



In Closing...

As women, we are unique. We see things differently than men do. God designed us as the weaker and gentler sex. I am so thankful that God chose to make me a woman. All kinds of people followed Jesus, but a special relationship existed between Christ and the women who were there to encourage, nourish, and comfort Him. He loved these women friends as He loved the men friends. His disciples were a bunch of burly, rough, often opinionated, men, whom He had to chastise and correct on many occasions. No doubt, Jesus needed the softness of these women's personalities after being so much with the men. Jesus never married, but He did have the spiritual friendship that the women who traveled with Him provided. Joanna was a friend, someone with whom Jesus could talk and laugh, someone who would bring Him a warm meal, or give Him an extra blanket. She used her resources well, and earned a home eternally with her dearest friend. Oh, that we can do the same.



JANUARY FACILITATOR'S GUIDE

My Name is Resourceful

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Beginning thoughts...

Happy New Year! I see you are starting the new year off right by beginning this study about a very intriguing woman whom the Bible mentions only a few times. Scripture gives us just enough information to let us think we might like this woman. She was perhaps someone who would have been at church every time the door was open, decorated for special events, visited all the sick, made blankets for the new babies, cooked wonderful food and many other things. She was a very talented lady to say the least.

Joanna, however, wasn't known for the above talents. She was known for following Jesus and for giving of her resources. We can assume since her husband was employed by Herod, that she also was a lady with financial means. She was willing to give of anything she had for the ministry of Jesus. Are we that willing to give of our time, talents, and money to support the ministries of our church, our missionaries, the needy of the community, the children's homes, etc.? She gave over and above her tithes.

Joanna's name in Hebrew means "Jehovah hath shown favor" or "The Lord is grace." After doing this study, see if you think either name fits her? It's amazing to me that people's names in the Bible often match their character. I once found a bookmark imprinted with my name and its meaning. The meaning might not have fit me perfectly, but offered me encouraging words. I think Joanna lived out her names. She knew God showed favor to her when He healed her. She also experienced the grace He bestowed many times. How could she do anything but worship and serve Him? Tradition has it, that Joanna and her son were executed for their faith in Christ.

We may not be executed for our faith, but is our faith strong enough to even be questioned? I want my life to reflect the love and forgiveness that Jesus alone can give. I want to use my resources doing what I can for the cause of Christ. I want to be a resourceful woman, a witness, a follower, and a resourceful individual in the service of my Lord. We can't physically travel with Him, as Joanna did, but we can travel with Him each and every second of our life by obeying and trusting Him. As a woman, enjoy learning about a liberated woman whom Jesus respected. Let's look further into Joanna's story and allow God's Word to teach us from her example.



My Name is Resourceful RESOURCEFUL WOMAN

Key Verses: “And it came to pass afterward, that he went throughout every city and village, preaching and showing the glad tidings of the kingdom of God: and the twelve were there with him, and certain women, which had been healed of evil spirits and infirmities... Joanna the wife of Chuza, Herod’s steward...” (Luke 8:1-3).

Key Thought: Finding who we are in Christ frees us to become the person God designs us to be.

- 💡 Write the key verse in your journal or a notebook.
- 💡 Read aloud, or have someone read the introductory Scriptures: Psalm 139:13-16 and Jeremiah 1:5.
- 💡 According to these Scriptures, has God always known of us and planned for us? (Yes)
- 💡 Was Joanna any different? (*No, God had a plan for her.*)
- 💡 Go over the questions, answers, and activities on p. 27 in *Treasure*.
- 💡 What do you think a day in the life of Joanna looked like? (*Remember, being the wife of Chuza, a main servant of Herod the Tetrarch [ruler of the fourth part of a province—Matthew 14:1], she was certain to have had responsibilities in the palace.*)
- 💡 How did Joanna hear of Jesus? (*Maybe from Herod, himself—Matthew 14:1-3; Mark 6:14.*)
- 💡 Why was Herod so distressed upon hearing about Jesus? (*His father, Herod, the Great had tried to kill Jesus when He was born—Matthew 2:1-3, 16.*)
- 💡 Joanna had probably heard of the miracles and ministry of Jesus in the marketplace from others who had contact with Him. From Luke 7, what things might she have heard? (*Healing the Centurion’s servant—7:2, 9, 10; Raising the Widow of Nain’s son back to life—Luke 7:12-15; Forgiveness of the woman with the alabaster box—7:37; 44-49.*)
- 💡 Could her conviction and conversion have taken place upon hearing John the Baptist preach (*Luke 3:1-3; 19-20*)? Or was it when she met Jesus and He touched and healed her of either evil spirits or sickness of some kind (*Luke 8:1-3*)?
- 💡 Write the name *El Shaddai* in your journal. God is our Almighty God, our Creator.

Reflection: Dismiss in prayer thanking God for who He is and for making each woman the unique person she is.



My Name is Resourceful RESOURCEFUL WITNESS

Key Verse: “And ye are witnesses of these things” (Luke 24:48).

Key Thought: Our stories are the only ones we know by heart. Sharing them is a very personal part of evangelism.

