



B A D G I R L S

OF THE



SUMMARY | Usually, we study the virtuous women in Scripture—Ruth, Esther, or any of the New Testament Marys. But the “Bad Girls of the Bible” also have much to teach us, because they wrestled with situations and sins that are oh-so-familiar. Eve had food issues. Potiphar’s wife and Delilah had man trouble. Lot’s wife and Michal couldn’t let go of the past. Sapphira couldn’t let go of money. And Jezebel couldn’t let go of anything. Yet the woman at the well had her thirst quenched at last, while Rahab and the “sinful woman” left their sordid histories behind. Each day we’ll consider one of the “bad girls of the Bible” and discover why both “good girls” and “bad girls” (and, for that matter, “good guys” and “bad guys”) need a Savior. Join Liz Curtis Higgs as she explores the stories of some of the “Bad Girls of the Bible” with the *Discover the Word* group and helps us experience God’s grace anew.

This Week’s Discussion Questions

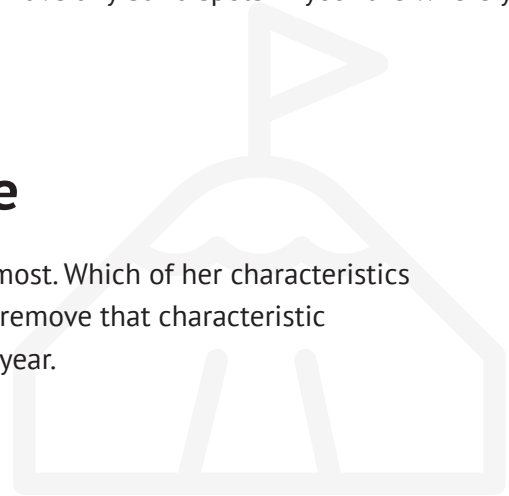
1. Read Genesis 3:1–7. Eve couldn’t stop listening to her growling stomach or marveling at how pretty the fruit was or thinking how helpful it would be to have more knowledge. Our craving for more is manifested in almost every area of our life. What do you find yourself wanting more of (yet needing less of) in life?
2. Read Genesis 39:1–23. The role Potiphar’s wife plays in Joseph’s story demonstrates what can happen when we have too much time on our hands. Boredom, restlessness, and a sense of entitlement can lead to trouble. When you have an hour to spare, are you sometimes drawn to questionable choices in movies, novels, or other forms of entertainment? What steps might you take to steer clear of those things that appeal to your flesh at the expense of your spiritual growth?
3. Read Genesis 18:16–33 and 19:1–29. The story of Lot’s wife is a sobering one. What would be the hardest person, place, or thing for you to walk away from? If God asked you to do so for your own good, how would you respond?

4. Read John 4:1–42. The woman at the well came looking for water, but found Jesus. If not at a well, where did Jesus find you? What was your initial response to His offer of eternal life?

5. Read Judges 16:1–31. Though we may not be blinded by greed like Delilah, or physically blinded like Samson, we can still suffer from blindness in other areas. Do you have any blind spots in your life where you only see what you want to see?

Challenge

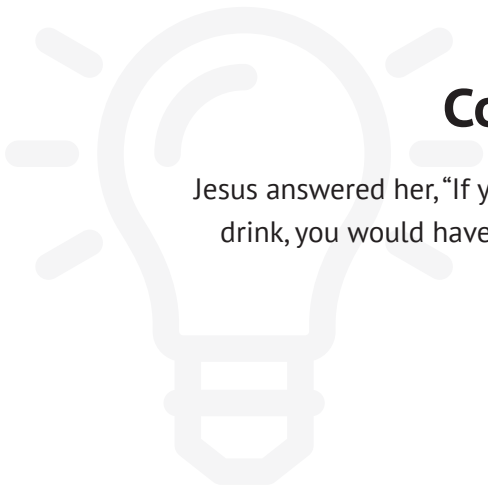
Identify which “bad girl” of the Bible you relate to most. Which of her characteristics do you see in yourself? Ask God to help you remove that characteristic or use it for good this year.



