



Week 2
FAMILY & GROUP DISCUSSION

Saint Mary

INTRODUCTION

Mary is a tough subject for Protestants. Protestant Christians do not focus on Jesus' mother much at all (unless it's a Mother's Day sermon). In part, this is an overreaction to the improper emphasis upon Mary among other religious traditions, but in other ways it is a travesty.

DISCUSSION

What have been your assumptions about Mary?

What things have been positive and what things have been negative?

EXPLANATION

Read Luke 4:28-30. How do you think this pierced Mary's heart?

Read Luke 8:19-21. How do you think this pierced Mary's heart?

Read John 19:25. How do you think this pierced Mary's heart?

APPLICATION

Why is it important to understand Mary and her role in Jesus' life?

How can our focus on her role turn into worshipping something other than Jesus?

How can Mary, as a mom, help you better understand the gospel?

MISSION

How could having a heart like Mary help us better understand how to speak the gospel in understandable terms?

How has Jesus pierced your own heart?

How does that piercing:

- help you to stay humble?
- help you to empathize with others who have been pierced?



Saint Mary

Luke 1:46-47

1 Peter 1:15-16

2 Corinthians 5:18-21

Luke 1:26-38

Luke 2:22-51

Luke 4:15-30

Luke 8:19-21

John 19:25

Acts 1:12-14

Matthew 12:46

Mark 3:31-35

Luke 8:19-21

Genesis 6:5-6

Week 2

& SCRIPTURE VERSES



Saint Mary

Luke 1:46–47 “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior”

The term “saint” in the New Testament comes from the Greek word Hagios (the holy ones). It is God’s righteousness given to us that makes us “saints.”

At the same time we are called saints we are also ordered to “become holy”.

- 1 Peter 1:15-16 – *he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, since it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”*

Yet in 2 Corinthians we are told we already ARE holy:

- 2 Corinthians 5:18-21 – *All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*

The scriptures teach we are both *already* reconciled and must also tell people *to be* reconciled. It says that we are “set apart” or dedicated to God, yet we must also “set ourselves apart” or dedicate ourselves to become closer to God and strive for more purity in our lives.

What is the answer to this? All true believers are reconciled to God through Jesus, but not all have chosen to strive for more closeness to God, or to make greater efforts to please God. It is like soldiers in an army, every one of them is “set apart” as a soldier instead of a civilian, but not every one of them is dedicated to the same degree toward becoming a better soldier or to rise in rank.

Any time we read of someone in the Bible being designated as “holy”, we should be careful not to assign more meaning to that than is warranted.

SAINT MARY

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In Luke 2, Jesus is born and Mary and Joseph dedicate their child:

Luke 2:25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

V29-32 “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel..”

V33-35 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

“This child will take you places where your soul will be pierced, Mary”...

Mary was simply a very godly young woman who loved the Lord and trusted in Him despite great risk to her own reputation. **She repeatedly appears as a devout woman who loved God and was a loving mother to Jesus.** Contrary to some crazy teaching, she did not remain a virgin, but mothered other sons such as James and Jude, who visited Jesus with Mary during His ministry (Matthew 12:46; Mark 3:31–35; Luke 8:19–21) and later became pastors who penned books of the New Testament bearing their names.

The Mary of Scripture greatly differs from the Mary of myth, legend, and folklore.

- The real Mary is a wonderful example for young women to love God and retain their faith and purity until marriage (as a demonstration of their love for God).
- The real Mary is a wonderful example for mothers. She was a godly woman who is best known for the sons she raised, whom God used to change the world.
- The real Mary is a wonderful example for all women of what it truly means to trust God in all things, obey God even when His call is difficult, worship God in faith that He is good for His promises, fellowship with God’s people in the church, and love God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

God is a Father, but he cares for his people in many ways as a mother, like Mary, who has a focus on kids who are hurting. God always cares about his children.

Mary can actually give us a glimpse of what God is like in her care for her son, Jesus, showing God’s care for His people.