

IN GOOD COMPANY: STORIES OF BIBLICAL WOMEN

by Kay Ward

Company's coming! Over the next few months, we will invite several Old Testament women into our homes and hearts to learn more about them and more about ourselves. Their stories will draw us into Bible study, worship with the Psalms, and opportunities to tell our own stories. If we listen to God's word carefully over this nine-month study, we can learn how to stay strong in our own faith, taking lessons from stalwart, steadfast, and even unlikely believers. Join us as we meet new and interesting women of the Bible.

THEME VERSE

"I keep the LORD always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved. Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure."

Psalm 16:8–9

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Kay Ward is a bishop in the Moravian Unity. Consecrated bishop in 1998, she was the first woman to be chosen in the Moravian church's 550-year history. She was ordained in 1979 and has served parishes in Indiana and California. In 2006, Kay retired as professor and administrator of Moravian Theological Seminary in Bethlehem, Pa. She has written three collections of essays and lives in a log cabin in central Wisconsin. Kay and her husband, Aden, have four children and three grandchildren.

As bishop, she led conferences and retreats throughout the Moravian Unity: in South Africa, Switzerland, Great Britain, the Virgin Islands, Germany, the Netherlands, and in the United States and Canada. "It is a privilege to continue to serve my savior and the church in my retirement," she said.

SEPTEMBER 2013—MAY 2014

Summer 2013 Bible study

by Audrey Novak Riley

ALL WHO HUNGER, GATHER GLADLY

Every one of the four gospels tells us about the crowd that follows Jesus out to the countryside and when evening comes around, they're hungry. Jesus tells the disciples: "You give them something to eat." Is Jesus talking to us?

SESSION 1 Hungry Hearts Matthew 14:13–16

SESSION 2 Do We Have Enough? Mark 6:32–37a

SESSION 3 All Ate and Were Filled Luke 9:10–13a

September **SESSION 1: HANNAH, A PROMISE KEEPER**

"For this child I prayed; and the LORD has granted me the petition that I made to him. Therefore I have lent him to the LORD; as long as he lives, he is given to the LORD.' She left him there for the LORD." 1 Samuel 1:27–28

October **SESSION 2: DEBORAH, A DETERMINED LEADER**

"At that time Deborah, a prophetess, wife of Lappidoth, was judging Israel. She used to sit under the palm of Deborah between Ramah and Bethel in the hill country of Ephraim; and the Israelites came up to her for judgment." Judges 4:4–5

November **SESSION 3: THE WIDOW OF ZAREPHATH, A TRUSTING FOLLOWER**

"But she said, 'As the LORD your God lives, I have nothing baked, only a handful of meal in a jar, and a little oil in a jug; I am now gathering a couple of sticks, so that I may go home and prepare it for myself and my son, that we may eat it, and die.'" 1 Kings 17:12

December **SESSION 4: MIRIAM, A LOVING PROTECTOR**

"When she could hide him no longer she got a papyrus basket for him, and plastered it with bitumen and pitch; she put the child in it and placed it among the reeds on the bank of the river. His sister stood at a distance, to see what would happen to him." Exodus 2:3–4

Jan/Feb 2014 **SESSION 5: ABIGAIL, A CALM STRATEGIST**

"Then Abigail hurried and took two hundred loaves, two skins of wine, five sheep ready dressed, five measures of parched grain, one hundred clusters of raisins, and two hundred cakes of figs. She loaded them on donkeys and said to her young men, 'Go on ahead of me; I am coming after you.' But she did not tell her husband Nabal." 1 Samuel 25:18–19

SESSION 6: WOMAN OF ENDOR, A SEER AND COMMUNICATOR

"Then Saul said to his servants, 'Seek out for me a woman who is a medium, so that I may go to her and inquire of her.' His servants said to him, 'There is a medium at Endor.'" 1 Samuel 28:7

March **SESSION 7: DAUGHTER, AN HONEST VIRGIN**

"Jephthah made a vow to the LORD, and said, 'If you will give the Ammonites into my hand, then whoever comes out of the doors of my house to meet me, when I return victorious from the Ammonites, shall be the LORD's, to be offered up by me as a burnt offering.'" Judges 11:30–31

April **SESSION 8: RIZPAH, A VIGILANT MOURNER**

"Then Rizpah the daughter of Aiah took sackcloth, and spread it on a rock for herself, from the beginning of harvest until rain fell on them from the heavens; she did not allow the birds of the air to come on the bodies by day, or the wild animals by night." 2 Samuel 21:10

May **SESSION 9: RAHAB, A FAITHFUL BUSINESSWOMAN**

"Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the LORD that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death." Joshua 2:12–13



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