

**THE
MOTHERS
AND
DAUGHTERS
OF THE
BIBLE SPEAK**

**LESSONS ON FAITH
FROM
NINE BIBLICAL FAMILIES**

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Jochebed and Miriam Study Questions

1. What did Jochebed risk in order to save Moses, and why was she willing to do it? (Exodus 2:2; Acts 7:20; Hebrews 11:23) Do you believe God can give a mother insight beyond what human eyes see on the surface? How can that propel the way she prays for and directs her child?
2. What feelings do you think Jochebed experienced when it was time to send Moses to Pharaoh's daughter? Has God ever asked you to release someone—or something—you loved dearly to His greater plan? How do you reason through those kinds of decisions?
3. For years, Moses was on the run, away from his family and struggling with the role God had planned for him. Have you ever shied away from something God called you to do? What do we know about God's ability to equip us to accomplish when He's asking us to step out in faith? (Exodus 3, 4) Have you ever tried to talk God out of something? Did you eventually see how His plan was better than yours?
4. Have you ever watched as a child or loved one seemed to get way off track? How do you pray for or counsel them while you wait and hope they return?

5. Miriam, Aaron, and Moses were key leaders in Israel's escape from slavery. What does it say about Jochebed that she raised these three siblings who ultimately found their way back to each other to accomplish God's miracles? They were flawed, and prove that sibling rivalry was alive and well in biblical times. (Numbers 12) How does their story illustrate God's ability to work through flawed people?

Ruth and Naomi Study Questions

1. What does the Bible tell us about the beauty of adoption both in Ruth and Naomi's story and in the New Testament language about Christian believers' adoption into the family of God? (Galatians 4:4–5; Romans 8:15)
2. How much of a sacrifice and commitment was Ruth making to Naomi in the well-known words she spoke in Ruth 1:16–18? Why do you think these words are so often used in marriage ceremonies today? How did Ruth's actions also demonstrate her devotion?
3. Ruth modeled great humility. How does God honor that in her story, and how can He use it in our lives? (Ruth 2:11–12; 3:3–4:17)
4. What sacrifice did Boaz make in taking Ruth to be his wife and in the birth of their son, Obed? Where is Obed in the lineage of Christ?
5. What can we learn from the commitment Ruth and Naomi made to each other and how we as Christian women can develop spiritual motherhood and daughterhood in our lives? Is there someone in your life you could develop this kind of relationship with?

Elizabeth and Mary Study Questions

1. What do we know about the kind of woman Elizabeth was? Do you think she had given up on motherhood as part of her story? How does her story highlight the purpose in the period of waiting God sometimes asks us to walk through in order to fulfill His greater plans? (Luke 1:12–20)
2. Why do you think Gabriel told Mary about Elizabeth's pregnancy? (Luke 1:36–37)
3. How were Elizabeth and Mary perfectly equipped to encourage each other through extraordinary times? How can we point each other to deeper faith in God in the face of our own fears and questions?
4. Has someone in your life recognized and encouraged your faith walk as Elizabeth did for Mary? (Luke 1:45) What did that mean for you? Have you done that for someone else?
5. Have you seen the fruit of the seeds a spiritual mother planted in your life? What about in someone you invested in? How can we find spiritual mothers and daughters around us, and what's the eternal impact of investing in those relationships?

Rebekah Study Questions

1. Why was Abraham so firm about where Isaac's wife should come from? (Genesis 24:1–9) What covenant promises were prophesied to flow through Isaac? Contrast this with Esau's choice of wives later in this story. (Genesis 26:34; 27:46; Genesis 28:8–9)
2. What process did Abraham's servant undertake in looking for a wife for Isaac, and how did God answer his prayers? (Genesis 24:10–27). How do you approach a difficult task when the prospect seems overwhelming?
3. Rebekah and Isaac's love story got off to such a promising start, followed by twenty years of infertility and then a difficult pregnancy. How do you think God's prophecy regarding Rebekah's unborn children impacted her and Isaac as parents? (Genesis 25:23)
4. What did the birthright mean to sons in ancient times, and who do you feel was more to blame about what happened between Jacob and Esau in Genesis 25:27–33? What does the interaction tell you about each of the sons?
5. Did Isaac set the example of deception for his family? (Genesis 26:7–11) What was the possible message that sent to Rebekah and their sons?
6. Why was Rebekah willing to betray her husband in such a way? (Genesis 27:1–46) What does it say about her faith in God and His promises? How much responsibility does Jacob bear?

