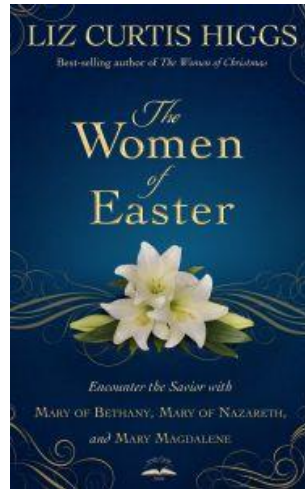


Word by Word with Liz Curtis Higgs on the Faith Radio Network

Bible Study Guide for March 17-18, 2018 | Mary of Nazareth

from *The Women of Easter* by Liz Curtis Higgs



1. In Scripture, we first meet Mary of Nazareth as a young girl. Read Luke 1:26-28. From the very beginning she was assured, “The Lord is with you.” How do you see that truth demonstrated in Mary’s life twelve years later, when Jesus remained behind in Jerusalem? And at the wedding at Cana? And at the cross? Others in the Bible were given the same assurance, as we see in Judges 6:12, 1 Chronicles 17:2, and Zephaniah 3:17. In what ways are you aware of God’s constant presence? How does the Lord’s promise to be with you affect your daily thoughts and actions?
2. Spend a moment with the prophet Simeon and Mary in the temple courts by reading Luke 2:25-35. What did Simeon tell Mary and Joseph about their son? And what was their response? On the heels of that thrilling news came a more ominous prophetic word, spoken directly to Mary: “And a sword will pierce your own soul too.” Clearly God intended for Mary to know this hard truth. How might that have helped her in the years that followed?
3. Read Luke 2:41-52 to revisit the scene when Jesus was a boy of twelve, traveling to Jerusalem for the Passover with Mary and Joseph. After looking for him for three days, they finally found their runaway son in the temple courts. What was their response? And what does Mary say to Jesus? We see a very human side of Mary here. Even after hearing the prophecies of Gabriel and Simeon regarding her son, why do you think Mary did not understand what Jesus was saying to them that day in the temple courts?
4. Luke 2:19 and Luke 2:51 reveal a particular aspect of Mary of Nazareth’s personality. What words would you use to describe her, based on these two verses? Yet that’s not the Mary we see at the wedding at Cana, recorded in John 2:1-12. How would you describe

her in this scene? Was she helping Jesus or interfering? What makes you say that? What good came of Mary's prompting?

5. When the end came, Mary of Nazareth was there: "Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother" (John 19:25). Close enough to see Him, to touch Him, to catch the scent of His blood and sweat, to hear Him groan in agony. While the others watched their friend, their teacher, their Savior die, Mary watched her son die. If you were Mary's sister, standing next to her, what words of comfort would you have offered? Or might you have remained silent? What truth or hope do you think Mary clung to in that desperate hour? And how might John have consoled her in the years that followed?
6. What's the most important lesson you learned from the story of Mary of Nazareth, who demonstrated steadfast support, unflagging faith, and boundless courage?