



What Shall We Do With The Women?



Assorted activities designed
to use alongside the Unlock
Bible Women cartoon
banners

Bible Women Resource Pack Contents

Contents	Page 2
Unlocking Bible Women in Woodhouse	Pages 3-5
Suggested activities	Pages 6-10
Coloured hearts template	Pages 11-12
Basket themes template	Page 13
Jigsaw pieces template	Page 14
Dr Who	Page 15
Place of Women event	Pages 16-17
Sample publicity	Page 18
Sample community group invitations	Pages 19-20
Nominate Women who changed . . . notices	Page 21
Bible Women posters to colour	Pages 22-27
Information about Unlock	Pages 28-29





ing Bible Women in Woodhouse

Siggy, is the Unlock worker in Woodhouse, Sheffield. To mark the 100th anniversary of women's suffrage in 2018 Siggy used her cartoon drawing skills to offer an opportunity for the mixture of church and community folks who come along to the church's coffee mornings and lunch clubs to learn and to think about women in the Bible as well as other women in more recent history.

Siggy tells the story: -

The highlight of the last month has got to be the work I'm doing on the **Bible Women**. It's growing like 'Topsy' and has generated more discussion on the Bible than in the last two years. I started this with a list of modern women chosen by women using the church, but once I began transferring them with their Biblical counterparts onto the poster roll, people began to suggest further women. This was from people who had been a part of the original discussion, but now the men and other women were making suggestions. One man even came in with an English Heritage magazine that had an article on women honoured with a blue plaque and asked if I could include them too.



People who come to the lunch club have stopped by to ask what I'm doing - it's usually quite hard to engage with these folks, because they're busy eating, and you can't really get them to join in when they're having a meal. So for them to approach me has been grand. I've also had the staff who bring the group of people with learning difficulties come to talk to me. They have never taken any notice of my activities before. And the greatest delight was that a man I had called out for racist remarks at the time of the EU referendum came to see what I was doing and stopped for a chat. Ever since I challenged him I have spoken to him every time I have seen him and his wife, determined to be Christ-like in my approach, so for him to be interested in what I'm doing is exciting frontline stuff.



The Slimming World group, I'm told, has had some discussions as a result of the pictures because Deborah features and the lady who runs Slimming World is also called Deborah and she hadn't known the origin of her name. This led to another woman then wanting to know if her name would figure on the poster roll. There has been talk around Sarah, Hagar and their place in the Jewish and Muslim faiths; discussion from both Christian and non-believers alike around characters they didn't know about; and some have even gone home to do further research on some of the Biblical characters. I was particularly pleased about this last, as that includes a couple of very knowledgeable local preachers!



I draw the next characters on to the poster roll when I am at coffee morning (or in one instance, at the Wednesday Art Club). Having said that, at the last two or three coffee mornings I have not managed to draw anything at all because I've been too busy talking!

I think the nature of the work is very approachable and safe. People are always interested to watch people drawing, and I think people have come to chat because they want to see what I'm doing. And because its cartoons, it's safe enough for people to ask questions. I've been very surprised and very excited at the reaction.

The following pages include a range of different activities that can be used alongside having the Bible Women banners on display; to help people explore the stories and the place of women in the Bible and the world.

Choose one of the uncoloured pictures of the women that you are drawn to.



Colour it in and as you do so reflect on the woman's story and any similarities you feel there may be between her story and your own.

Look at the drawings of the women. Think about the following questions and discuss them with those around you.

- Are there any women here that surprise you?
- That you agree with being included or that you disagree with?
- Do any of the women's actions, choices or influence speak into your own experiences on your faith journey?
- Is there anything that resonates with you?
- Can you see a bigger picture emerging?





“I am the vine; you are the branches.

If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

If you do not remain in me, you are like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.

If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you.

This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples

John 15:1-5

Take a grape (or two) - As you eat them think about the fruitfulness and richness that comes when we work together and live as our unique selves in the plans that God has for us, connected to the vine. Think of the fruitfulness that has come from the lives of the women displayed.



Where has God brought fruit from your life?
Where would you like to see him bring fruit?

Read the Poem "The Lord of One"
Take a jigsaw piece and write on it your name and a skill that you have that God has given you.
Think about the poem as you connect your piece to the jigsaw.
Read what the people who have



come before you have written.
Think about the bigger picture that you are part of in God's plan.



