

Walking IN HIS Purpose

LESSONS FROM WOMEN WHO
FOLLOWED GOD'S PLAN



A 10-DAY DEVOTIONAL STUDY OF FINDING
STRENGTH AND GRACE IN GOD'S DIVINE PLAN

LightSource

Introduction

Fellow believer,

Welcome to this 10-day study on the incredible women of the Bible whose stories illustrate timeless truths and profound life principles. The Word of God recounts the narratives of women who, with grace and strength, navigated through social constraints, personal challenges, and divine callings. In this study, we invite you to embark on a spiritual journey to uncover the unique lessons embedded in their lives.

From Eve, the mother of all living, where we first explore choices and accountability, to Priscilla, a partner in ministry who exemplifies collaboration and service, each day offers insights into the heart and faith of these remarkable women. You will delve into the unwavering faith of Sarah, the loyal heart of Ruth, the courage of Esther, and the nurturing

hospitality of Lydia—to name a few. Each narrative reveals God's extraordinary work through ordinary lives, encouraging you to see His hand in your own life.

As you engage with these stories, take time to meditate and allow these scriptures to inspire growth, strength, and action in your everyday life. May this guide not only enrich your biblical knowledge but also empower you to live a life aligned with God's purposes.

A Prayer to Begin

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the remarkable women in Scripture whose lives reflect Your profound wisdom and love. As we embark on this study, open our hearts to receive Your lessons with readiness and clarity. Inspire us to apply these truths in our daily walk, empowered by the faith, courage, and love exemplified in these stories. Amen.

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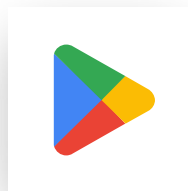


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Bible verses are in NIV and were obtained from [Bible Study Tools](#).

Day 1: Eve – The Mother of All Living

Overview

Eve's story is foundational to understanding human nature and the consequences of free will. Created as a companion for Adam, she was part of God's perfect creation. However, Eve's choice to eat from the forbidden tree led to the fall, introducing sin into the world. Her story teaches us about the weight of our decisions and the impact they have not only on us but on generations to follow. As we study Eve's life, we are reminded of the responsibility that comes with free will and the importance of relying on God's wisdom in our choices.

Scripture

Genesis 2

1 Thus the heavens and the earth were completed in all their vast array.

2 By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.

3 Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it he rested from all the work of creating that he had done.

4 This is the account of the heavens and the earth when they were created, when the LORD God made the earth and the heavens.

5 Now no shrub had yet appeared on the earth and no plant had yet sprung up, for the LORD God had not sent rain on the earth and there was no one to work the ground,

6 but streams came up from the earth and watered the whole surface of the ground.

7 Then the LORD God formed a man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being.

8 Now the LORD God had planted a garden in the east, in Eden; and there he put the man he had formed.

9 The LORD God made all kinds of trees grow out of the ground—trees that were pleasing to the eye and good for food. In the middle of the garden were the tree of life and the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

10 A river watering the garden flowed from Eden; from there it was separated into four headwaters.

11 The name of the first is the Pishon; it winds through the entire land of Havilah, where there is gold.

12 (The gold of that land is good; aromatic resin and onyx are also there.)

13 The name of the second river is the Gihon; it winds through the entire land of Cush.

14 The name of the third river is the Tigris; it runs along the east side of Ashur. And the fourth river is the Euphrates.

15 The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

16 And the LORD God commanded the man, “You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; **17** but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat from it you will certainly die.”

18 The LORD God said, “It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him.”

19 Now the LORD God had formed out of the ground all the wild animals and all the birds in the sky. He brought them to the man to see what he would name them; and whatever the man called each living creature, that was its name.

20 So the man gave names to all the livestock, the birds in the sky and all the wild animals. But for Adam no suitable helper was found.

21 So the LORD God caused the man to fall into a deep sleep; and while he was sleeping, he took one of the man's ribs and then closed up the place with flesh.

22 Then the LORD God made a woman from the rib he had taken out of the man, and he brought her to the man.

23 The man said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called 'woman,' for she was taken out of man."

24 That is why a man leaves his father and mother and is united to his wife, and they become one flesh.

25 Adam and his wife were both naked, and they felt no shame.

Genesis 3

1 Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat from any tree in the garden'?"

2 The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden,

3 but God did say, 'You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.' "

4 “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman.

5 “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”

6 When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.

7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

8 Then the man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and they hid from the LORD God among the trees of the garden.

9 But the LORD God called to the man, “Where are you?”

10 He answered, “I heard you in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”

11 And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?”

12 The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.”

13 Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”

14 So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life.

15 And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

16 To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire

will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.”

17 To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life.

18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field.

19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.”

20 Adam named his wife Eve, because she would become the mother of all the living.

21 The LORD God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them.

22 And the LORD God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand

and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.”

