

# “Church & Gender” Study Guide

## Lesson 7: Women in the Gospels (Luke-Acts)

### Outline

1. Luke
  - a. Mary & Elizabeth (Luke 1-2)
    - i. Don't overlook that the birth narratives all revolve around mothers.
    - ii. GALATIANS 4:4
  - b. LUKE 2:36-38
  - c. LUKE 8:1-3
  - d. LUKE 10:38-42
    - i. COMPLEMENTARIAN: This is a story about devotion to Christ and does not say much about gender expectation.
    - ii. EGALITARIAN: In ancient society, a male student would learn at his master's feet, but women did not have access in this way. By commending Mary, Jesus is affirming women outside of the kitchen and in learning/teaching roles.
2. Acts
  - a. ACTS 1:12-14
  - b. ACTS 2:17-18
  - c. ACTS 16:14, 40
  - d. ACTS 17:12, 34
  - e. ACTS 18:1-3
  - f. ACTS 18:24-26
  - g. ACTS 21:8-9
  - h. EGALITARIAN: Women are servants of God in every aspect of the life and work of the church in Acts.
  - i. COMPLEMENTARIAN: Women were valuable servants in the early church, but in all these texts, men are still the primary leaders and teachers.
3. Resurrection Witnesses
  - a. All four Gospels indicate that women were the original witnesses of the Resurrection. The male Apostles learn of it from the women and then visit the tomb later.
  - b. EGALITARIAN: God privileged women as witnesses of the gospel and thereby endorsed their role in preaching and proclaiming the gospel in the kingdom.
  - c. COMPLEMENTARIAN: Women participate in the sharing of the gospel, but even in this story, the message is delivered to men who serve as the leaders of the church and preachers of the gospels in Acts.

### Discussion Questions

1. Is it fair to say that Luke, the author of Luke and Acts, spends more time discussing women than might have been expected? If so, why might that be?
2. The Resurrection Witness discussion is a great example of people reading the same passage and coming to opposite conclusions. What should we take away from the role of women in the Resurrection accounts?