

Women of the Bible

beautiful and brave



*Rachel
Wojo*

Sarah

Who remembered God's promise



Welcome to Lesson 1 of Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave series!

I'm delighted that you are joining us as we explore Sarah, the wife of Abraham. I think Sarah has gotten a bit of a bad rap over the years. I've heard many sermons and lessons on Sarah that have discussed her response upon the news that she would have a child. In Genesis 18, we find the story:

The Lord said, "I will surely return to you about this time next year, and Sarah your wife shall have a son." And Sarah was listening at the tent door behind him. Now Abraham and Sarah were old, advanced in years. The way of women had ceased to be with Sarah. So Sarah laughed to herself, saying, "After I am worn out, and my lord is old, shall I have pleasure?"

Prior to this passage, Sarah and Abraham were waiting for the promise of God to be fulfilled. God's promise was that they would have as many children as the stars. At one point, Sarah got a little ahead of the game and sent her handmaids in to be with Abraham. You know, I can relate to Sarah, because I'm not so great at waiting on God's timing either. It's easy to think our human ideas can "help God out a little", if you know what I mean. So, yes, Sarah gets quite the rap for her issues outlined in Scripture.

But there's such an incredible nugget of truth tucked in the Bible about Sarah, the first mother of God's chosen people. Have you ever heard of the Hall of Faith, Hebrews 11? Take a look at verse 11:

By faith Sarah herself received power to conceive, even when she was past the age, since she considered him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born descendants as many as the stars of heaven and as many as the innumerable grains of sand by the seashore.

You know, Sarah had her little laugh upholding her doubts about her own physical ability to even get pregnant at her age, but I can't help but think how brave Sarah was. She was clearly past child-bearing years and her body was thrown into a hormonal tailspin. Many of us women can hardly deal with the normal cycle of monthly hormones; can you imagine a reversal cycle? Seriously!

Since I've had 6 babies, I've tried to put myself in Sarah's place. And honestly, I think I might have laughed in her condition also. However, she stopped laughing and took God at his Word. She willingly accepted the hormonal reversal as God's way of keeping his promise and she knew it could only be him who kept his promise. No one else could have performed such a miracle and there was no mistake about her baby bundle of blessing. **Ultimately, she was Sarah who remembered God's promise.**

Believing God's promises and accepting his delivery method was Sarah's specialty. There was no FedEx; just Faith.

I wonder what it must have been like for Sarah to experience this unusual physiological process. While there's no doubt it was miraculous for her to

conceive, I have pondered what it must have been like to carry a baby at her age. God must have given her body a total makeover in order to carry a baby for nine months when she was beyond child-bearing years. Her strength had to come from him; there's no other explanation. And that's what I think she would tell us if we had the opportunity for an interview.

So here's the skinny on Sarah's beautiful and brave profile:

- **Name:** Sarah
- **Occupation:** Homemaker
- **Family background:** Wife of Abraham, Mother to Isaac
- **Daily life:** Tent dweller
- **Emotional baggage:** Self-doubt, Fear, Unbelief
- **Weaknesses:** Eavesdropping, Laughing inappropriately
- **Beauty secret:** Believing God, Receptive to his will, Faithful to his promises
- **Act of bravery:** Accepted a total physiological makeover in order to allow God to fulfill his promise through her, by not only conceiving a child, but carrying him safely through birth. All at 90 years of age!

Sarah certainly inspires me to be one who considers God faithful to keep his promises.

Deborah

Who declared God's truth



Welcome to Lesson 2 of Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave series!

This week our focus is on Deborah, the only female judge of Israel named in the Bible. If you are unfamiliar with Deborah, you can find her story in Judges chapters 4 & 5. We really don't have a ton of information on Deborah, but I think she is one cool chick. We do know that as a judge, Deborah who spoke truth had to carry a load of wisdom. It is interesting to me that she had a special place where people knew to find her- a tree between two towns in the hill country of Ephraim. (Judges 4:5) I like to imagine the conversations between the people who appeared before Deborah. Believe me, Judge Judy has nothing on the woman who sat under a palm tree. Her discernment was well-known throughout the children of Israel.