Commit To Memory

Jesus answered her, “If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water”

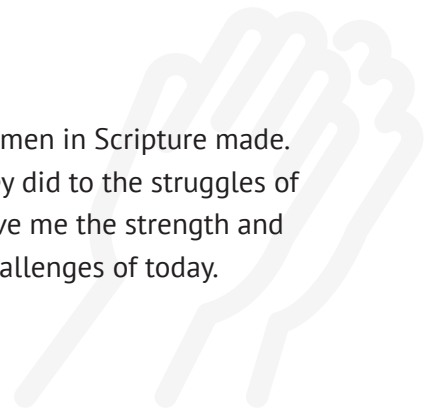
John 4:10



Prayer

Lord, by Your grace help me avoid the mistakes these women in Scripture made. I know I’m tempted to respond in much the same way they did to the struggles of life, but You’ve given direction to a much better path. Give me the strength and courage to trust You and Your way as I meet the challenges of today.

Amen.





B A D G I R L S

OF THE



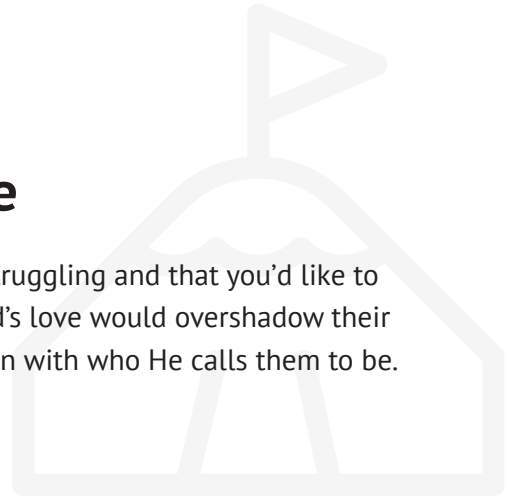
SUMMARY | People everywhere marvel at the “good girls” in Scripture—Ruth, Mary, Esther—but on most days, that’s not who they see when they look in the mirror. Most of us (if we’re honest) see the selfishness of Sapphira or the deception of Delilah. We catch a glimpse of Jezebel’s take-charge pride or Eve’s disastrous disobedience. Like Rahab and Michal, we’re surrounded by temptations, exhausted by the demands of daily living, and burdened by our own desires. So what are we to do? Learn from their lives, says beloved Bible-study teacher and speaker Liz Curtis Higgs. Be part of the Discover the Word group this week as Liz helps us learn from these infamous sisters how not to handle the challenges of life.

This Week’s Discussion Questions

1. Read Acts 5:1–11. What excuses do you suppose Ananias and Sapphira gave each other for what they did? What are some practical ways you can prevent yourself from falling into an excuse-making mode when the temptation to lie strikes?
2. Read Joshua 2:1–14 and 6:1–25. Are there any “Rahabs” in your life—that is, women with a past who need to know they are loved by God, no matter what their history? If you believe they are forgiven completely, how might you communicate that to them with your words? With your actions?
3. Read 1 Samuel 18:1–30, 19:1–18, 2 Samuel 3:13–16, and 6:12–23. How might your life be different if you followed David’s example rather than Michal’s?
4. Read Luke 7:36–50. How can we know, as surely as this woman did, that our sins are forgiven?

Challenge

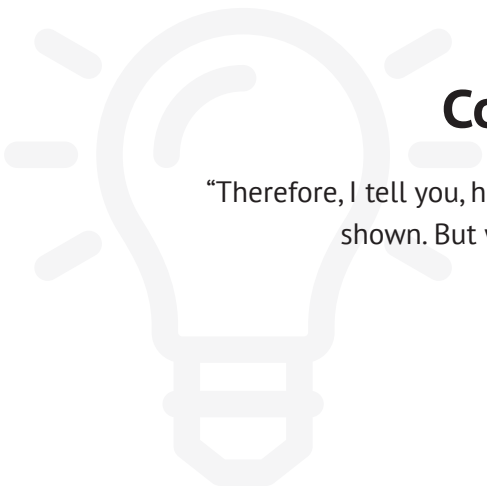
Think of three women in your life who may be struggling and that you'd like to encourage. This week, commit to praying that God's love would overshadow their regrets, wrongdoings, and thoughts that don't align with who He calls them to be.



Commit To Memory

“Therefore, I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven—as her great love has shown. But whoever has been forgiven little loves little.”

Luke 7:47



Prayer

Lord, I'm so thankful that You see me and know me. You see my past and the things I regret. You see the things I'm not proud of and the things I wish I could undo. And even though You see all that, You love me. our arms of forgiveness are wide open to receive me. I'm so grateful. Help me live out what you said, that “he who has been forgiven much, loves much.”

Amen.

