

HER STORY

JESUS, WOMEN, AND THE CHURCH

Week 1: Seeing The Big Picture (Bruxy Cavey)

Week 2: Jesus & the New Covenant (Karmyn Bokma)

Week 3: Husbands, Wives, & The Profound Mystery (Leanne Friesen)

Week 4: Women Leaders & the Prohibiting Passages (Bruxy Cavey)

Week 5: Special Guest – Jo Saxton

Week 6: Q & Eh? (Bruxy Cavey)

Plus: Podcast interviews with Dr. Marion Taylor & Dr. Cynthia Westfall

APPETIZER: It's Always Been This Way...or Has It?

A Recap:
Creation → Fall → Curse

Enter the Old Covenant:

Covenant = agreement/promise, a coming together of 2 parties
Genesis 12:1-3 (Abraham), **Exodus 19-24** (Moses)

The Implications of the Old Covenant

1. Divine Accommodation
2. Patriarchal sign of the covenant: Circumcision (**Genesis 17:11; Joshua 5:2-8**)
3. Patriarchal Laws

DINE IN: Out with the Old, In With the New

Jesus Brings in the New Covenant **Luke 22:20**

By calling this covenant "new", he has made the first one obsolete, and what is obsolete, and aging will soon disappear.

Hebrews 8:13

Jesus and Women

Mary and Martha

Woman at the Well

Woman with the Alabaster Jar

Woman caught in adultery

Appearance to Women after the Resurrection

Luke 10:38-42

John 4:1-42

Luke 7:36-50

John 8:1-11

John 20:10-18

The Implications of the New Covenant

1. Restoring, not Re-ordering
2. Baptism is the Egalitarian Sign of the Covenant
3. Gifts of the Spirit

**John 14:12-17;
Acts 2:1-3,14-21**

TAKE OUT: Crushing the Serpent's Head

Genesis 3:15, Romans 16:20

"...an 'equal together' gospel that recognizes men and women as co-image bearers without limitations based on gender is good news for the whole church. Anything less infers that Christ's sacrifice on the cross was not enough to fully redeem humanity from the effects of the fall"
Gail Wallace, The Junia Project

The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is in you. (You're more powerful than you think.)

(Romans 8:11 paraphrased)

Things to Think About

- 1) In what ways do I still have "Old Covenant" thinking?
- 2) What is one step I need to take this week towards living in the equality of the Gospel?
- 3) For women: Are there areas that I have been hurt, shamed, kept silent that I need to process? Find someone to do this with.
- 4) For men: Are there areas that I have hurt, shamed or silenced women (knowingly or unknowingly?) Find someone to help you process this (and if possible, seek forgiveness.)

Home Church Questions

HANGOUT [Warming Up to the Topic – in one Large Group]

1. Does anyone have any (funny or serious) “it’s always been this way” stories or experiences from their own life? Share with the group.
2. What reactions did you have to this week’s message? Have the men and women both share and see if there are similar responses.

HEAR [Listening to God through Scripture – in Discussion Groups]

3. Read **Acts 2:1-21**
 - a. In **Acts 2:1**, we see the word **all**. Discuss who the “all” would have been referring to in this passage. (Hint, you may need to read back to **Acts 1**). What is the significance of this?
 - b. Re-read v **17-21**, (which is Peter preaching a prophecy from **Joel 2:28-32**). Discuss what stands out.
4. Read **Hebrews 8**.
 - a. Talk about what you know about the Old vs New covenant. If this is new for you, what do you see standing out from the scripture text?
 - b. What implications does the Old Covenant becoming “obsolete” have when it comes to equality of women?
5. In **John 14**, Jesus promises to leave behind the Spirit for all believers.
 - a. Discuss as a home church what this means for us today, and share your understanding about Spiritual Gifts. (if you need a reminder, check out **Romans 12:3-8**). Women: Share your experiences being encouraged or discouraged to use your gifts. Men: Share the same thing. Any differences?
 - b. How would the church look different if we all functioned out of the full truth that God’s power is working in us? How would The Meeting House look different? What about this Home Church?
6. Is there anything else that you’d like to share with your Home Church tonight? Perhaps something that hasn’t been asked or addressed, but is stirring up in you as we talk about Women in the church?

HUDDLE [Making It Personal and Praying Together – in Huddles]

7. Go over the “Take Out” reflection questions with your huddle. In the safety of your huddle, share some of your thoughts/answers to these questions.
8. Pray together that God would keep us moving toward equality as co-image bearers of the Gospel.