



Jesus

Knows Your Name

Small Group Study and
Devotional for Women





Introduction

Knowing that Jesus personally knows you by name is a life-changing truth. This five-session small group study from Jesus Film Project® teaches this truth using an animated short film called *Chosen Witness*. The film highlights how Jesus called Mary Magdalene by name and transformed her life. Each session includes clips from the film, discussion questions, related scripture passages and reflection questions. There is an opportunity to personally receive Jesus as Savior and Lord at the end of session four.

Truth Statements:

Each session will focus on one of the following truths.

1. We are created by God, and He has given us worth, purpose and identity.
2. We live in a broken, spiritually sick world full of selfish desires, oppression and demonic (evil, unseen) spirits that break God's intention for our identity.
3. Salvation is a free gift from God through Jesus Christ and we are given a new identity through Jesus.
4. Through Jesus, we can truly live out the life we were created for while living in a sinful world.

Scripture verses: Psalm 139:13-16; 23-24 and Ephesians 2:1-3; 8-10

Feel free to use the version or translation of the Bible you feel works best to help participants understand the content.

Session One



Looking Back

Leader: Read these questions aloud and give time for participants to engage.

- Q: What brought you to this study today?
- Q: What do you hope to learn from the study?



Looking Up

Watch the full version of [Chosen Witness](#) in the participants' heart language (the language participants know best).

Mary Magdalene was a first-century Jewish woman possessed by seven demons. She lived as an outcast in her community with no one wanting or able to help her—until she met Jesus of Nazareth.

- Q: What did you like or dislike about the video? Why?
- Q: What do you have in common with the main character (Mary Magdalene)?
- Q: Why do you think the religious elders didn't approve of Jesus?
- Q: What did you notice about Jesus in the video?
- Q: What are some examples of the ways Jesus treated people in the video?
- Q: Have you ever experienced this kind of treatment from another person? If yes, how so?
- Q: Jesus saw Mary and called her by name. Did this surprise you? Why?



Use this code to watch the short film in English on your mobile device. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project mobile app or website.

Jesus knew Mary's name even though He had never met her before. Because Jesus is God, He had the power and authority to cast out the seven demons that controlled and oppressed Mary. Jesus restored Mary's mind and healed her body, and she became one of His followers. She watched Jesus suffer and die on a cross, then she spoke with him after he rose back to life three days later.



Looking Forward

Leader: Read this section aloud and allow time for participants to engage as you close the session.

Before the next session:

Spend some time thinking about how Jesus knew Mary's name, healed her from demonic possession and offered her the chance to follow Him. Do you think He would ever call you to follow Him like Mary? In what ways might He be calling you?

Session Two



Looking Back

Leader: Read these questions aloud and give time for participants to engage.

- Q: Think about the questions from the last session. Did you spend time thinking about Jesus knowing Mary's name and calling her to follow Him? If so, what came to your mind?
- Q: Do you think Jesus would ever call you to follow Him like Mary? In what ways might He be calling you?



Looking Up

Play [Chosen Witness](#) from 00:00 - 01:31 (from the beginning of the video to the scene of Mary's declaration of becoming a follower of Jesus to her friend).

Mary Magdalene was a first-century Jewish woman possessed by seven demons. She lived as an outcast in her community with no one wanting or able to help her—until she met Jesus of Nazareth.

- Q: How was Mary treated by others because of her demon possession?
- Q: Why do you think Jesus was able to cast out the demons and heal Mary?
- Q: How would you feel if you were in Mary's place? Why?

Jesus knew Mary's name even though He had never met her before. Because Jesus is God, He had the power and authority to cast out the seven demons that controlled and oppressed Mary. Jesus restored Mary's mind and healed her body, and she became one of His followers.



Use this code to watch the segment in English on your mobile device. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project mobile app or website.

- Q: Does Jesus know each of us? (this question can be rhetorical)

Truth Statement #1: Each of us is created by God and given worth, purpose and identity.

Read: Psalm 139:13-16 (Contemporary English Version)

You are the one who put me together inside my mother's body, and I praise You for the wonderful way You created me. Everything You do is marvelous, of this I have no doubt! Nothing about me is hidden from You! I was secretly woven together out of human sight, but with Your own eyes You saw my body being formed. Even before I was born, You had written in Your book everything about me.