THE LORD OF ONE



I am the Lord of the multitude,
And of the one

Creation itself shaped to fit
The sound of your voice,
The touch of your step



How it causes me to weep,
When they do not see,
The difference they make
Is magnified to me
And brings me joy.

Person who feels insignificant,
And of little worth.

Fingerprints



I am the great tapestry
weaver,

designed long before
the world came into being

Painting artist,

I lovingly withdraw



Creator and finisher of
divine puzzles ,

from willing hands

Placing all,
In its rightful place.

that once were mine
the gifts you bear

Do not feel small,
Lost within an unknown plan,

To create a larger plan
my treasured piece

Of spiritual design.
For you were created
By my loving hands

if absent leaves a painful void
The universe incomplete.

For you were created

Hate not your place, my child

By my loving hands

And long for another's,

Do not despise your shape,

Your colour and your size,

For you uniquely enhance

before my heavenly eyes

A picture of eternal love.



you work not alone

It is all one,

One prayer, hope, plan

One future

My future

No accidents fall from my grasp,
As I am, so you are,

Yet my children cry,

"What can I do, I am only one?"



Of divine worth and power,

Holding the very fabric,

Of this fragile world,

Together,

Loved by me

Lord of the multitude

and of the one..

Enslaving your divinity

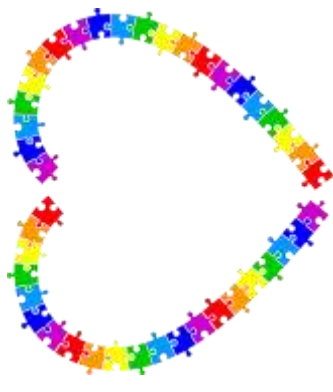
And your heart

so

Accept the truth,

You are a colour

a thread



Take a heart from any of the baskets that you feel drawn to. Using the colour code and the themes in the baskets reflect and write or draw your thoughts on some hearts.

You can decorate your hearts using the stickers etc provided.



