

LIFE LESSONS FROM BIBLICAL FEMALE CHARACTERS



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- EVE
- NOAH'S WIFE
- SARAH
- HAGAR

Host

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Why Study Bible Characters?

“**Study** to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15 (KJV)

#1 They are examples of successes and/or failures.

- 1 Corinthians 10:6, 11, 12 (NIV)

Vs 6 - Now these things occurred **as examples** to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.

Vs 11 - These things happened to them **as examples** and were written down **as warnings** for us, on whom the culmination of the ages has come.

Vs 12 - So, if you think you are standing firm, be careful that you don't fall!

- We do not need to reinvent the Will. God's Will, is His Word!

Ecclesiastes 1:9 (NIV)

Vs 9 - What has been will be again, what has been done will be done again; **there is nothing new under the sun.**

#2 There is a blessing for “the reader,” “the listener” and “the doer.”

-Rev 1:3 (NIV)

Vs 3 - Blessed is the one who **reads** aloud the words of this prophecy, and **blessed** are those who **hear it** and **take to heart** what is written in it, because the time is near.

-The “reader” receives the blessing of knowledge, understanding and wisdom.

It is impossible to exercise wisdom without knowledge and understanding.

-The “listener” increases in learning.

Prov 1:5 (ESV)

Vs 5 - Let the wise **hear and increase in learning**, and the one who understands obtain guidance,

-The “doer” becomes a living example of Christ (Disciple).

John 8:31 (NIV)

Vs 31 - ...Jesus said, "If you *hold to my teaching*, you are really my disciples.

#3 All scripture is relevant

- 2 Timothy 3:16 (NIV)

Vs 16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for **teaching, rebuking, correcting** and **training** in righteousness.

- Psalm 119:105 (NIV)

Vs 105 - Your word is **a lamp** for my feet, **a light** on my path.

Everything written in the Word of God is of great value to us. The Bible is our manual for living, from God.

The Word of God teaches, rebukes, corrects, trains, guides, etc.

#4 Food for our spirit

- Matthew 4:4 (NIV)

Vs 4 - Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Man shall not live **on bread alone**, but **on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**'"

The wisdom of the world can only do so much for us. Engaging godly wisdom makes a difference on how we live in this world.

- Romans 12:2 (NIV)

Vs 2 - Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is--his good, pleasing and perfect will.

#5 To help others

- When people come to us for solutions, whom and where do we refer them to?

Psalm 46: 1 (MSG)

Vs 1 - God is a safe place to hide, **ready to help** when we need him.

Psalm 46: 1 (AMPC)

Vs 1 - God is our Refuge and Strength [mighty *and* impenetrable to temptation], **a very present *and* well-proved help** in trouble.

- Knowledge and understanding of the word of God has not been reserved for an elite group.

EVE

- **Eve**
 - Adam's Wife.
 - Created by God.
 - Disobeyed God (sin).
 - Sons: Cain (murderer); Abel (godly example; victim); Seth (godly example).

- **Genesis 2:15-25; 2:15-17; 3:1-23; 4:1-15**
 - Married.
 - Mother and grandmother.
 - Dysfunctional home.
 - Rebellious child(ren).
 - Crisis.
 - Unwise decisions.
 - Influenced others.
 - Divine presence.
 - Forgiveness.
 - Second Chance.

#1 Woman of purpose

- **Genesis 2:18 (NIV)**

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

- **Genesis 2:23 (NIV)**

Vs 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."

- **Wisdom Word(s):**

- Invest time to discover the Lord's purpose for you.

- **Proverbs 19:21 (AMPC)**

Vs 21 - Many plans are in a man's mind, but it is **the Lord's purpose** for him that will stand.

E
V
E

#2a

“Identity” vs “Role”

- **Genesis 1:27 (NIV)**

Vs 27 - So God **created** mankind in **his own image**, in the image of God he created them; **male and female** he created them.

- **Genesis 2:7 (NIV)**

E **Vs 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.

V

- **Genesis 2:22 (NIV)**

E **Vs 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.

- **Wisdom Word(s):**

-We were “created” before we were “formed”/ “made”.

-Our primary “identity” should state something like this - “I am a child of God”.

#2b

“Identity” vs “Role”

- **Genesis 2:18 (NIV)**

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

E

- **Genesis 2:23 (NIV)**

V

Vs 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.”

E

- **Wisdom Word(s):**

- Our “identity” should always precede our “role(s)”. This is a biblical priority.
- Who “we are” is very different from “what we do”.

#3

Elaborate not Exaggerate

- **Genesis 3:1-3 (NIV)**

Vs 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'?"

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

Vs 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**.'"

Original Instruction:

- **Genesis 2:16-17 (NIV)**

Vs 16 - And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden;

Vs 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**."

Wisdom Word(s):

- Do not add "too much" to the detriment of others. Keep it simple.