23 So the LORD God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken.

24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the lessons we learn from Eve's life. Help us to make wise choices in our daily walk with You. May we understand the impact of our actions and seek Your guidance in all we do. Grant us the wisdom and courage to choose paths that honor You and bring about positive change in our lives and those around us. Amen.

Day 2: Sarah – Faith in God's Promises

Overview

Sarah's journey is a testament to faith and patience. Initially, she struggles with disbelief and doubt regarding God's promise of a child. Yet, her story concludes with the miraculous birth of Isaac, fulfilling God's word. Through Sarah, we learn the importance of trusting God's promises and waiting on His timing, even when circumstances seem impossible. Her life encourages us to look beyond our limitations and believe in the divine power at work. Understanding her story helps us to grasp the essence of hope infused with faith, teaching us to hold fast to God's unwavering promises.

Scripture

Genesis 18

The Three Visitors

1 The LORD appeared to Abraham near the great trees of Mamre while he was sitting at the entrance to his tent in the heat of the day.

2 Abraham looked up and saw three men standing nearby. When he saw them, he hurried from the entrance of his tent to meet them and bowed low to the ground.

3 He said, "If I have found favor in your eyes, my lord, do not pass your servant by.

4 Let a little water be brought, and then you may all wash your feet and rest under this tree.

5 Let me get you something to eat, so you can be refreshed and then go on your way—now that you have come to your servant." "Very well," they answered, "do as you say."

6 So Abraham hurried into the tent to Sarah. "Quick," he said, "get three seahs of the finest flour and knead it and bake some bread."

7 Then he ran to the herd and selected a choice, tender calf and gave it to a servant, who hurried to prepare it.

8 He then brought some curds and milk and the calf that had been prepared, and set these before them. While they ate, he stood near them under a tree.

9 “Where is your wife Sarah?” they asked him. “There, in the tent,” he said.

10 Then one of them said, “I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife will have a son.” Now Sarah was listening at the entrance to the tent, which was behind him.

11 Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

12 So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

13 Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’

14 Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

15 Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, “I did not laugh.” But he said, “Yes, you did laugh.”

Abraham Pleads for Sodom

16 When the men got up to leave, they looked down toward Sodom, and Abraham walked along with them to see them on their way.

17 Then the LORD said, “Shall I hide from Abraham what I am about to do?

18 Abraham will surely become a great and powerful nation, and all nations on earth will be blessed through him.

19 For I have chosen him, so that he will direct his children and his household after him to keep the way of the LORD by doing what is right and just, so that the LORD will bring about for Abraham what he has promised him.”

20 Then the LORD said, “The outcry against Sodom and Gomorrah is so great and their sin so grievous

21 that I will go down and see if what they have done is as bad as the outcry that has reached me. If not, I will know.”

22 The men turned away and went toward Sodom, but Abraham remained standing before the LORD.

23 Then Abraham approached him and said: “Will you sweep away the righteous with the wicked?

24 What if there are fifty righteous people in the city? Will you really sweep it away and not spare the place for the sake of the fifty righteous people in it?

25 Far be it from you to do such a thing—to kill the righteous with the wicked, treating the righteous and the wicked alike. Far be it from you! Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?”

26 The LORD said, “If I find fifty righteous people in the city of Sodom, I will spare the whole place for their sake.”

27 Then Abraham spoke up again: “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, though I am nothing but dust and ashes,

28 what if the number of the righteous is five less than fifty? Will you destroy the whole city for lack of five people?” “If I find forty-five there,” he said, “I will not destroy it.”

29 Once again he spoke to him, “What if only forty are found there?” He said, “For the sake of forty, I will not do it.”

30 Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak. What if only thirty can be found there?” He answered, “I will not do it if I find thirty there.”

31 Abraham said, “Now that I have been so bold as to speak to the Lord, what if only twenty can be found there?” He said, “For the sake of twenty, I will not destroy it.”

32 Then he said, “May the Lord not be angry, but let me speak just once more. What if only ten can be found there?” He answered, “For the sake of ten, I will not destroy it.”

33 When the LORD had finished speaking with Abraham, he left, and Abraham returned home.

Prayer

Loving God, thank You for Sarah's story and the lessons of faith and patience it imparts. Help us to trust Your promises, even when life seems uncertain. Teach us to wait on Your perfect timing and to keep our eyes fixed on Your faithfulness. Increase our faith as we navigate the challenges before us, holding onto the hope that You will fulfill Your word in our lives. Amen.

Day 3: Hagar – Seeing the God Who Sees Me

Overview

Hagar's narrative is one of suffering and divine encounter. As a servant and mother, she experiences hardship and rejection but is transformed by God's intercession. In the wilderness, Hagar meets "the God who sees," a powerful reminder of God's omnipresence and care. Her story teaches us that God is always aware of our struggles and is actively involved in our redemption. Through Hagar, we understand that no one is unseen or forgotten by God, encouraging a deep trust in His presence during our most challenging times.