Hang the heart up on the display as a prayer alongside the others





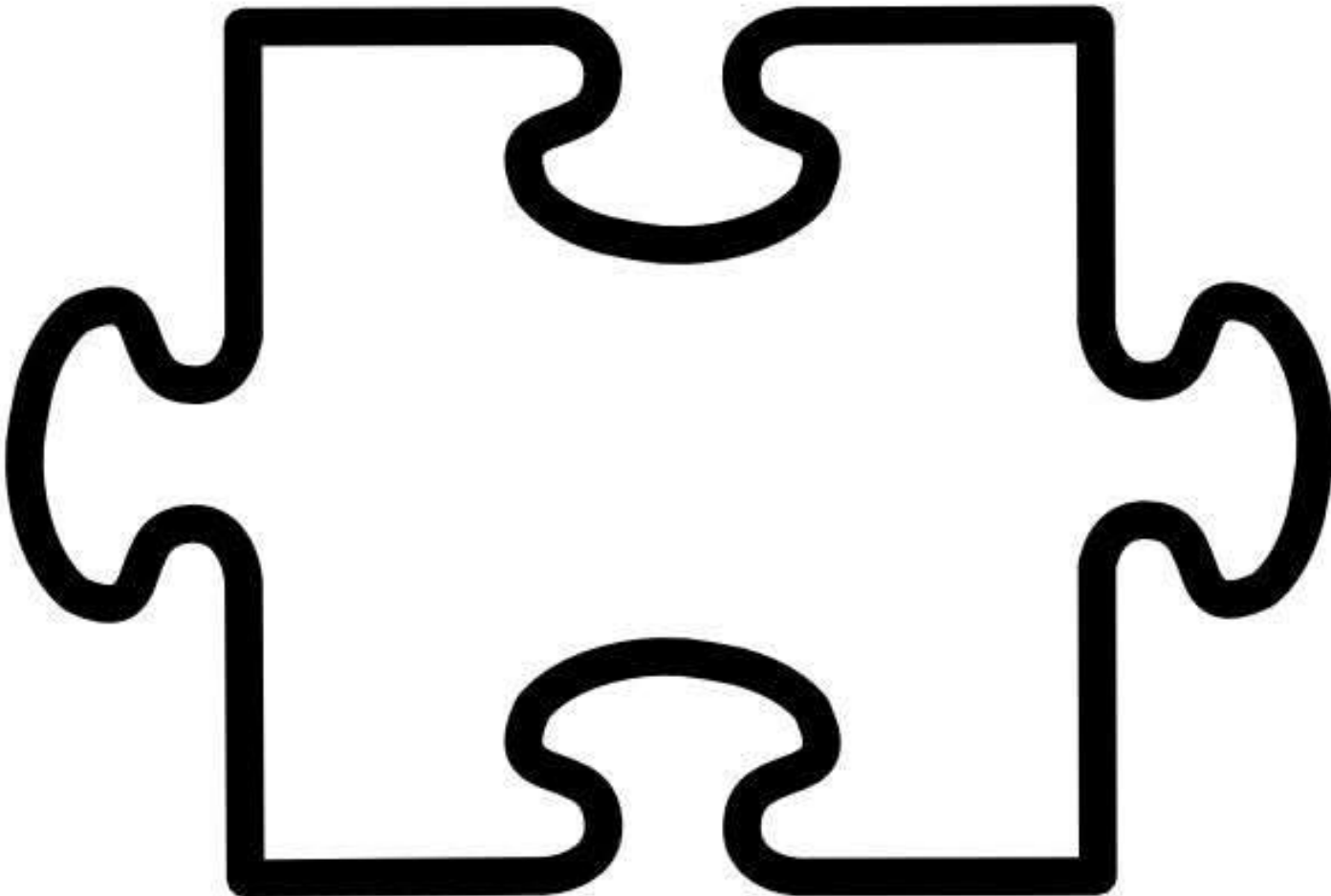
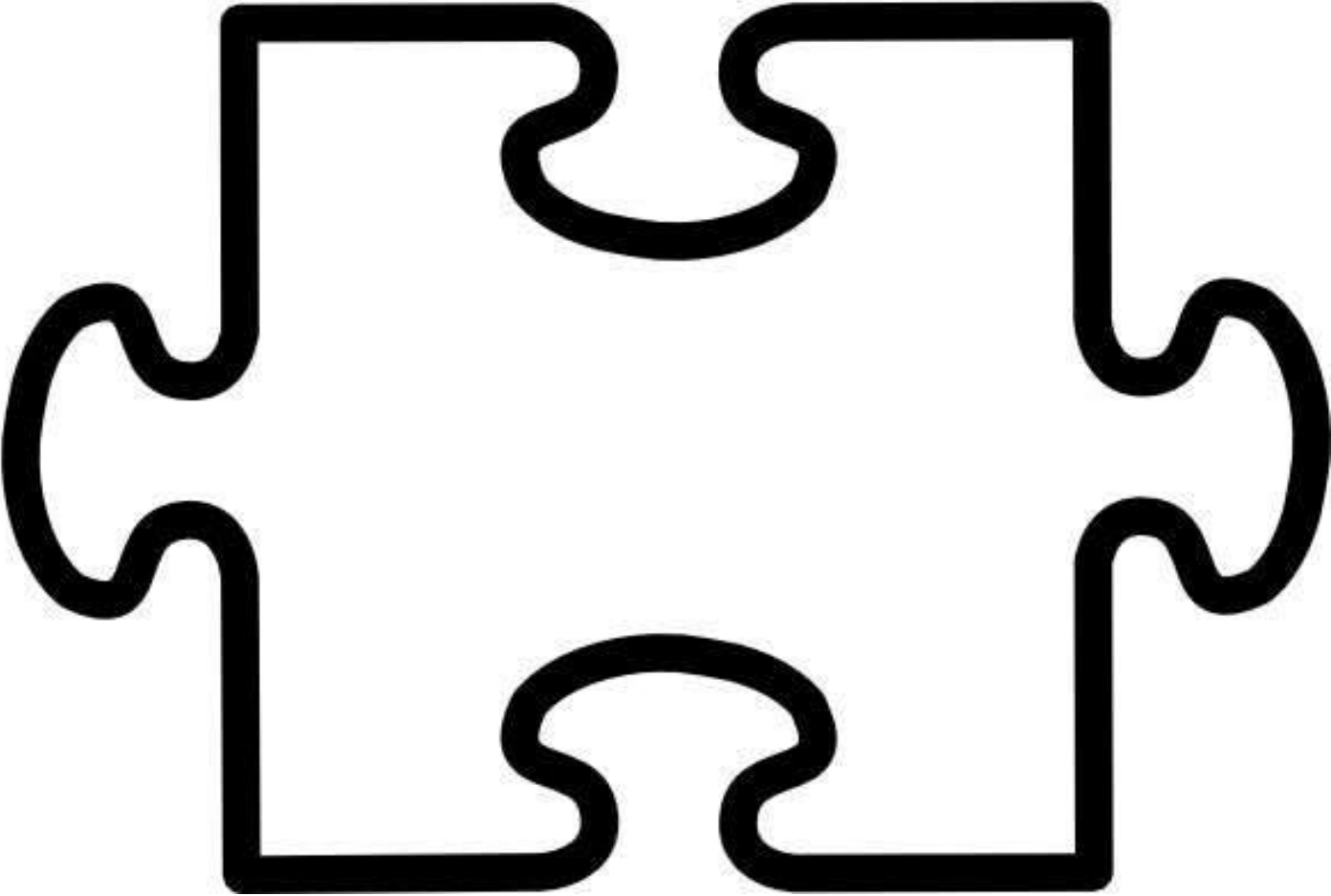


