

Happy Mother's Day



Lessons from Mother's in Scripture DEVOTIONAL | MAY 11

RECEIVE

"Mother" is a complicated word. Some hold deep affection for their mothers, while others connect the word with tension and pain. Some long to become mothers but have yet to realize that dream, while others are at an age or life stage when this is not on their mind and still others who are reading this study are men. Regardless of how we hear the word "mother," God uses mothers throughout Scripture and as our culture celebrates Mother's Day this weekend, we will explore the lessons God teaches us through the mothers in the Bible.

There are many well-known mothers in Scripture—notably Eve and Mary, the mother of Jesus. But there are significant lessons we can learn from lesser-known stories we find in the Bible. Read the suggested passages below and take a moment to consider four Old Testament mothers Hannah, Sarah (Sarai), Hagar and Jochebed.

REFLECT

1. Hannah's Prayerful Devotion | 1 Samuel 1 (read the full chapter)

- o What was Hannah's life like as she experienced infertility?
- o What did it cost her to honor God in her process?
- o What was it like for her to leave Samuel in the hands of God?
- o What can we learn from her about surrendering our desires to God?
- o The beginning of 1 Samuel 2 includes Hannah's prayer after this event. How did her faith become stronger through this difficult season?

2. Sarah's Journey | Genesis 16:1–16; 18:10–15; 21:1–7

- o In an ancient culture where you could be removed from your family and community if you could not have a child, Sarai could not conceive. This created an anxious and desperate situation for her. How did she respond and why?
- o How did Abraham respond?
- o Eventually God promises her a child, what is her reaction and why?
- o What made it so difficult for her and Abraham to trust God's promise?

3. Hagar: Seen by God | Genesis 16:1–16; Genesis 21:8–20

- o Hagar becomes a mother under difficult and unexpected circumstances. Her story is one of faithfulness and she pays the cost for Sarah's anger and lack of trust in God. What do you notice as the difference between these two women?
- o How did God meet Hagar in her despair, and what does this teach us about His care for those who experience hardship at the hands of another?
- o How can we find comfort in knowing that God sees and hears us?
- o If you compare Hagar and Sarai's stories, what do you think God is teaching us through them?

4. Jochebed's Courage | Exodus 1:22; 2:1-10

- o How did Jochebed take risks to protect Moses? What did that decision cost her and why was she willing to take it?
- o Jochebed partnered with Pharaoh's daughter, Moses' sister and a slave girl to protect Moses. Why were they all willing to take a risk for one child?
- o What does this passage teach us about courage?
- o What does it teach us about the type of faith community God uses to surround even one child? How could our world change if we were willing to take a similar risk like this for every child?

RESPOND

Whether a man or woman, mother or not, there are many lessons about strength and faith from mothers throughout the Bible. This week, take a moment to consider the following faith-building moments:

- o Reflect on one mother's story that resonates most with your current season of life. Which mother from this list inspires you?
- o Think specifically about what actions she took and how might you translate her actions into your own life and the circumstances you face?
- o What specific actions can you take this week to honor or encourage a mother in your life? Offer a prayer of gratitude to God on her behalf and ask God to shape in you the same courage, hope and strength she has shown.