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| **Strands** | The Bible and Christian Beliefs; Story of the Church; Ethics and Ethical Thinking; | | | |
| **Stage of Development** | Middle Secondary (Years 8-9) | **Created Jan2023** | **Review** 2026 | |
| **Focus** | This unit aims to examine the significant influences of women in the Bible and what we can learn from them about God. It reinforces that we are all created in the image of God. It explores different roles and contributions of women of character in the Old and New Testaments. Students reflect upon their learning through an inquiry/research task. | | | |
| **Content Descriptions** | **Knowledge and Understanding**   * The stories involving women in the Bible help us see the world in a different way. * We learn that women contribute to God’s mission to work for love, justice, redemption, and peace. * God loves all people. | | | **Religious Studies Skills & virtues**   * Critical thinking * Respect and understanding |
| **Additional Resources** | ‘Women in the Bible’  Booklet of teachers’ notes | | | These are notes by teachers at St Margaret’s Anglican Girls School, Brisbane. The work is drawn together by Louise Brown, Head of Faculty, and collated by Vanessa Gamack. | |
| ‘Women in Ancient Jewish Society’ | | |

(This unit was prepared using material developed by Louise Brown and teachers of St Margaret’s Anglican Girls’ School, Brisbane).

| **Lesson** | | **Key Questions** | **Lesson Activity Ideas** | | **Resources** |
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| **1** | **WOMEN IN THE BIBLE**: Purpose and Context | What is the Bible? How are Women represented in it?  What is the Purpose of studying ‘women of character’?  How do each of these ‘women of character’ contribute to the mission of God?  ‘Women of character’ – Mary and Martha classroom activities | 10min  10min  15min  10min | **Bible Overview:**   * ‘The New Testament’ (7:20)   (Asks the question first, “what IS the Bible?’)  Prominence of women in Jesus’ earthly ministry. How do these women point us to Jesus/God?   * *Kids on the Move* - ‘Mary and Martha’ (Under God, Women can create different paths for their lives) (4) **Luke 10:38-42** * See Paula Gooder - ‘The Samaritan Woman at the Well’: “The first successful Christian missionary in the gospel”?   What can be learned today from these women?  Some Questions to consider as you explore this unit  **See ASC PPT 1**  ASC Reflection activity 1  **OR**  ASC Word Search activity  **Extension activity:**  *Bible Project* video: ‘The Image of God’  (explore what it means that we are **all,** women and men, made in the image of God) | * [Overview: New Testament - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q0BrP8bqj0c) * [Bible Story: Mary and Martha | Kids on the Move - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUAuGzApcUM) * [Paula Gooder interview: A biblical relationship | Reform Magazine (reform-magazine.co.uk)](https://www.reform-magazine.co.uk/2013/02/a-biblical-relationship/)   **ASC Biblical Women - PPT1**  See:   * **ASC Reflection Activity 1** * **ASC ‘Mary Martha Word Search’**   **Extension:**   * [Image of God - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YbipxLDtY8c) |
| **2** | **OLD TESTAMENT**: Esther  (2 Periods) | Who was Esther in the OLD TESTAMENT?  What can be learned about God from the life of Esther?  Extension: How is the Jewish celebration of Purim relevant to Esther? | 10min  10min  10min  20min | **OLD TESTAMENT: The Book of Esther**   * Read through **The Book of Esther** (10 chs – 10 pp) * Read Marg Mowczko’sarticle onContext and Main Characters   **Video Resources:**   * **Kids on the move –** animation - **7mins**   **What can be learned from Esther?