

AWARENESS.SKILLS.KNOWLEDGE. (ASK)

Intergenerational Women's Ministry Study of Women In the Bible

St. Matthew AME Church

Reverend Melvin E. Wilson, Pastor|Teacher – Reverend Leslie Wilson, First Lady|Facilitator

22 February 2025

This month provides an overview of how her

Spiritual Gifts

Personality (Presence/Perspective)

Experiences (Positions/Protection)

Cares/Passions

Interest

Abilities

Life Talents

contributes to her special God-given purpose, equipping her to **minister to all God's children.**



“Women’s leadership was no less important to the development of the Montgomery Bus Boycott than was the male and minister-dominated leadership.” —

Jo Ann Gibson Robinson (April 17, 1912 – August 29, 1992)

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202-256-8531 Cell ReverendLeslieWilson@yahoo.com

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From “All Women of the Bible” by Herbert Lockyer

Peter's Wife

AWARENESS

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“Jesus left the synagogue and went to the home of Simon. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Jesus to help her. So he bent over her and rebuked the fever, and it left her. She got up at once and began to wait on them.” Luke 4:38-39 (NIV)

FYI: The Other Woman

- This story is mentioned in each of the Synoptic Gospel's of Matthew (8:14-18), Mark (1:29-34), and Luke (4:38-41).
- The verses do not mention the wife, nor the physical presence of her during the Lord's healing of her mother, Peter's mother-in-law, who is also not named.
- It is believed Peter loved his mother-in-law who upon being touched by Jesus (a personal touch, got up and assumed her role of hospitality and usefulness.
- Of note, the unnamed mother-in-law was healed not from some horrible disease or major trauma, but a fever which shows God is interested in the small illnesses we often feel we should not bother Him with.

To Be Real

- It is noted that at one time “the Roman Catholic Church...would like to discredit the fact that the Apostle had a wife.” However, how do you get a mother-in-law without a daughter/wife?
- From Paul (Read 1 Corinthians 9:5) many believed he was referring to Peter's wife accompanying her husband on “some of his missionary journeys, caring for his needs.”
- We do not know why “the name of this noble woman who was a faithful partner of Peter is hidden from us. But behind many men attaining eminence, is a sympathetic, discreet and understanding woman.” (Any thoughts or examples?)
- Because Peter was “an impulsive man” it would not be too far to consider him going home to a companion for calming, cautioning and encouragement.

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What Else Do We Know

- There is no mention of if they had children in the Bible although some references say there was a daughter.
- It is highly believed when the Apostle wrote his two epistles and described in them ideal womanhood and wifeness, that he was using his wife as an example. (Read 1 Peter 3:1-9)

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3 Wives, in the same way submit yourselves to your own husbands so that, if any of them do not believe the word, they may be won over without words by the behavior of their wives, ² when they see the purity and reverence of your lives. ³ Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. ⁴ Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. ⁵ For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, ⁶ like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear. ⁷ Husbands, in the same way be considerate as you live with your wives and treat them with respect as the weaker partner and as heirs with you of the gracious gift of life, so that nothing will hinder your prayers. ⁸ Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. ⁹ Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing. (NIV)

- Thoughts? Questions? Impressions? What is most important take away?
- By not mentioning her name, it is comprehensible she had as many do that “everybody knows my husband, but nobody knows me” feeling. (Familiar?)
- However, one writer called her “Mrs. Peter” a “hero of faith” who was a “long suffering saint content on being in the shadows.”

Her Death

- Although the timing of her death is open for discussion, it is highly believed she was executed by Emperor Nero for her faith just before Peter's execution.

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- One writer noted her as “worthy of respect, the couple supported each other in faith, and there was much pain and suffering.” This is an acceptable narrative given Peter is said to have specifically “lived, loved and lost.”

Conclusion (Adapted From <https://www.my3bc.com/peters-wife/>)

We often speak to men when preaching about the ministry. But what is the definition of “ministry” and what about the women? What makes a woman suitable for the ministry when she is married to a man in the ministry [does not just include pastors or clergy]?

