



## A SIX-WEEK SERIES ON **WOMEN OF FAITH**

### Series Overview

We've all wondered what to do when we reach *that* point in the Bible- the list of Jesus' genealogy that seems to take up full chapters with hard to pronounce names like "Shealtiel" and "Rehoboam." But what if, tucked within those lists, were the names of courageous, heroic, messy, complicated, faithful and obedient women who God used to bring about the salvation of the world? In this six-week series, we will look at the lives of six women- *Leah the Unloved, Tamar the Uncomfortable, Rahab the Unfaithful, Ruth the Unassuming, Bathsheba the Unseen, and Mary the Unexpected*- who, despite their flaws, found a place to belong in the great redemption story as *Mothers of God*.

#### Week 1

**Scripture:** Genesis 29

**Summary:** Leah spends her life in her sister's shadow, before getting married and seeing that her own husband prefers her sister *even* when she is providing him with sons. But we see in the naming of her sons that Leah eventually understands that her value comes through God's love of her.

#### Week 2

**Scripture:** Genesis 38

**Summary:** The story of Tamar is one of those where modern Christians cringe a bit while reading it... and yet, God chose to use her lineage to bring about the Messiah. We see that He will use even the messiest of broken people to bring about his purposes.

#### Week 3

**Scripture:** Joshua 2

**Summary:** Rahab is a woman of great faith (she is in both the Hebrews hall-of-faith *and* is mentioned alongside Abraham in the book of James!) Many who knew her may not have characterized her that way, but God gave her the opportunity, in a moment, to have a life previously characterized by unfaithfulness be re-defined by her faith.

#### Week 4

**Scripture:** Ruth 1:1-18, 2:1-12, 19-20, 3:9-16

**Summary:** Not every hero of the faith is involved in some grand, illustrious moment. Ruth's heroism is seen in her quiet, unassuming faithfulness to her mother-in-law, to her adopted culture, to her kinsman redeemer Boaz, and to God. Ruth simply and incredibly obeys and thus God delights in and uses her.

### Week 5

**Scripture:** 2 Samuel 11

**Summary:** David saw a woman bathing on the roof, but he did not see Bathsheba. We see in this incredibly dark story that Bathsheba is the victim of an abuse of power wherein she's not seen as an image-bearer, but as an object of David's desires. But while David may not see her, God does and blesses the world through her line.

### Week 6

**Scripture:** Luke 2:26-38; 46-56

**Summary:** Who but God would have thought that the Savior of the world would be born of a poor Jewish teenager? In the story of the Messiah's birth, we see the delight of God poured out on Mary, in whose belly grows the light and life for all creation.

### Tip of the Month

Studying the Bible together can be such a great way to help your family grow closer to God. But keeping everyone engaged, excited, and curious can be frustrating. So instead of feeling like you must be the issue, let's explore a few ideas to make your Bible study more intentional than ever before. Check out this short [parent tip video](#) for more.

### Spiritual Practice of the Month

#### **PRACTICE OF CREATIVE JOURNALING.**

During this series we're encouraging students to practice creative journaling, where they place themselves into the story and think about how they might feel as each of the characters. What things do you see around you? Who are the trustworthy people you're interacting with, and who do you have to watch out for? Without the benefit of hindsight, what kinds of things are you thinking God might be up to? What are you feeling about the situation as you move through it? How could this story be a part of God's plan?

### Question of the Month

We consider our volunteer leaders to be the best link we have between our church and your family. So here's a question: **Have you had a conversation with your student's life group leader yet this year?** We'd love to hear about it, or help you connect with them if you aren't sure how. Please feel free to email us at [students@menlo.church](mailto:students@menlo.church) anytime.