Regardless of her wisdom, I'm sure it took an extra surge of boldness to call out Barak and let him know that she knew God had called him to gather 10,000 men from the tribes of Naphtali and Zebulun in order to defeat the difficult enemy. Essentially, she said, "Look, I know that God has told you to do this. Now get on with it." As if that were not bold enough, Barak requests more of her brave heart. He says:

Barak said to her, "If you will go with me, I will go, but if you will not go with me, I will not go." Judges 4:8

This statement from Barak really makes me wish that I could have met Deborah. I wonder what her spirit was like and how she carried herself when she walked. It's clear that Deborah loved God and she found favor in his sight and in the sight of fellow leaders.

So Deborah agrees to go with Barak to battle, but isn't it funny what she says in reply to him:

And she said, “I will surely go with you. Nevertheless, the road on which you are going will not lead to your glory, for the LORD will sell Sisera into the hand of a woman.”

Basically, she is warning him that he is not going to get any rewards for this battle because he is not the brave warrior who will kill the worst of the enemies. In fact, God gave that job to a woman named Jael; the battle was indeed won. It's an interesting story of tent pegs and trickery, but to keep the focus on Deborah today, we can conclude that she was indeed beautiful and brave, especially since her brief mention in the Bible ends with two treasures. The first is a song that she and Barak sing together. The song is one of beautiful storytelling (I wonder if the gory details were sung in a minor key?) and victory. The second treasure to ponder is that after Deborah's bold leadership, the Bible gives the result of her courage:

And the land had rest for forty years. Judges 5:31

Deborah's obedience resulted in peace and rest for all the children of Israel.

Obedience is always beautiful and brave.

So here's our wrap-up for this brave-hearted woman:

- **Name:** Deborah
- **Occupation:** Judge
- **Family background:** Wife of Lappidoth
- **Daily life:** Palm tree mediator
- **Emotional baggage:** None that we know of
- **Weaknesses:** None that we know of
- **Beauty secrets:** Believing God, Acting in Obedience
- **Acts of bravery:** Accepted the challenge of a leadership role, bravely declaring truth and boldly obeying God, in spite of the political setting.

What strikes you the most about Judge Deborah? Be sure to read her story in Judges 4&5!

Hannah

Who poured out her soul



Welcome to Lesson 3 of Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave series!

I'm thrilled to discuss our featured guest today, Hannah, the mother of Samuel. Front and center in my book, The Sensational Scent of Prayer, Hannah is near and dear to my heart. I spent several months studying Hannah and her drive to prayer. She endured oppression and verbal abuse for years. I wonder if she had prayed many times before her initial recorded prayer or if the first words that tumbled silently from her lips are these we read in I Samuel 1:10&11:

And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore. And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine

handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.

While Eli, the priest, believed Hannah must have been drunk due to her nonverbal and obvious distress, Hannah delivers a statement that clues us in on the depth of her dilemma:

And Hannah answered and said, No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have poured out my soul before the LORD.

Back in August, I wrote about **leaving your burdens at the feet of Jesus** and the importance of giving every last shred of our emotions, thoughts, and will to the Lord. Hannah was quite the expert in this field and in just a few chapters, her story of blessing beautifully unfolds. From a whispering wisher to a wonderful warrior, Hannah's commitment to trust God is truly one to admire.

You see, prayer closes wounds and opens wombs.

It promotes healing and prompts restoration.

Prayer shuts down hostility and opens up hospitality.

I wish I could have witnessed the love story unfold between Hannah and Elkanah! Oh to know the secrets to this beautiful pair. Was she simply beautiful? Was it her sweet spirit? Was her voice charming or her hair glamorous?

Those are some of the things we just don't know, but here is a summary of Hannah's profile:

- **Name:** Hannah
- **Occupation:** Homemaker
- **Family background:** Wife of Elkanah, Mother to Samuel
- **Daily life:** Pitiful weeper to prayer warrior
- **Emotional baggage:** Weary, distraught, unfulfilled, victim of bullying
- **Weaknesses:** Difficulty standing up for herself

- **Beauty secrets:** Pouring out her complaints before God, believing his promises
- **Acts of bravery:** Changed her attitude before the circumstances changed, gave back to God what he had given to her, and received the promise that his plans are always greater, especially since she prayed for one child, and wound up with a brood of 6!

I cant wait to meet Hannah one day. I wonder if she might say

“Be careful what you pray for!”