Scripture

Genesis 16

1 Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar;

2 so she said to Abram, "The LORD has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her." Abram agreed to what Sarai said.

3 So after Abram had been living in Canaan ten years, Sarai his wife took her Egyptian slave Hagar and gave her to her husband to be his wife.

4 He slept with Hagar, and she conceived. When she knew she was pregnant, she began to despise her mistress.

5 Then Sarai said to Abram, "You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms, and now that she knows she is pregnant, she despises me. May the LORD judge between you and me."

6 "Your slave is in your hands," Abram said. "Do with her whatever you think best." Then Sarai mistreated Hagar; so she fled from her.

7 The angel of the LORD found Hagar near a spring in the desert; it was the spring that is beside the road to Shur.

8 And he said, "Hagar, slave of Sarai, where have you come from, and where are you going?" "I'm running away from my mistress Sarai," she answered.

9 Then the angel of the LORD told her, "Go back to your mistress and submit to her."

10 The angel added, "I will increase your descendants so much that they will be too numerous to count."

11 The angel of the LORD also said to her: "You are now pregnant and you will give birth to a son. You shall name him Ishmael, for the LORD has heard of your misery.

12 He will be a wild donkey of a man; his hand will be against everyone and everyone's hand against him, and he will live in hostility toward all his brothers."

13 She gave this name to the LORD who spoke to her: "You are the God who sees me," for she said, "I have now seen the One who sees me."

14 That is why the well was called Beer Lahai Roi ; it is still there, between Kadesh and Bered.

15 So Hagar bore Abram a son, and Abram gave the name Ishmael to the son she had borne.

16 Abram was eighty-six years old when Hagar bore him Ishmael.

Genesis 21:1-21

The Birth of Isaac

1 Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as he had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what he had promised.

2 Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

3 Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

4 When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.

5 Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

6 Sarah said, "God has brought me laughter, and everyone who hears about this will laugh with me."

7 And she added, "Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age."

Hagar and Ishmael Sent Away

8 The child grew and was weaned, and on the day Isaac was weaned Abraham held a great feast.

9 But Sarah saw that the son whom Hagar the Egyptian had borne to Abraham was mocking,

10 and she said to Abraham, "Get rid of that slave woman and her son, for that woman's son

will never share in the inheritance with my son Isaac.”

11 The matter distressed Abraham greatly because it concerned his son.

12 But God said to him, “Do not be so distressed about the boy and your slave woman. Listen to whatever Sarah tells you, because it is through Isaac that your offspring will be reckoned.

13 I will make the son of the slave into a nation also, because he is your offspring.”

14 Early the next morning Abraham took some food and a skin of water and gave them to Hagar. He set them on her shoulders and then sent her off with the boy. She went on her way and wandered in the Desert of Beersheba.

15 When the water in the skin was gone, she put the boy under one of the bushes.

16 Then she went off and sat down about a bowshot away, for she thought, “I cannot watch the boy die.” And as she sat there, she began to sob.

17 God heard the boy crying, and the angel of God called to Hagar from heaven and said to her, "What is the matter, Hagar? Do not be afraid; God has heard the boy crying as he lies there.

18 Lift the boy up and take him by the hand, for I will make him into a great nation."

19 Then God opened her eyes and she saw a well of water. So she went and filled the skin with water and gave the boy a drink.

20 God was with the boy as he grew up. He lived in the desert and became an archer.

21 While he was living in the Desert of Paran, his mother got a wife for him from Egypt.

Prayer

Gracious God, we thank You for revealing Yourself as the God who sees. Just as You saw Hagar in her distress, open our eyes to Your constant presence in our lives. Help us to rely on Your strength when we face trials, knowing You are our ever-present help. May we find

comfort in Your care and confidence in Your plans, experiencing hope and assurance in Your loving guidance. Amen.

Day 4: Miriam – Leading with Boldness

Overview

Miriam stands as a symbol of leadership and devotion. As the elder sister of Moses, she plays a pivotal role in the Exodus narrative. Her wisdom and courage help guide the Israelites, and her song of triumph resonates through generations. Yet, her journey also teaches the importance of humility in leadership. Miriam's life illustrates the balance of authority and submission to God, reminding us that true leadership is rooted in service and alignment with divine will. Her story encourages us to lead boldly, with grace and a heart committed to God's purposes.

Scripture

Exodus 15:1-21

1 Then Moses and the Israelites sang this song to the LORD: "I will sing to the LORD, for he is

highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.

2 “The LORD is my strength and my defense ; he has become my salvation. He is my God, and I will praise him, my father’s God, and I will exalt him.