*Things to be
angry about
for women*

*Things to
celebrate for
women*

*Things to be
sad about for
women*

*Things to hope
for women*



JODIE WHITTAKER



FIRST FEMALE
DOCTOR WHO!!!

STINKING WEASEL 2018

Which Bible women can you think of whose stories connect with the first female Dr Who?

The Place of Women



Having the Bible Women banners on display creates a unique opportunity to connect with your local community.

The images and stories of the women create connections with many aspects of human life and the lives of local communities.

One church created a participative community event which they called 'The Place of Women' to which all sorts of local organisations were invited as contributors. What they brought to the event was not necessarily Christian but their displays sat alongside the Bible women and each threw light onto the other, with each attracting more different people into the space where they could encounter the Bible Women and their stories. Not being overly prescriptive about what organisations brought to the event was deliberate—we wanted to leave people free to interpret the theme and engage in whatever way seemed most relevant to them.

The 'Place of Women' was so popular that the church decided to keep the displays up for two full weeks (rather than the 4 hours originally planned) so that more people could come and see them.

Alongside this was a Sunday sermon series highlighting the stories of some of the women on the banners - including those whose stories rarely appear in Sunday lectionary readings.

See sample publicity on page 17 and invitations on pages 18 & 19.



The Vicar writes : -

It has been a joy and a privilege to house Bible women. We had them in church for an extended period and took the opportunities they offered to focus our preaching and teaching through Lent, Holy week and Easter Sunday, through the lens of women's experience. This gave us, as a congregation, the opportunity to engage with some very thorny and contemporary issues and to focus on how all these stories of complexity and pain are woven into Jesus's DNA through the women in his ancestry. Simply having the women in church was a powerful conversation starter and stimulated a number of creative and useful conversations with a diverse range of people. Inviting the community in to be part of a Resource day focussing on issues pertaining to women, called 'The Place of Women', helped us get the most out of the opportunities the women created. The different contributors came from a very broad range of starting points and the event was an effective eye opener for the community challenging their preconceptions about the Church's attitude to women and women in history. Very practically it allowed us as a small church with limited resources to offer something meaningful into the community because it didn't call on us to resource the event, simply to coordinate it round the focal point of the Bible Women.

Lisa Shemilt, Associate Minister of St Lawrence, Heanor.

- Sunday February 17th (10.30am) — Meet women from history and from the Bible and the women who Jesus called a *'bitch'*.
- Sunday Feb 24th (10.30am) — meet an unnamed woman and hear the difference a voice from the edge can make
- Sunday March 3rd (10.30am) — meet **Ruth** and discover the difference a good man can make
- Sunday March 10th (9.00am) — meet **Tamar**: a woman scorned
- Sunday March 17th (10.30am) — meet **Rahab**: a woman redeemed
- Sunday March 24th (10.30am) — meet **Bathsheba**; and hear a story of abuse; the gift that keeps on giving
- Sunday March 31st (10.30am) — Mothering Sunday: **Mary** — God Bearer; pain bearer
- Sunday April 21st (10.30am) — Easter Sunday including the story of Mary Magdalen; Apostle to the apostles

The Place of Women

- in history and community
is coming to Heanor



St Lawrence Heanor is hosting a display of cartoons and stories of women in history and the Bible from February 17th to April 21st 2019.

There will be a special event in the church from 10.00am until

1.00pm on Saturday March 16h

This will include refreshments, displays by local organisations and activities for all ages.

