

# UNSUNG HEROS

**Johanna and the Other Women who Followed Jesus**

**June 23, 2019**

**Opening Prayer:** As you gather together, ask God to show you who some of the most important women have been in your life. Pray for spiritual boldness for those who need to speak up and speak out. Especially pray for the faith of women and girls who strive to follow Jesus in a world that still sees us from the outside and not what's on the inside.

## **Breaking the Ice:**

- Was it a favorite teacher, a neighbor, a babysitter who you can identify as a woman who spoke into your life or loved you in a wonderful way? Who is that woman in your life that made you feel important, valuable, significant?
- There is a long list of women in the Bible who stand out. Some of these women did things that made God's promises come true. Others stood in the gap or made great or unexpected things happen. Who is your favorite biblical woman?

## **Wrestling with the Word:**

Read Acts 16:11-15

- Lydia not only comes to believe in Jesus but, she also becomes bold enough to have Paul and the other apostles visit her house. Her faith causes her to see that her whole family comes to believe and be baptized in Jesus. What women do you know who have shown this kind of boldness?
- The apostles obviously valued the lives of women. How can we show value to women in our lives, in our communities, in our church?
- Women played a unique role in the early church and they offer leadership in the church today? How can we better support and encourage women in the faith?

**Prayer for the Week:** Pray that we can be better people and a better church at supporting and encouraging women in their spiritual lives, their families, their work and their leadership in the church. Ask God to raise up more women as leaders and give them a voice that will guide the rest of us.