Willingness. Peter's wife was:

- **Willing to put her husband [partner] before her family:** Matthew 8:14-15 – they were at Peter's [and his wife's] house not at her mother's – had they been at her mother's house [gone home to Mama] her mother wouldn't have been healed.
- **Willing to submit to God's leadership in her husband's life:** Matthew 5:18-19 – Peter changed occupations suddenly under a call from God – she supported him in the decision, [decision to follow God].
- **Willing to do without customary riches and possessions:** Matthew 19:27 – they left all to serve the Lord – this can be extremely hard on wives and yet she endured it [a safe assumption is that she also heard the words of Jesus].
- **Willing to follow her husband wherever God called him:** 1 Corinthians 9:5 – like Priscilla and Aquila – Peter wrote his epistle from Babylon – so they definitely had to move [Matthew 28:19 – “go ye and make disciples”, both were disciples].
- **Willing to be in subjection (obey, obedient) to her husband even when he was not in subjection to God:** 1 Peter 3:1-5 – she was in subjection to her own husband, she was chaste, she had a meek and quiet spirit and, most importantly, she trusted in God.

They were heirs together of the grace of life [1 Peter 3:7] – so whatever he received as a reward she received also.

Words From Study: Slavery; Respect; Present Self; Moderation; Self-Esteem; Control; Power; Help Mate; God, Family, Church; 1 Corinthians 13:4-8; Invitation to Salvation

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SKILL

Step Thirty-One: Recognizing Value

LESSONS WE CAN LEARN FROM PETER'S WIFE

(ADAPTED SOURCE: [HTTPS://WWW.VIDEOBIBLE.COM/BIBLE-DICTIONARY/WIFE_OF_PETER](https://www Videobible.com/Bible-Dictionary/Wife_of_Peter))

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Who Was Wife of Peter in the Bible?

The wife of Peter, though not directly named in the Bible, holds a place of significance in the New Testament narrative. Her brief mention in the Scriptures offers insights into the lives of the disciples, particularly the balance between their personal lives and their calling to follow Jesus. As one of the most prominent apostles, Peter's marriage [value] provides a glimpse into the lives of those who were closest to Jesus during His earthly ministry. Understanding her role [value], though only briefly mentioned, can shed light on the broader themes of marriage, discipleship, and the sacrifices that often accompany a life dedicated to Christ.



The Biblical Mention of Peter's Wife

The New Testament provides only a few direct references to Peter's family life, but these are telling. In [Matthew 8:14](#), it is written, "When Jesus came into Peter's house, he saw Peter's mother-in-law lying in bed with a fever." This passage clearly indicates that Peter was married, as he had a mother-in-law. The healing of Peter's mother-in-law by Jesus is significant, as it not only demonstrates Jesus' compassion and power but also subtly highlights the familial relationships of His disciples.

This brief mention, while lacking details about Peter's wife herself, suggests that she was likely present during many of the pivotal moments of Peter's ministry. As the wife of one of Jesus' closest disciples, she would have supported Peter in his ministry, even as he faced the challenges and demands of following Jesus [value].

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The Role of Peter’s Wife in His Ministry

Though the Bible does not explicitly describe the role of Peter’s wife, we can infer that she played a crucial supportive role in his life and ministry. Peter, originally a fisherman, left his trade to follow Jesus, which would have significantly impacted his family. The support [value] of a wife during such a time would have been essential, providing stability and encouragement as Peter navigated his new calling as a disciple. In [1 Corinthians 9:5](#), Paul mentions that the apostles, including Peter, had the right to take along a believing wife as they traveled for ministry: “Do we not have the right to take along a believing wife, as do the other apostles and the brothers of the Lord and Cephas?” This reference suggests that Peter’s wife might have accompanied him on some of his journeys, or at the very least, that she was an integral part of his life and ministry.

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Lessons for the Modern Christian

The Sacredness of Marriage in Ministry

Peter’s marriage serves as a reminder of the sacredness of marriage, even in the context of ministry. The Bible consistently upholds marriage as a divine institution, beginning with the creation of Adam and Eve in [Genesis 2:18](#), where God declares, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.” This statement underscores the importance of companionship and mutual support within marriage.

For modern Christians, Peter’s marriage demonstrates that fulfilling one’s calling in ministry does not negate the importance of marriage and family. Instead, it shows that marriage can be a source of strength and support, enabling one to serve God more effectively. The example of Peter and his wife [value] encourages believers to view marriage as a partnership in which both spouses contribute to the work of the Gospel, whether directly or indirectly.

