



Women Rise Up DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introduction

1. Reflect on any sacred stories featuring women that you have heard in the past. Who introduced them to you? In what ways have these narratives shaped your story of faith?
2. Has there been a time when you had a question about God or the Bible that you felt unable to raise in your community? What was it? How did you search for an answer?
3. What issues of gender justice are closest to your heart? How are you pursuing them-- in ways small or big? What stories of resilience are giving you hope?

Chapter 1: Hagar

1. Think back to a news story that elicited a strong emotional response in you. What was your initial reaction? What do you think informed your response? Have your thoughts about the event evolved over time? How?
2. Katey writes that both Hagar and Sarai are victims of human trafficking. What do you make of this description? Is it anachronistic or accurate? Why?
3. Delores William writes that the divine presence who meets Hagar in the wilderness is "no liberator God." How do you understand God's role in sending Hagar back to her abuser's home?



Women Rise Up
Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution
by Katey Zeh

#WomenRiseUpBook
<http://kateyzeh.com/women-rise-up>

Chapter 2: Rachel

1. What is the most significant name that you have given a person, place, or belonging? Share what the name captures for you--hopes, memories, etc.
2. Maternal death is a far too common experience around the globe. If you had unlimited resources, how would you begin to tackle this health crisis?
3. The words “Do not afraid” appear in many biblical stories. What reaction do you have to the midwife who speaks this phrase to Rachel moments before her death?

Chapter 3: The Exodus Midwives and Mothers

1. Think about a law, practice, or rule that you believe to be unjust. What tactics might you employ to resist it creatively?
2. Women play many roles in this narrative--midwife, rescuer, watcher, surrogate, etc. What role do you most closely identify with in this story?
3. How has having children or not having children been good for you and your community? What gender inequalities have you experienced because of it? What resources would help you feel better supported in your decision or circumstance?

Chapter 4: Hannah

1. “Guard your heart” is a message some churches preach as a caution against dating and sexual intimacy. What messages about being vulnerable have you received throughout your life? What do you believe vulnerability ought to look like in our faith communities?
2. Eli is concerned about preserving “right” behavior in the temple. What does “right” behavior look like in your faith community? What are the spoken and unspoken rules of conduct?
3. Infertility is common but rarely named. What words, texts, or rituals might you consider bringing to your faith community to alleviate this often-silent suffering?



Women Rise Up

Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today's Revolution
by Katey Zeh

#WomenRiseUpBook

<http://kateyzeh.com/women-rise-up>

Chapter 5: Ruth

1. Ruth is a story about identity and otherness. Describe who the “others” are in your context. Have you ever had an experience of being the “other”?
2. What do you make of the relationship between Ruth and Boaz? Is it fairytale-like? Mutual? Unbalanced? Some mixture?
3. Katey compares Ruth’s work in the fields to that of migrant farm workers whose labor sources the U.S. food chain. Do you agree with this comparison? Why or why not?

Chapter 6: The Widow with Oil

1. Reflect on a time when you have taken a risk. What gave you the strength to make this change? Who supported you in figuring out what to do?
2. Imagine the widow’s story after the biblical text ends. How do you imagine her life looks like? What about her sons?
3. Do you know of a widow (or, if not, a female entrepreneur) in your community? Does she need to make money? How could you support her life and work as a matter of gender justice?

Chapter 7: Mary

1. What ideas do you have about Mary? How old do you imagine she is? What do you think her birth was like? How do you view her role in the life of Jesus as he grows into adulthood?
2. Elizabeth and Mary share a unique bond as they journey through pregnancy. What friendships in your own life remind you of this relationship?
3. “If abundant life through Christ is meant for us now,” Katey writes, “[then] as his followers we are called to the struggle for justice, so that every single one of us has access to the conditions and resources that allow us to thrive.” What conditions or resources would most benefit mothers in your city or state? Do you know what the statistics are for maternal mortality where you live?



Women Rise Up

Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today’s Revolution
by Katey Zeh

#WomenRiseUpBook

<http://kateyzeh.com/women-rise-up>

Chapter 8: Matha of Bethany

1. Katey describes herself as a “productivity junkie.” Can you relate to that? Do you have an easy time letting things go? What role does work play in your life? Has it changed over time?
2. What kind of work do you picture Martha doing? Is she in the kitchen? Is she organizing the community?
3. Who is practicing domestic hospitality toward you and your people? Do you pay them for it? Do you think you should? Why or why not?

Chapter 9: The Hemorrhaging Woman

1. Have you ever bumped elbows with someone famous? What was the experience like? Do you think you’d approach Jesus if he appeared in-the-flesh?
2. How does this healing story differ from other biblical miracles you’ve read? How is it similar?
3. Had you heard of “period poverty” before? How might you be able to help women and girls around the globe or closer to home experience menstruation with dignity?

Chapter 10: Mary Magdalene

1. What depictions of Mary Magdalene have you encountered? Describe them. Does it matter whether or not she is portrayed as a prostitute? Why?
2. Has there been a time when you experienced new life out of a situation that seemed dead or hopeless? Describe it.
3. Where do you see wailing or dancing among the women of the world? What is their invitation to you? Who will you tell your truth?



Women Rise Up
Sacred Stories of Resistance for Today’s Revolution
by Katey Zeh

#WomenRiseUpBook
<http://kateyzeh.com/women-rise-up>