

2025–2026 PW/Horizons Bible Study

Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ

By Rhashell D. Hunter

Suggestions for Leaders by Joyce MacKichan Walker

*I*n this Bible study, we will explore resilience. This is modeled for us by several biblical characters, gospel and epistle writers, as well as Jesus. So, what exactly is resilience?

Resilience is the ability to spring back into shape and to adapt well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or stress—such as from family, relationships, health, workplace, and financial stressors. People who survive and thrive well in change are resilient.

The Bible study is also about joy. How do we find joy in a chaotic world? Christian joy may be different from how a lot of people define joy.

Joy is sometimes confused with happiness. For Christians, joy can occur while we are in the midst of difficult circumstances. Joy is the second fruit of the spirit, preceded by love and followed by peace. [Gal. 5:22-23] Trusting in God when we are in trying times can fill us with glorious joy and peace. We have joy in our suffering, because ultimately our joy is found in Jesus Christ.

We will also seek to rediscover our identity.

Identity is more than who we are or who we show ourselves to be. At its core, it points to our humanity. Our core identity is not found in our titles, our positions, our spouses, our partners, or our possessions. For Christians, our identity is found in Jesus Christ.

[From the Introduction to *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ*]



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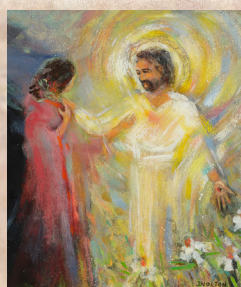
About the Authors



The Rev. Dr. Rhshell D. Hunter served as the director of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries for the Presbyterian Mission Agency for fourteen years. In 2022 she began teaching at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Rhshell has written *Celebrate the Gifts of Women* resources for the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and you may recognize her voice on some audio editions of PW/*Horizons* Bible studies.



Rev. Joyce MacKichen Walker served Nassau Presbyterian Church in Princeton, New Jersey, as director of Christian education. Following her ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2007, Joyce served Nassau as minister of education and mission until her retirement in July 2018. Joyce is a certified Christian educator. This is her fourth time to write the Suggestions for Leaders for the PW/*Horizons* Bible study.



LESSON ONE: Mary Magdalene, the Tower



LESSON TWO: Mary "of a Certain Village"



LESSON THREE: Jesus Is Tested



LESSON FOUR: The Prodigal Child, the Eldest Child, and the Devoted Parent



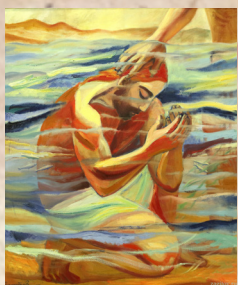
LESSON FIVE: The Gift of the Woman Who Was Poor



LESSON SIX: Finding Our Joy in Christ: "I Will Say It Again, Rejoice"



LESSON SEVEN: The Woman Who Was Bent Over



LESSON EIGHT: Remembering Jesus' Baptism



LESSON NINE: When You Are Walking With Jesus: The Road to Emmaus

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- **Author blog**; journey with the author through the study with Rhshell's monthly blog; the first blog will be posted August 2025; visit and bookmark presbyterianwomen.org/blog.
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