

ONE
MINUTE
WITH THE
WOMEN
OF THE
BIBLE

ELIZABETH
GEORGE



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ONE MINUTE WITH THE WOMEN OF THE BIBLE

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Contents

Purpose for a Lifetime 7

Eve, Mrs. Noah, Sarai/Sarah, Hagar

Devotion of the Heart 43

Milcah, Rebekah, Deborah

Trust in God's Love and Leading 73

Rachel, Leah, Bilhah

Courage to Rise to the Challenge 103

*Shiphrah and Puah, Jochebed, Daughter of Egypt's
Pharaoh, Miriam, Nazirite Women, Rahab, Achsah,
Deborah, Jael, Jephthah's Daughter*

Hope That Shines in the Darkness 143

Manoah's Wife, Naomi, Ruth, Hannah

Wisdom and Strength for the Journey 177

*Abigail, Bathsheba, Queen of Sheba, Widow of
Zarephath, Esther, The Proverbs 31 Woman*

**Blessing Through
God's Remarkable Provision 213**

*Mary, the Mother of Jesus; Mother of James and John;
Pilate's Wife; Women at Jesus' Tomb; Syro-Phoenician
Woman; Elizabeth; Anna*

Faithfulness in All Things 251

*Women Following Jesus, Mary Magdalene, Jairus' Wife,
Mary and Martha, Widow with Two Mites, Lydia,
Priscilla, Phoebe, Lois, Eunice, You*

Notes 281



A Note from Elizabeth

Do you love God and want to know more about Him? About how He helps and sustains His people...including you? Are you looking for ways to handle hard times? Guidelines for making better decisions? Or are you unsure how to live out your love for Him? Perhaps you'd like a mentor—a woman who's followed Jesus for a long time and wants to help you in your faith walk?

Through insightful readings focused on the women of the Bible you'll discover how God leads, encourages, uses, and works in the lives of people. Written just for you, these devotions are for today's woman and are practical, helpful, and hands on. The women in God's Word have shown me—and they'll show you too—how to live out the Lord's plan and will right now...today! I'll also share the wisdom He's taught me through my many years of living for Him. Together we'll explore how to follow and serve Him wholeheartedly, how to love others more thoroughly, how to strengthen our trust in Him, and how to put wings on our dreams. We'll come alongside these women and discover the characteristics and gifts that

flourish in women who follow God: purpose, devotion, trust, courage, hope, wisdom, blessing, and faithfulness.

May your journey to greater faith be filled with joy, delight, and adventure each step of the way. You'll never be the same after walking with the women of the Bible!

Your friend in Him,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth George". The script is elegant and cursive, with a large initial 'E' and 'G'.



Purpose for a Lifetime





Eve

Reflecting God's Glory

God created man in His own image.

GENESIS 1:27

Do you know you were created in the image of God? When God created woman, He created her in His image. Let this sink into your heart and mind. You are creative, intelligent, and rational because you were created in God's image.

Do you know you are a reflection of God's glory? That's what being created in His image means. You reflect Him to other people. Every time you reach out in love, perform a deed of kindness, soften your heart in forgiveness, show a little extra patience, and follow through in faithfulness, other people experience the character of God through you.

Do you know you are created to have fellowship and communion with God? "God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord" (1 Corinthians 1:9).

As a reflection of God's glory, thank God and...

Resolve never to criticize or downgrade yourself,
but instead

Rejoice that you are fearfully and wonderfully
made.

Resolve to walk by faith paths you may not under-
stand and

Rejoice in the promise of His nearness as He
directs your way.

Resolve to live as a child of God through His Son,
Jesus Christ, and

Rejoice that as God's child your name is written
in heaven.

Resolve to commune with God daily through
prayer and Bible study, and

Rejoice in His strength each day and hope in Him
for tomorrow.

Resolve to reflect His glory and

Rejoice in His love!

Fairest of Creation

Male and female He created them.

