

Her Story: Women & The Bible | Week 1 - The Church Needs "Phoebes"**Big Idea**

The church needs “Phoebes”, women who are co-equals and co-laborers in furthering the mission of Jesus.

Scripture

Romans 16:1-2 and 1 Peter 4:10-11

Points to Keep In Mind

1. Phoebe was a deacon, or servant, of the church in Cenchrea, the eastern port of Corinth. She was a wealthy person who helped support Paul and his ministry. Phoebe was highly regarded by Paul and the church, and she more than likely delivered this letter from Corinth to Rome. Paul also refers to Phoebe as his sister, which reflects how he sees her as an equal and co-laborer in ministry. This passage provides evidence that women had important roles in the early church.
2. Gifts, as mentioned in 1 Peter 4:10, are natural talents or abilities that God has given each one of us. True joy is found in using these gifts to serve others. By using our gifts in service to others, we fulfill our role as faithful stewards of God’s grace and contribute to the building up of our community and God’s church. One way to identify our gifts is to have a You+ conversation with another Christ-follower. Encourage your group members to get started today at youplus.info if they haven’t done so already.
3. In 1 Peter 4:11, Peter tells us the ultimate purpose of using our gifts to serve others is to bring glory and praise to God through Jesus. When we use our gifts as God directs to help others, people will see Jesus in us and praise him for the help they have received. Peter may have been thinking of Jesus’ words in Matthew 5:16, “... let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.”
4. For question #5, invite everyone to freely share their ideas in a safe place without judgment. Your group may have several differing opinions, and that’s okay. Encourage your group members to enter this series with curiosity instead of judgment.

Additional Questions and Resources

visit communitychristian.org/nextsteps

1. Where do you see God at work in your life right now?
2. What next steps do you feel called to take in your faith journey?
3. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
4. What have you been learning from the Community Daily? communitychristian.org/daily
5. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/support
6. Find out more about having a YOU+ conversation by visiting communitychristian.org/you/