Meanwhile in church we will be using the Sundays between Feb 17th and April 21st to explore the place of Women in the Bible.

Template for a letter to local community organisations which included:-

- Town council
- Local History Society
- Girl Guides
- Knit and Natter group
- Mothers Union
- Campaign groups on women's issues
- WI
- Local Youth groups
- Local Schools

The Place of Women

Dear Soandso

St *Whathername's* Church are privileged to be able to display an extensive collection of cartoons of remarkable **Women from History and the Bible** in *venue* from *date* until *date*. We'd like to use this opportunity and this engaging artwork to invite the local community to take a wider look at the place of women in both history and the community and we'd like *name of local organisation* to consider being involved.



On *day and date*, to coincide with the Women from History and the Bible display, we will host a market place style event in the church from *time* until *time* which will include displays on the theme of '**The Place of Women**'. The event will be free, open to the public and refreshments will be provided. We'd like to invite *name of local organisation* to be part of that event.

It would really help our planning if you could complete the attached *declaration of interest* and return it to us at the address above as soon as possible. This will help us design appropriate publicity and tackle the next stages of planning the event.

If you'd prefer to discuss your ideas please contact either the *role and name*, on *phone number and or e-mail address* or *role and name, phone number and or e-mail address* with any questions you want to ask.

Best wishes

signature

Name – Role

Name – Role

The Place of Women

St Whatsername's Church *Anytown, Day and date from start time until finishing time.*

Declaration of Interest on behalf of
(organization)

Made by (Full name*)

E-mail address

Telephone number

Postal address

Our organisation are (please circle or cross out as appropriate)

Committed to being involved in this event

Interested in being involved in this event

Unsure about being involved in this event (please contact us to discuss it further)

Unavailable to be involved in this event

We'd like to participate by
.....
.....
.....
..... (Please share your idea here

briefly – we were thinking of exhibitions, displays, audiovisual resources, activities, etc but you might have other ideas and we'd like to know about those too.)

Please complete this form and return it to *postal address*, or e-mail address by *date*.

This does not commit your organisation to anything other than exploring possibilities at this stage but we will need firm decisions by *date* so that further publicity can be arranged.

**This person will be treated as the contact for the purposes of this event.*

Your contact details will only be stored and used for the purposes of this event and will not be passed on to anyone else without your permission. For St Whathername's Church's full privacy statement please see relevant web-link

Nominate women
who have changed

.....

Science

This town

Your life

Art

Education

Industry

DEBORAH WAS HUGEY INFLUENTIAL IN HER DAY. BUT! COMPARE HER AIR TIME WITH THAT OF HER MALE PEERS... IT'S ALMOST NOTHING

DEBORAH

AN IMPORTANT PROPHET AND CONSIDERED VERY WISE. THE ONLY FEMALE JUDGE IN THE BOOK OF JUDGES.

SHIRLEY WILLIAMS

THE FEMALE PRIME MINISTER WE NEVER HAD, ONE OF THE FOUR REBELS WHO FOUNDED THE SOCIAL DEMOCRAT PARTY IN 1981. QUITE A FEAT IN POLITICS THEN.



MO MOWLAN

ENGINEERED THE NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE PROCESS, WORKING CLOSELY WITH IRA LEADERS - ALMOST UNTHINKABLE AT THE TIME, BUT NOW SHE'S ALL BUT WRITTEN OUT OF THE STORY



BARBARA CASTLE

BEST KNOWN FOR HER SUPPORT OF THE DAGENHAM MACHINISTS, SHE WAS ALSO RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BREATHYLISER; THE 70MPH SPEED LIMIT; AND THE INTRODUCTION OF SEATBELTS

