop proclaiming the message of the kingdom. This is who we are - messengers of the good news.
 - The singularity of the community: diverse in terms of gender and means (men and women, rich and poor).
 - The singularity of the message: the Kingdom (the message was not only in word but embodied in the community that bore the message).
-

Lesson Summary:

Students should review and highlight the following vocabulary terms and concepts from this lesson in their notes:

- Gospel
- Kingdom of Heaven
- Mary Magdalene
- Joanna
- Susanna
- What did the women that accompanied them do for Jesus and the disciples?

Jesus' Galilean Ministry

Jesus spent most of his life and ministry in the region of Galilee, a mountainous area in northern Palestine. Jesus grew up in the small hill town of Nazareth, about 3.5 miles (5.6 km) south of the Gentile administrative center of Sepphoris. Soon after he began his public ministry, Jesus relocated to Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. By Jesus' time, a thriving fishing industry had developed around the Sea of Galilee, and several of Jesus' disciples were fishermen.



Map and description from the ESV Study Bible online:

<http://www.esvbible.org/resources/esv-study-bible/map-42-03/>