- 💡 Write the key verse in your journal; complete the activities on p. 19, *Treasure*.
- 💡 Are you a “witness”? (*Always; either for or against something. Even silence is taken as consent.*)
- 💡 Who was the forerunner of Christ, bearing witness of Him? (*John the Baptist—John 1:6-8.*)
- 💡 Joanna became a faithful witness because of what Jesus had done for her. Read Luke 8:2-3.
- 💡 To whom did she witness? Who possibly heard her words for Christ? (*Possibly her husband, other servants of Herod’s house, people in the marketplace, whoever she came in contact with.*)
- 💡 Do you think she had influence with some of these people?
- 💡 Even though Chuza held a responsible job with Herod, tradition contends that he lost his position due to his wife’s conversion to Christianity. Does this happen today? Do people lose jobs because of their faith? (*Possibly*)
- 💡 Why did Herod not kill Joanna when she became a Christian? Should she have feared him? Had he murdered before? Who? (*John the Baptist—Mark 6:17. 25-28.*)
- 💡 It had to have been risky for Joanna in Herod’s house after she embraced Christianity, but Joanna took the risk to become a leader. Her price of leadership may have been social. How? (*Losing some of the friends she had, her position in the household of servants, her home.*)
- 💡 What did she gain as a leader? (*1. Influence to all those with whom she came in contact; 2. Loyalty to the Christ who had saved her.*)
- 💡 Joanna became a powerful witness for Jesus because she knew Him as Lord. Because of this, she exhibited these characteristics: 1. She acknowledged she was a servant and God owned everything; 2. She knew her master could meet her needs; 3. She realized she could do whatever God wanted her to do.
- 💡 Write *Adonai*, for Lord, in your journal.

Reflection: Dismiss in a prayer of thanksgiving for your salvation and rededication of your life to Him.



My Name is Resourceful RESOURCEFUL FOLLOWER

Key Verse: "I know you seek the Lord Jesus" (Luke 24:8).

Key Thought: Many things attempt to fill our heads, hearts and hours. Discerning what deserves our attention is dependent upon our time spent with God.

💡 Write the key verse in your journal.

💡 Go over the questions and answers on p. 31, *Treasure*.

💡 Did following Jesus possibly cost Joanna earthly things? (*Speculate on what you think this might have been. Maybe: comfortable lifestyle in Herod's palace, time with her husband's family, friends, finances.*)

💡 Can you imagine being one of Jesus' followers when He was traveling about the country preaching, teaching, and performing miracles? What would that have been like?

💡 How did Joanna become one of these women who helped meet Jesus' daily needs? (*By obeying the call. Jesus calls, but we have to answer.*)

💡 Read I Samuel 3:4-10. Did Samuel answer God's call?

💡 As a follower of God did Samuel have a dedicated ministry? (*Yes, as a prophet—1 Samuel 3:19-21; and as a judge—1 Samuel 7:15-16.*)

💡 What made Samuel such a remarkable follower of God? (*Samuel was: consecrated to God—1 Samuel 1:24-28; courageous—1 Samuel 13:13; 15:16-29; a man of prayer—1 Samuel 7:5-8; 15:11; an inspired prophet—1 Samuel 3:19; 21; 8:22.*)

💡 Was Joanna either a prophet or a judge? (*No. She was an ordinary person with an extraordinary faith in her Savior.*)

💡 The steps of Jesus led Him to the cross. Where did Joanna's steps lead her? (*To His crucifixion—Mark 15:40-41; and to the tomb with the women—Luke 23:55; 24:1; 9-11.*)

💡 Did Joanna stop being a follower of Jesus after His death? (*No. We can conclude that she was in the upper room after the Ascension of Christ—Acts 1:14. Notice the phrase, "with the women."*)

💡 How had Joanna been able to minister to Jesus of her substance. (*Evidently Chuza had not stopped her from doing this—Luke 8:3; Matthew 27:55.*)

💡 Write the name of God, *Kol Bakol*, meaning "all in all" (Ephesians 1:23).

Reflection: Dismiss in prayer; thank God for being everything you need, your all in all.

My Name is Resourceful RESOURCEFUL INDIVIDUAL

Key Verse: "Yea, and certain women also of our company made us astonished, which were early at the sepulchre" (Luke 24:22).

Key Thought: The pursuit of godliness entails giving your all to becoming who God intends you to be—no more and no less.

💡 Complete the activities on p. 33 of *Treasure*. Did you have a short or long list of talents? Is it easier to list your talents or another person's?

💡 Have you ever been upset in church because someone else did something you felt could have been better accomplished by you?

💡 Do you think Joanna felt that the other women were more talented or resourceful than she?

💡 Was she fully devoted to ministering to Jesus' needs?

💡 However she felt, I believe she was faithful at great costs to herself.

💡 Did she neglect her own family to travel with this group? (*We're not told, but it makes me wonder if they didn't travel with her.*)

💡 Following Jesus led Joanna and the women on a journey to where? (*On the journey to His death—Matthew 21:9; 23:1; 27:35.*)

💡 Read Matthew 20:34. What was wrong with these two men? (*They were blind.*)

💡 What did Jesus do? (*He touched their eyes and they could see.*)

💡 How did the men react? (*By following Him. This event changed the lives of these men by giving them a purpose and a plan.*)

💡 According to Matthew 20:30, by what name did these men call Jesus? (*Son of David*)

💡 After Jesus touched their eyes, they immediately saw Him face to face. What did they call Him then? (*Son of God—2 Corinthians 4:6.*)

💡 Following Jesus led Joanna and the women on a journey to where? (*On the journey to His death—Matthew 21:9; 23:1; 27:35.*)

💡 Do you think Joanna called Jesus the Son of God? Read Matthew 3:16-17. Could she have been there? *Did she see others with eyes of compassion as Jesus saw the blind men?

💡 Write this name for God in your journal: "Our Portion."

Reflection: Dismiss in prayer; thank God for being the giver of all blessings.