

Round Rock Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
DISCIPLES WOMEN'S MINISTRY: 2018-19 Study
JUST WOMEN: CALLED FOR GOD'S PURPOSE
Study Guide for 11 March 2019

Disciples Women celebrate, embrace, and encourage God's call to women, "empowering each woman to find her voice and live out her call." Sometimes due to faulty biblical interpretations or misunderstandings women question if God would call them to mission and ministry. When they recognize a call, they question whether or not they are able, or question "is it still a call" if it's not to vocational ministry? This study offers a biblical look at others who have probably asked the same questions. – Rev. Dr. Patricia Donahoo, Executive Director, International Disciples Women's Ministries

Lesson 6: Phoebe & Junia: Two called women in Romans 16

Scripture: Romans 16

Lesson Summary:

Romans chapter 16 is said to have made an impressive ending to Paul's collection of letters to the Romans. Part of the spirit expressed there is Paul's attitude toward women. In this study from Romans 16, we'll take a look at a chapter that is full of names, including many women. We'll see that Paul's many references to these women in a full range of roles in the early church indicate both his approval of and reliance on women who were also called to spread the gospel. We will explore the roles of two of these women, Phoebe and Junia, who hold two of the highest positions - deacon and apostle. Was Paul really a chauvinist?

Prepare for the study:

- Read Romans 16.
- Consider your thoughts on the Apostle Paul and his perceived views on women.

Questions to ponder after you read the scripture:

1. In Romans 16:1, Phoebe is called a "deacon of the church." One scholar describes a deacon as a "worker who toils and suffers for the gospel." a "teacher." a "special class of co-workers who are active in preaching and teaching." Make a list of the responsibilities of deacons in our church. How does this compare to the description of deacons in this study?
2. Make a list of some of the roles you have played at church. Which roles have been the most satisfying?
3. The roles of women have been understood differently by different denominations over the centuries. If you grew up attending church, what did you see or hear that shaped your understanding of women's roles in the church? How has that understanding changed?
4. Thinking about RRCC and its work, are there currently roles or positions that women rarely hold? Are there positions men rarely hold? What are your thoughts?