#1 *New York Times* Bestselling Author

SHANNON BREAM

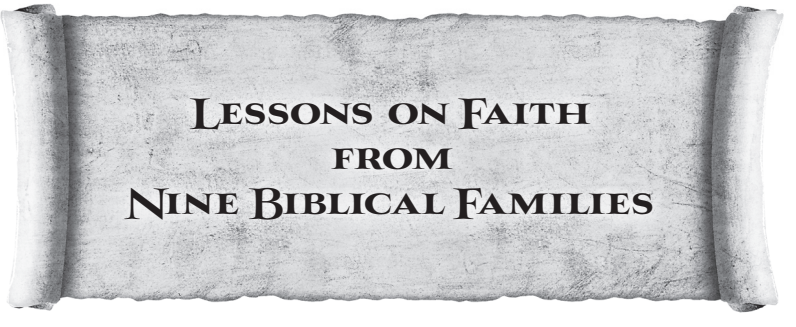
THE MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE BIBLE *Speak*

WORKBOOK

Lessons on Faith from Nine Biblical Families

FOX NEWS books

THE MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS OF THE BIBLE *Speak* WORKBOOK



SHANNON BREAM

HarperChristian Resources

The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak Workbook

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Welcome

Mothers are the first protectors as infants prepare to enter the world. Many of them pray over their children long before they have a name, storing up hopes and dreams for their little ones. As their children grow, daughters (and sons), often chart their own courses. Sometimes this brings great joy, other times great sorrow. This isn't just true of earthly mothers and daughters, but those we consider our spiritual mothers and daughters, too.

God uses mothers and daughters in critical roles throughout the Old and New Testaments. They're often used to change the course of history and reveal the depths of His love.

In the upcoming pages, you'll explore the stories of women and their family dynamics throughout the Bible. You'll find that these aren't just characters from a book. They're genuine, authentic people who celebrated and mourned, took great risks, and received remarkable rewards. They shed heavy tears and grieved just like you.

They faced many of the same difficulties we face today: battles with infertility, difficult relational dynamics, severe family rejection. They, too, knew disappointment, heartache, and loneliness. Yet these mothers and daughters turned to God as their protector and provider.

And the same God who worked mightily in their lives is at work in yours, too. May you find comfort and hope as we make this journey together.

* * *

How to Use This Workbook

This workbook follows #1 *New York Times* bestseller, *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*, and it's designed to make your experience richer and deeper. In the upcoming nine lessons, you'll be challenged to consider the parallels between each mother and daughter story and your own. You'll be asked to reflect on how God worked in their lives and how He's working in yours, too.

If you join with friends or neighbors to complete this workbook, consider answering the questions personally *before* you meet up. That way you'll be the most prepared with insights, reflections, and thoughts to share.