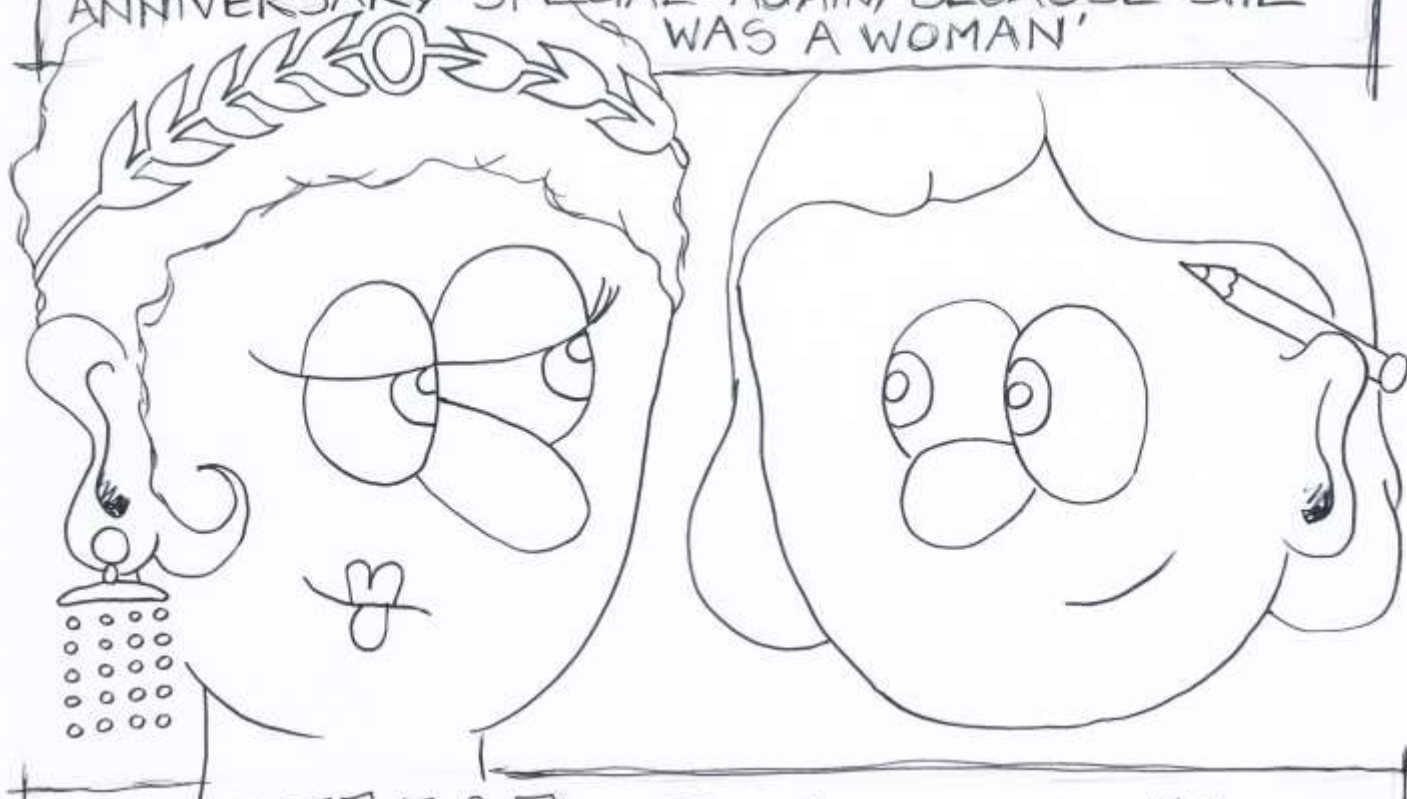


STINKING WEASEL 2019

DELIA DERBYSHIRE

AN ELECTRONICA MUSICIAN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE 'DOCTOR WHO' THEME TUNE, ORIGINALLY REFUSED WORK BY DECCA 'BECAUSE SHE WAS A WOMAN'. SHE CREATED MUSIC FOR THE BBC RADIOPHONIC WORKSHOP FOR 11 YEARS, CREATING MUSIC FOR ALMOST 200 RADIO AND TV PROGRAMMES. SHE WASN'T CREDITED FOR HER DOCTOR WHO THEME UNTIL THE PROGRAMME'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL - AGAIN, 'BECAUSE SHE WAS A WOMAN'

STINKING NEASEL 2019



ATHALIA, QUEEN THE DAUGHTER OF JUDAH

OF QUEEN JEZEBEL (NOT THE PROSTITUTE), SHE WAS THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE BIBLE TO HAVE REIGNED AS A MONARCH IN HER OWN RIGHT. SHE CAME TO POWER WHEN HER ENTIRE FAMILY WAS WIPED OUT IN A POWER GRAB. SHE WAS SPARED BECAUSE SHE 'WAS ONLY A WOMAN'. SHE WAS AN ABSOLUTE TRAILBLAZER, AND THE TEMPLE PRIESTS, WHO HAD ORCHESTRATED THE KILLINGS, WERE INCENSED. AND THEY WERE THE ONES WHO WROTE THE HISTORY OF JUDAH, PORTRAYING ATHALIA AS THE GREATEST VILLAIN EVER TO HAVE STALKED THE BIBLE.

