

RUTH

GENESIS

EXODUS

LEVITICUS

NUMBERS

DEUTERONOMY

do not urge me to leave you or 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.

May the LORD do so to me and more also if I do not follow you. But death parts me from you.

- Ruth 1:16-17

RUTH

For the Introduction to Ruth see page 1048

Naomi Widowed

1 In the days when the judges ruled there was a famine in the land, and a man of Bethlehem in Judah went to sojourn in the country of Moab, he and his wife and his two sons. ²The name of the man was Elimelech and the name of his wife Naomi, and the names of his two sons were Mahlon and Chilion. They were Ephrathites from Bethlehem in Judah. ³When they were in Moab and remained there, ⁴but Elimelech, the husband of Naomi, died, and she was left with her two sons. ⁵These took Moabite wives; the name of the one was Orpah and the name of the other Ruth. They lived there about ten years, ⁶and both Mahlon and Chilion died, so that the woman was left without two sons and her husband.

Ruth's Loyalty to Naomi

⁷Then she arose with her daughters-in-law to return from the country of Moab, for she had heard that the LORD had visited his people and returned their exile. ⁸So she said out to the two women, "I was with you two daughters-in-law, and I went on this journey to return to the land of Judah. ⁹But Naomi has two daughters-in-law, so return each of you to her father's house. May the LORD deal kindly and truthfully with you, as you have dealt with the dead and with me. ¹⁰The LORD grant that you may find a husband, each of you in the land of Judah, and that you may remain there with your voices and wept. ¹¹And they said to her, "No, we will return with you to your people." ¹²But Naomi said, "Turn back, my daughters; why will you go with me? Have I yet sons in my womb that they may accompany you? Or have I a husband left that I should have a husband this night and should bear sons, ¹³would you therefore wait till they were grown? Would you therefore refrain from marrying? No, my daughters, for it is exceedingly bitter to me for your sake that the hand of the LORD has gone out against me." ¹⁴Then they lifted up their voices and wept again. And Orpah kissed her mother-in-law, but Ruth clung to her.

¹ Naomi me

¹⁵And she said, "See, your sister-in-law has gone back to her people and to her gods; may you be better off than she. ¹⁶But Ruth said, "Do not urge me to leave you or to return to your people, 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. ¹⁷Where 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." ¹⁸When Naomi saw that she was determined to go with her, she said no more.

Naomi and Ruth Return

¹⁹So the two of them went on until they came to Bethlehem. And when they came to Bethlehem, the whole town was stirred because of them. And the women said, "Is this Naomi?" ²⁰She said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me. ²¹I went away full, and the LORD has brought me back empty. Why call me Naomi, when the LORD has testified against me and the Almighty has brought calamity upon me?"

²²So Naomi returned, and Ruth the Moabitess her daughter-in-law with her, who returned from the country of Moab. And they came to Bethlehem at the beginning of barley harvest.

Ruth Meets Boaz

2 Now Naomi had a relative of her husband, a worthy man of the clan of Elimelech whose name was Boaz. ²And Ruth the Moabitess said to Naomi, "Let me go to the field and glean among the ears of grain after the reapers, whose sight I shall find favor." And she said to her, "Go, my daughter." ³So she set out and went and gleaned in the field after the reapers, and she happened to come to the part of the field belonging to Boaz, who was of the clan of Elimelech. ⁴And behold, Boaz came from Bethlehem. And he said to the reapers, "The LORD be with you!" And they answered, "The LORD bless you." ⁵Then Boaz said to his young man who was in charge of the reapers, "What young woman is this?" ⁶And the servant who was in charge of the reapers answered, "This is the young Moabite woman, who came with Naomi from the country of Moab."

Inspiring Faith



BIBLE STUDY OVERVIEW

There is so much we can learn from the women of the Bible but the most fundamental lesson is the power of faith. Faith is the weaving fabric throughout all their stories. They all walked from fear to faith in some way or another and so can you!

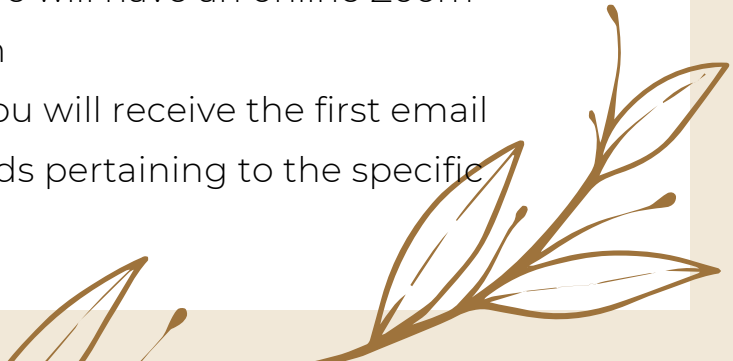
Even though this Bible study is specifically based on Sarah, it belongs to the greater Bible Study Series called “Women of the Bible” that we are continually adding to. Even though the circumstances and time in history differ for each of these women, their stories show us how everyday women can do powerful things when they put their faith in the ever-faithful God.