3 The LORD is a warrior; the LORD is his name.

4 Pharaoh’s chariots and his army he has hurled into the sea. The best of Pharaoh’s officers are drowned in the Red Sea.

5 The deep waters have covered them; they sank to the depths like a stone.

6 Your right hand, LORD, was majestic in power. Your right hand, LORD, shattered the enemy.

7 “In the greatness of your majesty you threw down those who opposed you. You unleashed your burning anger; it consumed them like stubble.

8 By the blast of your nostrils the waters piled up. The surging waters stood up like a wall; the deep waters congealed in the heart of the sea.

9 The enemy boasted, 'I will pursue, I will overtake them. I will divide the spoils; I will gorge myself on them. I will draw my sword and my hand will destroy them.'

10 But you blew with your breath, and the sea covered them. They sank like lead in the mighty waters.

11 Who among the gods is like you, LORD? Who is like you— majestic in holiness, awesome in glory, working wonders?

12 "You stretch out your right hand, and the earth swallows your enemies.

13 In your unfailing love you will lead the people you have redeemed. In your strength you will guide them to your holy dwelling.

14 The nations will hear and tremble; anguish will grip the people of Philistia.

15 The chiefs of Edom will be terrified, the leaders of Moab will be seized with trembling, the people of Canaan will melt away;

16 terror and dread will fall on them. By the power of your arm they will be as still as a stone— until your people pass by, LORD, until the people you bought pass by.

17 You will bring them in and plant them on the mountain of your inheritance— the place, LORD, you made for your dwelling, the sanctuary, Lord, your hands established.

18 “The LORD reigns for ever and ever.”

19 When Pharaoh's horses, chariots and horsemen went into the sea, the LORD brought the waters of the sea back over them, but the Israelites walked through the sea on dry ground.

20 Then Miriam the prophet, Aaron's sister, took a timbrel in her hand, and all the women followed her, with timbrels and dancing.

21 Miriam sang to them: “Sing to the LORD, for he is highly exalted. Both horse and driver he has hurled into the sea.”

Numbers 12

1 Miriam and Aaron began to talk against Moses because of his Cushite wife, for he had married a Cushite.

2 “Has the LORD spoken only through Moses?” they asked. “Hasn’t he also spoken through us?” And the LORD heard this.

3 (Now Moses was a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth.)

4 At once the LORD said to Moses, Aaron and Miriam, “Come out to the tent of meeting, all three of you.” So the three of them went out.

5 Then the LORD came down in a pillar of cloud; he stood at the entrance to the tent and summoned Aaron and Miriam. When the two of them stepped forward,

6 he said, “Listen to my words: “When there is a prophet among you, I, the LORD, reveal myself to them in visions, I speak to them in dreams.

7 But this is not true of my servant Moses; he is faithful in all my house.

8 With him I speak face to face, clearly and not in riddles; he sees the form of the LORD. Why then were you not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?”

9 The anger of the LORD burned against them, and he left them.

10 When the cloud lifted from above the tent, Miriam’s skin was leprous—it became as white as snow. Aaron turned toward her and saw that she had a defiling skin disease,

11 and he said to Moses, “Please, my lord, I ask you not to hold against us the sin we have so foolishly committed.

12 Do not let her be like a stillborn infant coming from its mother’s womb with its flesh half eaten away.”

13 So Moses cried out to the LORD, “Please, God, heal her!”

14 The LORD replied to Moses, “If her father had spit in her face, would she not have been in disgrace for seven days? Confine her outside the camp for seven days; after that she can be brought back.”

15 So Miriam was confined outside the camp for seven days, and the people did not move on till she was brought back.

16 After that, the people left Hazeroth and encamped in the Desert of Paran.

Prayer

Almighty God, thank You for Miriam's example of leadership and courage. Grant us boldness to lead where You have called us, with humility and wisdom. Help us to navigate the tensions between confidence and submission, always seeking to align our actions with Your will. May our lives reflect Your grace and truth, leading

others toward Your light with integrity and love.
Amen.

Day 5: Mary Magdalene – Witness to Resurrection

Overview

Mary Magdalene's story is a touching testament to devotion and joy in sharing the good news. A faithful follower of Jesus, she was the first to witness His resurrection, signifying her integral role in the early church. Mary's life underscores the importance of deep personal devotion to Jesus and the transformative power of His presence. Her story inspires us to witness with joy and dedication, recognizing that our testimony can profoundly impact others. Through Mary Magdalene, we learn to cling to faith and boldly proclaim the hope found in Christ's resurrection.

Scripture

John 20

1 Early on the first day of the week, while it was still dark, Mary Magdalene went to the tomb and saw that the stone had been removed from the entrance.

2 So she came running to Simon Peter and the other disciple, the one Jesus loved, and said, "They have taken the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!"