**   * See Website *Christianity.com* “Nothing is impossible with God” * See website *Guideposts.org* “Esther: The Woman Who saved a Nation”   **Research task**: in small groups, use the above information to construct:   * a timeline of events? * A poster celebrating Esther - most popular book in OT * A newspaper article on Esther   **Extension activity:**  **Esther and the Jewish Faith:** Festival of Purim:  **BimBam** – **(5mins)** | * [Esther’s Story (1): Setting the Scene – Marg Mowczko](https://margmowczko.com/esther-commentary/)   **Kids on the Move** (7mins)   * <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SaS_ePAjCvk>   See: **ASC Book of Esther PPT 2**   * [Who Was Esther in the Bible? **(christianity.com)**](https://www.christianity.com/wiki/bible/who-was-esther-in-the-bible.html)   **See: ASC** **‘Book of Esther Research Task’**   * [Esther: The Woman Who Saved a Nation **(guideposts.org)**](https://guideposts.org/prayer/bible-resources/women-in-the-bible/esther-the-woman-who-saved-a-nation/)   **Festival of Purim:**   * <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6mmZDYogjCk>   (5 mins) |
| **3** | **OLD TESTAMENT**:  Ruth | Who was Ruth in the OLD TESTAMENT?  What can be learned about God from Ruth’s life? | 10min  10min  20min  5min | Old Testament: The Book of Ruth   * Read through the Book of Ruth (4chs - 6 pp) * See Guideposts: “Ruth: Loyal Daughter-in-Law” for context and summary storyline   Video Resources:   * “Ruth” - Bible Project - 7mins   Classroom research tasks:   * *Bible Study Tools*: “Story of Ruth in the Bible” OR * *Guideposts* - “10 Remarkable Women in the Bible” OR * *Learn Religions*: “Biography of Ruth in the Bible”   See ASC Ruth Research Task Sheet  Classroom on-line activities: (click on the link)  On-Line jigsaw puzzle  On-Line Crossword  On-Line Word scramble | See: **ASC** **– Book of Ruth PPT3**   * [**Ruth: Loyal Daughter-in-Law – (Guideposts**](https://guideposts.org/prayer/bible-resources/women-in-the-bible/ruth-loyal-daughter-in-law/)**)** * [**Ruth Bible Book Overview (bibleproject.com)**](https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/ruth/)   **ASC Ruth Research task:**   * [**10 Remarkable Women in the Bible | Guideposts**](https://guideposts.org/prayer/bible-resources/women-in-the-bible/10-remarkable-women-of-the-bible/?_gl=1*1qxvuxg*_ga*MzExODM4MzY1LjE2NzE2NjcyMjI.*_ga_GNQ31K0F2R*MTY3MzM5MzQwOS41LjAuMTY3MzM5MzQwOS4wLjAuMA..&_ga=2.212768788.1676754386.1673393410-311838365.1671667222) * [**The Story of Ruth in the Bible (Bible Study Tools)**](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-stories/story-of-ruth-in-the-bible.html) * [**Introduction to the Book of Ruth in the Bible (learnreligions.com)**](https://www.learnreligions.com/book-of-ruth-701118) * [**Ruth Jigsaw Puzzle**](https://songsofpraise.org/jigsaw2.php?imageurl=//gardenofpraise.com/images/rth.jpg&callingpage=//gardenofpraise.com/bibl13s.htm&imagetitle=Ruth&numberpieces=24) * [**Ruth Crossword**](https://songsofpraise.org/crossword.php?puzzleid=14) * [**Ruth Word scrambles**](https://songsofpraise.org/scramble.php?puzzleid=13) |
| **4** | **NEW TESTAMENT**:  Mary, mother of Jesus  (2 periods?) | Who was Mary in the NEW TESTAMENT?  How is Mary central to the Christmas story?  What can be learned about Jesus/God from Mary’s life?  Extension:  How is Mary important in the world of Religious Art? | 10min  10min  5min  20min | Who is Mary in the Gospels?   * Video: *Learn Religions*: “Learn about Mary” (2:30m) * Article: *Who are all the Mary’s in the Bible* (50+ mentions) * Bible story: Luke 1-3 (most ref’s of Mary in Luke’s gospel)   Bible context:   * *Learn Religions: “*Meet Mary: Mother of Jesus*”*   Mary and the Christmas Story:   * Videos: Humorous - Saddleback 3 mins   Classroom Research on Mary’s Life:   * *Christianity.com* – “Who was Mary?” * *BBC Religions:* “Christianity: Mary”  1. Mary and Religious Art:  * Overview of most commonly viewed art of Mary / Scenes from the life of Christ – *Khan Academy* * Visual Analysis of a Leonardo da Vinci Portrait of Mary – *Google Classroom -* 20 mins | * [Who-are-all-the-marys-of-the-bible.html](https://www.christianity.com/wiki/bible/who-are-all-the-marys-of-the-bible.html) * [Mary of Nazareth: Mother of Jesus - Guideposts](https://guideposts.org/prayer/bible-resources/women-in-the-bible/mary-of-nazareth-mother-of-jesus/)   **Saddleback:**   * <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XkEypzmHwCI> * [Who-was-mary-the-mother-of-jesus.html](https://www.christianity.com/wiki/holidays/who-was-mary-the-mother-of-jesus.html) * [BBC - Religions - Christianity: Mary](https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/history/virginmary_1.shtml)   **Extension Task:**   * [Virgin of the Rocks (video) | Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/high-ren-florence-rome/leonardo-da-vinci/v/leonardo-da-vinci-the-virgin-of-the-rocks-c-1491-1508) * [The life of Christ in medieval and Renaissance art (article) | Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/ap-art-history/introduction-cultures-religions-apah/christianity-apah/a/standard-scenes-from-the-life-of-christ-in-art) |
| **5** | **NEW TESTAMENT**:  Mary Magdalene | Who was Mary Magdalene in the  NEW TESTAMENT?  What can be learned about Jesus/God from the life of Mary Magdalene?  How is Mary Magdalene important in the world of Religious Art? | 10min  5min  20min  15min | What is the historical truth about Mary Magdalene?   * You Tube – 10 mins   Animated version:   * Reflective retelling on Mary’s story - 4 mins   Classroom research on Mary’s life:   * Lindsay Hardin Freeman blog: “She Showed up. Like women do” * [How Many Mary’s Are in the Bible? Who Were They?](https://www.christianity.com/wiki/people/how-many-mary-s-are-in-the-bible-who-were-they.html)   Extension:  Video Commentary on famous Donatello wooden carving of Mary.  Khan Academy | * [**The Untold Truth Of Mary Magdalene - YouTube**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IscCROIJQUg) * [God's Story Mary Magdalene SD - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a1m3xHvwe5s) * [She showed up. Like women do. | Lindsay Hardin Freeman](https://www.lindsayhardinfreeman.com/she-showed-up-like-women-do/) * [How Many Mary’s Are in the Bible? Who Were They? **(christianity.com)**](https://www.christianity.com/wiki/people/how-many-mary-s-are-in-the-bible-who-were-they.html) * [Donatello, Mary Magdalene (video) | Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.org/humanities/renaissance-reformation/early-renaissance1/sculpture-architecture-florence/v/donatello-mary-magdalene) |
| **6** | **‘IN THE IMAGE OF GOD’**:  5 unnamed ‘Women of Character’ in the Bible | What can be learned from Biblical Women with no name?  Group Research activity | 10min  30min | * *“Women figured significantly in Jesus’ ministry. These are women whose lives and actions were pivotal in changing the course of history.”* * “*Of the 93 women mentioned in the Bible, only 49 have names. And in total women only speak 14,056 words. Yet, consider how powerful those words can be.”* * *“Women of the Bible offer inspiring examples of hope, courage and faith – and also of gentle kindness and humility.”*   Organise the class into 5 groups: Each group is allocated a significant “Unnamed woman” in the bible.  A series of questions follows each bible reference.  Responses can be shared with the class. | * [5 Unnamed Women of the Bible | Guideposts](https://guideposts.org/prayer/bible-resources/women-in-the-bible/5-unnamed-women-of-the-bible/#:~:text=5%20Unnamed%20Women%20of%20the%20Bible%201%201%29,...%205%205%29%20The%20Woman%20at%20the%20Well) * [10 Remarkable Women in the Bible | Guideposts](https://guideposts.org/prayer/bible-resources/women-in-the-bible/10-remarkable-women-of-the-bible/?_gl=1*1qxvuxg*_ga*MzExODM4MzY1LjE2NzE2NjcyMjI.*_ga_GNQ31K0F2R*MTY3MzM5MzQwOS41LjAuMTY3MzM5MzQwOS4wLjAuMA..&_ga=2.212768788.1676754386.1673393410-311838365.1671667222)   **See: ASC** **‘Unnamed Women in the Bible’ Research**  There are numerous on-line resources to support this research   * [3 Lessons to Learn From The Widow's Offering (Mite) )](https://thewisebeliever.com/lessons-to-learn-from-the-widows-offering/) * [3 Life-changing Things the Widow of Nain Teaches Us About God](https://hebrews12endurance.com/widow-from-nain/) |