

The Women Who Knew . . .

Huldah, Miriam, Deborah, Abigail, Esther, Hannah and Sarah

Session 7 - Sarah: Is Anything Too Wonderful for the Lord

Talkback with Professor Deborah

Genesis 21:1-8

- 1) Sarah's pregnancy points to God's capacity for doing the miraculous but also to the value of beloved disciples in their deeply advanced years. Are there senior members of your family or congregation who have (and do) inspire you today? And who in the faith community (senior or not!) helps you to express holy laughter?

They Knew Something

- 2) Sarah has been through some rough stuff in her faith journey, and yet she does not lose her capacity for laughter. Name some of her struggles and flaws, but also cite attributes of hers which you find to be most commendable. In the case of Sarah, what did she know?

Jesus and the Women

- 3) Describe the various emotions which may have been experienced by Mary Magdalene on Easter morning (John 20:1-18). Identify elements in the scene which symbolize "good as dead." Then identify symbols in the story which promote Easter faith. What do you think makes Mary an effective preacher of the gospel?

Go Deeper

- 4) Create a list of "one word" descriptors for each of the seven prophetesses we have studied. Recalling the delight of Genesis 18:14 ("*Is anything too wonderful for the Lord?*"), create a few seven-word descriptors of the church as you have known it in the past...and as you *would like* to see it in days ahead.