3 So Peter and the other disciple started for the tomb.

4 Both were running, but the other disciple outran Peter and reached the tomb first.

5 He bent over and looked in at the strips of linen lying there but did not go in.

6 Then Simon Peter came along behind him and went straight into the tomb. He saw the strips of linen lying there,

7 as well as the cloth that had been wrapped around Jesus' head. The cloth was still lying in its place, separate from the linen.

8 Finally the other disciple, who had reached the tomb first, also went inside. He saw and believed.

9 (They still did not understand from Scripture that Jesus had to rise from the dead.)

10 Then the disciples went back to where they were staying.

Jesus Appears to Mary Magdalene

11 Now Mary stood outside the tomb crying. As she wept, she bent over to look into the tomb

12 and saw two angels in white, seated where Jesus' body had been, one at the head and the other at the foot.

13 They asked her, "Woman, why are you crying?" "They have taken my Lord away," she said, "and I don't know where they have put him."

14 At this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she did not realize that it was Jesus.

15 He asked her, “Woman, why are you crying? Who is it you are looking for?” Thinking he was the gardener, she said, “Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have put him, and I will get him.”

16 Jesus said to her, “Mary.” She turned toward him and cried out in Aramaic, “Rabboni!” (which means “Teacher”).

17 Jesus said, “Do not hold on to me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father. Go instead to my brothers and tell them, ‘I am ascending to my Father and your Father, to my God and your God.’ ”

18 Mary Magdalene went to the disciples with the news: “I have seen the Lord!” And she told them that he had said these things to her.

Jesus Appears to His Disciples

19 On the evening of that first day of the week, when the disciples were together, with the doors locked for fear of the Jewish leaders,

Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

20 After he said this, he showed them his hands and side. The disciples were overjoyed when they saw the Lord.

21 Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you."

22 And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

23 If you forgive anyone's sins, their sins are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Jesus Appears to Thomas

24 Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came.

25 So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

26 A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!"

27 Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop doubting and believe."

28 Thomas said to him, "My Lord and my God!"

29 Then Jesus told him, "Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

The Purpose of John's Gospel

30 Jesus performed many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not recorded in this book.

31 But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in his name.

Prayer

Redeemer God, thank You for Mary Magdalene's devotion and joy in witnessing Jesus's resurrection. Help us to embody her faith and enthusiasm as we share the good news of Christ with those around us. May our lives reflect the transformational power of Your love, inspiring others to follow You. Grant us the courage and joy to be bold witnesses in a world in need of hope. Amen.

Day 6: Lydia – Hospitality and Generosity

Overview

Lydia's story in Acts is a heartwarming account of conversion and hospitality. As a successful businesswoman, she uses her resources to support Paul's ministry, opening her home as a hub for early believers. Her life teaches us about the impact of generosity and hospitality in building God's kingdom. Lydia's story reminds us that God places us in positions to use our gifts for meaningful service, encouraging hearts to welcome and serve others generously. Her example calls us to embrace opportunities to use our blessings for the benefit of God's work in the world.

Scripture

Acts 15:1-15

1 Paul came to Derbe and then to Lystra, where a disciple named Timothy lived, whose mother was Jewish and a believer but whose father was a Greek.

2 The believers at Lystra and Iconium spoke well of him.

3 Paul wanted to take him along on the journey, so he circumcised him because of the Jews who lived in that area, for they all knew that his father was a Greek.

4 As they traveled from town to town, they delivered the decisions reached by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem for the people to obey.

5 So the churches were strengthened in the faith and grew daily in numbers.

Paul's Vision of the Man of Macedonia

6 Paul and his companions traveled throughout the region of Phrygia and Galatia, having been

kept by the Holy Spirit from preaching the word in the province of Asia.

7 When they came to the border of Mysia, they tried to enter Bithynia, but the Spirit of Jesus would not allow them to.

8 So they passed by Mysia and went down to Troas.

9 During the night Paul had a vision of a man of Macedonia standing and begging him, "Come over to Macedonia and help us."

10 After Paul had seen the vision, we got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that God had called us to preach the gospel to them.

Lydia's Conversion in Philippi

11 From Troas we put out to sea and sailed straight for Samothrace, and the next day we went on to Neapolis.

12 From there we traveled to Philippi, a Roman colony and the leading city of that district of Macedonia. And we stayed there several days.

13 On the Sabbath we went outside the city gate to the river, where we expected to find a place of prayer. We sat down and began to speak to the women who had gathered there.

14 One of those listening was a woman from the city of Thyatira named Lydia, a dealer in purple cloth. She was a worshiper of God. The Lord opened her heart to respond to Paul's message.

15 When she and the members of her household were baptized, she invited us to her home. "If you consider me a believer in the Lord," she said, "come and stay at my house." And she persuaded us.

