# Jesus' Ministry to Women: Love, Respect, and Inclusion



Explore how Jesus' ministry broke social norms by embracing, loving, and including women with respect and dignity.





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#### Introduction

Welcome to this 7-day Bible study plan focused on the radical love, respect, and inclusion Jesus showed women during His ministry. In a culture where women were often marginalized and overlooked, Jesus broke societal barriers to lift them up, show them honor, and include them in His mission. This study invites you to walk alongside Jesus as He transformed cultural views about women and reveals lessons about God's heart toward all people.

Through deep reflection on stories from the Gospels, especially Luke 8:1–3, we will explore the countercultural ways Jesus connected with women—not as subjects of mere compassion or occasional blessing, but as vital partners in His kingdom work. You will see how Jesus' interactions were filled with dignity, respect, and genuine inclusion, offering hope to all who feel overlooked or undervalued today. These passages remind us that God's love transcends social boundaries, calling us to embody that same radical love in our communities.

As you journey through this study, allow yourself to be challenged and inspired by Jesus' example. Reflect on the importance of honoring the women around you, recognizing their worth, and partnering with them in God's mission. This study is not only historical; it's a call to live out Jesus' inclusive love in our daily lives. May this time deepen your understanding of the gospel and expand your heart towards all people.

















Day 1: 🎇 Jesus' Radical Inclusion of Women

#### Your Verse

Luke 8:1—3 – "Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- John 4:27 "Just then his disciples returned and were surprised to find him talking with a woman."
- Matthew 28:5-6 "The angel said to the women, 'Do not be afraid, for I know that you are looking for Jesus, who was crucified. He is not here; he has risen, just as he said."







Day 1: 🞇 Jesus' Radical Inclusion of Women

#### Devotional: Breaking Barriers: Women at Jesus' Side

Jesus' ministry was revolutionary in its inclusion of women. In Luke 8:1–3, we read of women who were not only healed by Jesus but also became active participants and supporters of His ministry. This was groundbreaking in a culture that often dismissed women's roles in public and religious life.

These women, including Mary Magdalene, Joanna, and Susanna, are more than just followers—they were financial supporters and integral to spreading the good news. Jesus showed them respect and gave them a place alongside His disciples, affirming their value in God's kingdom.

When Jesus spoke with women publicly, He defied social norms and demonstrated God's inclusive love. His actions remind us to honor everyone's contributions in our communities and to recognize that the gospel is for all. Reflect on how Jesus' acceptance and trust in these women challenges cultural biases and calls us toward inclusion today.







Day 1: 🗱 Jesus' Radical Inclusion of Women

# Reflect and Apply

1.	How did Jesus' inclusion of women challenge cultural norms of His time?
	What does this passage reveal about God's view of women and their role in ministry?
	In what ways can you foster inclusion and honor the contributions of women around you?







Day 1: 🗱 Jesus' Radical Inclusion of Women

# **Journaling Prompts**

Write about a time when you or a woman you know felt included or excluded in a faith community.
Reflect on Jesus' example and list ways you can show respect and inclusion to marginalized groups.
Consider your personal biases: How can Jesus' example transform your perspective on gender and ministry?







Day 1: 🎇 Jesus' Radical Inclusion of Women

#### Prayer for Today

**Dear Lord,** thank You for the radical love and inclusion You showed to women during Your ministry. Help me to reflect Your heart by honoring and valuing everyone around me, regardless of societal expectations. Grant me courage to break down barriers and to celebrate the gifts and contributions of all Your children. Teach me to be a witness of Your inclusive kingdom where no one is overlooked or forgotten. *In Jesus' name, Amen.*















#### Your Verse

Luke 8:2 - "...Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out..."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Mark 5:34 "He said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering."
- John 8:10-11 "Jesus straightened up and asked her, 'Woman, where are they? Has no one condemned you?' 'No one, sir,' she said. 'Then neither do I condemn you,' Jesus declared."







#### Devotional: Jesus Restores Dignity Through Healing

Mary Magdalene's story is a powerful testimony of transformation through Jesus' healing power. She was delivered from seven demons, symbolizing profound liberation from spiritual oppression. Jesus' ministry was about restoring broken lives, especially those whom society often ignored or stigmatized.

Jesus didn't just heal physically; He restored dignity, identity, and worth. In John 8, His compassionate encounter with the woman caught in adultery shows His willingness to forgive and restore women, countering harsh judgments.

