

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

38

MARY MAGDALENE FOLLOWS JESUS

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Taking church to the people



38

MARY MAGDALENE FOLLOWS JESUS

Memory Verse:

... Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Mary was

#2 - Discover what obedience led Mary to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Matthew 27:32-61, 28:1-10

Mark 15:40-47, 16:1-14

Luke 8:1-3, 23:44-56, 24:1-12

John 19:16-25, 20:1-18

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MARY MAGDALENE FOLLOWS JESUS

John 20:1-18

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our heroine: Mary Magdalene

Her Heroic Feat: Loves God deeply

Loving God deeply may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

We have been talking about Jesus' ministry lately. We have learned about the lessons He taught and the people He healed. The twelve disciples that He chose followed Him all the time, but others followed, too. Some of the others who followed Him were women. One of those women was Mary Magdalene.

Mary was from Magdala, a small fishing village on the Sea of Galilee. Mary Magdalene had once been in a lot of trouble and pain. She had once had seven demons who controlled her. She must have been very afraid and sad and without hope. We don't know how long she suffered, but we do know that it was Jesus who forced the demons out of her. Jesus freed her and gave her hope. From that day forward, Mary Magdalene was a different person. Because of her gratitude and love for the Lord, she followed Him and even supported His ministry financially.

We see no other mention of Mary of Magdala in Scripture until Jesus' death on the cross on that Friday so long ago. Mary Magdalene was there with Mary, Jesus' mother, and others. They began the day very close to the cross. As the day drew on, for reasons we aren't given, they moved further away from the cross. Once Jesus had died and was removed from the cross, a man named Joseph asked for permission to have Jesus' body. He wanted to prepare it for burial. Mary and the other women who had come with her from Galilee, followed Joseph. They saw the tomb and they saw how Jesus' body was laid in the tomb. "Then the women left to prepare spices and perfumes." (Luke 23:56a NCV) They would use these early on Sunday morning, once the day of rest had passed.

"The day after the Sabbath day, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought some sweet-smelling spices to put on Jesus' body. Very early on that day, the first day of the week, soon after sunrise, the women were on their way to the tomb." (Mark 16:1-2 NCV) They wondered how they would ever roll back the stone from the tomb, but God sent an earthquake that moved it for them. When they arrived at the tomb and looked in it was empty except for an angel. The angel told

them that Jesus wasn't there. He was alive! That was exciting news, but the women were also confused. They had seen Jesus die. The women went straight to tell the disciples what they had been told.

Peter, John and Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb and when Peter and John saw it empty, they left. Mary stayed, though. She stood outside the tomb crying. She still thought someone had moved Jesus' body. When Mary turned around she saw Jesus, but she didn't know it was Him. He was different somehow. She thought maybe He was the gardener and asked where Jesus' body had been taken. Then Jesus spoke Mary's name and she knew in an instant that it was her Lord! She grabbed Him and hugged Him and didn't want to let go. She couldn't keep holding on to Him, though. Jesus was not going to stay on earth; He would return to His Father. So Mary went back to the disciples and told them that she had seen the Lord! She told them everything Jesus had told her.

We can learn a lot from Mary's life. Whether we are demon possessed or not, we are all sinners in need of a Savior. Jesus changed Mary's life and He can change yours, too. Our memory verse explains it beautifully, "Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun!" (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT) Mary's life was changed and out of her love for the Lord, she dedicated her life to following Jesus and supporting His ministry. Mary has the great honor of being the first to see Jesus after His resurrection. "That was her extraordinary legacy. No one can ever share that honor or take it from her. But we can, and should, seek to imitate her deep love for Christ."*

*MacArthur, John. *Twelve Extraordinary Women: How God Shaped the Women of the Bible and what He Wants to Do With You*. Nelson Books: Nashville. 2005 p 185.

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don't have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Mary Magdalene loved God deeply.

Can you be described as someone who loves God? Maybe you need to come to Him for salvation first. Have you been changed by God? Once you have, the love will automatically flow.



NEXT WEEK
The Blind Can See!

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

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Her Heroic Feat: Loves God deeply

Loving God deeply may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

We have been talking about Jesus lately. We learned about the lessons He taught. We learned about the people He healed. Jesus chose twelve disciples. Others followed Him, too. Some of the others who followed Him were women. One of those women was Mary Magdalene.

Mary Magdalene had once been in a lot of trouble and pain. Jesus helped her and gave her hope. From that day forward, Mary Magdalene was a different person. Because of her love for the Lord, she followed Jesus and even supported His ministry financially.

Mary isn't mentioned in the Bible until Jesus' death on the cross on that Friday so long ago. Mary Magdalene was there. Once Jesus had died and was removed from the cross, a man named Joseph asked for permission to have Jesus' body. He wanted to prepare it for burial. Mary, and the other women who had come with her from Galilee, followed Joseph. They saw the tomb and they saw how Jesus' body was laid in the tomb. "Then the women left to prepare spices and perfumes." (Luke 23:56a NCV) They would use these early on Sunday morning, once the day of rest had passed.