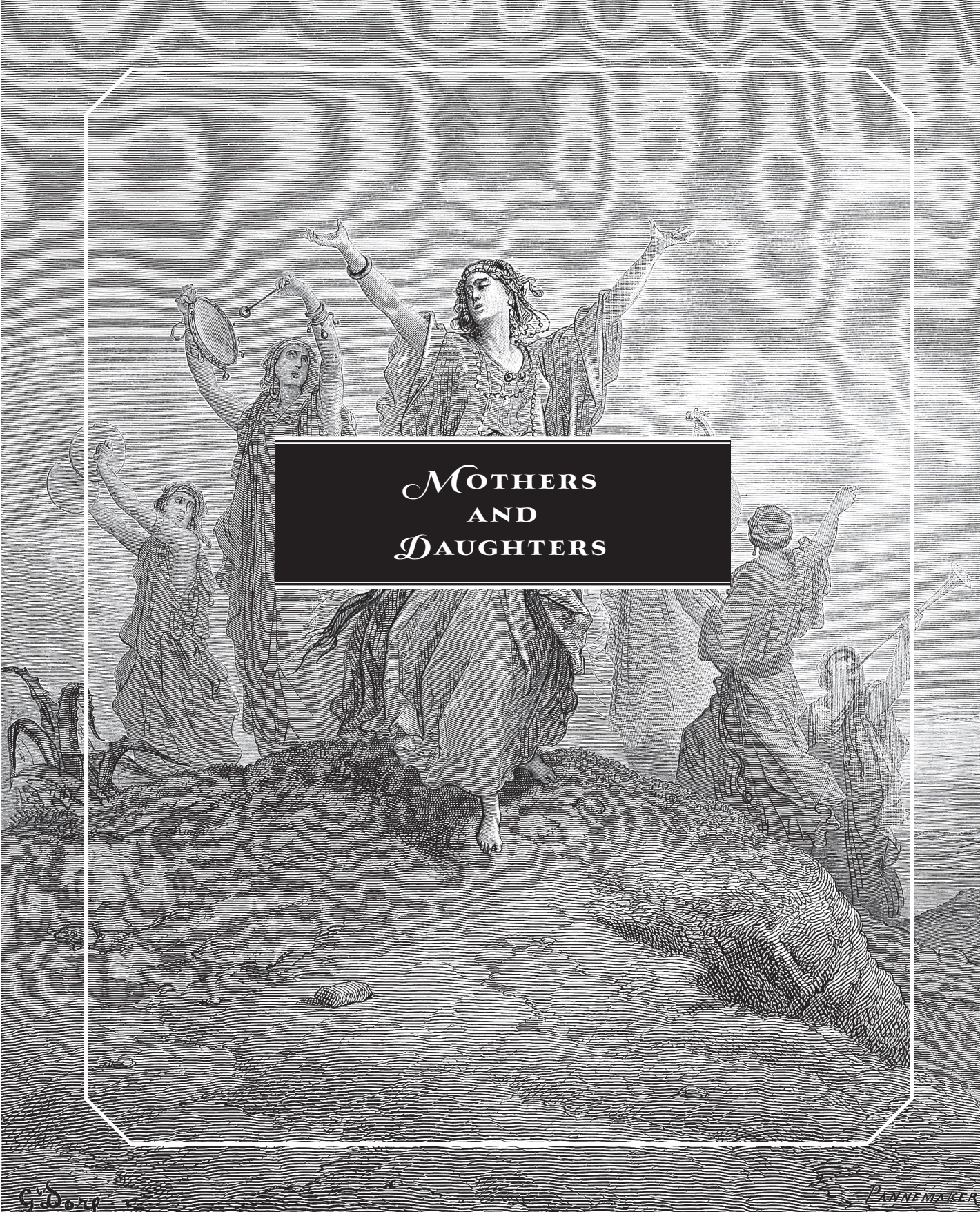
You'll notice that each lesson has four components:

REFLECT invites you to read key moments of each woman's life in the Bible and connect with her story.

CONNECT asks you to consider how God in the Old Testament or Jesus in the New Testament responds to each woman and what this discloses about His character and how He responds to you.

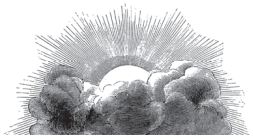
REVEAL provides an opportunity to identify how God works through the woman's relationship, responses to God, and acts of faith, as well as your similar relationships, responses, and acts of faith.

PRAY asks you to prayerfully consider the woman's story and how her relationship ties into the work God is doing in your life right now.



Mothers and Daughters

LESSON ONE



JOCHEBED AND MIRIAM

Jochebed and Miriam—it's through the bravery and sacrifice of this mother and daughter that the entire story of Scripture begins to unfold. What a gift God gives us in the biblical account marked by the faith, creativity, and courage of these two women!

—From *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*, page 6

From Eve to Sarah to Rebekah to Rachel and Leah, motherhood plays a key role in the early stories of the Bible. But we rarely see these mothers interacting with their children—and of the mothers who are named in Genesis, Leah is the only one whom the Bible mentions as having a daughter. In Exodus, we see the first mother and daughter pair interacting with each other in Scripture—Jochebed and Miriam.

Reflect

In Genesis 37, we're introduced to Joseph, one of the great heroes of the Bible. Joseph is sold into slavery by his brothers and launches into an adventure filled with surprise twists and turns. God positions Joseph to save his entire family and his people during a severe famine. The Jewish people flourish in Egypt for years, until a new Pharoah takes control of the land and enslaves God's people. Pharoah becomes so paranoid and fearful of the success and power of God's people that he commands a genocide. Every male newborn from a Hebrew family must be thrown into the Nile River and drown to death.

