

LESSON 3 AT A GLANCE

# Women In Ministry—Phoebe Palmer and Catherine Booth

ACTIVITY	MINUTES	GRADE LEVEL	FOCUS	PITstops	*OTHER SUPPLIES
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPENING ACTIVITY Careers	5	1-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> LESSON Women In Ministry —Phoebe Palmer and Catherine Booth	10	1-6			two volunteers, copies of lesson
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MEMORY VERSE	5	1-6			two rubber playground balls or balloons
REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITY (Choose One Option)					
<input type="checkbox"/> OPTION 1 Angels of Encouragement	10	1-6		 A	magnetic tape, yarn, googly eyes, "old fashioned" clothes pins
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OPTION 2 Saying "Thank You"	5	1-6			
<input type="checkbox"/> WORSHIP PROGRAM Deborah—A Strong Woman	5	1-6			
<input type="checkbox"/> LET'S DO IT! (LDI)					
Women In Ministry	5	1-2			
Women In Ministry	5	3-4			
Preaching	5	5-6			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DIALOGUE FOLDER					
iSPEAK	5	1-2			
iSPEAK	5	3-4			
iSPEAK	5	5-6			

**INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOME**

This lesson will introduce junior soldiers to two women who have paved the way for women in ministry. Junior soldiers will learn 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.

**YOU ARE HERE!**

Place the timeline marker on **1840** on the **Salvation Army** timeline.



\*In addition to materials listed in this chart, you need Basic Classroom Supplies.

# Women In Ministry

## —Phoebe Palmer and Catherine Booth

### BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR THE LEADER

#### UNIT AIM:

This unit will introduce junior soldiers to men and women who have made significant contributions to the Christian faith over the last five centuries. They'll learn about key movements in the Church that have helped shape our beliefs as Salvationists.

**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.

Phoebe Palmer was born in New York City on December 18, 1807. Her parents were steeped in the Methodist tradition of Christianity, and raised their children to believe the doctrines of the Methodist church. As a child, Phoebe attended religious services both at 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 spoke at most meetings. She didn't call her talks "sermons," but rather "exhortations." In 1859, the Palmer's ministry expanded beyond the United States into Canada and the British Isles.

Phoebe was a powerful and well-received public speaker. She was also an accomplished writer and editor until her death in 1874. She wrote articles for *Christian Advocate and Journal*, and published several books including *The Way of Holiness* (1843). Phoebe Palmer's influence extended beyond her community. Many women, including Catherine Booth, were influenced by Phoebe Palmer's active, public ministry.

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 clergyman's 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. In "Female Ministry" Catherine Booth refuted the clergyman's argument using Scripture to back up her points. She asserted her belief that women should be allowed to preach. God intended women to be a part of His plan to spread His Word to all people.



## LESSON 3

Later in life, Phoebe Palmer donated her home on East 15th Street in New York City to The Salvation Army to become a home for unwed mothers, and a general hospital, which was the forerunner of The Salvation Army's Booth Memorial Medical Center which operated for many years in Flushing, New York.

### OPENING ACTIVITY

## Careers

Before class, draw an outline of a woman on the board or a piece of poster board. Don't color in the outline.

Say: **I want you to think about different careers. What's your mom's, sister's, grandmother's, or aunt's career?** (Allow response. Write junior soldiers' responses in the outline of the woman.)

Say: **Women can do many things. Women can be astronauts who fly to the moon, school bus drivers who take children to school, teachers, doctors, grocery store cashiers, stay-at-home moms, zookeepers, secretaries, racecar drivers, firefighters, bankers, and circus performers. Women can hold many occupations.**

**There was a time in the world's history when people didn't think women could have careers. People thought women should stay at home and be wives and mothers. There are still places in the world that believe this today.**

**There was a time when women weren't allowed to speak in church. They weren't allowed to read the Scripture during the meeting, share their testimony, or give the sermon. Some churches still believe that only men can give the sermon. In The Salvation Army, we believe that EVERYONE can share God's love. From the very beginning of The Salvation Army, women have played a major role in ministry.**

### LESSON

## Women In Ministry —Phoebe Palmer and Catherine Booth

Before class, arrange for two women volunteers (corps cadets or adults) to participate in today's lesson. Give each volunteer a copy of the lesson so that she can prepare her part. One volunteer will be Phoebe Palmer, and the other volunteer will be Catherine Booth. The volunteer who is portraying Phoebe Palmer should NOT be in uniform, because Phoebe Palmer wasn't a Salvationist.



#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- poster board



#### MATERIALS NEEDED:

- two volunteers
- copies of the lesson



The volunteer who is portraying Catherine Booth should be in uniform.

Set the chairs up six across—three chairs, an aisle, and three chairs—to create the effect of being in an airplane or spacecraft.

Say: **Today we're going back in time in a time machine. We're going to meet two special people who have played an important part in Church history. So, buckle up! We have a long way to go...back to 1807.**

After a few seconds of "time travel" the volunteer portraying Phoebe Palmer should enter the room.

