

Our models today are all members of the church, and we want to thank them for their time and enthusiasm. They are dressed to represent various women in the Bible; some as you would expect and others with a very modern twist. We plan to give you a brief synopsis of their life story as found in the Bible, a short commentary on some of their clothing, and then will ask if you can name who they are. See how well you recognize our Ladies of the Bible. After they are introduced, if you think you know who she is representing, raise your hand and I'll be checking with you.

This woman of the Bible that _____ represents certainly was long suffering, for she neither laughed at, nor refused to accompany her husband on an oversize houseboat excursion which included not only her husband, but her 3 sons, their wives, and umpteen pairs of animals. Imagine what she went through when it rained for 40 days and 40 nights.

Our model shows us the latest fashion for those long-lasting rainy days when she will be out on deck fishing in order to provide food for her hungry family.

She is wearing hip boots to keep her feet dry, a bright and cheery plaid shirt to keep her spirits up, and also to make her visible if she should be swept overboard. Her fishing line and gear, and her fishing vest is from L. L. Bean - with branch stores in Jerusalem.

Who is this woman?

MRS. NOAH - The Bible does not mention her first name. Noah possibly means "rest or consolation".

Equipment - Rain jacket, rubber or hip boots, plaid shirt, vest.

_____ is representing a woman of great beauty. This woman is the wife of Abraham. She was very beautiful, so when they traveled Abraham requested that she identify him as her brother. In Egypt, she was taken into the household of Pharaoh as Pharaoh was very attracted to her. When he learned their true relationship, he returned her to Abraham and provided safe conduct for them. At the age of 90, this woman gave birth to a son, Isaac.

In addition to her good looks, this woman was a good cook. One day 3 men approached. Abraham did not recognize that they were angels sent to give him an important message from God. Abraham invited them to dinner. He told his wife to "Make ready quickly 3 measures of choice flour, knead it and make cakes". She did as instructed, and this is the first record we have of Angel Food Cakes.

Who is this woman?

SARAI - Later known as SARAH. Possibly Sarai meant "contentious". SARAH meant "Princess".

Equipment: Long dress, head dress, full Angel cake on a plate, angels on the side.

Like Sarah before her, this woman of the Bible grieved because she was childless. She prayed to the Lord, "If you will give me a son, I will give him back to you for all the days of his life, and no razor shall touch his head." A son was born to her and she called him Samuel. When he was weaned, she took him to the temple and gave him into the care of the High Priest, Eli.

As you can see, _____ t as the mother of Samuel is wearing a typical peasant costume, worn by the women of Israel, a long tunic type dress, fastened with a belt or girdle of leather or material, with a cape of heavy woolen cloth, substantial enough to serve as a rug for sitting on and for sleeping in at night.

Every year, Samuel's Mother would go to the temple with the gift of a warm coat for her little son. In some ways, this is the first story about foster care.

Who is this woman?

HANNAH - meaning "Favor or Grace"

Equipment: Long gown, belt of leather or material, heavy woolen cape, carrying a small child's coat.

_____ who is representing a woman of the Bible is purported to have been married for 7 years and a widow for 84 years. Luke tells us she never left the temple, but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. When she saw the baby Jesus, she proclaimed to all who were in the temple that He was the Messiah who would redeem Jerusalem. This woman was considered a prophetess. She is wearing a lovely shawl, lovingly hand knit by the local inhabitants of the village of Bethlehem - to ward off the Temple's dampness - while she awaited the arrival of the birth of the Messiah.

Who is this woman?

ANNA - Her name is a Greek derivative of the name HANNAH

Equipment: Long dress, shawl, cane, kerchief

This is a worldly woman who _____ is representing. She was a woman who spent lavishly and entertained elaborately. Although God sent an

angel to save her, her husband and her two daughters from death, she disobeyed God's order not to look back at the wicked city of Sodom. Perhaps it was sentiment which made her look back in longing at what she felt she had to give up. She is a good example of what can happen when you disobey God. ZAP! and you're a pillar of salt.

Who was this woman?

MRS. LOT - another lady not mentioned in the Bible by first name.

Equipment: White suit and salt accessories.

_____ is playing the part of a woman who was the answer to prayer. Here she is seen wearing a long skirt, head dress, shawl and is carrying a water jar. Please notice her lovely gold jewelry.

Abraham sent out a servant to his old home town with instructions to find a wife for his son, Isaac. The servant prayed as he stood outside the town that the first girl who gave him a drink from her jar and offered to water his camels at the village well, would be the one appointed by God. When this young girl, who as you can see was very fair to look upon - said: "Drink, my Lord, from my water jar". And then she proceeded to say, "I will draw for your camels also, until they have finished drinking." The servant knew she was the right wife for his master's son. As instructed, he gave her a gold nose ring (weighing a half shekel) and two gold bracelets for her arms (weighing 10 shekels). The moral of this story is: Don't water camels unless you want a nose ring.

Who was this woman?

REBEKAH

Equipment - Lots of gold jewelry, long skirt, head dress, shawl, sandals, nose ring, water jar.

We find the story of this woman in the book of Exodus. _____ is representing a prophetess. She was a sister to Moses and watched as he was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter while drifting in an ark placed among the reeds of the river Nile. As a child, she asked if she should summon a Hebrew woman to nurse the child. Moses' Mother was employed to care for him until he grew up.