Jochebed gives birth to Miriam and raises her according to Hebrew custom. Then she becomes pregnant again. The stakes couldn't have been higher. Take a moment. Imagine yourself as a Hebrew mother, counting down the days until the child's birth. If you give birth to a girl, the child will live in slavery; but if it's a boy, the child will be slaughtered. Pharaoh and his cruel decree didn't just create a genocide, it stole the joy of motherhood.

Read Exodus 2:1–2. What divine insight does God give Jochebed as she looks at her child?

Read the following passages. What does each one affirm about the specialness that Jochebed sees?

Acts 7:20

Hebrews 11:23

When have you recognized something special or been given divine insight about a child at a young age?

How did this affect the way you watched or protected the child?

This mother was courageous and crafty. When she realized she could no longer conceal Moses, Jochebed coated a basket with tar and pitch, essentially making a baby ark for him. She made a plan and used the resources she had. Jochebed placed the basket among the reeds on the bank of the Nile River—the very place she'd been commanded to send her baby to die. She knew Moses had a special destiny, so to give him a chance at that life, Jochebed let her infant son go. The word for this basket is the same used to describe Noah's ark in Genesis 6.

—From *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*, pages 15–16

When someone is first introduced in the Bible, it's important to pay attention to how the person is described and their initial actions. This often alludes to characteristics, challenges, or roles he or she will have as the stories unfold.

Read Exodus 2:3–4. How is Moses' big sister, Miriam, introduced in this passage?

What characteristics does she display?

Read Exodus 2:5–9. How does Miriam leverage the kindness of Pharoah's daughter to save her brother?

The Pharoah had issued a decree for the Hebrew sons, yet God is at work in his daughter's heart. But Miriam doesn't know that! First, she steps forward and addresses Pharaoh's daughter, a child putting herself squarely between her brother and one of the most powerful people in Egypt. She abandons the safety of her hiding spot. She could have stayed put in a hidden place, and then, when the coast was clear, run back to her mother to tell her the good news. That would have been a happy ending. But Miriam doesn't do that. Instead, she does another brave thing: She speaks up and offers a solution that will either expose her family's secret or buy them more time with this vulnerable baby.

Instead of being filled with coldness and cruelty like her father, Pharoah's daughter shows great compassion.

How do Miriam's courageous actions help keep the family together?

When have you done something risky or courageous to try to keep your immediate or spiritual family together?

What was the result?

Which of the following displays God's power and presence? Place a check (√) by all that apply.

____ Jochebed determined to save her son despite the edict against his life.

____ Miriam boldly stepped forward to protect her brother.

____ Pharaoh's daughter took pity on the infant and spared his life.

Which is most meaningful to you today? Why?

How do you suspect God is positioning you as part of a spiritual mother/daughter team to advance God's will and way?

Read Exodus 2:10. What mixed emotions do you think Jochebed felt as her son was given to Pharoah's daughter?

When have you felt mixed emotions in trusting what you loved most to God?

Jochebed and Miriam were forced to stand by, pray, and trust that God was at work. Where is God currently asking you to stand by, pray, and trust He is at work?

Jochebed's life shows impact and eternal importance of motherhood—both physical and spiritual. The spiritual foundation she lays during her son's formative years would make all the difference decades later, when Moses struggles with and then ultimately follows God's calling on his life.

—From ***The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak***, page 18

The tragedy starts when Moses tries to become his people's savior too early. Somewhere during his years in Pharoah's household, Moses came to identify with his Hebrew brothers and sisters and the injustice and struggle they faced.

Read Exodus 2:11–15. What snap decision does Moses make?

How was Moses betrayed by the people he saw as his own?

What must Moses do and give up in order to survive?

How do you think Jochebed, his loving mother, and Miriam, his loving sister, mourned and grieved when they heard the news?

When have you mourned and grieved over your child or spiritual child's foolhardy decision?

What carried you, or is carrying you now, through that difficult season?

Moses wants to be a warrior savior, saving his people by his own strength. Like Joseph, he has to go through a period of suffering—a "wilderness" period—when he must rely on God and be transformed by God's presence, before he can be a liberator to his people.