More information on my ebook, [The Sensational Scent of Prayer.](#)

Ruth

Who dedicated herself to the Lord



Welcome to Lesson 4 of **Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave** series! This week we are visiting Ruth, who dedicated herself. Ruth holds an interesting place in the lineup of women in the Bible, as she is one of only two women in the Bible with books bearing their names. (Esther is the other.) Perhaps this fact makes her one of the more well-known of the beautiful and brave women in our series.

Let's pause to make sure we all know the backstory of Ruth. Ruth was the Moabite widow of Mahlon, son of Naomi. We don't know the reason for Mahlon's death, but his brother, Chilion, was also dead and so was his father. These three men left their widows behind, clinging to each other. In chapter 1,

Ruth makes a statement to her mother-in-law that has resonated over many, many generations, verse 16:

“Do not urge me to leave you or to return from following you. For where you go I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people, and your God my God. Where you die I will die, and there will I be buried. May the Lord do so to me and more also if anything but death parts me from you.”

Persistent dedication requires purposeful determination.

This kind of dedication doesn't come by chance. One must choose to be committed at this level.

I feel like I can hear the urgency in her voice when I read this declaration from Ruth. I wonder if she had a bit of a reputation for being a little on the stubborn side. Because the next verse says that when Naomi saw Ruth was determined to go with her, she didn't say anything else. Maybe she made the mental note:

"What's the point?" Wouldn't it have been fun to see her facial expressions? Do you think she maybe rolled her eyes? Regardless, Ruth had made up her mind and wasn't changing it. What beautiful commitment she displays!

While this may have been the most beautiful thing Ruth is noted for, I think her bravery is captured when she follows her mother-in-law's instructions on the dating traditions of the time. Through gleaning the fields for barley, Ruth is noticed by Boaz, a man who also happens to be a potential kinsman redeemer. Naomi instructs Ruth to go to Boaz after he has gone to sleep and lie down at his feet. This may seem a bit strange to us, but in keeping with the customs of the day, Ruth follows Naomi's directions to the letter. Boaz is smitten with Ruth and flattered by the fact that she wants him to take her hand in marriage and redeem her through loving marriage.

This is a great place to enter "And they all lived happily ever after."

The short book of Ruth sure is power-packed with principles for us today. But we'll have to save those for another post.

It's about time to outline the profile of this brave and beautiful woman:

- **Name:** Ruth
- **Occupation:** Gleaner of the fields
- **Family background:** Mahlon's wife and Naomi's daughter in law, great grandmother to David
- **Daily life:** Caregiver for the aged
- **Emotional baggage:** None we're given
- **Weaknesses:** A bit on the stubborn side
- **Beauty secrets:** Joyfully loyal and flexible
- **Acts of bravery:** Dedicated herself to caring for someone who had no one else, bravely following her mother-in-law's instructions and beautifully loving her family.

Have you ever wondered what it would be like to be David's great grandmother?

Mary Who anointed the Lord



Welcome to Lesson 5 of **Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave** series! This week we are taking a look at Mary who anointed the Lord. I love the way the apostle John depicts Mary because he provides a few details that the other Gospels don't reveal. In John 11 & 12, he begins with Lazarus, the ill brother of Mary and Martha. In verse 2, John gives us a clue about Mary to identify who she is:

It was Mary who anointed the Lord with ointment and wiped his feet with her hair, whose brother Lazarus was ill.

I believe Mary was well-known for this incident and in the KJV, these words are in parentheses, signifying that this is a note to clarify who Mary is. The sisters knew Jesus and sent a message to him: “*Lord, he whom you love is ill.*”

I’m guessing that this family felt secure in their relationship with Jesus. The wording held a sense of urgency for the master and surely, surely he would rush to their sides and heal his friend, their brother. Verse 5:

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus.

Clearly Jesus would indeed hurry to his sick friend. After all, he loves him. He wants what is best for their family and his plan for their lives is beyond their imaginations. Healing must be right around the corner, right?

But no, what Jesus did next is not humanly logical. Verse 6:

So, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

Can you imagine how many times Mary and Martha must have looked out the window, hoping to see Jesus? I wonder if they questioned their relationship with him? Maybe they thought he did not love them as much as they had presumed. They could not wrap their heads around the reasons he was taking so long to arrive. And now, in their minds, it was too late. Lazarus had died. Verse 17:

Now when Jesus came, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb four days.

