

Adult Faith Formation at St. Stephen Martyr
Women in the Old Testament
Fall, 2011

Sep 20: Eve

It is commonly believed that Eve is responsible for the “fall” of all humanity, for dragging us out of the happiest place on earth—Eden—the beautiful garden. Have you ever wondered if it is true? What did the Bible say about her? Where was Adam when Eve took the “forbidden fruit”?

- Genesis 1-3
- Phyllis Trible, “A Love Story Gone Awry,” in *God and the Rhetoric of Sexuality*, pp. 72-139.
- Phyllis Trible, “Eve and Miriam: From the Margins to the Center,” in *Feminist Approaches to the Bible*, pp. 5-15.

Oct 4: Sarah and Hagar

When Abraham went to offer Isaac, the only son of Sarah, the son of her old age, on Mount Maria, how did Sarah feel? What happened to her after the offering?

- Genesis 16-22
- Phyllis Trible, “Genesis 22: The Sacrifice of Sarah,” in *Women in the Hebrew Bible*, pp. 271-92.

Oct 18: Rebecca and Rachel

The Bible tells us that Isaac loved Rebecca and found comfort in her after his mother’s death; Jacob loved Rachel at first sight of her and worked for her 14 years. Who are these two women? What characters do they have?

- Genesis 24-31
- Robert Alter, “Biblical Type-Scenes and the Use of Convention,” in *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, pp. 47-62.

Nov 1: Tamar

Tamar, a young woman who lost two husbands and was asked by her father-in-law Judah to go back to her father’s house, did not have much to hope for. Did she just wait passively? How did she become an ancestor of Jesus?

- Genesis 37-38
- Robert Alter, “A Literary Approach to the Bible,” in *The Art of Biblical Narrative*, pp. 3-22.

Nov 15: Miriam

Miriam, the sister who saved Moses, the prophet who sung by the red sea, the leader who accompanied the Israelite people out of Egypt, was struck by leprosy because she questioned Moses’ leadership. What was the nature of her questioning? What did the people do for her when she became leprous?

- Exodus 1-2; 15; Numbers 12
- Moshe Reiss, “Miriam Rediscovered,” *Jewish Bible Quarterly* 38 (2010) 183-90.
- Naomi Graetz, “Miriam: Guilty or Not Guilty?” *Judaism* 40 (1991) 184-92.

Dec 6: Ruth and Naomi

Ruth and Naomi, daughter-in-law and mother-in-law, bound together neither by blood nor by their husbands, but by their love for each other.

- Book of Ruth
- Jacqueline E. Lapsley, "The Word Whispered: Bringing It All Together in Ruth," in *Whispering the Word*, pp. 89-108.

Dec 13: Jesus' Great grandmothers

Do you know that there are women in Jesus' genealogy? What kind of women are they? How did they become grandmothers of Jesus?

- Matthew 1:1-16
- Irene Nowell, "Jesus' Great Grandmothers: Matthew's Four and More," *The Catholic Biblical Quarterly* 70 (2008) 1-15.