Read Exodus 3:1–14. How does God reveal his presence to Moses and call him to a special mission?

In the space below, draw a picture of the burning bush scene.

List three burning-bush moments from your life and their outcomes.

- _____
- _____
- _____

How is this interaction between God and Moses an answer to the prayers of his mother, Jochebed, his entire family, and the Israelites?

On a scale of one to ten, how much do you believe in the power of prayer? Circle where you land on the spectrum.

1 — 2 — 3 — 4 — 5 — 6 — 7 — 8 — 9 — 10

What prevents you from having a more consistent prayer life?

Despite this powerful encounter with God, Moses still second-guessed himself. Read Exodus 4:10–16. How is Jochebed's son, Aaron, partnered and positioned with Moses to set Israel free?

How do you think Jochebed, as a mother, responded emotionally and spiritually to watching her sons, Moses and Aaron, confront Pharoah repeatedly?

Read Exodus 14:15–29. After a series of miraculous signs, God's people are freed from the cruelties of Pharoah. All too soon, they find themselves pinned up against the Red Sea, the Egyptian army in hot pursuit. God opens the Red Sea revealing dry ground. God's people cross safely to the opposite shore. Then in a fit of confusion and rage, the army and all their chariots are destroyed by the crashing waters. That's when we see the trio of siblings united in exuberant joy.

Read Exodus 15:19–21. How does Miriam demonstrate her leadership and passionate worship?

Despite all odds, all three of Jochebed's children become mighty leaders of Israel. Miriam becomes a prophetess and leader. Aaron becomes the founder of Israel's priesthood. And Moses leads God's people to victory.

Jochebed models faith for us. She was a woman so in tune with God that she was able to see an extraordinary vision for her son. That trust in God gave her the holy courage to defy an evil king's murderous order. She used what she had and released her precious baby to God's plan. It can be tough for us to surrender our loved ones to God, and Jochebed did it more than once.

Which of your loved ones are you struggling to surrender to God?

Who are three immediate and spiritual children for whom you pray regularly?

- _____
- _____
- _____

For what do you specifically ask God?

- _____
- _____
- _____

How does Jochebed's story challenge and encourage you to keep praying and trusting God with your loved ones?

Connect

Now that you've read and reflected on Jochebed's story alongside her children— Miriam, Moses, and Aaron—it's time to connect this mother and her children of the Bible with your life. Fill out the chart below.

What do you see as Jochebed's greatest character strengths as a mother?	
What do you see as Jochebed's greatest struggles as a mother?	
Which strengths do you relate to or long for?	
Which struggles do you relate to or long to overcome?	
How do you hope to be more like Jochebed in your spiritual motherhood and faith journey?	

REVEAL

Now that you've connected with this mother in the Bible, it's time to look at how God reveals His character and faithfulness to Jochebed and how God is doing the same for you.

Where did you most see God show up in Jochebed's and her children's lives?	
What does God reveal about Himself and His character in the life of Jochebed?	
Like Jochebed, in what ways have you experienced God protecting you and your loved ones, and answering your prayers?	
How is God calling you to pray for them now?	

PRAY

Take a few minutes to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you respond to the following prayer prompts.

Lord, like Jochebed, help me . . .

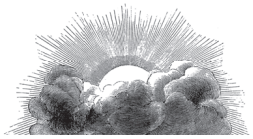
Lord, where am I responding out of fear and panic rather than trust and prayer?

Lord, here are the names of the loved ones about whom I'm most concerned. Will You reveal Your power and presence to each one? (Write the names below.)

Lord, what can I do this week to encourage and bless these loved ones?

Lord, considering Jochebed's story, how are You calling me to love and live differently?

LESSON TWO



Ruth and Naomi

Again and again in Scripture, we see examples of "found families." Adoption is a theme God beautifully illustrates for us repeatedly in the Bible, leading up to the adoption of Christians as sons and daughters of God. . . . And, of course, Jesus' own story is one of adoption. He was known as the son of Joseph, but Joseph was His adoptive father—a man who took on a divine assignment that upended his life and called him to a challenging journey. . . . One of the most beautiful examples we get of a "chosen family" bond in the Old Testament is the relationship between Ruth and her mother-in-law, Naomi.

