

Stories of Women in the Bible

NAME	SCRIPTURE	NOTES
Eve	Genesis 3:1-16	Eve was the first woman created by God. She believed the lies of Satan and influenced Adam, breaking God's command. Whenever we follow our pride and choose our own selfish desires over those of God, there will be bad consequences.
Sarah	Genesis 16:1-10 Genesis 18:9-15 Genesis 21:1	Sarah did not trust God, became impatient and influenced Abraham to father a child with Hagar, her Egyptian slave. Making her own plans, instead of trusting God eventually led to two nations (Jews and Arabs). Racial conflict between them continues even today.
Hagar	Genesis 16:7-12	Hagar experienced many hardships in her life. Initially, she was Sarah's slave, then forcefully became a surrogate mother. From arrogant while pregnant, to destitute, Hagar became vulnerable and totally dependant on God.
Leah	Genesis 29:16-30	Leah became the wife of Jacob through her father's shameful trickery. She led a heartbreaking life, trying to win Jacob's love. Even so, God graced her with many children. Out of her one son Judah's line, Jesus was born. Leah is a symbol of people who try to earn God's love.
Tamar	Genesis 38:6-26	Tamar was a widow. She tricked her father-in-law, Judah, and became pregnant by him. She was a deceiver, and an 'immoral' woman, yet both King David and later Jesus, were born out of her line. God will use imperfect people to fulfil His purposes.
Miriam	Exodus 2:1-10	Miriam was instrumental in saving her brother Moses' life. Moses became Israel's deliverer, foreshadowing Jesus and became the most important Jewish prophet, writing the first five books of the Old Testament and giving the Ten Commandments handwritten by God to the Israelites. Miriam's bravery shaped the course of history.

Rahab	Joshua 2:1-21	Rahab was brave and bold, believing in a foreign a foreign God. Even though she was an immoral woman, God used her to save the spies. She is one of only 4 women mentioned in Jesus's genealogy. Rahab's faith in an unknown and unseen God is inspiring.
Deborah	Judges 4:1-14 Optional: Song of Deborah 5:1-31	Deborah played a unique role in Israel's history, serving as the only female judge in a male-dominated culture. Her leadership and Godly wisdom was accepted both by men of all ranks and women.
Ruth	Ruth:1:1-18	Ruth, a Moabite, stayed loyal to Naomi and trusted God. She was humble and kind, but also bold and strong, showing great faith in a culture where widows did not have a voice. She was not an Israelite, yet is one of only four women mentioned in Jesus's genealogy.
Hannah	1 Samuel 1:1-18	Hannah was an example of perseverance in prayer . She honored her promise to God by giving Samuel back to Him. Samuel eventually became the last of Israel's judges, a prophet, and counsellor to kings Saul and David. When your greatest desire is to give glory to God, He will grant that request.
Esther	Esther 4:1-17; 5:1-3	God used her to save the entire nation of Israel from being destroyed and ultimately protecting the line of the future Savior, Jesus Christ. Esther understood the power of prayer and fasting, believing that God can save his people even when the odds seem impossible.
The widow and the jars of oil	2 Kings 4:1-7	God shows compassion on a widow, and with the direction of Elisha she is able to pay off her debt. God sees you in your trouble, no matter how insignificant you think you are.
A woman of noble character	Proverbs 31:10-31	<i>Charm is deceptive and beauty is fleeting, but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised.</i>
Job's wife	Job 2:1-10	When Job was tormented by Satan, his wife tempted him to curse God and then die. Even though this event shows Job's wife as a faithless wife, she too was going through a similar testing and trial. She was a woman pushed beyond what she could endure.
Mary, the willing servant	Luke 1:26-38	Mary was a touching example in the Bible of total surrender to the will of God, even at a very young age. Despite the shame of pregnancy before marriage, she submitted to God. She is one of only four women mentioned in Jesus's genealogy.
Mary and the wedding at Cana	John 2:1-12	Mary is highly respected as a loving influence on Jesus . She is portrayed as a mother who acted in wisdom.