Prayer

Father, we thank You for Lydia's example of hospitality and generosity. Help us to use our resources to bless others and support Your kingdom. May our hearts be open to opportunities to serve, share, and welcome others into our lives. Guide us to be wise

stewards of all You have entrusted to us, so that our actions may reflect Your love and grace.
Amen.

Day 7: Priscilla – Partner in Ministry

Overview

Priscilla's narrative in the New Testament reveals an inspiring picture of collaborative ministry. Working alongside her husband, Aquila, she is instrumental in mentoring Apollos and spreading the gospel. Her story illustrates the importance of partnership and mutual support in advancing God's mission. Priscilla's life encourages us to work together in harmony, using our gifts to support and uplift those around us. Through her example, we learn that God values each person's contribution in ministry, and that collaboration enhances the reach and impact of His work.

Scripture

Acts 18

1 After this, Paul left Athens and went to Corinth.

2 There he met a Jew named Aquila, a native of Pontus, who had recently come from Italy with his wife Priscilla, because Claudius had ordered all Jews to leave Rome. Paul went to see them, **3** and because he was a tentmaker as they were, he stayed and worked with them.

4 Every Sabbath he reasoned in the synagogue, trying to persuade Jews and Greeks.

5 When Silas and Timothy came from Macedonia, Paul devoted himself exclusively to preaching, testifying to the Jews that Jesus was the Messiah.

6 But when they opposed Paul and became abusive, he shook out his clothes in protest and said to them, "Your blood be on your own heads! I am innocent of it. From now on I will go to the Gentiles."

7 Then Paul left the synagogue and went next door to the house of Titius Justus, a worshiper of God.

8 Crispus, the synagogue leader, and his entire household believed in the Lord; and many of the Corinthians who heard Paul believed and were baptized.

9 One night the Lord spoke to Paul in a vision: "Do not be afraid; keep on speaking, do not be silent.

10 For I am with you, and no one is going to attack and harm you, because I have many people in this city."

11 So Paul stayed in Corinth for a year and a half, teaching them the word of God.

12 While Gallio was proconsul of Achaia, the Jews of Corinth made a united attack on Paul and brought him to the place of judgment.

13 "This man," they charged, "is persuading the people to worship God in ways contrary to the law."

14 Just as Paul was about to speak, Gallio said to them, "If you Jews were making a complaint about some misdemeanor or serious crime, it would be reasonable for me to listen to you.

15 But since it involves questions about words and names and your own law—settle the matter yourselves. I will not be a judge of such things.”

16 So he drove them off.

17 Then the crowd there turned on Sosthenes the synagogue leader and beat him in front of the proconsul; and Gallio showed no concern whatever.

Priscilla, Aquila and Apollos

18 Paul stayed on in Corinth for some time. Then he left the brothers and sisters and sailed for Syria, accompanied by Priscilla and Aquila. Before he sailed, he had his hair cut off at Cenchreae because of a vow he had taken.

19 They arrived at Ephesus, where Paul left Priscilla and Aquila. He himself went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews.

20 When they asked him to spend more time with them, he declined.

21 But as he left, he promised, “I will come back if it is God’s will.” Then he set sail from Ephesus.

22 When he landed at Caesarea, he went up to Jerusalem and greeted the church and then went down to Antioch.

23 After spending some time in Antioch, Paul set out from there and traveled from place to place throughout the region of Galatia and Phrygia, strengthening all the disciples.

24 Meanwhile a Jew named Apollos, a native of Alexandria, came to Ephesus. He was a learned man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures.

25 He had been instructed in the way of the Lord, and he spoke with great fervor and taught about Jesus accurately, though he knew only the baptism of John.

26 He began to speak boldly in the synagogue. When Priscilla and Aquila heard him, they invited him to their home and explained to him the way of God more adequately.

27 When Apollos wanted to go to Achaia, the brothers and sisters encouraged him and wrote to the disciples there to welcome him. When he arrived, he was a great help to those who by grace had believed.

28 For he vigorously refuted his Jewish opponents in public debate, proving from the Scriptures that Jesus was the Messiah.

Prayer

Father God, thank You for Priscilla's example of partnership and ministry. Help us to work harmoniously with others as we seek to advance Your kingdom. Teach us the value of collaboration and encourage us to uplift and support those around us. May our efforts reflect the unity and love You desire for Your people, enriching the work of the Church in all the world. Amen.