The Balance Between Family and Ministry

Peter’s life, as one of the leading apostles, was undoubtedly demanding. Yet, the Bible subtly acknowledges the existence of his family life, indicating that he had to balance his responsibilities as a husband with his calling as a disciple of Jesus. This balance is something that many Christians today can relate to, as they seek to honor their

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commitments to both family and ministry. [Ephesians 5:25-33](#) provides a blueprint for how husbands and wives are to love and respect each other, with Christ's love for the Church as the ultimate example. Peter's marriage likely reflected this ideal, with mutual respect, love, and a shared commitment to God's will.

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For modern Christians, this serves as a reminder to prioritize both their family and their ministry, understanding that a strong marriage can enhance one's effectiveness in serving God.

The Cost of Discipleship

Another lesson from the brief mention of Peter's wife is the cost of discipleship. When Peter decided to follow Jesus, he left behind his livelihood and, at times, his family. This decision would have required tremendous faith and sacrifice, not only from Peter but also from his wife. The sacrifices made by Peter's wife [**value**], though not detailed in Scripture, were likely significant, as she supported her husband's mission despite the personal costs.

Jesus speaks about the cost of discipleship in [Luke 14:26-27](#): "If anyone comes to me and does not hate father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters—yes, even their own life—such a person cannot be my disciple. And whoever does not carry their cross and follow me cannot be my disciple." This passage does not mean that believers should literally hate their families, but rather that their love and commitment to Jesus must surpass all other relationships.

For modern Christians, this highlights the reality that following Jesus may require difficult choices and sacrifices. It encourages believers to consider the cost of discipleship and to be willing to place Jesus above all else, trusting that God will care for their loved ones as they pursue His calling.

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Connection to a Loving God

God's Care for Families

The story of Peter's wife, though not extensively detailed, reflects God's care for families. The healing of Peter's mother-in-law by Jesus is a testament to His compassion and concern for the well-being of those connected to His disciples. It shows that God is not only concerned with our spiritual lives but also with our families and personal circumstances.

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For believers today, this serves as an assurance that God cares deeply about their families. Whether they are facing illness, hardship, or other challenges, they can trust that God is aware of their needs and is actively involved in their lives. [Philippians 4:19](#) reminds us, "And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus." God's provision extends to every aspect of our lives, including our families.

The Encouragement of Mutual Support

The relationship between Peter and his wife, though not fully explored in Scripture, likely involved mutual support and encouragement. As Peter faced the challenges of discipleship, his wife would have been a source of strength and encouragement. This reflects the broader biblical principle of mutual support within the body of Christ, where believers are called to bear one another's burdens ([Galatians 6:2](#)).

In a loving relationship, whether in marriage or within the church community, this mutual support is crucial. It mirrors God's own care for His people and encourages believers to support each other in their spiritual journeys. For married couples in particular, this highlights the importance of being a source of encouragement and strength for one another as they seek to serve God together.

Connection to Jesus Christ

The Call to Follow Jesus Together

Peter's decision to follow Jesus would have impacted his entire household, including his wife. This demonstrates that the call to follow Jesus is not just an individual journey but one that can involve the entire family. In [Acts 16:31](#), Paul and Silas tell the Philippian jailer, "Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household." The

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call to salvation and discipleship extends to the whole family, inviting them to follow Christ together.

For modern Christians, this encourages the idea that families can serve God together, supporting one another in their faith and ministry. It challenges couples to view their marriage as a joint journey of discipleship, where both spouses are committed to growing in their relationship with Christ and serving His kingdom.

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Of Note: The Example of Peter's Commitment

Peter's life, including his marriage, serves as an example of total commitment to Christ. Despite the challenges and sacrifices involved, Peter followed Jesus wholeheartedly, and his wife's support was likely a key part of that commitment. This example calls Christians today to examine their own level of commitment to Jesus. Are they willing to follow Him, even when it requires sacrifice? Are they supportive of their spouse's calling and ministry?

In [Matthew 19:27-29](#), Peter himself asks Jesus about the sacrifices the disciples have made to follow Him. Jesus responds, "Truly I tell you, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel... And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or fields for my sake will receive a hundred times as much and will inherit eternal life." This promise encourages believers that their sacrifices for the sake of Christ are not in vain but will be rewarded in God's kingdom.