GOMER

WIFE OF HOSEA, SHE WAS 'WAYWARD', AND PLAYED AWAY - ONE OF HER LOVERS ENSLAVED HER; HOSEA WAS INSTRUCTED BY GOD TO RESCUE HER AND TAKE HER BACK. HOSEA GETS ALL THE CREDIT AS A MALE PROPHET, BUT IT IS GOMER GOD USES TO SYMBOLISE THE STORY HE WANTS TO TELL. WITHOUT HER, HOSEA WOULD HAVE NOTHING TO SAY - WITHOUT HER, HE WOULD HAVE HAD NO MINISTRY



ADA LOVELACE

THE FIRST COMPUTER PROGRAMMER. SHE WORKED WITH CHARLES BABBAGE, INVENTOR OF THE ANALYTICAL ENGINE - A COMPUTER. BUT IT WAS SHE WHO INVENTED ALGORITHMS THAT WERE TO MAKE IT WORK. WITHOUT HER, HIS ENGINE WOULDN'T HAVE 'ADDED' UP TO MUCH. BUT IT IS STILL HE WHO GETS ALL THE CREDIT, AND IS REMEMBERED FOR HIS WORK - BUT IT WAS ADA WHO MADE IT WORK - AND IS FORGOTTEN



CAN YOU THINK OF ANY MODERN WOMEN WHO TURNED DIRE CIRCUMSTANCE INTO SUCCESS? WHO WERE CELEBRATED FOR THEIR DERRING-DO?

Why is Judith a hero, and Delilah is not? Didn't they do the same thing?

JUDITH

THE JEWS ARE HEAVILY SUBDUED BY NEBUCHADNEZZAR'S ARMY, LED BY COMMANDER HOLOFERNES. JUDITH SEDUCES HIM, GETS HIM DRUNK AND CHOPS OFF HIS HEAD WITH HIS OWN SWORD. THE JEWISH ARMY COMES OVER ALL BRAVE AS A RESULT AND DEFEATS THE ENEMY. AND LO, JUDITH IS A HERO



HEDY LAMARR

YOU MIGHT REMEMBER HER AS A HOLLYWOOD ACTRESS IN THE '30s AND '40s. BUT SHE WAS ALSO AN ACCREDITED INVENTOR, DEVELOPING A RADIO GUIDANCE SYSTEM FOR ALLIED TORPEDOS. THIS WORK IS THE BASIS OF BLUE-TOOTH TECHNOLOGY



QUEEN OF SHEBA

LIKE HEDY, SHE IS REMEMBERED FOR BEING PRETTY. BUT SHEBA WAS JUST AS CLEVER AND POWERFUL AS HER CONTEMPORARY, KING SOLOMON. SHE IS DEPICTED BY EARLY WRITERS AS THE EMBODIMENT OF DIVINE WISDOM.



JOSEPHINE BUTLER

ENGLISH FEMINIST AND SOCIAL REFORMER IN THE VICTORIAN ERA. SHE CAMPAIGNED FOR WOMEN'S SUFFRAGE; THE RIGHT OF WOMEN TO BETTER EDUCATION; THE END OF COVERTURE - WHEREUPON ALL A WOMAN'S GOODS/MONEY/BELONGINGS AUTOMATICALLY BECOME THE PROPERTY OF HER HUSBAND; AND THE ABOLITION OF CHILD PROSTITUTION

THE FIVE DAUGHTERS OF ZELOPHEHAD

THESE GIRLS, MAHLA, NOA, HOGLAH, MILCAH AND TIRZAH, STOOD FEARLESS AND FIRM, AND AS A RESULT CHANGED THE CULTURE OF THEIR DAY - JUST LIKE JOSEPHINE. BECAUSE THEY SPOKE UP, THEY REVERSED PRECEDENT AND CLAIMED RIGHTFUL POSSESSION OF THEIR FATHER'S INHERITANCE. THEIR STORY IS TOLD IN THE BOOK OF NUMBERS





RAHAB

PROTECTED HEBREW SPIES SENT BY JOSHUA TO JERICHO. SHE PUT THEM UP AND PROTECTED THEM, EVEN THOUGH SHE WAS A WELL KNOWN PROSTITUTE. SHE IS MENTIONED IN JESUS' LINEAGE - RARE IN A PATRILINEAL SOCIETY

CAN YOU THINK OF A WOMAN WHO WORKED UNDERCOVER AND THEN GIVEN A POOR REPUTATION AS A RESULT? WOULD CHRISTINE KEELER HAVE HAD SUCH A BAD PRESS IF SHE'D BEEN ACCUSED OF PASSING RUSSIAN SECRETS TO THE ENGLISH INSTEAD OF THE OTHER WAY ROUND?

