# Bible Character Silhouette Stock Illustrations – 306 Bible Character  Silhouette Stock Illustrations, Vectors & Clipart - Dreamstime**Women in the Bible: Grace and Courage**



The male figure is well-documented in Scripture. As kings, prophets, evangelists, preachers, government officials and military leaders, the male is established as the dominant person; it is a patriarchal culture. In Jewish society of the Old Testament, women were considered the subjects of their fathers or husbands; they were isolated during the time of their cycles; males held the authority to marry, divorce and offer women as property. Men could have multiple wives and concubines; women could have only one husband, lest they commit adultery. The Ten Commandments attests to this role quite clearly, where women are collectively listed with animals and slaves (Ex. 20:17).

Yet, women bring an inspiring, intriguing, innovative and invigorating perspective through which we may engage the Holy Scripture and understand God’s purpose. Throughout the Scriptures, women demonstrate their courage, wisdom, strength, determination, cunning, leadership and commitment time and time again; God, in turn, showed them grace through their trials. Where they needed his redemptive love, they received it. This is evident from the first chapters in Genesis on through the New Testament.

In this study, we will discuss the lives of women in the OT, exploring how they overcame obstacles through grace and led their people through courageous faith. During the last week there will be a special discussion on Mary, the mother of Jesus. As you prepare for the study, take a moment to read about gender and power during the Old Testament era. An excellent source is https://www.bibleodyssey.org/tools/bible-basics/gender-and-the-hebrew-bible. Another excellent reference is by James Warden, *Black Women in the Bible*.

Weekly Discussions:

1. Hagar who turned to God in her dismal situation and became a mother of a nation (Gen. 16, 21).
2. Naomi & Ruth – Mother and daughter-in-law who remained faithful to each other to the end (Ruth).
3. Hannah, the mother of Samuel, who gave her son back to the Lord (1 Samuel 1:9-18,24-28).
4. The Shunammite woman, who gave hospitality to Elisha and was rewarded with a son (2 Kings 4:8-38).
5. Vashti and Esther, as one made way for the other, these queens captured the king’s attention; because of Esther’s courage, the people were saved (Esther 4:15-17).

***Additional – Special Discussion***

1. Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who accepted God’s command (Luke 1).

**Schedule**

Wk I: Overview; highlights and Bible tips, Discussion 1

Wk II: Discussion 1

Wk III: Discussion 2

Wk IV: Discussion 3

Wk V: Discussion 4

Wk VI: Discussion 5

Wk VII: Discussion 6

Study Question: (each week) What lesson in this narrative do you see regarding the woman or women and their situation? How could it relate to us today (give an example)?

Notes

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