

Her Story: Women & The Bible | Week 3 - The Church Needs "Junia's"**Big Idea**

The church needs “Junia”s, women who will be fearless trailblazers who further the mission of Jesus.

Scripture

Romans 16:7, Luke 10:1-3, 1 Corinthians 12:27, and Galatians 3:26-28

Points to Keep In Mind

1. Junia was an apostle in the early church. Andronicus, mentioned in Romans 16:7 with Junia, is likely her husband. They were commissioned to go out and take the good news of Jesus to the towns and cities of the known world. Not only were they apostles, but they were considered to be “outstanding” among the apostles. Paul recognizes both Junia and Andronicus as outstanding leaders in the early church. Paul commends them for being “in Christ” before he was. Junia had been a Christ-follower longer than Paul, and given the time frame, it is reasonable and highly probable to assume that Junia knew Jesus personally. She likely spent time in Jesus’ presence, listened to his teachings, and experienced his miracles. From this one verse in Romans 16, we learn that Junia was a talented, brave, trailblazing leader in the early church, a woman whom Paul praises and esteems.
2. There is no way to know for sure, but here is an interesting conjecture that scholars down through the ages have made about Junia and her husband. The early church father and theologian Origen, who lived about 150 years after Jesus’ resurrection, writes this about the couple: “[Paul] might have called them prominent among the apostles who preceded him because they were among the seventy-two who were also called apostles.” This refers to Luke 10:1-3, where Jesus sends out 72 of his disciples, two by two, to the surrounding towns and villages to carry out his ministry. It’s entirely plausible that Junia and her husband could have been one of the pairs sent out. If I were Paul, I would want to learn everything I could from people who had been in Jesus’ presence. Paul seems to look up to Junia as a mentor in his commendation of her.
3. When Paul describes the Corinthian community as the “body of Christ” in 1 Corinthians 12:27, he uses a metaphor to illustrate how much we depend on one another with the varying gifts and talents that God has given us. Just as a physical body has many parts with different functions, each church member has a unique role in fulfilling our purpose and furthering the mission of helping people find their way back to God. If you would like to have the You+ conversation as a group, ask your Adult Ministry Director and they can get you the discussion guides for this.

Additional Questions and Resources

visit communitychristian.org/nextsteps

1. Have you considered getting baptized? communitychristian.org/baptism
2. If someone is seeking professional counseling, you can always refer them to our resource page: communitychristian.org/support
3. Find out more about having a YOU+ conversation by visiting communitychristian.org/you/