



## ***LIFE LESSONS FROM THE LADIES: Part Two***

### **LESSON 20**

Well, ladies, you've made it! I can't believe it's already week 20 and we've reached the end of our road. You have pressed on, laying hold of each and every week! 😊 You have fought the good fight and finished the race. You, my friends, have completed a great task and I'm proud of you. I hope you've all learned as much as I have, been challenged as much as I have, and been inspired as much as I have. Each and every life we studied had so much to say to us, both good and bad. I know these studies can be time consuming and difficult, but I know every minute in God's Word is an eternal investment!

Women in the Bible are both prominent and obscure. The Bible mentions women by name, by title, by family relationships (wife, mother, daughter, widow), and sometimes by geographical locations. I also read that women in the Bible are rarely mentioned by name, with named women representing only 5.5 to 8 percent of the total of all named characters, male and female. A few facts about women:

- Sarai is the only woman in the Bible to have her name changed. (Sarai to Sarah)
- Deborah is the only female judge.
- Athaliah is the only woman to rule the kingdom of Judah.
- 700 women became wives of Solomon.
- The daughter of Herodias is never identified by name, but historians believe she was called Salome.

1. This week's lesson will be a little different. Let's start by seeing how many of these "Women of the Bible" trivia questions you can answer. Please feel free to use your Bibles! It's not cheating! (Circle the right answer)

- a. Who was the woman that posed as a prostitute so that she could meet with her father-in-law? (Tabitha, Shua, Tamar)
- b. Who was the woman that offered to water Eliezer's camels at the well? (Rachel, Rebekah, Rahab, she's not named)
- c. Who was the woman that was successful in getting Samson to divulge his source of strength? (Dinah, Delia, Delores, Delilah)
- d. Who was the mother of Moses, Aaron, and Miriam? (Jochebed, Judith, Jael)
- e. Who was the woman that prophesied to Barak that he would win the battle, but the victory would be at the hands of a woman? (Delores, Deborah, Delilah, Dorcas)
- f. Who was the woman who drove a tent peg through the skull of Sisera? (Jochebed, Judith, Jael)
- g. Who was the woman that hid two spies under some piles of flax on her roof? (Rahab, Rachel, Rebekah)
- h. Who was the woman that led the women of Israel out in a dance when they crossed the Red Sea? (Miriam, Michal, Milcah)
- i. Who was the woman that made her son a coat each year and took it to him? (Hannah, Herodias, Hamutal)
- j. Who was the woman who had a little room built onto the house so that the prophet Elisha could stay with them? (Miriam, Michal, Milcah, she isn't named)
- k. Who was the woman the Lord made childless because she mocked the way the king worshipped the Lord? (Michal, Milcah, Mahalath, she isn't named)
- l. Who was the woman that threw an upper millstone onto Abimelech's head and crushed his skull? (Dinah, Delilah, Delores, she isn't named)

2. Please answer the following **“Who Am I?”** questions:
- a. I was formed from the rib of Adam.
  - b. I had a son, Isaac, in my old age.
  - c. I was turned into a pillar of salt.
  - d. I gave birth to Jacob’s firstborn son, Reuben.
  - e. I was the mother of twins, Jacob and Esau.
  - f. I died during the birth of a son I named Ben-Oni.
  - g. I protected two spies in Jericho.
  - h. I was the queen of Persia and refused to submit to my husband King Ahasuerus’ request.
  - i. I was a prophetess who led Israel.
  - j. I dedicated my son, Samuel, to the Lord.
  - k. I traveled with my mother-in-law, Naomi, to Bethlehem.
  - l. I was the mother of Solomon.
  - m. I found a Hebrew baby boy floating in a basket on the Nile.
  - n. I was the daughter of Levi and the mother of Moses.
  - o. I was the mother of Adonijah who tried to take the throne away from Solomon.
  - p. I became Queen of Persia in place of Vashti.
  - q. I am the sister of Aaron and Moses.
  - r. I told my husband to curse God and die.
  - s. I was the mother of Ishmael.
  - t. I told people to call me Mara because I became bitter toward God.

