



## TABLE TALK

FAMILY DISCUSSION GUIDE for May 8-May 14, 2022

WEEKLY READINGS: Luke 24:1-11; John 20:1-18; John 4:1-26; Matthew 1; Proverbs 9

### LUKE-ACTS: *40 Days with the Risen King Pt. 3 – “Women Were 1<sup>st</sup> Eye-Witnesses”*

Exploring the amazing 40-day journey of Jesus witnessing to over 500 people for 40 days after His Resurrection and before His Ascension

FOCUS: Luke 24:1-11; John 20:16-18

The Resurrected King Appears to Women First

*Jesus said to her, “Mary”; ...“go and tell my brothers and say to them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and to your Father, to my God and to your God.’ Mary Magdalene went and announced to the disciples, “I have seen the Lord!”” (John 20:16; 18)*

**BIG IDEA 1** – It’s interesting to note that the first people Jesus appeared to after His resurrection were women: Mary Magdalene and – according to Luke’s gospel account – Joanna, Mary the mother of James and other women who were at the tomb to mourn and anoint His body with burial spices (this account is also found in Matthew 28:1-8 and Mark 16:1-8). Appearing to women **first** was both controversial and risky because in Jesus’ day, the testimony of women was not allowed to be brought into court as evidence. In other examples, Jesus publicly declared that He was the Messiah **first** to the Samaritan woman at the well (John 4:26) and the angel Gabriel **first** told Mary that Jesus is the Son of God (Luke 1:35).

**Q1-** Why do you think Jesus chose to appear to women first after His resurrection? Do you believe there’s significance to the pattern in Scripture of the Lord appearing or making significant declarations to women first? Why or why not?

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FOCUS: Matthew 1

Jesus’ Genealogy Included Many Fearless Women of Faith

**BIG IDEA 2** – Throughout the stories found in the Bible, God uses many women of valor in the Bible to do significant things. It’s important to note that many faith-filled women are included in the genealogy of Jesus (see Matthew Chapter 1). It’s also important to realize that many of the women listed there were those who had come out of difficult times and believed God with everything they had. These include Tamar (Gen 38), Rahab (Joshua 2), Ruth (Ruth 1), Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11), and Mary, mother of Jesus (Matthew 1). This is just a small selection of many fearless & faith-filled women in Scripture.

**Q2-** What are some possible reasons that you think it was important for Matthew to include these 5 women as a written history of the genealogy of Jesus? How many other fearless women of faith do you think about from other Bible passages?

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FOCUS: Proverbs 9

“Lady Wisdom” vs. “Lady Folly” – Who Do You Listen To Most Often?

*“The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom...” (Proverbs 9:10a)*

**BIG IDEA 3** – Both wisdom and folly are personified in the feminine voice in Proverbs 9. This literary device is common in many poetic writings during King Solomon’s reign. Verse 10 is a significant point of clarity between the two voices: **the fear of the Lord** will caution us to hear the voice of wisdom more clearly and prosper, while ignoring the voice of wisdom opens the door for the voice of Lady Folly which eventually will lead a person down a path of death, despair and destruction.

**Q3-** In your opinion, how does the “fear” or reverence for the Lord relate to gaining wisdom in your life? There are many “voices” vying for our attention and affections throughout the day, but it’s important that we take time to “tune out” the distractions so that we can “tune in” to the voice of Holy Spirit. How often do you take time to sit in solitude and silence and just “listen” to the Lord’s voice? If you have taken time to just meditate on the Lord’s voice before, what was the experience like? What are some things that you have heard the Lord speaking to your heart? If not, what are some things that you feel may be holding you back or distracting you from hearing God’s voice?

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