- Q: What does the psalmist tell us about God in this passage?
- Q: What do these verses say about you?
- Q: Do you believe these words? Why or why not? What is difficult to understand or believe? Why?
- Q: If we are created by God, what does that say about our identity or who we are?



Looking Forward

Leader: Read this section aloud and allow time for participants to engage as you close the session.

Before the next session:

Spend some time thanking God for creating you and giving you an identity and purpose as His creation. You can do that by simply praying to Him and thanking Him in your heart:

*“Heavenly Father, thank you for creating me and knowing me.
Thank you for giving me an identity and a purpose. Amen.”*

Session Three



Looking Back

Leader: Read these questions aloud and give time for participants to engage.

- Q: Did you spend any time thinking about the truth that God created you? If so, what came to mind?
- Q: What three things did God give us when He created us? (worth, purpose and identity)
- Q: If we are created by God, who are we? What is our identity?



Looking Up

Watch [Chosen Witness](#) from 01:31 - 01:56 (Jesus is confronted by the Pharisees and His declaration to call outcasts).

The Pharisees (those who questioned Jesus' association with sinners) were the religious leaders of the day. They were more concerned about keeping the law than the needs of the people. They were often very prideful, looked down upon others, and did not keep company with sinners (lawbreakers).

- Q: What did the Pharisees (religious leaders) accuse Jesus of when they asked Him: "Why do you eat and drink with tax collectors and other outcasts?"
- Q: Jesus said He came not to call the righteous (respectable people). Who *did* He come to call (draw to Himself)?
- Q: Jesus said, "People who are well do not need a doctor, but only those who are sick." What do you think He meant by that statement?

The Pharisees (religious leaders) were outraged that Jesus spent time with tax collectors and outcasts, whom they considered sinners because they didn't obey the Jewish law. Jesus proclaimed that He didn't come to call respectable people, but the outcasts and sinners. He declared Himself to be a doctor to heal the sick—both the physically sick and the spiritually sick.

- Q: What do you think it means to be spiritually sick?
- Q: How do you think that affects our worth, identity and purpose as God's creations?

Truth Statement #2: We live in a broken, spiritually sick world full of selfish desires, oppression and demonic (evil, unseen) spirits that break God's intention for our identity.

Read: Ephesians 2:1-3 (CEV)

In the past you were dead because you sinned and fought against God. You followed the ways of this world and obeyed the devil. He rules the world, and his spirit has power over everyone who doesn't obey God. Once we were also ruled by the selfish desires of our bodies and minds. We had made God angry, and we were going to be punished like everyone else.

- Q: What does this passage say about us?
- Q: According to the verses, what kind of forces are at work? (Hints: Satan/evil spirits, the world, our own sinfulness)
- Q: What can we learn about God from the video and these verses? (Hint: Remember Jesus' power over Mary's demons!)
- Q: Because of these truths, what do we deserve?

Read: Psalm 139:23-24 (CEV)

Look deep into my heart, God, and find out everything I am thinking. Don't let me follow evil ways, but lead me in the way that time has proven true.



Use this code to watch the segment in English on your mobile device. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project mobile app or website.



Looking Forward

Leader: Read this section aloud and allow time for participants to engage as you close the session.

The above passage can be said as a prayer. Before the next session, ask God to reveal anything in your life that is sinful, and ask Him to forgive you. Remember, just like he had the power to restore Mary, Jesus has power over any force of evil in our lives!

Session Four



Looking Back

Leader: Read these questions aloud and give time for participants to engage.

- Q: Did you pray the words from Psalm 139:23-24? If so, and if you are comfortable sharing, what did God reveal to you?
- Q: What have you learned from this study so far?
- Q: Do you have any questions at this time?



Looking Up

Watch [Chosen Witness](#) from 01:57 - 09:14 (Jesus' triumphal entrance into Jerusalem to the end of the video).

Mary watches as Jesus is welcomed by the people into Jerusalem as the Messiah, the King that Jewish prophecy foretold would come to rescue them. Tragically, soon after Jesus is arrested by the religious authorities, put on trial and sentenced to death on a cross. Even though Jesus is completely innocent, He is crucified, buried and resurrects from the dead three days later. The risen Jesus appears to Mary and proclaims that He has come to save His people.

- Q: What did the religious leaders accuse Jesus of at His trial? Did He deserve to die?
- Q: Was it difficult to watch Jesus being crucified? Why or why not?
- Q: What was Mary's reaction to Jesus' resurrection? How do you think you would react if you were Mary? Why?

