

Notes for home study – week beginning 7th March 2016

Some New Testament mothers...

Feel free to use as much or as little as you wish.

Elizabeth and Mary

Read Luke 1:11-20 How old was Elizabeth? Which other women in the Bible does she remind you of – having a baby in older age? (*Don't spend too long on this*)

Read Luke 1:26 How old do you think Mary was?

Read Luke 1:56 *Use your imagination* to think about Mary and Elizabeth being together all this time. What were their respective hopes and fears? Where were the men-folk? What did they talk about? (Read Luke 1:46-55 for some of Mary's thoughts). How about later on, when their children were born? Luke 2:19; Matthew 2:13-15; Luke 2:33,39-40; Luke 1:80; Luke 2:51-52; Luke 3:19-20. Think about aspects of parenthood which, while so very different from our time and place, still have resonances today.

Salome

Detective work: **Read John 19:25**, noting which women were at the cross. Then compare with **Mark 15:40,41** and **Matthew 27:55-56**. OK, it says 'among many other women' but who *might* Salome be?

Let's assume, that as well as a possible relative of Mary's (done the detective work?), Salome is the mother of James and John. **Read Matthew 20:20-28** Again use your imagination. What did Salome expect to happen quite soon? Do you sympathise with her request? How did Jesus respond to the two men? What did being close to Jesus actually mean in this life, for them? How would you feel as Salome? **Read Acts 12:1-2**.

Eunice and Lois

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-6 What can you tell about Eunice and Lois?

Fill in a bit more of the picture: **Read Acts 16:1-5**. What would have been difficult in Eunice's life? What resonances does this have when considering marriage partners today? How did the Jews evidently regard Timothy (and probably Eunice)? *Because Timothy's father is never mentioned we can assume that Eunice was a single parent. So Lois presumably was needed in his upbringing so that Eunice could work.* Role of grandparents? **Read 2 Tim 3:14-15** Eunice's influence? What is the role of parents/grandparents in passing on faith? Can you empathise with this? Do you think Timothy would be able to put a date and time to his conversion? Paul certainly preached in Lystra where they lived. Imagine again: would the conversion to Christ be a complete change, or something almost natural for Timothy given his upbringing? Does this strike any chords with you, or did your Christian journey start more like Paul's?

Pray for families; the church family; those who find Mothering Sunday a difficult time; for grandparents; for our letting go of our children.