Bathsheba Study Questions

1. What was your impression of Bathsheba before reading this chapter? Did your perception of her change after studying her story? If so, how? Why do you think she is sometimes portrayed in a way that doesn't line up with Scripture?
2. What were the numerous decisions by David that resulted in Bathsheba's pregnancy? Were there warning signs and opportunities for him to put the brakes on his attraction to her? (2 Samuel 11:2-4)
3. After learning Bathsheba was pregnant with his child, how did David actively choose to dig even deeper into his pattern of sin? (2 Samuel 11:6-26) Did David express remorse over his decisions? Have you ever entered into a season of willful sin? What lies did the enemy tell you about what you were doing?
4. How did David react when confronted with his sin? What does true repentance look like? (2 Samuel 12:1-23) What does God promise to those who confess their sins, repent, and turn from them? (Psalm 103:12; 1 John 1:9)
5. What do we learn about David's parenting style, and how did that impact the behavior of his sons?

6. How did Solomon ultimately become king? What was Bathsheba's role? What do we know about the kind of man she had raised in Solomon? (1 Kings 3:7–14) Contrast Bathsheba's role as a mother with Rebekah's. What can we glean about their mothering in light of how their sons turned out?

Mary, the Mother of Jesus Study Questions

1. How does Mary model the broad range of emotions and experiences mothers go through? From the beginning, she shows commitment to obedience and trust. (Luke 1:38) How can we develop the same spiritual characteristics in our lives?
2. What was Mary's reaction to Simeon's prophecy about Jesus's life? How would you react to news like this? (Luke 2:28–33)
3. Does Mary and Joseph's journey as refugees impact how you see those in need around the world? How can we draw inspiration from their willingness to follow God's direction, even when it required a perilous trek?
4. Even though they knew Jesus was the Son of God, Mary and Joseph had other children and a busy, ordinary life. Do you think it was easy at times to forget what His mission truly was? (Luke 2:42–52)
5. What do you make of Mary's role in Jesus's first public miracle? (John 2:1–11) What was the resulting impact on the disciples?
6. What do we learn about deep faithfulness through Mary's appearance not only at the foot of the cross, but also with the gathering of believers after Jesus's death and resurrection?

Dinah Study Questions

1. Why do you think Dinah's story is recorded in the Bible?
2. How should we in the modern church minister to and treat the victims of sexual violence? Have you or a loved one experienced an assault? If so, are you still dealing with the trauma? What resources have been most helpful? What do you wish the church understood about helping in the aftermath of sexual violation?
3. What do we know about what kind of father Jacob was—both to his sons and his daughters?
4. How did Shechem and his family view Dinah and her worth? (Genesis 34:11–12)
5. Were Simeon and Levi justified in deceiving Shechem and his family? What about their decision to use the sign of God's covenant with His people: circumcision?
6. What does Jesus clearly tell us about the concept of mercy in Matthew 18?
7. What were the long-term ramifications of Simeon's and Levi's actions for themselves and their descendants? (Genesis 49:1–2, 5–7; Joshua 18:7; 21:21)

8. How does our relationship with our earthly father influence how we view our heavenly Father? If our earthly father has been less than ideal, how does Scripture point us to the truth about God and how he views us as His children? (Proverbs 15:3; Psalm 86:15; Luke 12:7; Psalm 147:3; Philippians 4:6–7)

Esther Study Questions

1. How does Esther's story model the importance of family in the absence of biological parents?
2. Why did Mordecai tell Esther to hide her identity in the beginning of her story? (Esther 2:20) Is it ever okay to counsel the people under our care to be less than truthful?
3. What does Esther's story tell us about the long-term impact of failing to obey God's commands? (1 Samuel 15; Esther 3:5–6)
4. Why is it important for us to speak truth to those we love? (Esther 4:8–17) How difficult can this be within a family?
5. How important is a faith community when you're struggling with a tough decision or painful challenge? (Esther 4:16; Matthew 18:20) What is the role of fasting and prayer?
6. Does Esther's story give you confidence that God is perfectly placing you where He needs you to be as part of His perfect plan? How can you meet fear and doubt when the enemy tries to tell you otherwise?

Michal Study Questions

1. How poisonous was Saul's jealousy over David? What does it say about him as a father that Saul was more than willing to use his own daughters to try to destroy David? How difficult must it have been for Michal to be caught between her husband and her father? Have you experienced family conflict that stretched your loyalties? How did you resolve it, or are you managing it to keep the peace?
2. How did Saul's plans to use Michal backfire? (1 Samuel 18:28–30)
3. How did Michal try to play both sides of this potentially murderous family conflict? (1 Samuel 19:11–17)
4. How do you imagine Michal must have felt when Saul upended her life again? (1 Samuel 25:44) How did Saul's selfishness and paranoia end up impacting lives far beyond his own?
5. Is David just as guilty of selfishly using Michal, as her father had, without regard to her feelings or wishes? (2 Samuel 3:13)
6. How did bitterness destroy Michal? (2 Samuel 6:20–23) Can we blame her? How can we prevent the seeds of resentment from rooting in our own lives when we've been treated badly?