—From *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*, pages 31–32

In *The Women of the Bible Speak*, we looked at Ruth's life in connection with Tamar—another woman who knew what it was to be an outcast and a stranger, someone people despised and perhaps pitied. Now we're going to see Ruth through the lens of being a daughter and the relationship she built with Naomi. Their journey begins in shared grief and results in deep joy and deliverance.

Reflect

Naomi and her husband, Elimelek, leave their home country, Judah, during a famine, in search of a better life for themselves and their sons. They travel to Moab where the customs and traditions of the land couldn't be more different. Just as they begin building a new life, tragedy strikes. Nothing exacerbates grief and discomfort like being away from home—that which feels safe and familiar, surrounded by love.

Read Ruth 1:1–5. How does being in a foreign land exacerbate Naomi's grief?

When have you encountered loss, pain, or grief away from home?

Why does being away from home when hardship hits make it that much worse?

Naomi's situation becomes dire. In the ancient world, husbands and sons support the women of the family. When Naomi loses her spouse and children, she's impoverished. Then she finds a glimmer of hope. Back in her homeland of Judah, the famine has ended, and food is available.

Read Ruth 1:6–10. What hint do you see regarding Naomi's faith in verse 6?

In her grief and pain, how does Naomi selflessly respond to her daughters-in-law, Ruth and Orpah?

When you're facing grief and pain, are you more tempted to act selfishly or selflessly? Explain.

Naomi has a long, lonely, dangerous journey ahead of her. Yet she's willing to make the journey alone.

Read Ruth 1:11–13. Why is Naomi so concerned with Ruth and Orpah, as Moabites, staying in the land of Moab?

What could Ruth and Orpah lose by going with their mother-in-law Naomi?

Read Ruth 1:14–19. How does Ruth respond to her mother-in-law, Naomi?

What does this passage reveal about Ruth's and Orpah's special bond to Naomi?

The Bible often gives us examples of "found families." God uses the theme of adoption to illustrate the depths of His love—in people He brings together and in our adoption as sons and daughters of God.

Read Galatians 4:4–7 and Romans 8:15–17. What is the role of adoption in salvation?

What does the Bible reveal about the beauty of adoption through Ruth's and Naomi's story and these passages about adoption into the family of God?

The Hebrew word for daughter-in-law is *kallah* and it's a complicated word. It's sometimes translated as "bride," and it is used in that sense in the romantic imagery of the Song of Songs. But the root of the word *kallah* is *kalal*, which means "perfected" or "made complete." A daughter-in-law is not just a bride for the son, but she adds to the entire family unit. Naomi's daughters-in-law were her family, and for her to leave them behind in Moab would be to leave a part of her heart there as well.

—From ***The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*, page 36**

What do modern, negative stereotypes in culture suggest about mothers-in-law (examples: overbearing, nosy, hostile)?

How does this story challenge that narrative and demonstrate that mothers-in-law can be a gift and a blessing?

Though Naomi urges her to turn back, Ruth refuses. Many people look at this passage as an example of beautiful, earthly love, and they are right. But what about looking at the passage in another way—as a model for evangelism?

Naomi is the first person in this story to talk about the Lord, and that becomes a consistent theme in Naomi and Ruth's relationship. She reminds Ruth that going back

home means going back to "her people and her gods" (Ruth 1:15), but Ruth persists. She wants to go with Naomi, and she wants to worship Naomi's God.

In the ancient Near East, religion was very closely linked to nationality and a people's culture. Ruth makes the decision to leave all that behind and align with the God of Naomi.

How are you living out your faith in a way that makes others want to believe in God?

Read Ruth 2:1–2. How does Ruth respond to Naomi?

What does Naomi calling Ruth "daughter" reveal about their relationship?

Who has been a second-mother or spiritual mother to you?

To whom have you been a second-mother or spiritual mother?

How has this relationship strengthened you emotionally, relationally, and spiritually?

Read Ruth 2:1–4. What do you notice about Boaz when he's first introduced in the Bible?

What do Boaz's first words reveal about his faith and love of God?

Read Ruth 2:5–10. As a man of faith, how does Boaz extend hospitality, kindness, and protection to Ruth?

What characterizes Ruth's response?

Read Ruth 2:11–16. How does Boaz live out his faith in this passage?