- **Ephesians 5:4 (NIV)**

Vs 4 - Nor should there be obscenity, **foolish talk or coarse joking**, which are **out of place**, but rather thanksgiving.

- **Psalms 120:2 (NKJV)**

Vs 2 - Deliver my soul, O LORD, from **lying lips**, **[and] from a deceitful tongue**.

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#4 Persuade not Manipulate

- **Genesis 3:6 (NIV)**

Vs 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.

**E
V
E**

Although Eve's action was wrong; in her opinion, she had good reasons why she gave Adam the apple to eat.

Adam was not manipulated to eat the apple. Adam was persuaded.

Wisdom Word(s):

2 Corinthians 5:11 (ESV)

Vs 11 - Therefore, knowing the fear of the Lord, we **persuade** others. But what we are is known to God, and I hope it is known also to your conscience.

#5 Collaborate not Disagree

- **Genesis 3:7 (NIV)**

Vs 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.

E
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E

Adam and Eve both did what was wrong in the sight of God. Instead of disagreeing, arguing or casting blame, they both worked together.

Wisdom Word(s):

- **Amos 3:3 (NLT)**

Vs 3 - Can two people walk together without agreeing on the direction?

#6 Mother of the living

- **Genesis 3:20 (NIV)**

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

The name **Eve** means “**life**” (“**Chavvah**” in Hebrew).

Apart from children, what do you birth, daily?

Wisdom Word(s):

- **Proverbs 18:21 (MSG)**

Vs 21 - Words kill, **words give life**; they're either poison or fruit—you choose.

- **Proverbs 19:23 (MSG)**

Vs 23 - **Fear-of-God is life itself**, a full life, and serene - no nasty surprises.

**E
V
E**

#7 Gratitude not Resentment

- **Genesis 4:25 (NIV)**

Vs 25 - Adam made love to his wife again, and she gave birth to a son and named him Seth, saying, “**God has granted me another child in place of Abel, since Cain killed him.**”

**E
V
E**

The loss of Eve’s son Abel, provided an opportunity for her to grumble, resent, stagnate and live in unforgiveness. Rather she had a pleasant attitude and approach toward the situation. She bore another child and acknowledged God as the One who provided “Seth”.

Wisdom Word(s):

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Vs 18 - give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

NOAH'S WIFE

- **Noah's wife**
 - Sons: Sham, Ham and Japheth
 - Flood
- **Genesis 6:5-22; 7 and 8**
 - Married
 - Mother and Grandmother
 - Crises
 - Natural Disaster
 - Divine Presence

#1

Integrity behind
the scenes.

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- **Genesis 7:7 (NIV)**

Vs 7 - And Noah and his sons and **his wife** and his sons' wives **entered the ark** to escape the waters of the flood.

- **Genesis 8:18 (NIV)**

Vs 18 - So Noah came out, **together with** his sons and **his wife** and his sons' wives.

Wisdom Word(s):

-Noah's wife was "united" and "one" with her family.

In "unity", people assemble for a common interest. In "oneness", people are integrated for kingdom purpose.

1 Corinthians 6:17 (NIV)

Vs 17 - But whoever is "united" with the Lord is "one" with him in spirit.

#2

A Word Practitioner!

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Noah's wife practiced the instructions given by God, to her family, without reservation.

The instruction:

Genesis 6:17-18 (NIV)

Vs 17 - I am going to bring floodwaters on the earth to destroy all life under the heavens, every creature that has the breath of life in it. Everything on earth will perish.

Vs 18 - But I will establish my covenant with you, and **you will enter the ark—you and your sons and your wife and your sons' wives with you.**

Wisdom Word(s):

James 3:13 (NLT)

Vs 13 - If you are wise and understand God's ways, **prove it by living** an honorable life, doing good works with the humility that comes from wisdom.

James 1:22 (NIV)

Vs 22 - Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. **Do what it says.**

#3

Supported her family in fulfilling kingdom assignment.

- She was a wife.
- She was a mother.
- She accepted, supported and embraced her family and her husband's kingdom assignment.

Wisdom Word(s):

Colossians 3:23 (NIV)

Vs 23 - Whatever you do, work at it with **all** your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters,

1 Thessalonians 5:18 (NIV)

Vs 18 - Be thankful in **all** circumstances, for this is God's will for you who belong to Christ Jesus.

#4

Selfless and Sacrificial.

-Humans are not naturally born sacrificial/selfless. It is a virtue we can develop as a child of God. We thank God that the Word of God serves as an effective guide to help us develop selflessness and sacrificial attitudes, just like Noah's wife.

Wisdom Word(s):

Philippians 2:4 (NIV)

Vs 4 - Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Hebrews 13:16 (NIV)

Vs 16 - Do not neglect to **do good** and to **share** what you have, for **such sacrifices** are pleasing to God.