ARE THERE ANY WOMEN YOU CAN THINK OF WHOSE LIVES MIGHT NOT BE CONSIDERED RESPECTABLE BUT WHO DID SOMETHING VERY DANGEROUS FOR THE GOOD OF OTHERS? MATA HARI PERHAPS?

DELILAH

IN THE PAY OF THE PHILISTINES SHE SEDUCED AND BETRAYED SAMSON, CUTTING OFF HIS HAIR AND DELIVERING HIM TO THE ENEMY. IN ESSENCE, SHE WAS A SPY, WHO WAS A HONEYTRAP. SHE'S CONSIDERED A 'BADDIE' BY THE MEN WHO WROTE HER STORY. COMPARE HER TO JUDITH, WHO'S CALLED A HERO



Introducing Unlock

Unlock, by various names, has been around since 1972, trying to help (mainly) urban Christians to understand and share their faith appropriately. Our life experience matters; our stories; our joys and sorrows. The Bible has plenty to say, more than we'll ever know, about our lives, if we know how to read it and apply it - if we know how to **UNLOCK** it!

The work outlined in this pack uses the learning cycle on page 28, **starting by using a 'prompt'** or ice breaker to draw out group member's stories, in this case; 'tell me about important and influential women in history that you can think of'. Allow plenty of time for people to respond to the prompts and share their own experiences and listen carefully as they do. What are the themes and issues arising in the stories? Try to remember so that you can remind people later if necessary.

The next stage is to **find part of the Bible** that comes to mind having listened to the stories. If you are using these sessions with a non-church group you will need to be ready to provide some Bible links, but only if they are unable to do so. It is always worth giving them a chance to come up with a Bible link for themselves first; they may surprise you! Then ask the group to explore **connections**, similarities or differences.

Finally there is a **reflective activity**, giving people an opportunity to reflect on the session and any action they might want to take as a result. The reflective activity creates space in which discussion and reflection can continue in an unforced way. In this case, colouring in the posters.

How well the group know and trust one another will affect the type of story that they share, often the newer the group, the more light hearted the stories are likely to be.

Unlock uses an approach to engaging with the Bible that is different to traditional Bible studies (see page 29). Unlock's approach starts from the stories and experiences of group members, whereas a more traditional approach starts from the Biblical text. Unlock's approach has been found to work well with small groups of urban, oral learners from outside of the church. There are many free resources on the Unlock website designed for use with such groups. However, because each of these resources was designed for a particular group in a particular time and place they are unlikely to be a perfect fit for your group as they stand. They are offered more as inspiration to you to design your own materials along the same lines, rather than as ready to use packages.

Unlock usually works with people outside of church who may be interested in finding out a bit more about faith but perhaps are not attracted to the formal methods of learning often associated with church. Our work is based on a reflective learning cycle and is a tried and tested way of introducing people to the Bible in a non-threatening way. Many churches have activities that draw in members of their surrounding community but then struggle with how to move on from those relationships into exploring faith, especially in urban environments where anything formal might be treated with suspicion.

Unlock Materials

These materials have been produced by Unlock. The user obtains no rights to these materials.

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Do not use these materials for commercial purposes.

Do reproduce any material in full, rather than editing it.

Acknowledge both the author and Unlock, including a contact address for Unlock.

Obtain advance permission from Unlock if the material is to be distributed to a network wider than a local church group.

The Unlock Learning Cycle

Unlocking real life

stories of urban people

Start with the group telling stories from their real life experience.

Leading to more experience

What we learn now is learnt for life and changes us. We also learn to keep reflecting!

Releasing life changing skills and confidence

Change happens as a result of linking real life experience with the Bible. This change often leads to action among others.

Revealing Good News of the Down to Earth Christ

The real life stories are connected to and compared with similar situations in the Bible.



This resource has been developed by an Unlock worker in Sheffield.

The sessions were developed to meet the needs of specific groups of local people.

If you have any queries relating to Unlock materials, please contact:

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