Day 8: Ruth – Loyalty and Redemption

Overview

Ruth's journey is a profound testament to loyalty and divine provision. Her devotion to Naomi and willingness to embrace a new faith culture demonstrates an extraordinary commitment to love and service. Ruth's story unfolds in God's grand narrative of redemption, leading her to Boaz, through whom her lineage becomes significant in the story of Jesus. Her life invites us to consider the power of steadfast love and the redemptive plans God orchestrates through our acts of loyalty. She inspires us to trust in God's providence and to commit ourselves to relationships that align with His purposes

Ruth's Loyalty and Commitment

- **Ruth 1:16-17**

“Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will

go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die, I will die, and there will I be buried. May the LORD do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”

Key Lesson: Loyalty and selfless love are foundational virtues. Ruth's devotion to Naomi reflects a Christlike commitment, and can serve as a reminder to love and serve others sacrificially.

God's Providence in Ordinary Life

- **Ruth 2:12**

“The LORD repay you for what you have done, and a full reward be given you by the LORD, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge!”

Key Lesson: God's providence works through the actions of faithful people. He rewards those who seek Him and trust in

His care, even in mundane or challenging circumstances.

Boaz's Kindness and Integrity

- **Ruth 2:10-11**

“Why have I found favor in your eyes, that you should take notice of me, since I am a foreigner?” But Boaz answered her, ‘All that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband has been fully told to me...’”

Key Lesson: God often uses people as instruments of His grace. Boaz's respect for Ruth exemplifies godly character, reminding us to act with kindness and integrity, especially toward those in vulnerable situations.

Redemption Through a Kinsman-Redeemer

- **Ruth 4:10**

“I have also acquired Ruth the Moabite, the widow of Mahlon, to be my wife, to maintain

the name of the dead with his property, so that his name will not disappear from among his family or from his hometown.”

Key Lesson: Boaz serves as a foreshadowing of Christ, our ultimate Redeemer, who restores what is lost and brings hope to the broken.

God's Sovereign Plan and Blessing

• Ruth 4:14-15

“Then the women said to Naomi, ‘Blessed be the LORD, who has not left you this day without a redeemer, and may his name be renowned in Israel! He shall be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age.’”

Key Lesson: God's plans often unfold in ways we cannot foresee, bringing restoration and blessings that impact generations.

Ruth's Role in God's Redemptive History

● Ruth 4:17

“And the women of the neighborhood gave him a name, saying, ‘A son has been born to Naomi.’ They named him Obed. He was the father of Jesse, the father of David.”

Key Lesson: Ruth, a Moabite outsider, becomes part of the lineage of King David and ultimately Jesus Christ. This demonstrates God's inclusive love and His ability to bring extraordinary results from ordinary lives.

[Read the entire Book of Ruth on BibleStudyTools.com](http://BibleStudyTools.com)

Prayer

Faithful God, we thank You for Ruth's example of loyalty and trust. Help us to show unwavering love and commitment, serving others selflessly as Ruth did. Guide our hearts to recognize Your redemptive plans in our lives, even in challenging circumstances. Grant us the

courage to embrace new paths of faith and the wisdom to see Your hand at work in our relationships. Amen.

Day 9: Esther – Courage for a Greater Purpose

Overview

Esther's story is a powerful example of courage and divine calling. Positioning herself bravely before the king, she risks her own life for the preservation of her people. Her story teaches us about the significance of recognizing divine opportunities and acting with faith. Esther's life encourages us to be bold in stepping into the calling God places upon us, understanding that our actions can influence not only our lives but the lives of many. Her courage compels us to trust that God has positioned us purposefully and will provide the strength needed to fulfill His plans.

The Book of Esther is a captivating story of courage, divine providence, and God's faithfulness to His people, even in times when

His presence seems hidden. Here are the key verses and lessons from this remarkable book:

God's Providential Placement

- **Esther 4:14**

“For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s house will perish. And who knows whether you have not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?”

Key Lesson: God places us in specific positions and circumstances for His purposes. Esther’s rise to queenship was no accident but part of God’s greater plan to save His people.

Courage in the Face of Danger

- **Esther 4:16**

“Then I will go to the king, though it is against the law, and if I perish, I perish.”

Key Lesson: Bold faith requires courage.

Esther risked her life to intervene for her people, teaching us to step out in faith, even when the odds seem against us.

God's Justice Against Evil

- **Esther 7:10**

“So they hanged Haman on the gallows that he had prepared for Mordecai. Then the wrath of the king abated.”

Key Lesson: Evil schemes often backfire. God's justice will ultimately prevail, as seen in Haman's downfall after his plot to annihilate the Jews.

Celebrating God's Deliverance

- **Esther 9:22**

“...as the days on which the Jews got relief from their enemies, and as the month that had been turned for them from sorrow into gladness and from mourning into a holiday; that they should make them days of feasting and gladness...”

Key Lesson: God's deliverance is worth celebrating. The institution of Purim reflects the importance of remembering and honoring God's intervention in our lives.

God's Sovereignty in Hiddenness

- **Esther 2:15**

“Esther won the favor of everyone who saw her.”