Upon hearing that Jesus was close by, Martha ran to meet him. But Mary did not; she sat still in the house. I wonder if her emotions had gotten the best of her and she simply could not bring herself to face the man who had the power to heal her brother. Why, oh why, had he arrived too late?

Martha returns to her sister with the request that Jesus wants to see her. At this point, Mary quickly runs to him and falls at his feet. Her words fall flat on her own ears: "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

Not too much later, in John 12, we find Mary at the feet of Jesus once more. Just as she boldly spilled out the truth of her emotions when her brother died, this time she boldly spills out a costly perfume over his feet, a public testimony of her love. Though criticized openly for her beautiful and brave “pouring out,” Jesus defends her selfless act.

*Beauty is often displayed through sacrifice and bravery
through acts of humility.*

These were the characteristics of Mary, beautiful and brave. Here's her profile:

- **Name:** Mary of Bethany
- **Occupation:** Encourager and student
- **Family background:** Sister to Martha and Lazarus
- **Daily life:** Caregiver for the aged
- **Emotional baggage:** Melancholy and moody (I'm guessing!)
- **Weaknesses:** A bit on the stubborn side
- **Beauty secrets:** Lovingly sacrificed

- **Acts of bravery:** Boldly spilled her feelings at the feet of Jesus and just as boldly, spilled a costly perfume over those same feet, worshiping him through her public act of service and humility.

Wouldnt you love to have a nice long chat with Mary?

I'm looking forward to crossing that chat off my bucket list one day in Heaven.

Esther

Who stepped up



Welcome to Lesson 6 of Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave series!

In this lesson we are featuring “Esther who stepped up.” To begin, let’s take a peek at some interesting facts about the book of Esther:

- The book of Esther is one of two books in the Bible named after women in the Bible; the other is Ruth.
- The word “God” is never mentioned in the entire book of Esther.
- The short and to-the-point book is only 10 chapters long.
- Esther’s original name was Hadassah, which means “myrtle.” The name “Esther” means “star.” I think we can safely agree that her name change was a good thing.

The historical time period of Esther takes place during the reign of the Medes and Persians. Esther is an orphan being raised by her uncle, Mordecai. We don't know the reason Esther's parents are no longer living, but the Bible is clear that Esther is very beautiful.

Word on the street quickly passes that the king is looking for a new queen and Esther is taken to stay at the house of concubines in the palace. I believe that one little fact spelled out to us about Esther in chapter 2 verse 15 is a description of her actions that we can't pass over lightly.

Now when the turn of Esther, the daughter of Abihail the uncle of Mordecai, who had taken her for his daughter, was come to go in unto the king, she required nothing but what Hegai the king's chamberlain, the keeper of the women, appointed. And Esther obtained favor in the sight of all them that looked upon her.

Esther the little orphan girl was grateful for everything she was given and she didn't ask for a different dress or better shoes or more jewelry. She simply accepted what she was issued and everyone who saw her loved her.

A grateful heart is the most revealing beauty mark.

Esther takes her turn to go before the king after 12 months of living in the house of concubines and the king loves Esther. So much so, that he makes her the queen.

The most familiar piece of Esther's story is the fact that she risked her own life to save her people by going before the king without invitation. If the king did not hold out his scepter to her in favor, then she would immediately be killed. Esther must have been completely afraid in this pivotal moment of risk, but her uncle's advice no doubt echoed in her mind: "For such a time as this."

Courage chooses to trust in God... and his timing.

So here is the profile of Queen Esther, beautiful and brave:

- **Name:** Esther (Hadassah)
- **Occupation:** Queen
- **Family background:** Orphan and niece to Mordecai
- **Daily life:** Royal responsibilities
- **Emotional baggage:** None of which we are aware
- **Weaknesses:** None outlined
- **Beauty secrets:** Beautifully undemanding and graciously submissive to authority
- **Acts of bravery:** Risked her life at a pivotal moment for the sake of her countrymen

Wouldnt it be fun to have tea with Queen Esther?

Miriam

Who sang victoriously



Welcome to Lesson 7 of Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave series!