This day invites reflection on how Jesus meets us in our brokenness and heals our wounds. He calls us into freedom and challenges us to extend that same grace and restoration to others. Consider how Jesus' healing presence is still powerfully active today.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	What does Mary Magdalene's story teach about Jesus' approach to those considered outcasts?
2.	In what ways do you need Jesus' healing and restoration in your life?
3.	How can you participate in bringing healing and dignity to others?







# **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a personal experience where you felt Jesus brought healing to your life.
	Reflect on societal stigmas you've witnessed—how can Jesus' compassion move you to act?
	Describe ways to create an environment of grace and restoration in your community.







#### Prayer for Today

**Heavenly Father,** thank You for Your healing and deliverance that restores our souls and shapes our identities. Help me to trust Your power to heal what is broken within me and to bring freedom. Teach me to offer that same grace to others who are hurting or marginalized. May I be an instrument of Your restoration and love. *In Jesus' name I pray, Amen.* 









# Day 3: Women as Ministry Partners









Day 3: Women as Ministry Partners

#### Your Verse

Luke 8:3 – "These women were helping to support them out of their own means."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Acts 18:26 "He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately."
- Romans 16:1-2 "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people..."







Day 3: Momen as Ministry Partners

# Devotional: Women Supporting and Leading in Ministry

Women actively participated in Jesus' ministry as supporters, teachers, and leaders. Luke 8:3 highlights how women financially contributed to Jesus' mission—demonstrating commitment, resourcefulness, and partnership. This counters ancient assumptions that ministry was male-dominated.

The early church continued this legacy. Priscilla taught Apollos, and Phoebe served as a deacon. These were essential ministry roles requiring deep faith and responsibility.

Reflect on the ways God calls people of all genders to engage fully in His mission. Consider how your own gifts, resources, and talents can be offered in service. Jesus' example challenges us to honor ministry contributions beyond traditional boundaries.







Day 3: 🕮 Women as Ministry Partners

# Reflect and Apply

How does acknowledging women as ministry partners impact your view of church leadership?
What gifts or resources has God given you that can support His work?
How can your community better encourage diverse participation in ministry?







Day 3: 🕮 Women as Ministry Partners

# **Journaling Prompts**

	Write about a woman in your faith community whose leadership inspires you.
2.	List practical ways you can support or lead in ministry effectively.
3.	Reflect on cultural barriers in ministry and how to help remove them.







Day 3: Momen as Ministry Partners

### **Prayer for Today**

**Lord Jesus,** thank You for including women as faithful ministry partners in Your work. Help me to break down barriers that limit participation and to celebrate the unique gifts You have given each person. Empower me to serve and lead with boldness and humility, trusting in Your calling. May our ministries reflect Your inclusive and expansive kingdom. *Amen.* ?







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#### Your Verse

John 4:7-26 - Jesus talks with the Samaritan woman at the well.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Luke 7:37–50 The sinful woman anoints Jesus' feet with perfume.
- Mark 14:3–9 A woman anoints Jesus' head with expensive perfume.







#### Devotional: Honoring Women Through Compassionate Dialogue

**Jesus' interactions with women were marked by respect, dignity, and deep listening.** His conversation with the Samaritan woman at the well defied multiple social taboos—gender, ethnicity, and morality—yet He treated her with honor and offered her living water.

Similarly, Jesus appreciated the heartfelt devotion of women who anointed Him. These moments reveal a relational, compassionate Savior who sees beyond stigma to the person He engages.

Reflect on how Jesus' respectful approach invites us to listen deeply and honor others' stories without judgment. As followers of Jesus, we can model this respect in our relationships and communities, becoming agents of healing and inclusion.







# Reflect and Apply

What barriers did Jesus overcome in His conversation with the Samaritan woman?
How can we practice respectful listening and honor in our interactions today?
In what ways does honoring others promote healing and understanding?







#### **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Recall a time when someone listened to you deeply—how did it affect you?
	Write about how you can create space for open, respectful conversations in your life.
3.	Reflect on prejudices you may hold and how Jesus' example challenges them.







#### Prayer for Today

**Gracious God,** thank You for the example of Jesus who listened and spoke with respect and love to everyone, especially women marginalized by society. Teach me to follow His example by honoring and valuing others in conversation. Help me be patient, compassionate, and nonjudgmental, reflecting Your heart in all my relationships. *In Jesus' name, Amen.* 















#### Your Verse

Luke 8:2-3 - Women who followed Jesus with faith and devotion

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Matthew 15:21–28 The Canaanite woman's persistent faith in healing her daughter.
- Mark 5:25-34 The woman healed by touching Jesus' cloak with faith.







