

God's IT Girls

By Megan L. Anderson

As girls created in God's image, we have the ability to show the world what God is like in ways nobody else can. What an honor to be the Lord's one-of-a-kind representatives! But celebrating how he made each of us special isn't always easy when what's popular doesn't jive with our unique interests, gifts, and personalities. Some girls seem to have that "it" factor that skyrockets them into popularity while the rest of us play a comparison game, looking at all the things they have that we haven't. But the truth is God created all of us to be IT Girls.

Not every girl is a math whiz, star soccer player, artist, or lead in the school play, but the Lord made each of us good at something special. And he gave us our talents for the purpose of using them to share his love with others. IT Girls are *intentional* about using their *talents*. Intentional means on purpose. When we do the things we're good at to help people and show them how much God loves them, we're doing what we're created to do. The bible is full of stories of God's IT Girls living the unique and exciting lives he designed them for:

Tabitha – Fashion Designing Philanthropist

Tabitha, a.k.a. Dorcas, was a genius at the sewing machine. Products of her passion for fashion decorated the runways of her hometown called Joppa. With no family of her own to care for, she adopted the widows and needy of her community and outfitted them with beautiful clothes stitched by her own loving hands. Her neighbors loved her so much that when she died they reached out to the apostle Peter, and he, through God's power, raised her back to life (Acts 9: 36-43)! The news of this miracle rippled throughout the ancient world and inspired many to believe in the Lord Tabitha served so faithfully through her countless acts of charity.

Lydia – Business Woman

Lydia was one rich lady. She had it all: a big home, servants, a thriving cloth-dyeing business in an exciting city, a spotless reputation, and sharp smarts to balance it all. And yet she knew none of it mattered without faith. When the apostle Paul visited town, Lydia headed up the line for baptism (Acts 16:12-15, 40). From the time she accepted Jesus as her Savior, she offered her business and home to serve as an evangelism H.Q. Some of the earliest church members met in her dining room. Her property provided a safe house for Paul and Silas during their missionary work (Philippians 1:1-10) when enemies of the gospel wanted to harm them. Lydia's sharing her wealth and home with others not only honored the Lord, but saved lives.

Martha – Expert Hostess

Were Martha alive today she'd be running a five-star Bed and Breakfast complete with gourmet pillow mints and name brand shampoo in the bathrooms. The social hub of Bethany Village revolved smack dab in the middle of Martha's living room, so her pantry was always stocked with the best snacks and the guest rooms were spick-and-span, ready to host anyone needing rest (John 11:17-28). Martha was the best at making people feel welcome and wanted. We find Jesus returning to Martha's house every chance he got, but it wasn't for the fluffy white towels or continental breakfast (Luke 10:38-41). Martha's hospitable spirit refreshed him most. She didn't stop at opening her home to others; she opened her heart for them to experience the peace of God.

Anna – Prophetess

Widowed young after only seven years of marriage, Anna accepted a job as God's personal assistant. For the next 84 years of her life, this kind woman took her post in the temple, receiving and delivering messages between the Father and his people. She constantly prayed with thanksgiving for the needs of fellow worshippers around her, and offered Israel hope as she expected the coming of the Messiah. After nearly a century of serving as God's secretary, preparing the way for Jesus through prayer and a lifetime of worship, Anna finally received the memo she'd been waiting for: the Savior has arrived! As Mary and Joseph walked into the temple where she had devoted her life, Anna gazed into the face of baby Jesus, and her songs of praise echoed louder than ever (Luke 2:36-38). Anna's gift of a worship-filled heart gave hope to everyone around her.

Miriam – Social Justice Activist

Miriam's feistiness, bravery, and stout convictions shone from the get-go. As a child she not only helped her mother save baby brother Moses from death ordered by the pharaoh, she walked right up to the princess and got her mom hired as Moses' nanny (Exodus 2:1-10)! In a time of extreme hardship, Miriam's faith in God inspired her entire nation to stay hopeful. Through Miriam, God taught his troubled people to worship again (Exodus 15:20-21). She served as a political and religious counselor to Moses and her other brother, the High Priest Aaron, for many years. Miriam's passion for justice combined with willingness to follow through with action played an important part in God's plan for restoring the nation of Israel to the promised land (Numbers 12:1-15).

What talents has God given you? Not sure? Ask your friends, teachers, family, and others who know you well what they think you're good at. Their answers might surprise you! Also think about the things you like to do. How can you use those things to honor the Lord and bless other people like these ladies of the bible did? If you love little kids, you could offer to help out in your church's nursery or babysit for a busy neighbor. Like to bake? Whip up some cookies for that family going through a hard time. IT Girls are always on the lookout for opportunities to put their unique designs to good use. The possibilities are endless! What will you do?