

Challenge to the warrior messiah expectation

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|---|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What does she think there was no expectation of? | The incarnation of God or salvation through sacrifice |
| 2 | What was Jesus not? | A military leader |
| 3 | What did Jesus reject? | Patriarchal God-talk |

God as female wisdom

| | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What is female wisdom called? | Sophia |
| 2 | Where is wisdom portrayed as female? | The Old Testament of the Bible |
| 3 | What does Reuther say about it? | It has been lost by patriarchal structure |

Jesus as the incarnation of wisdom

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|---|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How should we recognise Jesus? | The feminine aspect of God |
| 2 | Where can Jesus as Sophia be found? | The Gospel of John- NT |
| 3 | What was not essential for Reuther? | Jesus being a male, he could have been female |

Can a male saviour save women?

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|---|--------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Two reasons why a male saviour can save women | Jesus was male by chance his gender is not important Jesus engaged with women as much as he did men- he intended to save women also |
| 2 | Two reasons why a male saviour cannot save women | If he is the perfect human then that means male Salvation means buying into a patriarchal religion and church |

'If God is male then male is God'

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|---|------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What did she want as a radical feminist? | Leave established Christianity behind |
| 2 | What does 'male is God mean'? | Patriarchy has meant we view God in male terms |
| 3 | What needs to happen according to Daly? | God needs to be castrated |

The 'Unholy' Trinity

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|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What does she say on rape? | Patriarchal society has oppressed women and led to sexual violence |
| 2 | What does she say on Genocide? | Patriarchy has oppressed culture and led to genocide |
| 3 | What does she say about war? | Violence is based on a 'phallic mentality' |

Spirituality experiences through nature

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|---|--------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What verb is normally used for God? | Fixed male verb |
| 2 | What is 'Be-ing' for Daly? | Life being viewed as a spiritual process instead of aiming to be like God |
| 3 | How does Daly want to change spirituality? | By breaking away from old spirituality. |

Daly on abandoning Christianity

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|---|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | What is the issue with language? | God can never be understood by gendered language |
| 2 | What is the fate for the church? | It needs to be rejected and replaced |
| 3 | What is the role of women in the change? | They need to have full control of the change |

Key Vocabulary

| | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Post-Christian theology | Religious thinking that abandons traditional Christian thought |
| Reform feminist theology | Religious thinking that seeks to change traditional thought |
| David messiah | A messiah figure based on the kingly military images of the OT |
| Servant king | An understanding of the Messiah that focuses on service rather than overlordship |
| Sophia | Greek for wisdom, personified in the female form |
| Theology | Studying God based around goddess' |



The Theology of Mary Daly

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| Servant king | |
| Sophia | |
| Theology | |



What the Spec says on gender and society

Christians teaching on the roles of men and women in the family

Including reference to:

- Ephesians 5:22-33
- Muleriris Dignitatem

Christian responses to contemporary secular views about the roles of men and women in the family and society

The ways in which Christians have adapted and challenged changing attitudes to family and gender, including issues of:

- Motherhood/parenthood
- Different types of family

Learners should have the opportunity to discuss related to Christians responses to changing views of gender and gender roles, including:

- Whether or not official Christian teaching should resist current secular views of gender
- Whether or not secular views of gender equality have undermined Christian gender roles
- Whether or not the idea of family is entirely culturally determined

What the spec says on gender and theology

The reinterpretation of God by feminist theologians, including;

- The teaching of Rosemary Radford Reuther and Mary Daly on gender and its implication for the Christians idea of God

Reuther's discussion of the maleness of Christ and implications for salvation, including:

- Jesus' challenge to the male warrior messiah expectation
- God as the female wisdom principle
- Jesus as the incarnation of wisdom

Daly's claim that 'if God is male then male is God' and its implications for Christianity, including:

- Christianity's 'Unholy Trinity' of rape, genocide and war
- Spiritually experienced through nature

- a comparison of RRR's and Daly's feminist theologies
- Sexism and patriarchy in the Christianity, as it has developed in the mainstream churches
- Whether Christianity can be changed or abandoned
- Whether or not Christianity is essentially sexist
- Whether or not a male savior can save women
- Whether or not only women can develop genuine spirituality
- Whether or not the Christian God can be presented in female terms



Rosemary Radford Reuther (RRR)

Catholic feminist theologian, she wanted Christianity to move away from patriarchy, the focus should be on God not male leaders.

- **Male warrior messiah** idea was a product of its time and not who Jesus was. Therefore the 'military maleness' of God is needed; the fact he is a biological man does not matter.
- **God as female wisdom**- wisdom or 'Sophia' is seen as female, it has been lost through the influence of patriarchy. RRR thinks we should recognise Jesus as having 'Sophia' it is highlighted in Johns Gospel. His maleness is not essential Jesus could be any gender.

Can a male saviour save women

| Yes | No |
|--------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Jesus was male by chance- he embodies Sophia | If Jesus is the perfect human then the perfect human must be male |
| He challenged the warrior image | Male dominated religion |
| At Pentecost, both men and women were treated equally. | Salvation needs 'by in' why should women buy into patriarchy |
| Jesus engaged as much with women as he did with men | Women cannot be priests in the Catholic Church. Its also inspired by male leaders. |

Mary Daly

Radical feminist theologian thought that religion needed a full re-evaluation and reform to remove patriarchy. She wants to aim for a post-Christian spirituality. She said we cannot just replace male terms with female, that is not enough.

- **Unholy Trinity:** Genocide, Rape and War. Believed women are abused because of these three male elements
- **Spirituality:** wanted to remove God as a fixed male figure and replace it with 'being' because God is not a man. God is not an object. God is genderless.

'If God is male then male is God' Daly