Conclusion

The wife of Peter, though mentioned only briefly in the New Testament, plays a significant role [value] in the broader narrative of Peter's life and ministry. Her presence highlights the importance of marriage and family within the context of discipleship and ministry. Her story, though largely untold, reminds us of the support and sacrifices that often accompany a life dedicated to following Jesus.

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For modern Christians, the example of Peter's wife serves as an encouragement to view marriage as a sacred partnership in which both spouses support one another in their commitment to Christ. It also challenges believers to consider the cost of discipleship, knowing that following Jesus may require significant sacrifices but also trusting that God is faithful to care for their needs and reward their faithfulness.

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Ultimately, the story of Peter and his wife points us to the greater truth of God's love and care for His people, inviting us to follow Jesus with wholehearted commitment, trusting in His promises and provision for our lives.



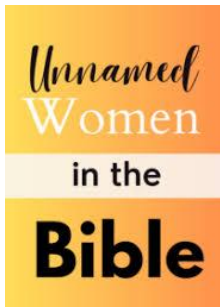
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NOTE FOR FURTHER REFLECTION (Source: AI Overview)

I asked myself the question (y'all know I talk to myself), what is the value of being "unnamed" in the Bible (on the program) and found the following Google search response! Page | 11

The value of unnamed women in the Bible lies in their ability to represent universal human experiences and highlight themes of faith, compassion, and God's grace, even when their individual identities are obscured.

- **Universal Representation:** *Unnamed women can represent a wide range of experiences and roles in society, allowing readers to connect with them on a personal level.*
- **Focus on Character and Actions:** *Their stories emphasize their actions and character traits rather than their names, highlighting the importance of deeds over social status.*
- **Themes of Faith and Compassion:** *These women often demonstrate strong faith, compassion, and resilience, even in the face of adversity.*
- **God's Grace and Inclusion:** *The inclusion of unnamed women in the Bible underscores the idea that God's grace and love are available to everyone, regardless of their social standing or background.*
- **Examples of Ideal Disciples:** *Some scholars argue that unnamed women in the Gospels, like Peter's mother-in-law [and wife], serve as examples of ideal disciples, exceeding the Twelve in their faith and actions.*
- **Importance of Story:** *The stories of unnamed women, like the woman of Shunem (2 Kings 4:8) and the wise women of Abel Beth Maacah (2 Sam. 20:16), have lasting significance and demonstrate that their stories are more meaningful than their names.*
- **God's Sovereignty and Faithfulness:** *Anonymous women contribute to the development of ongoing themes like God's sovereignty, faithfulness, and care for widows.*

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KNOWLEDGE

Dear _____ (insert your name)

Today I engaged in a conversation about the importance of Godly relationships. When I pause and reflect on His process, I am least likely to disregard, disrespect, or be disobedient to the Father. As I look upon the value of Peter’s unnamed wife to his ministry I see core values of trust, loyalty, and faithfulness. I know these to be imperative in my spiritual journey and testimony as an Ambassador of Christ. Because “God is doing something wonderful in me!” I must be aware of tools Satan will use (pride, impatience, doubt, arrogance, distrust, strife, and division for example) to keep me focused on the temporary and not on the eternal. Satan wants to deny and distract me from being loving, friendly, welcoming, helpful, warm, kindhearted, neighborly, hospitable so that I am unable to serve the Lord in mind, spirit and heart. But God has a plan for my life! Because of what I heard, shared, learned, witnessed, thought about, I want to remember most from my seen and unseen, known and unknown contributions I make is,



In Jesus Name,

National Domestic Violence Hotline

1-800-799-SAFE (7233)

Suicide and Crisis Lifeline

988

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Awareness



Skills



Knowledge



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EVERY 4TH SATURDAY

April 26, 2025: WOMAN OF THE MONTH – God and Our Mothers

Isaiah 66:13 (Book Pages 299- 306)

May 24, 2025 – WOMAN OF THE MONTH - Naomi

The Book of Ruth (Book Pages 116-118)

June 28, 2025 – WOMAN OF THE MONTH – Maid of Naaman's Wife

II Kings 5:1-19 (Book Pages 210-212)

Zoom Information

Meeting ID: 716275876 Passcode: 6781293

Phone Dial In Number: 929-205-6099, Meeting ID 716275876

*** Resource/Study Book: “All The Women of the Bible” by Herbert Lockyer**

BLESSINGS OVERFLOW!!

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