Very early Sunday morning, the women went back to the tomb." When they arrived at the tomb and looked in, it was empty except for an angel. The angel told them that Jesus wasn't there. He was alive! That was exciting news, but the ladies were also confused. They had seen Jesus die. The women went straight to tell the disciples what they had been told.

Peter, John and Mary Magdalene returned to the tomb and when Peter and John saw it empty, they left. Mary stayed, though. She stood outside of the tomb crying. She still thought someone had moved Jesus' body. When Mary turned around she saw Jesus, but she didn't know it was Him. He was different somehow. She thought maybe He was the gardener and asked where Jesus' body had been taken. Then, Jesus spoke Mary's name and she knew in an instant that it was her Lord! She grabbed Him and hugged Him and didn't want to let go. She couldn't keep holding on to Him, though. Jesus was not going to stay on earth; He would return to the Father. So Mary went back to the disciples and told them that she had seen the Lord! She told them everything Jesus had told her.

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Our memory verse can be easily explained by the metamorphosis of a butterfly. Make memory verse posters with butterflies, or the entire cycle from caterpillar to butterfly.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing the "He's Changing Me," "Oh, How I Love Jesus," "I Love to Tell the Story," "Everyday With Jesus," or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Reenact the lesson.
- **For more training:** Read and discuss Ephesians 4:17-5:2 in light of the lesson.

ANYONE

who belongs to Christ
has become
a new person.

The old life is gone;
a new life has begun!

2 Corinthians 5:17

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Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

Mary Magdalene Follows Jesus

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HERO TRAINING!

Scripture:

John 20:1-18

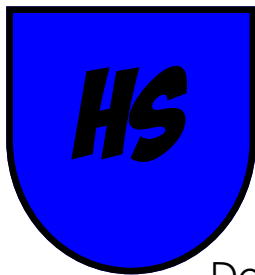
Memory verse:

Anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life is gone; a new life has begun! (2 Corinthians 5:17 NLT)

Our Heroine: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power? _____

Read 2 Corinthians 5:17 and review the lesson. How can you love God deeply? _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Review your memory verse and fill in the spaces below.

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----- !

2 C o r i n t h i a n s 5 : 1 7

WORD

SEARCH!

S	E	L	F	J	A	T	B	O	M	S	H	B
O	R	D	I	N	O	H	M	U	A	E	P	C
N	S	R	R	S	S	E	O	E	R	L	E	T
S	E	G	S	N	S	Y	T	L	Y	P	S	D
H	C	W	T	S	O	W	O	T	M	I	O	E
F	I	E	T	A	R	E	T	H	A	C	J	S
T	P	I	O	H	C	N	T	F	G	S	D	H
H	S	T	S	D	T	T	N	R	D	I	E	S
U	Y	Y	E	F	A	N	E	O	A	D	W	W
S	U	S	E	J	D	E	W	O	L	L	O	F
H	B	V	J	P	O	T	Y	O	E	L	L	L
G	A	V	E	M	O	N	E	Y	N	E	L	K
J	E	S	S	S	T	A	O	F	E	T	O	S
G	H	D	U	L	S	E	H	L	L	A	F	N
B	T	J	S	I	L	L	S	E	S	C	S	G

- Mary Magdalene
- followed Jesus
- gave money
- stood at cross
- followed Joseph
- buy spices
- went to tomb
- tell disciples
- first to see Jesus

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Review your memory verse and fill in the spaces below.

a **N** y o n e w h o
b **E** l o n g s t o c h r i s t h a s b e c o m e
a n e **W** p e r s o n .

I h e o **L** d l i f e
i s a o n e ;
a n e w l i **F** e h a s
b **E** g u n !

2 C o r i n t h i a n s 5 : 1 7

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

S	E	L	F	J	A	T	B	O	M	S	H	B
O	R	D	I	N	O	H	M	U	A	E	P	C
N	S	R	R	S	S	E	O	E	R	L	E	T
S	E	G	S	N	S	Y	T	L	Y	P	S	D
H	C	W	T	S	O	W	O	T	M	I	O	E
F	I	E	T	A	R	E	T	H	A	C	J	S
T	P	I	O	H	C	N	T	F	G	S	D	H
H	S	T	S	D	T	T	N	R	D	I	E	S
U	Y	Y	E	F	A	N	E	O	A	D	W	W
S	U	S	E	J	D	E	W	O	L	L	O	F
H	B	V	J	P	O	T	Y	O	E	L	L	L
G	A	V	E	M	O	N	E	Y	N	E	L	K
J	E	S	S	S	T	A	O	F	E	T	O	S
G	H	D	U	L	S	E	H	L	L	A	F	N
B	T	J	S	I	L	L	S	E	S	C	S	G

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