

Heroes of Scripture and Screen:

Other Women and Hidden Figures

After watching the movie, read these **questions** and the Bible passage and talk about them as a family. It's best to do this right after watching the movie but you can also do it in the next day or so. The conversation could take anywhere from 10-20 minutes but we hope that it sparks an interest in noticing and sharing God throughout your daily life.

A Moment to Remember: Which moment in the movie did you like the most? Why?

Read this passage from the Bible (Mark 15:39-41, 43, 46-47; 16:1-2, 4-7, 8-11):

Now when the centurion, who stood facing him, saw that in this way he breathed his last, he said, 'Truly this man was God's Son!' There were also women looking on from a distance; among them were Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. These used to follow him and provided for him when he was in Galilee; and there were many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem. Joseph of Arimathea, a respected member of the council, who was also himself waiting expectantly for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Joseph bought a linen cloth, and taking down the body, wrapped it in the linen cloth, and laid it in a tomb that had been hewn out of the rock. He then rolled a stone against the door of the tomb. Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses saw where the body was laid. When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back. As they entered the tomb, they saw a young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting on the right side; and they were alarmed. But he said to them, 'Do not be alarmed; you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. He has been raised; he is not here. Look, there is the place they laid him. So they went out and fled from the tomb, for terror and amazement had seized them; and they said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid. Now after he rose early on the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, from whom he had cast out seven demons. She went out and told those who had been with him, while they were mourning and weeping. But when they heard that he was alive and had been seen by her, they would not believe it.

If you have the time, take a look at this Venn Diagram and talk about whether it lines up with how you interpret the scripture and the movie (or just skip to the rest of the questions):

TARAH P. HENSON ANITA W. SPENCER JANET MONAE KEVIN COSTNER KIRSTEN DUNST JIM PARSONS

HIDDEN FIGURES

Mary M.

Poor woman living in Roman-occupied Palestine.

Follows Jesus.

Understands Jesus more thoroughly than maybe any other person (on par with the angels).

Overlooked.

Treated as less than.

Invaluable.

Elevated by the visionary leaders.

Elevated by their own merits.

Steadfast.

Katherine

Black woman living in segregated American South.

Works for NASA.

Does rocket science in her head better than any other person (and the computer).

Theme in Scripture – Living the Impossible:

Jesus had many disciples beyond the twelve most famous, many of whom were women. These followers of Jesus were all living the impossible. Day after day Jesus did and said things that they had never seen or heard before. Many thought the miracles would never end, so when he died on the cross, it came as a shock. Ironically, when the greatest miracle of all came along—the resurrection—they chose not to believe. They were not the women. The women never stopped believing, so when Jesus returned they were already at the center of the story. Mary Magdalene is found at the heart of it all by Jesus. The men had to be brought back into the story. **What prepared the women to stick with Jesus when the men were giving up?**

Theme on the Screen – Living the Impossible:

Katherine, Dorothy, and Mary faced the intersecting prejudices of racism and sexism. They were also faced with the seemingly impossible task of putting a person into space. But being the most capable people in the room did not mean they were the most trusted or respected in accomplishing that task. Some people in the movie like Harrison and Vivian eventually realize that by holding back the “hidden figures” they are holding back the success of their mission.

What made the women more prepared to achieve the impossible than anyone else at NASA?

The Scene that Says it All: Which scene in the movie best represents this theme of living the impossible. Why? *(Is it when Mary convinces the judge to let her go to school, or when Dorothy fixes the computer, or when Katherine solves the equation, or another scene?)*

Bonus question: If you had the chance to travel to space, would you rather go to Mars, the moon, or stay on earth!?