Our first peek at the life of Miriam is way before we are given her name. In the first chapter of Exodus, the people of Israel are enslaved in Egypt and Pharaoh has ordered the midwives to throw all male babies born to the Israelites into the river. A beautiful baby boy is born to a woman in the Levite tribe who hides her baby for three months. But fear has seized her, as she knows that her son is quickly growing and soon he is going to be discovered.

Why not place him in the river as the decree commanded?

And to give her son the best possible chance of life, she carefully fashions a little boat and places her baby in it. This Levite woman, Jochebed, assigns her daughter to watch over the little baby boy. You may have guessed the name of

this baby. Yes, he is Moses. And his older sister who spoke with Pharaoh's daughter that day she discovered him at the river's edge? Miriam, the beautiful and brave. Can you imagine the courage it took for this Hebrew slave girl to speak to the daughter of Pharaoh?

Many years pass before Miriam's name is revealed, but when it is, she is no longer that little girl who stood watch over her baby brother. This time, she is *Miriam, the prophetess*.

While Moses and all the people sing a beautiful song of deliverance after witnessing their miraculous crossing of the Red Sea, Miriam takes it up another notch.

And Miriam the prophetess, the sister of Aaron, took a timbrel in her hand; and all the women went out after her with timbrels and with dances. And

Miriam answered them, Sing ye to the LORD, for he hath triumphed gloriously; the horse and his rider hath he thrown into the sea. Exodus 15:20

God used the outspoken Miriam to ask Pharaoh's daughter if she could find a nurse for sweet baby Moses.

Miriam the brave.

God used the outspoken Miriam to lead the way in praise for all He had accomplished in their lives.

Miriam the beautiful.

But when Miriam's bold personality acted on its own, outside of God's direction? Ouch.

In Numbers 12, Miriam uses her boldness to gossip about God's leader, Moses. She stirs up a discussion with her brother, Aaron, and it may have gone something like:

"This woman he married is up to no good. She's definitely not in tune with our culture. Moses thinks he's all that. Well, God has given us words too. Just sayin'."

Her "just sayin'" attitude got her a leprosy curse from the Lord for giving his man a bad rap. I stared at Numbers 12:3 for a long time.

Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.

I wish I could delve into all the detail of the story at this point, but it's another blog post for sure. Essentially, God quickly called out Miriam for her words against his man. The camp was required to shut out the leprous Miriam for seven days, but then God healed her.

And Miriam's salvation from the leprosy? *The prayers of the meek man she had spoken against- Moses.*

We don't know any more details about Miriam after this, but I'm guessing she could teach a few lessons on how to hold your tongue. She witnessed firsthand:

God, the ultimate cosmetologist, removes blemishes permanently and restores beauty perfectly.

So here is the profile of Miriam, beautiful and brave:

- **Name:** Miriam
- **Occupation:** Prophetess
- **Family background:** Daughter to Amram and Jochabed, sister to Moses and Aaron
- **Daily life:** Providing a word where needed
- **Emotional baggage:** Inferiority complex
- **Weaknesses:** Wagging tongue
- **Beauty secrets:** Unashamedly led the praise of the Lord
- **Acts of bravery:** Boldly watched after the baby in the bulrushes and offered help to the daughter of Pharaoh

I think Miriam is going to be one dancer I want to watch in Heaven. Maybe
I'll be brave enough to copy a few of her moves.

Rahab

Who believed courageously



Welcome to Lesson 8 of Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave series!

Imagine the children of Israel FINALLY making it to the Promised Land after 40 years of wandering in the wilderness. I feel sure that they were ready to stop living in tents and settle into the richness of Canaan. The torch of leadership passed to Joshua and he is sending in a couple spies to check out the city of Jericho where we enter the story. The spies enter the land and somehow make their way to stay in a harlot's house. The harlot's name is Rahab. The story gets juicy.

Someone told the king of Jericho that the spies were staying at Rahab's house.

Great. Tattle tales. So Rahab forms a plan to hide the spies on her rooftop, under the flax that had been laid out to dry. What a terrific hideout! I feel confident that this little decorating trick would have made Pinterest for sure. She then tells the king's men: "Yes, they were here, but they left already" and the king's men pursue the chase outside the city, just before the city's gate is closed for the night.