How are you living out your faith through the ways you treat and respond to others?

Read Leviticus 25:2–55. How does the Jewish law set up a system of accountability, so families are obligated to help their own, including distant relatives?

Read Ruth 2:17–20. How does Naomi respond to Boaz's kindness?

Scripture talks a lot about the role of a "redeemer," and God Himself is often identified in the Old Testament as Redeemer—rescuer of the people of Israel. The Psalms refer to God as "my Rock and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14), and Job at the end of all his trials said, "I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth" (Job 19:25). But when we talk about a redeemer in terms of the law—the kind of legal redeemer Boaz was—the context is one of obligation and responsibility.

—From *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*, page 46

What do Boaz's acts of kindness toward Ruth and Ruth's acts of kindness toward Naomi share in common?

How do Boaz and Ruth both act as redeemers?

Who is God calling you to join His work in writing a redemption story?

Read Titus 2:11–14. Who is the ultimate Redeemer?

How have you experienced the ultimate Redeemer in your life?

Naomi's maternal instincts on behalf of Ruth were strong. She sees a way forward for Ruth, the selfless daughter-in-law, who had abandoned her own hopes in order to protect Naomi.

Read Ruth 3:1–18. What does Naomi instruct Ruth to do and what's the result?

What does Ruth's obedience reveal about her relationship with Naomi?

With whom in your life could you develop this kind of relationship?

Read Ruth 4:1–12. Why does the first guardian-redeemer pass on buying the land from Naomi?

What risk does Boaz take by buying the land from Naomi?

What does Boaz's decision to buy the land and marry Ruth reveal about his character?

What do Boaz's generous, loving actions have in common with Jesus' loving actions for you?

When have you seen God provide for you in the most unlikely way?

Read Ruth 4:13–17. What sacrifice does Boaz make in taking Ruth to be his wife and in the birth of their son, Obed? Where is Obed in the lineage of Christ?

Naomi and Ruth, mother and daughter by choice, wind up with blessings beyond what they could have imagined.

How does Naomi's story demonstrate that God can work all things together for good and His glory?

How can you more intentionally engage with God's family—all the different kinds of mothers and daughters in your life—and build vibrant relationships?

Connect

Now that you've read and reflected on much of Naomi and her daughter-in-law's story, it's time to connect these women with your life. Fill out the chart below.

What do you see as Naomi's greatest character strengths as a mother-in-law? What do you see as Ruth's greatest character strengths as a daughter-in-law?	
What do you see as Naomi's and Ruth's greatest struggles in their relationship with each other and others?	
Which strengths do you relate to or long for?	
Which struggles do you relate to or long to overcome?	
How do you hope to be more like Naomi and Ruth in your familial or spiritual relationships?	

REVEAL

Now that you've connected with these women of the Bible, it's time to look at how God reveals His character and faithfulness through the relationship of Naomi and Ruth and how God is doing the same for you.

Where did you most see God show up in Naomi's and Ruth's lives?	
What does God reveal about Himself and His character in the lives of Naomi and Ruth?	
Like Naomi and Ruth, how have you experienced God's protection and provision?	
Where is God calling you to take a risky, radical step of obedience?	

PRAY

Take a few minutes to ask the Holy Spirit to guide you as you respond to the following prayer prompts.

Lord, like Naomi, help me . . .

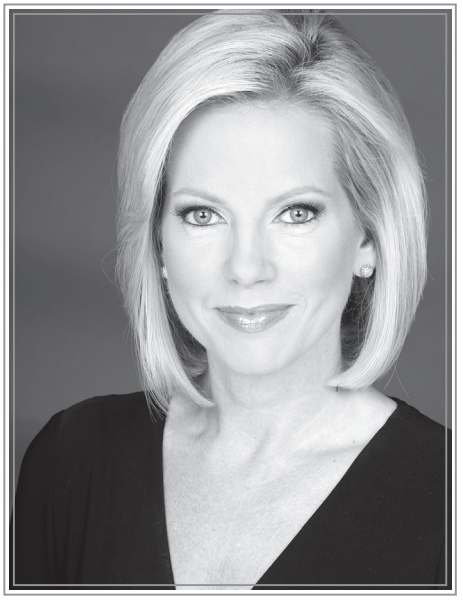
Lord, like Ruth, help me . . .