So please don't just study this woman, challenge yourself to learn more about all the women of the Bible as you grow into the powerful women God has designed you to be. We encourage you to do more of our “Women of the Bible” studies when you are finished this one and learn from these Godly women. All the Bible studies that we have completed are available on our website, www.bloomladies.com, under the tab, “Bloom Bible Studies” and we announce any new studies in our monthly newsletter.

Our prayer for you is that through these studies you grow in your relationship with God and step into all that He is calling you to do.

This is the overview and points to consider when going through this Bible Study.

THE MONTH OVERVIEW:

- On the first Wednesday of the month, we will have an online Zoom prayer session that is open to all women
 - On the second Monday of the month, you will receive the first email containing video links and pdf downloads pertaining to the specific woman being studied that month.
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- On the third Monday, you will receive the 2nd email with content for you to work through during the week
- On the fourth Monday, you will receive the last email for this Bible study
- On the fourth and last Wednesday of the month, we will meet on Zoom to discuss the Bible study and what have been your takeaways from the study. You don't have to attend but we would absolutely love to connect and pray with you! So we really hope you join us. The link to this meeting will be emailed to you.

Here are a few suggestions for you to consider so you can make the most out of this Bible study:

Before you start your reading for the week, spend some time either in prayer, listening to worship music, or quietening your mind. I remember someone once telling me the importance of preparing our hearts and minds to receive, which is the purpose of this.

If you can, find a quiet place free from distractions to work through the questions, dig more into scripture, and journal. I encourage you to spend time in scripture and prayer around the topic discussed each week.

Get a notebook to make notes and answer questions throughout the study. Be expectant of what God is going to reveal to you!

Take time to think and meditate on God's Word. Pray before you start and as you work through the Bible study. Pray over the questions you have for your life. Ask God to reveal things to you as you draw near to Him.

I encourage you to be honest with yourself. This journey is just between you and God, so you have nothing to fear.

Please join us for our meeting on Zoom at the end of the Study and bring your insights, questions, revelations, and prayer needs. We can't wait to connect with you!



Let's get into it




AN OLD TESTAMENT SUMMARY


We will be studying women from the Old Testament and for this reason, we want to give you an overview of the Old Testament so you can place where in history these women lived.

About 1700 years after God created everything, He sent judgment on a rebellious race through a worldwide Flood. He later separated the nations with different languages and scattered them from Babel. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were founding fathers of the Hebrew people. Sold into slavery, Joseph became a powerful foreign leader. The Israelites grew in number for 400 years in Egypt. Then God delivered them from bondage through Moses who took the people across the Red Sea and taught them God's Law at Mt. Sinai. Joshua led the Israelites into the Promised Land after a 40-year trek in the wilderness because of unbelief.

During the transition toward monarchy, there were deliverer-rulers called "Judges," the last of whom was Samuel. The first three Hebrew kings—Saul, David, and Solomon—each ruled 40 years. Under Rehoboam, the Hebrew nation was divided into northern and southern kingdoms respectively called Israel and Judah. Prophets warned against worshipping the foreign god Baal. After the reign of 19 wicked kings in the north, Assyria conquered and scattered the northern kingdom. In the south, 20 kings ruled for 350 years, until Babylon took the people into captivity for 70 years. Zerubbabel, Ezra, and Nehemiah led the Jews back into Jerusalem over a 100-year period. More than 400 "silent years" spanned the gap between Malachi and Matthew.

The 39 books in the Old Testament are divided into 4 main categories:

- "The LAW (or Torah)" (5 books) These books are the beginning of the nation of Israel- God's chosen people. God gives His Laws to them which in essence makes them distinct from the rest of the nations.
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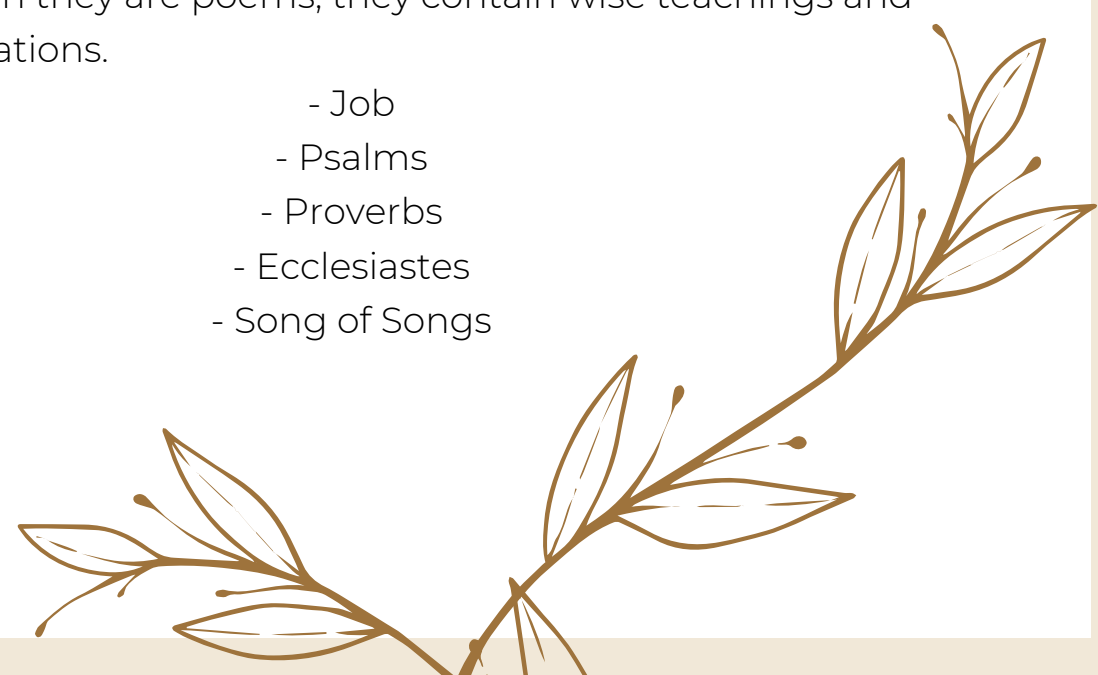
Most of the famous Bible stories you've heard about are probably found in the book of Genesis. These books are also known as the laws of Moses.