Key Lesson: Though God's name is never mentioned in the book, His sovereignty is evident throughout. Esther's favor with the king and the timing of events demonstrate that God is always at work behind the scenes.

Influence Through Integrity

- **Esther 8:5**

“If it pleases the king, and if I have found favor in his sight, and if the thing seems right before the king and I am pleasing in his eyes, let an order be written to revoke the

letters devised by Haman..."

Key Lesson: Esther uses her position and influence wisely and with humility, showing that integrity and wisdom are vital in leadership.

[Read the entire Book of Esther on BibleStudyTools.com](http://BibleStudyTools.com)

Prayer

Sovereign Lord, thank You for Esther's courage and commitment to Your calling. Help us to recognize the purpose You have placed in our lives and to act boldly in faith. Grant us the strength to face challenges with bravery, trusting in Your protection and provision. May our courage inspire others and lead them to see Your love and power at work in the world. Amen.

Day 10: Mary, Mother of Jesus – Submission and Trust

Overview

Mary, the mother of Jesus, exemplifies complete submission and trust in God's plan. From the angel's announcement to Jesus's first miracle, Mary displays a humble acceptance of her role within God's greater narrative. Her story challenges us to yield to God's will and to remain faithful in the face of uncertainty. Mary's journey encourages a deep dependence on God, trusting in His divine purpose. Through her life, we learn the significance of faithfulness and humility, and how God uses willing hearts to bring about His kingdom on earth.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, is a central figure in the New Testament, celebrated for her faith, obedience, and role in God's redemptive plan. Her life is a profound example of humility, trust

in God, and devotion. Below is a summary of key passages and lessons from her life:

Mary's Faith and Obedience

- **Luke 1:38**

"And Mary said, 'Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.' And the angel departed from her."

Key Lesson: Mary's willingness to accept God's will, despite its potential cost to her reputation and future, demonstrates total surrender and trust in God's plan.

Mary's Song of Praise (The Magnificat)

- **Luke 1:46-49**

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed; for he who is mighty has done great things for me, and holy is his name."

Key Lesson: Mary's praise highlights

God's faithfulness, holiness, and mercy. Her worship-filled response is a model for how to glorify God in all circumstances.

Mary's Reflection and Devotion

- **Luke 2:19**

"But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart."

Key Lesson: Mary's thoughtful meditation on God's work in her life teaches us the importance of reflecting on and cherishing God's actions and promises.

Mary's Role at the Wedding in Cana

- **John 2:3-5**

"When the wine ran out, the mother of Jesus said to him, 'They have no wine.' And Jesus said to her, 'Woman, what does this have to do with me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'"

Key Lesson: Mary's intercession and trust

in Jesus reveal her faith in His power and timing. Her instruction to the servants reminds us to trust and obey Jesus completely.

Mary's Presence at the Cross

- **John 19:25-27**

“But standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother!’”

Key Lesson: Mary’s presence at the crucifixion reflects her unwavering love and loyalty to Jesus, even in His suffering. This teaches us to remain steadfast in faith, even during trials.

Mary Among the Early Church

- **Acts 1:14**

“All these with one accord were devoting themselves to prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers.”

Key Lesson: Mary's inclusion among the early believers shows her continued faith and participation in God's work through the church. Her life models ongoing devotion to God's mission.

Prayer

Merciful Father, we thank You for Mary's unwavering faith and submission to Your will. Help us to follow her example of trust, even when life seems uncertain. Teach us to surrender our plans to Your greater purposes, trusting that You know what is best. May we be open to Your guidance and willing to embrace the roles You have designed for us in Your grand plan. Amen.

Thank you for reading!

As we conclude this 10-day journey exploring the lives of brave women in the Bible, let us reflect on the powerful principles we've uncovered. Each woman embodied qualities that define faith in action—Eve's lesson of accountability; Sarah's trust in divine timing; Hagar's understanding that God sees every struggle; Miriam's balance of leadership and humility; Ruth's profound loyalty; Esther's courage for a greater purpose; Mary, the mother of Jesus' submission and trust; Mary Magdalene's devoted witness; Lydia's generous hospitality; and Priscilla's collaborative ministry.

These stories remind us that God works through every facet of life, empowering us to live out His purposes. Whether through boldness, faithfulness, or nurturing relationships, these women exemplify transformative qualities that still resonate today.

As you carry forward their legacies, may you find strength and encouragement to embody these principles in your own life, living a testimony of God's abundant grace and unwavering faithfulness.

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, we thank You for the timeless truths shared through the lives of the women we've studied. As we commit to these lessons, may You grant us strength and wisdom to embody the values of faith, courage, humility, and love in our everyday lives. Inspire us to take bold steps, nurture relationships, and serve others with a generous heart. Empower us to continue growing in faith and sharing Your love, that our lives may be a beacon of Your light in the world. Amen.

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