GENESIS 1:27

God was busy for six days creating His beautiful new world. The stage was set. The Creator's magnificent scenery was finished and in place. His sun, moon, and stars lit up His perfect planet. All creatures great and small enjoyed a perfect environment. Yet God wasn't quite finished. At last He presented His masterpieces to the rest of nature. First the man, Adam. Then—finally and dramatically—the woman, Eve.

Devised by a perfect God, Eve reflected His divine perfection in her femaleness. Created for a position of honor, woman was born to life's loveliest, most lofty throne of glory—"the glory of man" (1 Corinthians 11:7). What can you do to revel in your femaleness?

- *Accept your femininity.* There's no need to feel inferior, second-class, or second-rate. Woman was God's last creation. After God presented woman He proclaimed His creation "very good." Adam and

Eve were alike, yet different. One was male and one female. Together as well as individually they reflected God's image and glory.

- *Embrace your womanhood.* Own your loveliness, your uniqueness, your beauty as a female. Delight yourself in God's handiwork—in being a woman.
- *Cultivate your femininity.* This book is about the gracious, glorious, beautiful, prized-by-God women of the Bible. As you read, allow God's truths to permeate your understanding. You are of very high value to Him!
- *Excel in your role as a woman.* As God's woman, purpose to be the best of the best. Delight in His perfect design, in His good and acceptable and perfect will for your life. He created you as a woman. As such, you join Eve's exalted position of "fairest of creation."¹

Pass It On

Eve...was the mother of all living.

GENESIS 3:20

Guilty!" God pronounced after Adam's wife listened to the tempter, ate of the forbidden tree, and involved her husband in rebellion. It reverberated in Eve's heart and mind. There was no doubt about her guilt. But as darkness settled in, she heard Adam declare, "Your name shall be called 'Eve...the mother of all living.'" With these words Eve glimpsed a fresh ray of light.

Having been given a name filled with promise, Eve realized she, the guilty sinner, could still serve her gracious and forgiving God. How? By bearing Adam's children and becoming the mother of many generations (1 Corinthians 11:12). Her name reflected the role she would play in spiritual history.

"Eve." From death sprang life. From darkness, light. From the curse, a blessing. From a sentence of death, hope for the future. From the stinging despair of defeat, the strength of budding faith. Eve was the mother of all living!

Do you know your life counts too? True, you share

Eve's sentence of physical death (Romans 5:12). But you also have life to give and pass on. How?

- You give life through your physical efforts to care for others.
- You share spiritual life by telling others about Jesus.
- You are the life of your home, bringing the sparkle of laughter and joy to other people.
- You pass physical life on to your children.
- You can pass the potential for eternal life on to your children by teaching them the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Feed your spiritual life by sending your roots deep into God's love. The energy of life, the purpose of life, all you have of life to pass on is from the Lord!

Sailing into God's Plan

I will establish my covenant with you...and your wife.

GENESIS 6:18 NIV

We don't know her name so let's call her "Mrs. Noah." She spent her days loving her husband, Noah, raising their three sons, and caring for their home. Daily life was simple...until "the call" came from the Lord.

Grieved over the wickedness of mankind, God decided to destroy humans, the animals of the fields, and the birds of the air. Because Noah trusted and walked with God, God chose to save him and his family and told him to make an ark.

As Noah moved forward in obedience, Mrs. Noah may have mused, *What can I do? How can I help my husband fulfill God's plan?*

Pray. She could pray for mankind as God's judgment loomed, for her husband as he served the Lord, and for her family to also follow God.

Encourage. Husbands thrive on their wives' cheerful, hope-filled words of support. She could encourage Noah in his work.

Believe. She may have wondered about the ark and the possibility of a flood, but she could choose to believe.

Help. She could help with the animals and gather the food they'd need for their mysterious voyage of faith.

Follow. She could—by faith—follow her husband's leading day by day for 120 years, the 43,800 days it took to complete the ark...right into the ark of salvation that transported her family into an unknown future.

Lord, I want to have faith that prays persistently, chooses righteousness, encourages fellow believers, helps Your kingdom, and follows You faithfully. Help me find strength for today and hope for tomorrow as I sail into the future You have for me.

Believing One More Time

Sarai was barren; she had no child.