Later this lady lead the other women of Israel in joyful tambourine playing and in dancing after Pharaoh's military forces were drowned at the parting of the Red Sea. She sang, "Sing to Jehovah, for He has become highly exalted. The horse and its rider He has pitched into the sea."

Our model is wearing a lovely skirt of _____ and a blouse of _____. Here she is with her tambourine ready to lead you ladies here in a song and a dance of thanksgiving. This lady was the first female singer on record.

Who was this woman?

MIRIAM - name possibly meaning "rebellious".

Equipment: Loose flared skirt, blouse, head piece, tambourine.

This woman is a Mother-in-law's dream. She was devoted to her widowed Mother-in-law and stayed with her when her own husband died. Here, we see _____ portraying her as a sturdy hiker and a hard working field laborer. She went into the barley fields in Bethlehem at harvest time to procure food for herself and her Mother-in-law.

Boaz requested that she continue to work for him through the wheat harvest as well. The union of Boaz and this woman was blessed with the birth of a son, Obed, the Grandfather of King David. If doing today what this woman did then, we would see her in hiking boots and hiking shorts, sometimes wearing a cape which she used for daytime protection, sleeping upon and for carrying items.

Who is this woman?

RUTH. Her Mother-in-law was Naomi - Naomi meaning "My Pleasantness".

Equipment: Hiking shoes, hiking boots, blue cape, garden tools.

Here we have two present day ladies representing two ladies of the Bible. A _____ represents the sister of Lazarus and another sibling sister. As such, she is the Residential Engineer - always preparing and diligently working at making their residence a clean home with sumptuous home cooked meals.

Her sister - here represented by **B** _____ - is the industrious librarian who enjoys reading and sitting and listening attentively.

A _____ sometimes feels that **B** _____ should help out a bit more in the kitchen and with the household chores, rather than socializing with their guests.

Do these women sound familiar?

They are MARTHA and MARY who were visited by Jesus.

Mary sat at the feet of Jesus while Martha felt she had to attend to her duties.

Equipment: **A** _____ - Apron, feather duster.

B _____ - Librarian clothes, glasses.

_____ is representing a wealthy woman whom Jesus cured of a serious illness. she became a loyal and faithful supporter. She was one of the few women who stayed with Jesus as He hung on the cross. She followed to see where He was buried, so that she and her friends could come as soon as the Sabbath was over to anoint his body.

When they arrived, they found the tomb empty and a messenger who told them that Jesus had been raised from the dead. This woman of the Bible was very upset about what had happened and went back to the garden where the tomb was located. There she met Jesus, although she didn't recognize him until he called her by name. She became the first witness to the resurrection and the first to tell the good news.

Who is this woman?
MARY MAGDALINE

Equipment: Type of robe worn by wealthy woman, elaborate bottle which would hold oil.

In our Biblical fashion parade, _____ makes her appearance as a savvy business woman known as "Our Lady of the Lavenders". An inspiration for us all in that she was in her generation much like the liberated women of the 21st century.

God entered her life, making her Europe's first convert. She knows it takes money to do mission work, she uses the proceeds from her business to spread The Good News. She is wearing purple, representing the product she produces. She would like to sell you her wares. Anyone for purple dye - perhaps some purple material or maybe some purple flowers? Maybe some of the ladies of our modern Red Hat Society would like to meet this woman of the Bible. She was the first Gentile and the first woman in Europe to become a Christian. Because of the witness of men and women like her, the Christian faith spread across Europe and from Europe to America and other parts of the world. We are grateful to these witnesses.

Who is the woman? LYDIA

Equipment: Purple dress. Basket of purple colored material or purple dye, purple flowers.

Ladies, you may be wondering about whether we have overlooked a very, very, very important biblical female.

We have not. In fact, this **particular** woman may be, perhaps arguably, **the** most **vital** female in the entire Bible! And so, (pause) we have saved the **first** to be **last!**

Our model is _____. She is representing the first woman mentioned in the Bible. She and her husband, Adam, lived in the Garden of Eden. The Lord of Creation told them to eat freely from every tree in the garden, except the fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. Now, everyone knows that forbidden fruit tastes sweeter. She was tempted and told by a crafty serpent that she would not die and that when she would eat the fruit she would become like God, knowing both good and evil.

So desiring that kind of wisdom, she ate the fruit and gave some to her husband. Immediately her eyes were opened and she realized she was naked and the two fashioned coverings of fig leaves.

Feeling guilt and shame, they hid when the Lord came into the garden. But the Lord knew they had disobeyed, and after making garments of skins for them, he banished them from the garden.

We can learn from this woman that we cannot hide from God and that we must become convinced that God's way is better than our way.

Who is this woman?

EVE - her name means "Living one".

Equipment: Beige leotard & tights, leaves, fruit, snake.

For those of you who were keeping track of our models:

_____ was Mrs. Noah
_____ was Sarah
_____ was Hannah
_____ was Anna
_____ was Mrs. Lot
_____ was Rebekah
_____ was Miriam
_____ was Ruth
_____ was Martha
_____ was Mary
_____ was Mary Magdalene
_____ was Lydia
_____ was Eve