



# Mothers of the Bible

## MONDAY – Sarah – the mother who WAITED



**Psalm 27: 13 & 14** *I remain confident of this: I will see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong and take heart and wait for the Lord.*

Sarah, the mother of Isaac and wife of Abraham, who became the mother of nations. And the mother of the line from which Jesus came.

Sarah had been promised a son, but after waiting many years (far longer than most of us would be prepared to wait), she decided to take matters into her own hands and forced Hagar, her servant, to sleep with Abraham; and Ishmael was born. But this is not what God wanted.

At 90 years old, God again promised Sarah that she would have a son. This time, however, she laughed. Who wouldn't! Eventually her laugh turned to joy when Isaac was born. Through this Sarah came to truly believe that God CAN do anything and WILL do everything He promises.

*Behold, I am the LORD, the GOD of all flesh; is there anything too hard for Me?*  
... Jeremiah 32: 27.

**Sarah** teaches us –

- God is not limited to the laws of the universe.
- God knows what He is doing.
- Expect the unexpected.
- One of God's answers is: Not yet....

When God says "Not yet", it is because we need the time to prepare for His answer. If we submit to being still – focusing on His Word and praying continually, we will begin to see the blessing in WAITING.

God has a purpose for the waiting and we need to wait in faith. Give up the resistance and grow in the stillness.

Mothers teach your children patience and the importance of waiting.



**Prayer:** Teach me Lord to be patient. Help me to rather read Your Word, pray continually and draw closer to You in this season of waiting. Refresh my spirit in the stillness. AMEN

## TUESDAY – Hagar – the mother who ENDURED



**2 Corinthians 4: 7-9** *But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.*

Hagar was an Egyptian slave of Sarah and mother of Abraham's first-born son. Sarah treated her harshly so she fled (against the law for a slave) to the wilderness. There an angel of the Lord told her to return. In obedience, she did and gave birth to Ishmael. About 14 years later, Sarah, fearing that Ishmael would be Abraham's heir and not Isaac, banished Hagar to the desert; knowing she and Ishmael would perish. God met Hagar there and provided for her, talked to and rescued her. It is presumed that she and Ishmael returned to Egypt.

Hagar was a mere object enduring much – verbal and sexual abuse; and lack choices. She had to bear the consequences of an angry Sarah. But Hagar remained faithful to the instructions of God. Some things just don't make sense. Sarah was blessed by God yet her treatment of Hagar was far from Christ-like. Bad things can happen at the hands of Godly people. Why?

### **Hagar** teaches us –

- There will be struggles in life. Situations may not be explicable or fair. But God will HEAR us.
- When all seems hopeless, we have a Saviour in whom we can TRUST.
- When we feel unworthy, God SEES us.
- When we run away, God will FIND us.
  
- God's promises He will sustain us while we endure.
- Rely on God's plans they are good and can give us hope. Even if you don't understand and the pain is great, do it anyway – He knows the ending.
- Recognise His provision and give thanks.
- Rest in God's presence knowing His arms surround you.

Mothers teach your children how to endure hardships by holding on to God.



**Prayer:** Lord in You I trust. Help me to endure knowing You love and care for me and will carry me through the darkness. AMEN

## WEDNESDAY – Jochebed – the mother with a PLAN



**Proverbs 16: 3** *Commit to the Lord whatever you do, and He will establish your plans.*

Jochebed was the mother of Miriam and Moses. Pharaoh had commanded that all the newborn sons of the Hebrew people be put to death. And it was into this time that Moses was born. Jochebed was a woman of faith and no doubt made a plea to God for her son. So in faith and determination, she went ahead AND MADE A PLAN. Thereafter we all know the story of Moses.

A mother's love for her son gave her the courage to risk going against Pharaoh to save her son's life. Love casts out fear. Love leads to action.

**Jochebed** teaches us –

- In faith, be bold and proactive.
- Entrust your plans to God.
- Believe He hears you.

God gives us the freedom and responsibility to make plans, in accordance with His will. Relying on God doesn't mean being passive – we have been blessed with the cognitive ability to think our way through problems. We need to apply it! We need to be

proactive. BUT our plans must align with the teachings of Jesus. It is His sustaining power in our lives that enables us to make Christ-like plans.