At the end of the video, Mary remembers Jesus' words. One of the things she remembers Jesus saying is, *"The Spirit of the Lord is upon Me, because He has chosen Me to bring good news to the poor, He has sent Me to proclaim release to the captives and recover sight to the blind, to set at liberty to those who are oppressed and announce that the time has come when the Lord will save His people."*

- Q: What is the "good news" Jesus talks about?

Jesus did come to save His people as the Messiah, but not as a mighty military leader to overthrow the authorities. Instead, He came to save His people as a humble servant, living a sinless (perfect) life, and offering His life on the cross in place of our own. His resurrection conquered sin and death, allowing our identity, worth and purpose to be restored back to God.

- Q: What do we need to be rescued from? (According to Scripture, what do we deserve?)

Truth Statement #3: Salvation is a free gift from God through Jesus Christ and we are given a new identity through Jesus.

Read: Ephesians 2:8-9 (CEV)

You were saved by faith in God, who treats us much better than we deserve. This is God's gift to you, and not anything you have done on your own. It isn't something you have earned, so there is nothing you can brag about.



Use this code to watch the segment in English on your mobile device. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project mobile app or website.

- Q: What do these verses tell us about God?
 Q: How are we saved? What are we saved from?

Placing our faith in Jesus' death and resurrection as salvation from our sin can be expressed through prayer. You can pray this prayer right now in your heart:

Dear Jesus, I need You. Thank you for sacrificing Yourself to save me from the punishment for my sins. I accept Your gift and receive You as My Savior and Lord. Thank you for forgiving my sins and giving me eternal life. Thank you for giving me a new identity in You. Take control of my life. Make me into the person You made me to be. Amen.



Looking Forward

Leader: Read this section aloud and allow time for participants to engage as you close the session.

Before the next session: Spend time thinking about what Jesus has done for you, thanking Him in your heart through prayer.

Session Five



Looking Back

Leader: Read these questions aloud and give time for participants to engage.

- Q: What did the prayer from the last session mean to you?
 Q: Do you have any questions about the prayer? If so, what are your questions?
 Q: Did anything hold you back from praying the prayer from the last session? If so, what?
 Q: Did you spend time thinking about what Jesus has done for you? What did God reveal to you?



Looking Up

Watch the full version of *Chosen Witness* one last time.

- Q: Did you notice anything as you watched the video this time that you didn't notice before? If so, what?
 Q: Could you imagine yourself in Mary's place? How would you respond to Jesus?
 Q: What have you learned about Jesus through our time together?

We have learned that Jesus knows each of our names. He knows all about us and loves us deeply. He is calling each of us to follow Him, to trust in His perfect, sinless life, His death on the cross as payment for our sins. He is calling us to believe in His resurrection that conquers death and allows us to live eternally with Him in heaven. He offers this free gift to each of us and we need only to believe in faith. We can express that faith through prayer, telling God we believe in what Jesus has done for us.

Truth Statement #4: Through Jesus, we can truly live out the life we were created for, while still living in a sinful world.

Read: Ephesians 2:10 (CEV)

God planned for us to do good things and to live as he has always wanted us to live. This is why he sent Christ to make us what we are.



Use this code to watch the short film in English on your mobile device. Other languages are available on the Jesus Film Project mobile app or website.

- Q: What does this verse tell us about God?
- Q: What does it tell us about Christ (Jesus)?
- Q: What does the verse say about those, like Mary, who follow Jesus and have put their faith in Him?
- Q: How does this affect our worth, purpose and identity?

Conclusion:

- Q: Do you have new or more questions about anything we have talked about during our study?
- Q: What's one thing you have learned from our time together? Who could you share it with this week?
- Q: Like Mary, in what ways is Jesus calling you?
- Q: What "good things" might God have planned for you?



Looking Forward

Leader: Close the session in prayer as the Lord leads you.

Next Steps: As a great next step, we suggest the [Reflections of Hope Bible study](#), which uses clips from the movie *Magdalena: Released From Shame*

Jesus Knows Your Name ©2023 Jesus Film Project. All rights reserved. This study may be downloaded and printed for personal use. (Not for resale.) To ask for permission for other uses, please contact Jesus Film Project.

<https://www.jesusfilm.org>

Chosen Witness ©2021 Inspirational Films Inc

To view this film and other films please visit: <https://www.jesusfilm.org> or the [Jesus Film Project App](#).