

Adult Faith Formation: September 2024      Women of the Bible  
Session 2 Handout:      The Victims and the Victorious

Jephthah's daughter                      (Judges 11: 1-40)  
Jephthah: son of a Gileadean and a prostitute  
Jephthah's bargain with God  
His daughter's reaction and her example of faith in God

Lot's wife and daughters              (Genesis 19: 1-26; Luke 17: 30-32)  
Curiosity and disbelief results in the downfall of Lot's wife  
Story of Sodom Lot's betrayal of his daughters  
The daughters' payback

Tamar (1)                                      (Genesis 38: 6-30; Matthew 1: 3)  
Tamar is the victim who vindicates herself  
Daughter-in-law of Judah (Married to Judah's oldest son)  
Tamar married to second son  
Tamar promised to third son  
Tamar's seduction of Judah  
Judah's plot to kill Tamar  
Tamar's informing Judah of the truth and his repentance  
Tamar's legacy as ancestor of Jesus

Tamar (2)                                      (II Samuel 13: 1-22)  
Tamar (2) is daughter of King David  
She is raped by her half-brother Amnon  
After the rape, Amnon becomes enraged and has her removed from his room  
She seeks refuge with her brother, Absalom  
Results in the great conflict between Amnon and Absalom

Elizabeth                                      (Luke 1: 5-60)  
Elizabeth and Zechariah are old and childless  
Their faith persists and remains strong in an impossible situation  
Visitation of the angel foretelling the birth of John  
Visitation of the BVM

Many women whose stories are recounted by Jesus in his parables start out as victim but are victorious  
in the end

Woman who lost a coin                      (Luke 15: 8-10)  
Persistent widow                              (Luke 18: 1-8)  
Woman with 2 copper coins              (Mark 12: 41-44; Luke 21: 1-4)  
Adulterous woman                              (John 8: 1-11)

### The Samaritan woman

(John 4: 5-42)

In 721 BC, the Northern Kingdom of Israel fell to the Assyrians. Many Jews were taken captive, but those who remained intermarried with foreigners who had been brought in by the Assyrians. These half Jewish – half pagan people were called Samaritans. Conflict between Jews and Samaritans began with the thwarted attempts of Nehemiah to rebuild the Temple, and the two groups Jews and Samaritans became arch-enemies.

Samaritan woman meets Jesus at the public well and engages in conversation with him

She becomes the first missionary, telling the townspeople about Jesus

Through her conversation with Jesus, she becomes the first to be told that he is the Messiah

### Mary of Magdala: Apostle to The Apostles

First witness to the empty tomb

First to announce Jesus' resurrection

All 4 Gospels attest to her importance

She came from Magdala on the western shore of the Sea of Galilee

She was wealthy (Luke 8: 1-3)

Jesus had healed her of her possession of 7 demons (in early Christianity, number 7 represents completeness)

3 Marys of the New Testament

Miriam of Magdala

Miriam, sister of Martha and Lazarus

Miriam, a sinful woman who anointed Jesus feet with oil (Luke 7: 3-7)

Medieval Church classified her as a prototype for the repentant sinner

Most church Fathers and theologians based their designation of Mary as a prostitute on St. Augustine of Hippo's account of Mary as being the sinful woman who anointed Jesus

In 591 BCE, Pope Gregory I the Great (pope: 590-604) preached a sermon at the Basilica of St. Clement in Rome ("a woman of the city")

Apocryphal and Gnostic texts view Mary in a very different light