HAGAR

- **Hagar**
 - Sarah's servant.
 - Surrogate mother.
 - Son: Ishmael.
 - Sent away by Abraham.
- **Genesis 16; 21:1-21**
 - Married.
 - Mother and Grandmother.
 - Blended family.
 - Dysfunctional home.
 - Crisis.
 - Victim.
 - Abandonment/rejection.
 - Impoverished.
 - Immigrant.
 - Grief and loss.
 - Unwise and wise decisions
 - Divine Presence.
 - Second chance.

The Odds!

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- Egyptian in Israeli territory.
- Slaved amongst the free.
- Pregnant for her mistress and her husband.
- On the run for her life while pregnant.

Reflection:

- What do you do when the odds are against you?
- What do you do when it seems like the walls are closing up on you from every direction?

More than a slave girl.

**H
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R**

- Wife to Abram. (Gen 16:3)
- Mother to Ishmael.
- Reverenced God.

Reflection:

- What do you do when you are regarded with little or no value?

The God of Hagar

- We are quite familiar with the God of Abraham; The God of Isaac; The God of Jacob.
- Let's introduce ourselves to the God of Hagar. The God of Hagar is Jehovah El Roi!
- **Jehovah El Roi – The God who sees!**
 - The God who sees the challenges that we go through.
 - The God who sees beyond our façade.
 - The God who sees situations for what they really are.

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Reflection:

- What is the story of your personal encounter with God?
- What character and quality of God is most real to you?

SARAH

- **Sarah**
 - Abraham's wife.
 - Famines; Abraham told Pharaoh and a king that Sarah was his sister.
 - Insisted Hagar bare Abraham's child.
 - Unkind to Hagar.
 - Childless until ninety years old.
 - Son: Isaac.
- **Genesis 12:1,10-19; 16; 17:5,15; 18:10-15; 20; 21:1-21; 23:1-21**
 - Married.
 - Mother and Grandmother.
 - Blended family.
 - Dysfunctional home.
 - Childless many years.
 - Crisis.
 - Natural Disasters.
 - Abandonment/ Rejection.
 - Immigrant.
 - Impatient.
 - Wise and unwise decisions.
 - Influenced others.
 - Divine presence.

#1a A woman of faith!

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Genesis 18:9-12 (NKJV)

Vs 9 - then they said to him, “where is Sarah your wife?”
so he said, “here, in the tent.”

Vs 10 - and he said, “I will certainly return to you according to the time of life, and behold, Sarah your wife shall have a son.” **(Sarah was listening in the tent door which was behind him.)**

Vs 11 - Now Abraham and Sarah were old, well advanced in age; and Sarah had passed the age of childbearing.

Vs 12 - Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “after I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, my Lord being old also?”



#1b A woman of faith!

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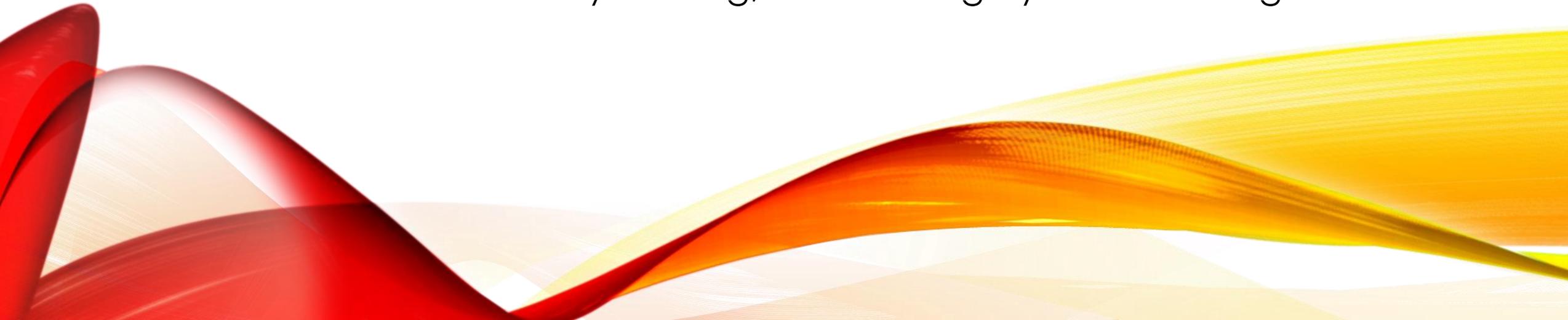
Hebrews 11:11 (NKJV)

By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged him faithful who had promised.

Wisdom Word(s):

- Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

so then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of god.



#2 Respectful wife

Genesis 18:12 (NKJV)

Vs 12 - Therefore Sarah laughed within herself, saying, “after I have grown old, shall I have pleasure, **my Lord** being old also?”

1 Peter 3:6 (NIV)

Vs 6 - Like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him **her Lord**. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.

Wisdom Word(s):

- **Ephesians 5:33b (NKJV)**

...let the wife see that she **respects** *her* husband.

- **Webster's Bible Translation**

and the wife see that she **reverence** her husband.