

WOMEN OF THE NEW TESTAMENT

MARY, MOTHER OF JESUS

Pray and ask God to help you to know Him better as you study His Word.

Read the Bible passage (preferably without using commentaries).

Begin to answer the questions using your own words.

Questions are based on the New International Version (NIV) 2011 edition.

Lesson 3 • October 2, 2013

1. What truth, verse or insight from last week's study of **The Virgin Mary** was helpful to you?

SECTION I: Read Luke 2:41-52

2. Read **Luke 2:25-35**. Of all the things Simeon prophesied about Jesus, which detail might have been the most puzzling to Mary?
3. a) Describe what took place in **Matthew 2:1-12** and what impact it might have had on Mary.
b) From **Matthew 2:13-23**, what ripple effects transpired, especially for Mary, Joseph, and Jesus?
4. Highlight details in the events in **Luke 2:41-47**. Considering Jesus was twelve years old, which detail surprised you the most?
5. How do you think Mary felt when she found Jesus in **V48**?
6. Put in your own words what Jesus was saying in **V49**.
7. How would you characterize Jesus' parents and parenting style from **V41-50**?
8. Given what we know in **V50**, process Mary's response in **V51**.
9. Where might God be nudging you to "treasure" some aspect of a situation despite your lack of understanding about it?

SECTION II: Read John 2:1-12

10. Describe the scene and the dilemma in **V1-3**.

11. a) From **V3-4**, why do you think Mary “involved” Jesus?
b) What more does **V5** reveal about Mary’s thoughts and relationship with her son, Jesus?

12. According to **V6-11**, what was the miracle, and what were the results?

13. Write a truth about Jesus’ first miracle that impacts your life.

14. Take creative license on what might have been going through Mary’s mind as she traveled with Jesus (**V12**).

15. Jesus is going to teach a shocking and new definition of “family.” What simple facts do you learn about the makeup of Jesus’ family from **Matthew 13:54-56**?

16. Read **Mark 3:20-21**. Why do you think Jesus’ family reacted the way they did?

17. a) Read **Mark 3:31-35**. What does Jesus teach about true family?
b) How would this impact Mary, and how does it impact you?

SECTION III: Read John 19:25-27; Acts 1:12-14; Luke 11:27-28

18. From **John 19:25**, how do you think Mary’s understanding of her son has matured? What would be her mixed emotions?

19. What was sweet and tender in the interaction described in **John 19:26-27**?

20. How has the Lord rearranged your “family” relationships? Who do you now consider family due to your relationship with Jesus?

21. Read **Acts 1:12-14**, which took place after Jesus ascended to heaven. What strikes you about the community around Mary and what they were doing?

22. a) Mary was blessed to be the mother of Jesus. What blessing does Jesus emphasize in **Luke 11:27-28**, and what does this mean to you?

b) Write a prayer from something you've learned in this lesson.

DIGGING DEEPER

1. In our last two lessons we've studied Mary...a very important woman in the life of Jesus and a key woman in God's redemptive plan. We often have a tendency to elevate, or even worship important people like her. What does the Bible teach us about our elevation or worship of:

a) important people (even influential people for His Kingdom)?

Acts 10:25-26 _____

Acts 12:21-23 _____

Acts 14:8-16 _____

b) angels?

Revelation 22:8-9 _____

2. a) Read **Matthew 11:11**. Even though Jesus declared John's unrivaled greatness, what did He indirectly say about future followers of Christ?

b) What do John's statements in **John 1:26-27** and **3:30** teach about a right response even when elevated by others?

3. From the Mount of Transfiguration, put in your own words what God the Father did when Peter tried to build an **equal** shelter for Jesus (Son of man) and for Moses and Elijah (mere men) in **Matthew 17:1-8**.

4. After answering the questions above, what is your biggest “take away” in regard to an appropriate honoring of God, people or angels?

5. Suggested Memory Verse: **John 3:30**