Now I love that Rahab was smart enough to outwit the king's men. And I love her creativity in using the flax to cover up the spies from Israel. But what I love the most about this part of her story is in Joshua 2:9-11:

(She) said to the men, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you. For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction. And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and

there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

More than anything, Rahab realized who the God of the Israelites was and she named him for it: *God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath*. She also recognizes that God gave her land to Israel.

So the story goes that Rahab lived on the wall of the city and because she hid the spies, a promise was made to save her when the city would be overtaken. A scarlet cord was to mark the wall where her home was and before Jericho's walls were knocked down from the inside out (yes, that's what really happened! Only God!) then, Rahab and her entire family were brought to safety.

This story is certainly stoked with beauty and bravery, but I don't want you to think the story ends there. It would seem the "and they all lived happily ever after. The End." kind of story ending.

But you know what God did for Rahab? He not only brought her out of Jericho safely, but Rahab, the harlot, was privileged to be in the lineage of Jesus. Rahab

is the mother of Boaz, the kinsman redeemer of one of the beautiful and brave women in our series, Ruth.(Matthew 1)

AND Rahab is listed in the Hall of Faith! Check out Hebrews 11:31:

By faith Rahab the prostitute did not perish with those who were disobedient, because she had given a friendly welcome to the spies.

When one accepts a God makeover, brokenness reveals beauty and bravery.

Oh Friends. this one principle derived from Rahab's story gives a broken girl like me so very much hope and strength. Maybe you too?

Check out this profile of Rahab, beautiful and brave:

- **Name:** Rahab
- **Occupation:** Prostitute
- **Family background:** Wife to Salmon and mother to Boaz, several greats into the family tree of Jesus
- **Daily life:** We can only guess
- **Emotional baggage:** Broken in heart, soul, body, and mind
- **Weaknesses:** More guessing
- **Beauty secrets:** Obeyed the Lord in spite of opinions of others
- **Acts of bravery:** Boldly hid the spies of Israel and lived to tell generations to come

*I have to wonder if Rahab proudly wears scarlet in Heaven.
Either way, she's beautiful. And brave.*

Jochebed

Who risked creatively



Welcome to Lesson 9 of **Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave** series!

This week our featured guest is “Jochebed Who Risked Creatively.” As an Israelite woman, it was a terrible season to be pregnant. Blessed by God, the children of Israel had multiplied greatly in Egypt, even under the bondage of Pharaoh. Pharaoh realized the risk involved with the Israelite’s rapid population growth. His resolution to the problem? Have the midwives kill the baby boys born to all Israelite women. Faithful to God, the midwives did not follow through on Pharaoh’s command. As the story unfolds, Pharaoh then declares for all baby boys under age 2 to be cast into the river.

I can’t imagine the sorrow associated with such a command. But we do know that one woman’s story didn’t end in the river.

Jochebed carefully concealed her baby boy for three months.

And when she could no longer keep him quiet, she creatively took a risk. She threw him in the river- but just not according to Pharaoh's instructions. Crafting a small boat unlike anything Etsy can boast, Jochebed gingerly placed her precious baby boy in it. The Bible doesn't tell us this, but I believe she purposely chose a place in the bulrushes close to the bathing spot of Pharaoh's daughter. Maybe not. Maybe God led the steps of Pharaoh's daughter exactly to the "random" place where baby Moses (recognize that name?) cried from his baby bed boat.

Either way, Jochebed left a guard over little Moses, his older sister, Miriam. And when Miriam saw the interest of the Pharaoh's daughter, she graciously offered to find a nurse for the baby. Just so happens that the nurse was her mama. And the baby's mama.

And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him. Exodus 2:9

I wonder what it was like to get paid for caring for your own baby.

Do you think Jochebed just soaked up every minute with her sweet boy since she knew that ultimately, she would one day take him to the princess of Egypt, possibly never to see him again?

It's easy to see the bravery of the mother of God's chosen leader of the Israelites. But her beauty? I believe her beauty was her ability to think outside the box. God used her creative ingenuity to not only think of the plan to save her baby boy, but also, her very own hands to fashion a baby boat that would survive the water of the Nile.

God specifically chose Jochebed as the mother of Moses.

*When God gives an assignment, he always provides the tools to follow the plan.
Or another way to say it?*

Where God guides, he provides.