Mary, the suffering mother	Luke 2:25-35 Matthew 12:13-15 John 19:23-27	During her life, Mary endured much sorrow, including a prophecy about Jesus's death, fleeing to Egypt, and then watching her son being cruelly crucified. But she also saw him raised from the dead. She is one of only four women mentioned in Jesus's genealogy.
The Samaritan woman at the well	John 4:1-26, 39-42	This lonely woman, a social outcast, was touched by Jesus. She became an effective evangelist through her testimony. God does not judge us, but restore us so that we can become effective in His Kingdom.
The woman with the bleeding issue	Mark 5:25-34	This woman suffered for twelve years, lost all her money to doctors and was a societal outcast. She defied the purity laws by touching Jesus. Her faith was remarkable, her shame removed, and Jesus healed her through a powerful encounter.
The woman who anointed Jesus	Mark 14:3-9	<i>"Truly I tell you, wherever the good news is proclaimed in the whole world, what she has done will be told in remembrance of her."</i>
Martha and Mary (of Bethany)	Luke 10:38-42	<u>Mary</u> was reflective and fully devoted to Jesus. She was one of several women who supported Jesus in his ministry. <u>Martha</u> was action-oriented and is best remembered for losing her temper and telling Jesus what to do.
Mary Magdalene	Luke 8:1-3 Luke 24:1-11	Jesus had cast seven demons out of Mary Magdalene, earning her lifelong devotion. She travelled with Jesus as one of his followers and was the first witness to His resurrection . Over the centuries, many unfounded stories have been invented about Mary Magdalene. Only the Bible's account of her is true.
The woman caught in adultery	John 8:1-11	The law of Moses requires in cases of adultery that both the man and the woman should be put to death (Lev 20:11). Yet this woman was brought to Jesus alone. He didn't condemn her, but cautioned her to leave her life of sin. This is a story of redemption, showing Jesus's love and compassion.
Lydia	Acts 16:11-15	In a male-dominated Roman empire, Lydia had a successful business selling purple cloth. Lydia is the first documented convert to Christianity in Europe, and she led her entire household to the Lord. Lydia's leadership qualities became apparent when she became the leader and host of the first church in Philippi.
Priscilla (Prisca)	Acts 18:1-3 Acts 19:24-26 Romans 16:3	Priscilla was a businesswoman (tent maker), a wife, an evangelist, a church leader and a teacher. Her faith and her understanding of the gospel was solid, and a worthy equal to her husband, Aquila, in ministry.

Other note-worthy women named in the Bible

Rebekah	Genesis 27:1-19
Shiphrah and Puah	Exodus 1:15-20
Jochebed, Moses's mother	Exodus 6:20; Numbers 26:59
Achsah	Joshua 15:13-19
Naomi, who mentored Ruth	Book of Ruth
Huldah, a prophetess	2 Chronicles 34:14-28
The Syrophoenician woman	Mark 7:24-29
Elizabeth, John the Baptist's mother	Luke 1:5-7
Widow of Nain	Luke 7:11
Women supported Jesus's ministry	Luke 8:1-3
Dorcas (or Tabitha)	Acts 9:36-42
Phoebe, a leader (deaconess) in the church of Cenchreae	Romans 16:1-2
Junia, an apostle	Romans 16:7
Grandmother Lois, and her daughter Eunice, discipled Timothy	2 Timothy 1:5

Feminine attributes of God

In the Bible, God the Father, Son and Holy Spirit are consistently referred to with the male pronoun "He." Therefore, it is Biblically faithful to refer to God as "He." At the same time, we should not claim that God is male by nature. God's divinity is not tied to human gender. Scripture teaches that God is spirit (John 4:24), which means He is not gendered.

When the Bible calls God "Father," it does not mean that God is male in the way human fathers are. Rather, it means that God relates to us LIKE a good father does—providing, protecting, leading, and disciplining us in love. In the same way, when God is described as a husband, Scripture is not saying God is male. It is showing that God loves, protects, and is faithful to his people LIKE a devoted husband is to his wife.

Scripture also uses feminine attributes to describe God. Here are a few examples of how the Bible reveals God through feminine characteristics and metaphors:

1. God comforts his people like a mother comforts her child (Isa 66:13)
2. Like a woman would never forget her nursing child, God will not forget his children (Isa 49:15)
3. God is like a mother eagle hovering over her young (Deut 32:11)
4. God seeks the lost like a housekeeper trying to find her lost coin (Lk 15:8-10)
5. God cares for his people like a midwife that cares for the child she just delivered (Ps 22:9-10, Ps 71:6, Isa 66:9)
6. God experiences the fury of a mother bear robbed of her cubs (Hos 13:8)
7. Jesus longed for the people of Jerusalem, like a mother hen longs to gather her chicks under her wings (Lk 13:34)