

[HOMEPAGE]

For families of junior soldiers

THIS WEEK'S TOPIC:

Women
In Ministry
—Phoebe
Palmer and
Catherine
Booth

MEMORY VERSE:

Mark 16:20 (NIV)

"Then the disciples went out and preached everywhere. The Lord worked with them. And he backed up his word by the signs that went with it."

The memory verse for the week is included on each HOMEPAGE. Help your child review it during the week. The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.

PARENT POINT:

Help your child develop a list of women who minister to them. Together, pray for the women who influence your child's spiritual life.



TODAY IN JUNIOR SOLDIERS the children continued to learn about influences on the Church. By learning about Phoebe Palmer and Catherine Booth, the junior soldiers have a better understanding of the history of women in ministry roles.

Phoebe Palmer was born in New York City on December 18, 1807. As a child, Phoebe attended religious services both at the Methodist church and at camp meetings. In 1827, she married Walter Clarke Palmer, a physician. Together they prayed for salvation in 1832 while attending a revival meeting.

Phoebe and her sister Sarah hosted prayer meetings called the "Tuesday Meeting for the Promotion of Holiness" in the Palmer home. When the meetings first started, only women were allowed to attend. In 1839, men were invited to participate in the prayer meetings.

In 1840, Phoebe and Walter traveled throughout the northeastern United States as itinerant evangelists, visiting churches, camp meetings, and conferences. Phoebe preached at most meetings. In 1859, the Palmer's ministry expanded beyond the United States into Canada and the British Isles.

Catherine Booth attended a revival meeting in Newcastle-upon-Tyne led by Phoebe and Walter Palmer. A local clergyman was angry that Phoebe Palmer was preaching—something he believed only men were chosen to do—so he published a pamphlet outlining his belief that women in the pulpit was unscriptural. Catherine Booth was outraged by this pamphlet, and drafted a letter in response. William Booth encouraged his wife to expand her letter into a pamphlet. Catherine Booth published "Female Ministry" in 1859 to refute the clergyman's argument using Scripture to back up her points. She asserted her belief that women should be allowed to preach.

God uses all believers—men, women, and children—to fulfill His plans and purposes on earth. While some believers are called to be ordained ministers, missionaries, and Bible teachers, all are given the responsibility to share God's love with others.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME

This lesson introduced junior soldiers to two women who have paved the way for women in ministry. Junior soldiers learned how Phoebe Palmer aided the spread of the holiness movement in the United States, and how her influence on women like Catherine Booth led to the acceptance of women in pulpit ministry.