Check out this profile of Jochebed, beautiful and brave:

- **Name:** Jochebed
- **Occupation:** Full-time caregiver and mama
- **Family background:** Wife to Amram, Mom to Miriam, Aaron and Moses
- **Daily life:** We can only guess
- **Emotional baggage:** Unknown
- **Weaknesses:** Unknown
- **Beauty secrets:** Used the skills and talents God provided to follow through on his plan
- **Acts of bravery:** Boldly hid her baby boy in the bulrushes in order to save his life and ultimately, the entire nation of Israel

For Jochebed, the hand that rocked the boat is the one that ruled the world.

The Woman At The Well

Who perceived correctly



Welcome to Lesson 10 of **Women in the Bible: Beautiful and Brave** series!

This week we take a peek at "The Woman at the Well Who Perceived Correctly."

Shame had forced this nameless woman into gathering water during the hottest part of the day. While her full story isn't known, somehow the woman landed at the well at the same time as Jesus. I wonder what thoughts ran through her mind as she walked closer to the well and saw him there. As a marked woman of adulterous character, the typical community time for drawing water was outside her comfort zone. Most likely the looks and whispers bore too much hurt. Perhaps the fear of being stoned in accordance with the law haunted her mind and soul. I'm guessing that the woman didn't think Jesus would say

anything to her since she was a Samaritan. After all, the two cultures didn't mix on any level.

The Samaritan could hardly believe that Jesus spoke to her.

The shock of his words drew her curiosity. That he would speak anything to her at all was a surprise in and of itself, but even more so, he boldly declared that this water she drew from Jacob's well was hardly satisfying. Her practical assessment skills tell us she was accustomed to thinking on her feet. Her historical defense of the well provides proof that she had received at least a basic education.

The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw water with, and the well is deep. Where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob? He gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did his sons and his livestock." John 4:11&12

I wonder if Jesus was chuckling under his breath at her limited knowledge.

Jesus said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13&14

Say what? The poor woman was a little confused at this point. Where could this incredible water be found? I believe her response to Jesus at this point divulges so much about her. “Sir, give me this water, so that I will not be thirsty or have to come here to draw water.”

She was tired.

Tired of facing her critics.

Tired of the demand of meeting physical needs.

Tired of the drama of being the social outcast.

This water seemed like more than enough. Oh to never have to be thirsty again! Then Jesus told her to call her husband and he would give both of them all the information. However, the woman replied that she had no husband. Jesus responded that she was telling the truth but that he knew she had 5 husbands previously. And not only that- the man she was living with right now was not her husband. Don't you think the shame she forced down so many times surged over her body anew?

After more conversation, the woman at the well understood that this man was indeed Christ- the Son of the Living God. She was so excited that she forgot what she came for- the water. She ran back into town without water or her water pot and proceeded to tell everyone she knows that the Messiah had come and they should all come and see. "He is the one who told me all the things I ever did." So the people of Samaria headed out to see this Jesus and hear him teach. How I love John 4:39:

Many Samaritans from that town believed in him because of the woman's testimony, "He told me all that I ever did."

When this woman realized Jesus, the answer to the plight of humankind, stood before her, she boldly declared her faith.

Take a peek at this profile of the Woman at the Well, beautiful and brave:

- **Name:** Unknown
- **Occupation:** Adulterous woman
- **Family background:** Samaritan culture
- **Daily life:** We can only guess
- **Emotional baggage:** Shame, fear, insecurity
- **Weaknesses:** Unable to face the crowd
- **Beauty secrets:** Discovered in her testimony
- **Acts of bravery:** Boldly declared Christ in town when before meeting him, she would scarcely show her face at the well.

My prayer is to be like the Samaritan woman, beautiful and brave. That many people will believe in Jesus because of my testimony.

What about you?



Rachel Wojo is wife to Matt, mom to 7, and sought-after blogger and author. She enjoys caring for her busy family, whose ages span 3 to 23 years and includes a special needs daughter. In her “free time” she crochets, knits, and sews handmade clothing. Ok, not really. She enjoys running and she’s a tech geek at heart. Find Rachel on [Pinterest](#), [Facebook](#), or [Twitter](#), and of course rachelwojo.com.