GENESIS 11:30

Sarai was barren; she had no child.” Seven words. A simple statement of cold, hard fact. Perhaps Sarai (whom God later called Sarah) wondered, *What’s gone wrong? What have I done? Why hasn’t God blessed me with children?* On and on her questioning went...and so did her pain. Nothing could relieve it, soothe it, take it away. Childlessness was a stigma that seared deeply into her soul with each childless sunrise.

Sarah was the wife of Abram (whose name was changed to Abraham) and a follower of God. She was barren for many years, but then God promised Abraham and Sarah a child in their old age. But the baby was a long time coming. With aching heart and stinging tears, Sarah trusted God one more time, for one more day, over and over. Despite a few setbacks, Sarah learned that faith—instead of giving up, succumbing to bitterness, lashing out at others, turning her back on God, giving in to a contentious spirit,

and manipulating the situation—is the best way to face the distresses of life.

For 11 years Sarah grabbed on to God's promise. That's more than 4000 "faith reaches"! Then God's promise was fulfilled and Isaac was born. Oh, how Abraham and Sarah must have rejoiced!

Faith, like physical muscle, is developed and strengthened with use. Each time you trust God as you face seemingly unbearable, unusual, unchangeable circumstances, your faith increases. What difficult issue are you facing today? Reach out to God one more time! Turn toward the unknown, the unseen, the eternal, and watch your faith grow.

Faith Means Moving Forward

[Abraham] took [Sarah] his wife...to the land of Canaan.

GENESIS 12:5

Oh, the heartache! Will it ever go away?” Perhaps these words darkened Sarah’s thoughts the day she followed her full-of-faith husband out of Haran. Leaving Haran was bad enough, but going to the land of Canaan made it even worse! Canaan was 600 miles away from her family and friends. Abraham had announced they were going to Nowhere Land, as far as Sarah was concerned.

Just when Sarah was getting used to Nowhere Land, a famine struck and they had to move to Egypt—300 miles away! *Oh, if only I were still in Haran*, Sarah may have thought.

Backward gazes can be dangerous and impede spiritual growth. So how can we look forward and faithfully follow God when circumstances are bad? Here’s a great acronym!

Face forward. Real life happens in the present, and God's blessings happen now and in the future.

Accept your circumstances. God uses the difficulties of life to help you mature and grow in Him.

If you're following God, you will find Him in all your circumstances.

Trust in the Lord. God will keep you in perfect peace when your mind is focused on Him.

Hope for the future. God is a bright star who will light your path in the present darkness.

*Dear God of Sarai,
grant that such a one as I
may see the good in bad
and the faith to be had...
following Thee!*

An Encouragement and Blessing

The Angel of the Lord found her.

GENESIS 16:7

Abraham and his wife, Sarah, certainly led interesting lives. Although they both followed God, they were human and made mistakes. But God still promised them a child in their old age. Sarah, long barren, became impatient and decided to “help” God by having her maid, Hagar, bear Abraham’s child.

Hagar was pregnant, but things weren’t turning out like Sarah planned. Hagar now despised Sarah and lorded it over her. Maybe she flaunted her ability to get pregnant. Maybe she ordered Sarah about because she was pregnant with Abraham’s child. Sarah finally had enough. She checked with Abraham, and then treated Hagar harshly.

Hagar decided to run away, living up to the meaning of her name—“flight.” She ran into the wilderness, her emotions reeling.

But God was watching over Hagar and Abraham’s

unborn child. He sent an angel to comfort this distraught woman. Through the angel Hagar received from God:

- *Instructions.* For her safety and well-being—and the baby’s too—she was told to return to Sarah. There Hagar would receive food, water, shelter, and help.
- *Encouragement.* The angel told her she would bear a son. Even though life was bleak now, she would one day have a son, have a family.
- *A promise.* God would multiply Hagar’s descendants. Although Hagar was a servant, she would become the mother of many.

What an encouragement and blessing for Hagar!

Do you need encouragement? A fresh, shining vision of hope? Spend time with God...talking and listening. Read His “letters” to you—the Bible—for His promises, wisdom, and instructions.