
GROWTH GROUP

Woman To Woman

I'M WORKING ON ME

TUESDAYS
AT 7:00PM

Meeting ID: 823 5442 8666
Passcode: 956573

ZOOM ONLY

Study Workbook

Woman To Woman

I'm Working On Me

STUDY WORKBOOK

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GreaterLife

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DESCRIPTION

Are you living the life you always dreamed? If not, there's good news. Change is possible! In the “I’m Working On Me” Growth Group, you'll discover six individuals who met Jesus and were never the same.

With God’s help, we can look deep within ourselves to clean up anything that does not please Him or goes against His purpose for our life. Use the questions and journaling space each week to reflect on how God can help you in your efforts to work on you for HIS glory.

Week 1

I'm Working On Me

The Life Of Mary

Luke 1:26–38 NKJV

²⁶ Now in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, ²⁷ to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. ²⁸ And having come in, the angel said to her, "Rejoice, highly favored one, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women!" ²⁹ But when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and considered what manner of greeting this was. ³⁰ Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. ³¹ And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bring forth a Son, and shall call His name Jesus. ³² He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. ³³ And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end." ³⁴ Then Mary said to the angel, "How can this be, since I do not know a man?" ³⁵ And the angel answered and said to her, "The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Highest will overshadow you; therefore, also, that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God. ³⁶ Now indeed, Elizabeth your relative has also conceived a son in her old age; and this is now the sixth month for her who was called barren. ³⁷ For with God nothing will be impossible." ³⁸ Then Mary said, "Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word." And the angel departed from her.

Mary's life was marked by her belief in God's ability to do the impossible. She was a seemingly normal, young girl when an angel appeared and told her she was going to have a baby as a virgin.

Hebrew law dictated that Mary should've been killed for having sex outside marriage, and she was engaged to a man who might not have believed her story about the angel. Despite these circumstances, Mary chose to respond in faith, *"I am the Lord's servant...May your word to me be fulfilled"* (**Luke 1:38**).

Imagine what her pregnancy was like or what it was like to be the mother of the man who created everything. The power of God was inside her womb. Jesus grew up before her eyes, becoming strong and filled with wisdom (**Luke 2:40**).

Mary was there for it all. She saw Jesus' character shaped through His experiences. She saw her suspicions about Him proved through His actions. She became not only Jesus' mother on Earth but also a devoted disciple.

God worked through a humble woman to change the course of human history. Mary was faithful with little and then with much. God trusted her with an intangible promise and then with a child: our Savior.

No matter what others said about her or her son, Mary believed. And in the end, her faith was satisfied as she saw the prophecies about Jesus become reality through His death and resurrection.

Week 2

I'm Working On Me

The Life Of Andrew

Mark 1:16-17 NKJV

¹⁶ And as He walked by the Sea of Galilee, He saw Simon and Andrew his brother casting a net into the sea; for they were fishermen. ¹⁷ Then Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men."

As the son of a fisherman, Andrew would have spent hours learning his dad's trade and preparing to follow in his footsteps. Day after day, Andrew and his dad cast their nets until, on one seemingly mundane fishing trip, Jesus lured Andrew with an invitation: "*Come follow me and I will send you out to fish for people*" (**Mark 1:17**). Jesus extends the same offer to each of us. As Andrew soon learned, life change starts when we accept Jesus' invitation and follow Him.

"Change starts when we accept Jesus' invitation and follow Him."

Andrew had heard about Jesus and probably heard some of Jesus' preaching (**John 1:35-42**), but this was only the beginning of Andrew's journey with Jesus. Because Andrew had faith, he was willing to follow Jesus and leave the life he was accustomed to. As a result, Andrew witnessed numerous miracles including Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection.

Jesus was no longer a distant celebrity or rumored messiah. As one of Jesus' 12 disciples, Andrew knew Jesus intimately and personally. But this relationship only began after Andrew left his former life for the new life Jesus had to offer.