Lord, to whom are You calling me to be a second-mother or second-daughter?

Lord, whom are You calling me to adopt spiritually just as You've adopted me?

Lord, considering the story of Naomi and Ruth, how are You calling me to live differently?

About the Author



Shannon Bream is the author of the #1 New York Times bestsellers *The Women of the Bible Speak* and *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*, the anchor of *Fox News @ Night*, and the chief legal correspondent for Fox News Channel. She has covered landmark cases at the Supreme Court and heated political campaigns and policy battles from the White House to Capitol Hill.

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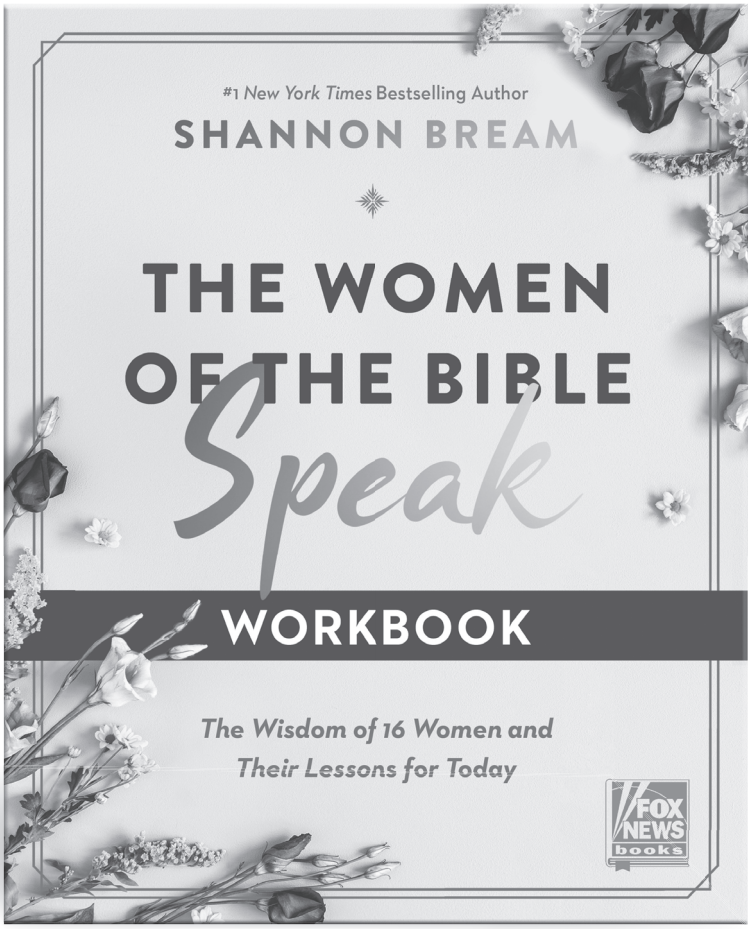
The Women of the Bible Speak Workbook



Available wherever books are sold.

EXPLORE THE INTIMATE CONNECTION BETWEEN FAITH AND FAMILY

God uses mothers and daughters in critical roles throughout the Old and New Testaments. They are often used to change the course of history, but more importantly, these female relationships and roles reveal a deeper depth of God's love for and faithfulness to each of us.

This workbook is based on the #1 *New York Times* bestseller *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak.* In these nine lessons, you will consider the parallels between the relationships, experiences, and challenges of women in the Bible as mothers and daughters and your own. You'll reflect on how God focused on their faith and trust—and how He is doing the same with you.

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PRAY asks you to prayerfully consider how the woman's story and how her relationship ties into the work God is doing in your life right now.

BONUS SECTIONS: MIRACLES where you'll be asked to consider the phenomenal eye witness accounts experienced by mothers and daughters and how those incredible events continue to impact your life today.

SHANNON BREAM is the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestsellers *The Women of the Bible Speak* and *The Mothers and Daughters of the Bible Speak*, the anchor of *Fox News @ Night*, and the chief legal correspondent for Fox News Channel. She has covered landmark cases at the Supreme Court and heated political campaigns and policy battles from the White House to Capitol Hill.

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