- Genesis
- Exodus
- Leviticus
- Numbers
- Deuteronomy

- "HISTORY" (12 books) These books explain what happened from the time the people entered the Promised Land right after Moses died until 400 years before Christ was born.

- Joshua
- Judges
- Ruth
- 1 Samuel
- 2 Samuel
- 1 Kings
- 2 Kings
- 1 Chronicles
- 2 Chronicles
- Ezra
- Nehemiah
- Esther

- "POETRY & WISDOM" (5 books) These are set in the same time period as the history books above but are different because they are poetry. Although they are poems, they contain wise teachings and beautiful illustrations.

- Job
 - Psalms
 - Proverbs
 - Ecclesiastes
 - Song of Songs
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- “PROPHETS” (17 books) These books also run at the same time period as the history books above, except for Lamentations. Each book represents the name of the prophet through whom God spoke to the nation of Israel.

- Isaiah
- Jeremiah
- Lamentations
- Ezekiel
- Daniel
- Hosea
- Joel
- Amos
- Obadiah
- Jonah
- Micah
- Nahum
- Habakkuk
- Zephaniah
- Haggai
- Zachariah
- Malachi



A New Testament Summary

The New Testament was written after 30 A.D. and was completed around 70 A.D. It has 27 books which are broken down into four categories but some scholars break these down in different ways. For this overview, we will break the books into four main categories: The Gospels, History (Acts), Letters or Epistles, and Prophecy (Revelation).

Every New Testament letter encourages us to live a life pleasing to God, to focus on Him, and give our lives to Him. The New Testament confirms the promises of Jesus from the Old Testament. The books also teach us how Jesus sets us free from sin and death. They also encourage us to be transformed into God's image and to everyday focus our thoughts and actions on Him.

- “THE GOSPELS” (4 books) These are Matthew, Mark, Luke & John and are written as biographies of Jesus's life. Matthew and John are first-hand accounts and Mark and Luke interviewed first-hand witnesses to write their books. It is in the gospels that we see God's promises and all the prophecies given in the Old Testament fulfilled.

- “HISTORY” (1 book) The book of Acts is the only “history” type book in the New Testament. It is written by Luke and continues where his gospel ended. It follows the life of the early church from Pentecost, through to the ministry of the Apostle

Paul and others.

- “LETTERS OR EPISTLES” (21 books) These can be broken down into a further 3 categories:

- Pauls Letters to Churches

- Romans
- 1 Corinthians
- 2 Corinthians
- Galatians
- Ephesians
- Philippians
- Colossians
- 1 Thessalonians
- 2 Thessalonians

- Pauls Letters to Individuals (Pastoral Epistles)

- 1 Timothy
- 2 Timothy
- Titus
- Philemon

- General Letters (General Epistles)

- Hebrews
- James
- 1 Peter
- 2 Peter

- 1 John
- 2 John
- 3 John
- Jude

- “PROPHECY” (1 book) The book of Revelation is a book of prophecy, that recalls what Jesus has accomplished and prophesizes about the future.




TRUTHS TO DECLARE

Even though the women we will study lived thousands of years ago, their challenges and experiences are not so different from our ours today. They cooked meals, did laundry, and raised children. They had responsibilities inside and outside of their homes. They aged, attended to sick husbands and refereed fights between their children.

These are women just like us and through their stories we will discover that God is as faithful and powerful now in our everyday as He was to them. We can trust Him and feel confidence in Him, even when we can't see Him.

There are consistent truths that you will see woven through all of these women's lives and these same truths apply to your life today. Keep reminding yourself of these truths as you journey through these Bible studies:



God loves YOU
God knows & cares what is going on in YOUR life.
God is present in YOUR life
God will be forever faithful to YOU
YOU can trust God

We pray that you will be blessed as you dive deeper into God's word and bloom where God has planted you! If you have any questions or queries throughout the study, please never hesitate to contact us on hello@bloomladies.com

“Charm is deceitful, and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord is to be praised.”
Proverbs 31:30

It's going to be a great journey. And, we are so glad to be walking beside you!
Blessings,

The Bloom Team