Week 3

I'm Working On Me

The Rich Man

Mark 10:17-27 NKJV

17 Now as He was going out on the road, one came running, knelt before Him, and asked Him, "Good Teacher, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?" 18 So Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good but One, that is, God. 19 You know the commandments: 'Do not commit adultery,' 'Do not murder,' 'Do not steal,' 'Do not bear false witness,' 'Do not defraud,' 'Honor your father and your mother.' " 20 And he answered and said to Him, "Teacher, all these things I have kept from my youth." 21 Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." 22 But he was sad at this word, and went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. With God All Things Are Possible 23 Then Jesus looked around and said to His disciples, "How hard it is for those who have riches to enter the kingdom of God!" 24 And the disciples were astonished at His words. But Jesus answered again and said to them, "Children, how hard it is for those who trust in riches to enter the kingdom of God! 25 It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God." 26 And they were greatly astonished, saying among themselves, "Who then can be saved?" 27 But Jesus looked at them and said, "With men it is impossible, but not with God; for with God all things are possible."

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A wealthy man approached Jesus and asked what he could do to inherit eternal life. The man sensed that Jesus was a good teacher and wanted help because his lifestyle of riches and rules left him empty.

When Jesus told the wealthy man to sell his belongings, give to the poor and follow Him, the man left saddened because he loved his possessions. The wealth he had gathered became a barrier to following Jesus. Some people don't change right away when they meet Jesus. Change can be a process, not just a moment.

Jesus wanted to change the wealthy man's life, but He wanted the man to want to change. Unfortunately, the man resisted change when Jesus called him into a better life.

Our identity is shaped by our provider, not our possessions.

God wants us to live completely devoted to Him, not chained to our possessions or status. Our identity is shaped by our provider, not our possessions.

Jesus is better than our possessions. God has generously given us Jesus, and He asks us to dedicate ourselves to Him, because God wants to do amazing things with our lives.

Week 4 I'm Working On Me

The Demon Possessed Girl

Matthew 15:21-28 NKJV

21 Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon. 22 And behold, a woman of Canaan came from that region and cried out to Him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." 23 But He answered her not a word. And His disciples came and urged Him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." 24 But He answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel." 25 Then she came and worshiped Him, saying, "Lord, help me!" 26 But He answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs." 27 And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." 28 Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.

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When the mother of a demon-possessed girl came to Jesus, she broke every rule of society. Jews like Jesus did not associate with non-Jews like this woman. For a non-Jewish woman to approach a Jewish man was as taboo as interracial marriage before the Civil Rights Movement. Clearly, this woman was desperate to petition Jesus for her daughter's healing.

Even after Jesus said "no," the woman was not disheartened, and her faith was not hindered. She pressed on and Jesus healed her daughter. This woman received the change she desired for her daughter because her faith was tireless, even in the face of discouraging circumstances.

Faith is the precursor to change.

This woman's courageous, persistent faith is the kind of faith God wants for us. If we want to see change in our own lives, we must have the faith to persevere.

Week 5

I'm Working On Me

The Bleeding Woman

Mark 5:25-34 NKJV

²⁵ Now a certain woman had a flow of blood for twelve years, ²⁶ and had suffered many things from many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was no better, but rather grew worse. ²⁷ When she heard about Jesus, she came behind Him in the crowd and touched His garment. ²⁸ For she said, "If only I may touch His clothes, I shall be made well." ²⁹ Immediately the fountain of her blood was dried up, and she felt in her body that she was healed of the affliction. ³⁰ And Jesus, immediately knowing in Himself that power had gone out of Him, turned around in the crowd and said, "Who touched My clothes?" ³¹ But His disciples said to Him, "You see the multitude thronging You, and You say, 'Who touched Me?' " ³² And He looked around to see her who had done this thing. ³³ But the woman, fearing and trembling, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth. ³⁴ And He said to her, "Daughter, your faith has made you well. Go in peace, and be healed of your affliction."