Say: **Hello! My name is Phoebe Palmer. I was born on December 18, 1807. Were any of you born in December? (Allow response.) My family lives in New York City. That is where I was born and raised! My parents were members of the Methodist Church. Do you know who started the Methodist Church? (Allow response—John Wesley.) That's right; John Wesley started the Methodist Church in England. That's where my father is from. He was born in England, but moved to America when he was 20 years old. He met my mother in America. My parents loved church. We went to church every week when I was growing up. I learned all about God, Jesus, and the Methodist Church.**

**My sister and her husband came to live with my husband and me in New York. Together my sister and I formed a weekly prayer group that met at 2:30 p.m. on Tuesday afternoons. We called it the "Tuesday Meeting for the Promotion of Holiness." When the meetings first started, only women were allowed to attend; but in 1839, we invited men to join our prayer meetings.**

**I liked leading meetings in my home, but I wanted to do more for God. I wanted to tell everyone about God and His love. My husband and I traveled all over the northeastern part of the United States attending church meetings, camp meetings, and conferences. I'd give sermons at these meetings. People said I was a good speaker.**

**In 1859, my husband and I decided to take our ministry to Canada and to the British Isles. One night while I was preaching in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, a local preacher was angry that I was preaching God's Word. He wrote his argument in a little booklet, and passed it out all over town. He said that it was against God's Word for women to preach!**

**There was a young woman in the audience that night whom I would like you to meet.**

The volunteer portraying Catherine Booth enters the room.



Say: **My name is Catherine Booth. I was so angry when the local clergyman said it was against God’s Word for women to preach. I went home, read my Bible, and wrote a letter to the clergyman explaining why women should preach. My husband, William Booth, encouraged me to turn my letter into a booklet to publish for everyone to see. So, I did. My booklet is called “Female Ministry.” In my booklet, I pointed out that God calls all believers to share His Word.**

**When William and I started The Salvation Army, it was very important to us that women be allowed the freedom to preach. I was a preacher, my daughters were preachers, my granddaughters were preachers. The Salvation Army has always allowed women to preach God’s Word in church, on street corners, at camp meetings, and conferences.**

**I was inspired by Phoebe Palmer and her preaching. She influenced many women to stand up and share God’s message.**

After a few seconds of “time travel” move the timeline marker to the current year on the Salvation Army timeline.

Say: **What amazing women! When Phoebe Palmer and Catherine Booth were alive, it wasn’t common for women to have jobs outside of the home. Most women were wives and mothers. It was strange for people to go to church and listen to a woman preach, but Phoebe and Catherine didn’t let that stop them.**

**Since the beginning of The Salvation Army women have played an important role. Women have always been allowed to preach in The Salvation Army. Women serve as teachers at the College for Officers’ Training. Women have served as General of The Salvation Army.**

**Let’s thank God for the courage and example of Phoebe Palmer and Catherine Booth to stand up and preach God’s Word!**

Offer a prayer of thanksgiving.



### TEACHER TIPS:

For added effect, download sound effects and play the sound for a rocket or spaceship.





## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- two rubber playground balls or balloons



The portion of the memory verse printed in *italics* is the portion of the verse for younger junior soldiers to memorize.



## MATERIALS NEEDED:

-  A
- paper
- scissors
- glue
- magnetic tape
- yarn
- googly eyes
- “old fashioned” clothespins

## 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.”*

Review the memory verse with junior soldiers. Divide junior soldiers into two teams. Instruct teams to each form one line behind the start line. Give each team a rubber playground ball or balloon. One junior soldier from each team will “ride the camel” from the start line to where you are standing by placing the ball between their legs and walking. Junior soldiers must recite the verse properly before they can “ride the camel” back to their team. The first team for all members to “ride the camel” and successfully recite the verse wins.

## REINFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES

(CHOOSE ONE OPTION)

## Angels of Encouragement (Option 1)

Before class, make enough copies of  A for each junior soldier to have one pattern. Cut out the angel wings patterns. Purchase magnetic tape, yarn, “googly” eyes, and one “old fashioned” clothespin for each junior soldier.

Say: **Women are an important part of ministry. Not only are women preachers an important part of ministry, but Sunday school teachers, Sunbeam leaders, moms, sisters, aunts, grandmothers, and neighbors are all important.**

Encourage junior soldiers to make angels using the supplies provided. Glue the googly eyes and yarn to the clothespin. While the yarn and googly eyes dry, instruct junior soldiers to trace and cut out angel wings (pattern  A). Glue the clothespin to the angel wings. When the glue has dried, stick a piece of magnet tape on the back of the angel.

Say: **Let’s say “thank you” to the important women who minister to us. Think about a woman who’s been important in your spiritual life. Say a special prayer thanking God for that woman.**

Instruct junior soldiers to give their clothespin angel to a special woman in their life.



## Saying "Thank You" (Option 2)

As a junior soldier brigade, brainstorm ways junior soldiers can show appreciation for the women who minister to them through corps programs. Allow junior soldiers to select one or two ideas from the list and do them to say "thank you" to the women who give so much to them. Some ideas include: making cupcakes for Sunday school teachers; planting a flower garden to honor the corps officer, YPSM, or youth leaders; singing a song to honor women "ministers" during the morning worship service; or volunteering to carry her supplies to her car.

### WORSHIP PROGRAM

**CHORUS:** Song #64: "Be Bold, Be Strong"  
(Track #14, *Great Big Praise* CD 2)

**SCRIPTURE:** Mark 16:20 (NIRV)

**CHORUS:** Song #56: "Search My Heart"  
(Track #6, *Great Big Praise* CD 2)

### DEVOTIONAL

## Deborah—A Strong Woman

**Say:** There was a time in Israel when the Canaanite King, Jabin, was so mean and cruel to the Israelites that they asked God for help. God spoke to a woman, Deborah, who was a fair and wise judge. Deborah was famous for sitting under a palm tree while making decisions or settling disputes.

God told Deborah to talk to General Barak, and order him to gather men to fight Jabin's commander, Sisera. General Barak said, "I won't go unless you go with me." Deborah agreed to go with General Barak and his men into war.

Together, with God's help, the Israelites defeated their enemies. Under Deborah's rule, Israel experienced 40 years of peace. Deborah was a woman who fought in battle and helped defeat the Canaanites. God uses all people—young and old, male and female—to do His will.

### PRAYER



Remember to fill out the *What Do You Think Evaluation* on page 320.

