



**Luke 8:18** After this, Jesus traveled about from one town and village to another, proclaiming the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with him, 2 and also some women who had been cured of evil spirits and diseases: Mary (called Magdalene) from whom seven demons had come out; 3 Joanna the wife of Chuza, the manager of Herod's household; Susanna; and many others. These women were helping to support them out of their own means.

**Romans 16** I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon[a][b] of the church in Cenchreae. **2** I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me. **3** Greet Priscilla[c] and Aquila, my co-workers in Christ Jesus. **4** They risked their lives for me. Not only I but all the churches of the Gentiles are grateful to them. **5** Greet also the church that meets at their house. Greet my dear friend Epenetus, who was the first convert to Christ in the province of Asia. **6** Greet Mary, who worked very hard for you. **7** Greet Andronicus and Junia, my fellow Jews who have been in prison with me. They are outstanding among[d] the apostles, and they were in Christ before I was. **8** Greet Ampliatus, my dear friend in the Lord. **9** Greet Urbanus, our co-worker in Christ, and my dear friend Stachys. **10** Greet Apelles, whose fidelity to Christ has stood the test. Greet those who belong to the household of Aristobulus. **11** Greet Herodion, my fellow Jew. Greet those in the household of Narcissus who are in the Lord. **12** Greet Tryphena and Tryphosa, those women who work hard in the Lord. Greet my dear friend Persis, another woman who has worked very hard in the Lord. **13** Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord, and his mother, who has been a mother to me, too. **14** Greet Asyncritus, Phlegon, Hermes, Patrobas, Hermas and the other brothers and sisters with them. **15** Greet Philologus, Julia, Nereus and his sister, and Olympas and all the Lord's people who are with them.

## Icebreaker

How has supporting your family or others changed during Covid 19? Do you cook more? Has childcare changed? Are you more aware of needs? Less aware of needs because of physical distancing?

## Conversation Starters

1. Jesus traveled around present day Israel and Jordan with a group of 50-100 people. It takes support and coordination to travel with this many people. If you were traveling with Jesus what role would you want on the support team?
2. Jesus needed a support team. Does this surprise you? Why do you think Jesus, the creator of the universe, God in the flesh, decided to live in such a way that he needed a support team? What impact does his decision have on people who follow Jesus today?
3. If you had the means would you have supported Jesus ministry financially? What are some roadblocks to supporting Jesus financially then? What are the roadblocks now?
  - a. Jesus said, "the worry of the world and the deceitfulness of wealth choke the word, and it becomes unfruitful." Richard Rohr said, "possessions and soul seem to operate in inverse proportion to one another. Only through simplicity can we find deep contentment instead of perpetually striving and living unsatisfied." What do these sentences make you feel?

4. Why do you think Luke found the information in Luke 8: 1-3 important enough to include in his telling of Jesus' life?
5. The passage in Luke 8 indicates Jesus seemed willing to let his reputation be stained by the people he was willing to hang out with. Luke said, "Both the Pharisees and the scribes began to grumble, saying, 'This man receives sinners and eats with them.'" Does this seem like a good strategy to you? Could you do it?
6. In Romans 16 Paul lists women as missionaries, teacher, house church leader, Apostle, hard worker, esteemed, and saints. Is that surprising given church history and even some of Paul's other writing?
7. What would change in your heart, mind and actions if you considered yourself not only the hands and feet of Jesus in our world but also a member of his support team?
  - a. What is one ordinary thing you currently do that supports the ministry of Jesus?