Looks can be deceiving. It's easy to live a life that appears perfect but lacks a desperate need for Jesus. We can know the Bible, have godly spouses, and be involved in church, but sometimes it takes significant pain to force us to fall at the Lord's feet. Sometimes, we see God's mercy best through the pain.

In **Mark 5**, Jesus encountered a woman who was driven to Him by her own weakness. For years she had lived with the same problem. She was ostracized by the society in which she lived. She was not considered fit for marriage and would not have been welcomed by the "church people" of her day. Though it was likely difficult for her to recognize, all of this was God's way of drawing the woman to Jesus.

Often, God's voice is clearest when our lives are the messiest.

Jesus changed this woman's life on the spot. At some point, many of us have believed the lie that we need to clean up before coming to the Lord. We have lived in fear that God wouldn't be able to handle the mess we have made and that we would be left to begin the cleanup process alone.

What God asks of us is to seek His help and the help of His people. God welcomes our mess, and often His voice is the clearest when our lives are the messiest.

Week 6

I'm Working On Me

Mary Magdalene

John 20:1-18 NKJV

¹ Now the first day of the week Mary Magdalene went to the tomb early, while it was still dark, and saw that the stone had been taken away from the tomb. ² Then she ran and came to Simon Peter, and to the other disciple, whom Jesus loved, and said to them, "They have taken away the Lord out of the tomb, and we do not know where they have laid Him." ³ Peter therefore went out, and the other disciple, and were going to the tomb. ⁴ So they both ran together, and the other disciple outran Peter and came to the tomb first. ⁵ And he, stooping down and looking in, saw the linen cloths lying there; yet he did not go in. ⁶ Then Simon Peter came, following him, and went into the tomb; and he saw the linen cloths lying there, ⁷ and the handkerchief that had been around His head, not lying with the linen cloths, but folded together in a place by itself. ⁸ Then the other disciple, who came to the tomb first, went in also; and he saw and believed. ⁹ For as yet they did not know the Scripture, that He must rise again from the dead. ¹⁰ Then the disciples went away again to their own homes. ¹¹ But Mary stood outside by the tomb weeping, and as she wept she stooped down and looked into the tomb. ¹² And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. ¹³ Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him." ¹⁴ Now when she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus. ¹⁵ Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" She, supposing Him to be the gardener, said to Him, "Sir, if You have carried Him away, tell me where You have laid Him, and I will take Him away." ¹⁶ Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him, "Rabboni!" (which is to say, Teacher). ¹⁷ Jesus said to her, "Do not cling to Me, for I have not yet ascended to My Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I am ascending to My Father and your Father, and to My God and your God.'" ¹⁸ Mary Magdalene came and told the disciples that she had seen the Lord, and that He had spoken these things to her.

When we love someone, we do crazy things. Mary Magdalene was consumed with love for Jesus. He changed her life. Once demon-possessed, Mary had been set free because Jesus healed her (**Luke 8:1-3**). There was no way Mary was going to forget this man. She knew He was the Savior of the world, because He had saved her when no one else could.

Jesus paid attention to Mary and had given her life value; He delivered her from torture. Jesus showed Mary that she was accepted, no questions asked.

Jesus fulfilled the most impossible promise through his resurrection.

Mary Magdalene wasn't rich. She wasn't cultured. She didn't have power or authority or much to give Jesus and she knew it. But what she did have, she gave Him: her heart and life. When Jesus rose from the dead, the first person He saw was Mary, because she was waiting by the tomb. Her passion was all-consuming and logic-defying. When Jesus fulfilled the most impossible promise through His resurrection, Mary's faith was proved right.

Reflect:

1. What has Jesus healed you from?
2. When it comes to the thousands of decisions you make each day, are you motivated by what others think or what pleases God? Why?
3. What's the craziest thing you've ever done in the name of Jesus?