If we seek God's guidance and direction, He will enable our plans to succeed. However, there may be some that He shuts the door to. But isn't that exactly what trusting Him with our plans means? Trusting that He knows better?

- Ask yourself: Will God be pleased with this plan?

Yes we plan, but it is God that guides: *"In their hearts humans plan their course, but the Lord establishes their steps."* (Proverbs 16: 9). His plans are better than our dreams.

Trust your God to show you the next step.

Mothers teach your children how to boldly make a plan together with God.



**Prayer:** Lord, I entrust my plans to You. Help me to think clearly and boldly. Please help me to keep You at the centre of those plans. You know me best so I trust You with the outcome. AMEN

## THURSDAY – Naomi – the mother-in-law who shared her faith



**Philemon 1: 6 (CEV)** *As you share your faith with others, I pray they may come to know all the blessings Christ has given us.*

Naomi was a Hebrew mother with a strong faith. Her husband Elemelech uprooted his family during the famine years and moved them to a more plentiful country. From a place where God was worshiped to a land of foreign gods. But Naomi's faith stood firm.

After the death of her husband and two sons, she was alone in a foreign country. She decided to return to her Hebrew people. Her daughter-in-law Ruth went with her; lovingly declaring: *"Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God."* (Ruth 1: 16). Such was Naomi's influence on Ruth. She had shown Ruth the ways of God. And through Naomi's love and example Ruth came to know God.

Eventually God blessed them through the marriage of Ruth and Boaz. To them was born Obed – Jesse's father – and Jesse became the father of King David. Ruth learnt a true understanding of faith through Naomi, who continued to wisely instruct her and council her in the months ahead.

**Naomi** teaches us –

- God continues to work through our hardships. Yes, Naomi doubted and felt bitterness, but her deep-seeded faith saw her through.
- We can help others even as we experience our own difficulties. Following God with integrity can influence others.
- When we trust God, devastating circumstances need not be the end of the road.

Mothers like Naomi teach us to believe in ourselves and God. Even through pain, bitterness and doubt.

When you feel abandoned and overwhelmed, return to your roots. Return to your Maker. Return to the place of grace. Then by sharing your faith journey, you will draw people unto Him. You become God's instrument; and who knows how those very people may be used by God.

Mothers share your faith with your children. Teach them to love the Lord.



**Prayer:** Thank You Lord for the example of Naomi. Help me to have that same faith; that same love for You. Help me to share my faith with others, showing love and care in such a way that those I encounter may be drawn to You. AMEN

## FRIDAY – Mary – mother of Jesus



**Luke 1: 46-48** *And Mary said: “My soul glorifies the Lord and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour, for He has been mindful of the humble state of His servant. From now on all generations will call me blessed, for the Mighty One has done great things for me— holy is His name.*

Mary the most blessed. Chosen by God. She is admired for her devotion to God and her obedience to His way. She had no idea how this calling was going to turn out. She is the symbol that God uses the unknown and ordinary person for His purposes.

There was joy and privilege in the calling to be the mother of the Messiah; but also great sorrow. From the time that Jesus was 12 and was left behind in the temple, Mary began to accept that He was never really hers. And He says to her “*What did you expect?*” (Luke 2: 49). Then His crushing statement “*Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?*” (Matthew 12: 48). Yet her guiding hand on His early ministry is evident at the wedding of Cana and His first miracle: “Do whatever He says (John 2: 1 & 2).

And finally, through her devotion of as a mother, she was there to witness the horror of His death. She stayed

with Him to the end. Where else would she be?

**Mary** teaches us –

- **Devotion comes through obedience.** Be faithful to God when the future is completely unknown. *The motto here is: DO IT ANYWAY.*
- **Obedience will mean sacrifice.** Following the path Jesus sets out will never be comfortable but it will be a blessing. *The motto: LORD, I CAN DO THIS.*
- **Trust.** Say yes to His calling, trusting that God will come through for you. Trust the promises He has made in Scripture. And stand firm on His word. *The motto: HE’S GOT THIS.*
- **Faith above all else.** To achieve this kind of faith, you need to surrender all aspects of your life to God. *The motto: LORD, I AM YOURS.*

Mothers, devote your life to God, and entrust your children to Him.



**Prayer:** Lord, take my life and use it for Your purpose. Help me to just say “Yes” to You and trust that I don’t have to count the cost.  
AMEN

Take My Life: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9speOjVQ3ZA>