

Women in the
Bible:
Sarah
and me

“Your word is lamp
for my feet and a
light for my path.”

Psalm 119:105

Faithful wife and
Matriarch



Introduction

Sarah left the security of Ur, faithfully following Abraham over 62 years of travels, recorded in Genesis chapters 12-23. Being the wife of a semi-nomadic Shepherd could not have been easy. An additional challenge was Sarah’s childlessness - viewed extremely negatively in bible times.



Introduction

We learn from Sarah, that life can be unpredictable and unsettling. Yet God always directs our steps if we follow Him faithfully, no matter how long and hard the journey. Even when we experience crushing disappointments, God is with us. He is also the God of surprises, as we see Sarah’s hopes finally fulfilled with the promised child, well past child bearing age; a miracle indeed! She became the Mother of Nations.

A key lesson, is the importance of waiting on God to fulfil His plans in his way. When we step in to ‘help God out,’ we create problems. Even so, God will still bless us.



Discover

- *Her Place in Scripture*
- *Her challenges and triumphs*
- *Her Life Lessons*



Going Deeper

1. In Genesis 15:1-6. Sarah's husband – Abram, converses with God and receives a promise of a son. Notice that Abram does not refer to Sarah's childlessness directly, but instead, in verse 2 refers to himself as childless. Do you think Abram was protecting Sarah?

2. In verse 3, Abraham does not blame Sarah, but points to God being responsible for not giving Him a son. What does this say to us as women about God being sovereign?



Going Deeper

3. After God's declaration to Abram that Sarah would bear his child, 20 years has passed, when the scripture suggests that disappointment and impatience had set in. Discuss Sarah's actions in Genesis 16:1-3

4. Read verses 4-6. What do you think of Sarah's discussion with Abram and her treatment of Hagar?



Going Deeper

5. Genesis 18 gives the account of 'Heavenly visitors'. Discuss verses 9-15. Note Sarah's response. How would you have responded?
6. Read Genesis 21:1-7 recording the miracle birth of Isaac and Sarah's joy.
7. Verses 8-21 records the second conflict with Sarah and Haggar and the outcome. Discuss.



Words for Today

8. Have you ever been promised something significant from a source you really trusted, but not receive it? How did that make you feel?
9. How can I still trust God, even when I experience the crushing weight of disappointment over a cherished desire that now appears futile?
10. Think of a time when you made a decision that had negative consequences. Explain how you felt? Describe how that incident impacted your relationship with God?

Questions for Discussion

- How would you support a woman desperately wanting a child, but unable to have her own?
- Today many women seek different ways to have children. How would you advise someone seeking to have a baby via surrogacy?



Words of Wisdom

Imagine what it was like for Sarah to desperately want a child and not be able to have one? Seeing other women including her maid become pregnant readily, would undoubtedly have dented her self-esteem further and magnified her insecurities. Maybe there were times when you saw others receiving what you felt you too deserved, but didn't get. Trust that God in His love knows best and is still working in our life. Psalm 138:8 says *"The LORD will fulfil his purpose for me; your steadfast love, O LORD, endures forever."* (ESV)

When we settle for an 'Ishmael' when God has promised us an 'Isaac', the consequences are far-reaching and sometimes irreversible. God's ways always produce the best results.





Sarah

Her Name Means "Princess"

My Prayer for Today

Father, you know my anxious thoughts and impatient actions. Help me to learn how to wait for your timing even when it looks as though you are not coming through for me. Remind me of your unexpected surprises and quiet my heart in your love. Amen

Sarah

Her Name Means "Princess"

Sharing

There is a Sarah in all of us. When we feel we have waited beyond the expected time for answers to our prayers, we have a tendency to try and make things happen that are out of our control. Those decisions usually end in tears or leads to disaster.

Psalm 27:14 reminds us about God's perfect timing – "Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"

Reflect on the actions of Sarah. Think of a women you know who is struggling with God's timing for something significant in her life and commit to cover her in prayer. Ask God to strengthen her as she learns to wait on Him.