#### Devotional: Bold Faith That Moves Jesus' Heart

The faith of women in Jesus often showed extraordinary courage and persistence. Whether it's the faith of the Canaanite woman pleading for her daughter or the woman healed by touching Jesus' cloak, these stories reveal a powerful trust in Jesus' power and compassion.

Women were not passive followers but active participants shaped by faith. Their devotion fueled their involvement in Jesus' ministry, sometimes risking social shame for healing and hope.

Reflect on your own faith journey and how persistent trust in Jesus impacts your life. Let these women inspire you to seek Jesus boldly and to hold fast to His promises amid challenges.







# Reflect and Apply

1.	What can you learn from the faith of the women Jesus healed and helped?
2.	How does your faith inspire devotion or action in your daily life?
3.	Where do you need to trust Jesus more deeply today?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about a moment when your faith was tested and what you learned.
2.	List ways to grow in bold and persistent faith.
3.	Reflect on how faith influences your service or relationships.







#### Prayer for Today

**Lord Jesus,** thank You for the example of women whose faith was bold and steadfast. Help me to trust You deeply and persistently, knowing You hear and respond to heartfelt prayers. Strengthen my faith to face challenges with hope and courage. May my devotion inspire others to seek You faithfully. *Amen.*  $\swarrow$ 

















Day 6: Women Witnessing the Resurrection

#### Your Verse

Matthew 28:1-10 - The women discover the empty tomb and meet the risen Jesus.

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- Mark 16:9-11 Mary Magdalene sees Jesus risen first.
- John 20:11-18 Jesus appears to Mary Magdalene alone.







Day 6: Women Witnessing the Resurrection

# Devotional: Women as First Witnesses to the Resurrection

Women were the first witnesses to Jesus' resurrection, a foundational truth of our faith. This honor given to women is significant because, in that culture, women's testimonies were often undervalued. Yet Jesus chose women to be the primary messengers of the good news that He is alive.

This demonstrates once again Jesus' countercultural respect and trust in women. Their testimony launched the early church's proclamation of the resurrection, validating their crucial role in God's plan.

Reflect on the privilege and responsibility of being witnesses to God's miraculous work. Consider how you can live as a witness to Jesus' resurrection power and hope in your own context.







# Reflect and Apply

	Why do you think Jesus chose women as the first witnesses of His resurrection?
2.	How does this shape your understanding of God's kingdom values?
3.	In what ways can you bear witness to Jesus' resurrection in your life?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write about the significance of being chosen to share good news.
2.	Reflect on how the resurrection has impacted your faith journey.
3.	Consider practical ways to live as a resurrection witness daily.







Day 6: Women Witnessing the Resurrection

#### Prayer for Today

Risen Lord, thank You for entrusting women with the first witness of Your victory over death. Help me to embrace the calling to live as Your witness in the world. Fill me with boldness and joy to proclaim Your resurrection hope through words and actions. May my life testify to Your power and love. Amen.























#### Your Verse

Galatians 3:28 – "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."

#### **Supporting Scriptures**

- John 13:34–35 "A new command I give you: Love one another..."
- 1 Peter 3:7 "Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives..."







#### Devotional: Embodying Christ's Inclusive Love Everyday

Jesus' ministry to women reveals God's heart for inclusive love that transcends divisions. Galatians reminds us that in Christ all distinctions fade, and unity reigns. This is a call for us to live out Jesus' model of honoring, respecting, and including women and all people.

Loving one another as Jesus commanded means actively combating exclusion, sexism, and any form of discrimination. It means valuing every individual's voice and presence in our faith communities and beyond.

As we close this study, let Jesus' example inspire your daily walk in love. Let your life reflect the gospel's truth that everyone is precious and vital to God's kingdom.







# Reflect and Apply

	How can you apply Jesus' example of inclusion in your relationships and community?
2.	What barriers need to be broken down to reflect God's unity in Christ?
3.	How does living in inclusive love impact your witness to the world?







# **Journaling Prompts**

1.	Write specific actions you can take to promote inclusion and respect.
2.	Reflect on areas where you need growth in showing Christ-like love.
3.	Pray about relationships that require healing or rebuilding through love.







#### Prayer for Today

**Gracious God,** help me to live out the inclusive love shown by Jesus. Teach me to break down barriers that separate and to build bridges that unite. May my words and actions reflect Your heart for justice, respect, and unity among all people. Empower me by Your Spirit to be a light in the world. *Amen.* 







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