**Answer Key:** (Naomi, Hannah, Hagar, Rachel, Lot’s wife, Vashti, Rahab, Esther, Pharaoh’s daughter, Job’s wife, Sarah, Eve, Rebekah, Leah, Ruth, Bathsheba, Deborah, Jochebed, Haggith, Miriam)

**Memory Verse of the Week: “A gracious woman retains honor...” Proverbs 11:16**

### **Second Day**

**Work on your beautiful verse. How would you define a gracious woman?**

Today we’re going to do something a little different as well. We’ve been looking at women in Scripture, but let’s take a few minutes and talk about women outside of the Bible. There have been many ladies in history that I think we could call heroes, right? Perhaps they are from years ago, or they may be alive today. You may personally know them or have read about them. In his book Heroes Among Us, Jim Ryan wrote, “The *Random House Dictionary* defines hero as ‘a man or woman of distinguished courage or ability, admired for their brave deeds and noble qualities.’ This definition says nothing of material success or athletic ability, but speaks of character qualities such as courage, bravery, and nobleness. Where do these ‘noble qualities’ come from? Is he born a hero, or are heroes made? I cannot help but think that

one becomes a hero through consistently making small decisions that build one upon the other, fortifying one's character through a lifetime of right choices. It's the little decisions built one upon the other that make the man. When the moment of crisis comes, there is already the fortitude of character that is strong enough to make the right decision even in the midst of the most trying circumstances. Often the basis and the foundation upon which to make the right choices is faith. Faith in God and faith in Christ."

He continues, "Yes, what sets them apart are the decisions they made, decisions to stand firm in the face of tyranny, to give their lives for others, to right the wrongs of social injustices, to slay the dragons of their day. Their lives show us what it is to be good, to be brave, to be guided by conscience and character. They are the stars that guide us in the dark nights, the wind at our backs, whose courage shows us the way in which we should go."

1. Think of a woman who you would consider a hero. She doesn't have to be well known or known at all. She could be your mom, a friend, a co-worker, or someone in history. Think about what you admire about her and write a brief summary of the reasons you chose her. After you've done this, if she's alive, can you write her a note to encourage and bless her, letting her know why you chose her?

**Third Day****Work on your memory verse!**

1. Take some time and look back at the different women we studied this year. Please take time to pray about each question and answer thoughtfully:

a. Which woman did you **ENJOY** studying the most? Why?

b. Which woman **CHALLENGED** you the most? Why?

c. Which woman was the most **DIFFICULT** to study? Why?

d. Which woman do you wish you could **KNOW** personally? 😊

2. What is the most significant **“TAKE-AWAY”** from this year’s study?

3. How do you plan to **APPLY** that “take-away”?

**Fourth and Fifth Days**

**Write out your verse from memory.**

1. As we did last year, please choose a woman of the Bible that we **DID NOT** study. Research her as much as you'd like and write a character sketch of her life. She can be named or unnamed. She can be "good" or "bad." Include facts and verses, as well as why you chose her, what you learned from her, and how you plan to apply what you learned, whether the lesson is big or small. Take as much time as you'd like. And most of all, have fun!!

Ladies, it's been a pleasure studying with you this year. I want to end with a quote by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, "Lives of great men (and women) all remind us we can make our lives sublime, and departing, leave behind us footprints on the sands of time." I pray that we all **CHOOSE** to surrender and allow God to lead us, guide us, and to transform us into the image and likeness of Jesus Christ. I pray that we leave Godly legacies for our families, children, and friends to follow. That we will always remember that "Charm is deceitful, beauty is vain, but a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised." (**Proverbs 31:30**) God made each of us special, unique, and talented. May you strive to be the woman God has called you to be. Strong, beautiful, talented, and filled with the Holy Spirit! May your life be characterized by obedience, joy, peace, hope, and love. Always remember that the Lord **DELIGHTS** in **YOU!** Zephaniah 3:17 says, "The Lord your God is in your midst, The Mighty One will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing." And whatever life brings, keep moving forward in faith. Psalm 37:34 says to "Put your hope in the Lord. Travel steadily along His path." (NLT) Psalm 39:12 tells us that we are His guests, travelers passing through. May we travel through with love, grace, and dignity, sharing the hope and love of Christ with all we meet!