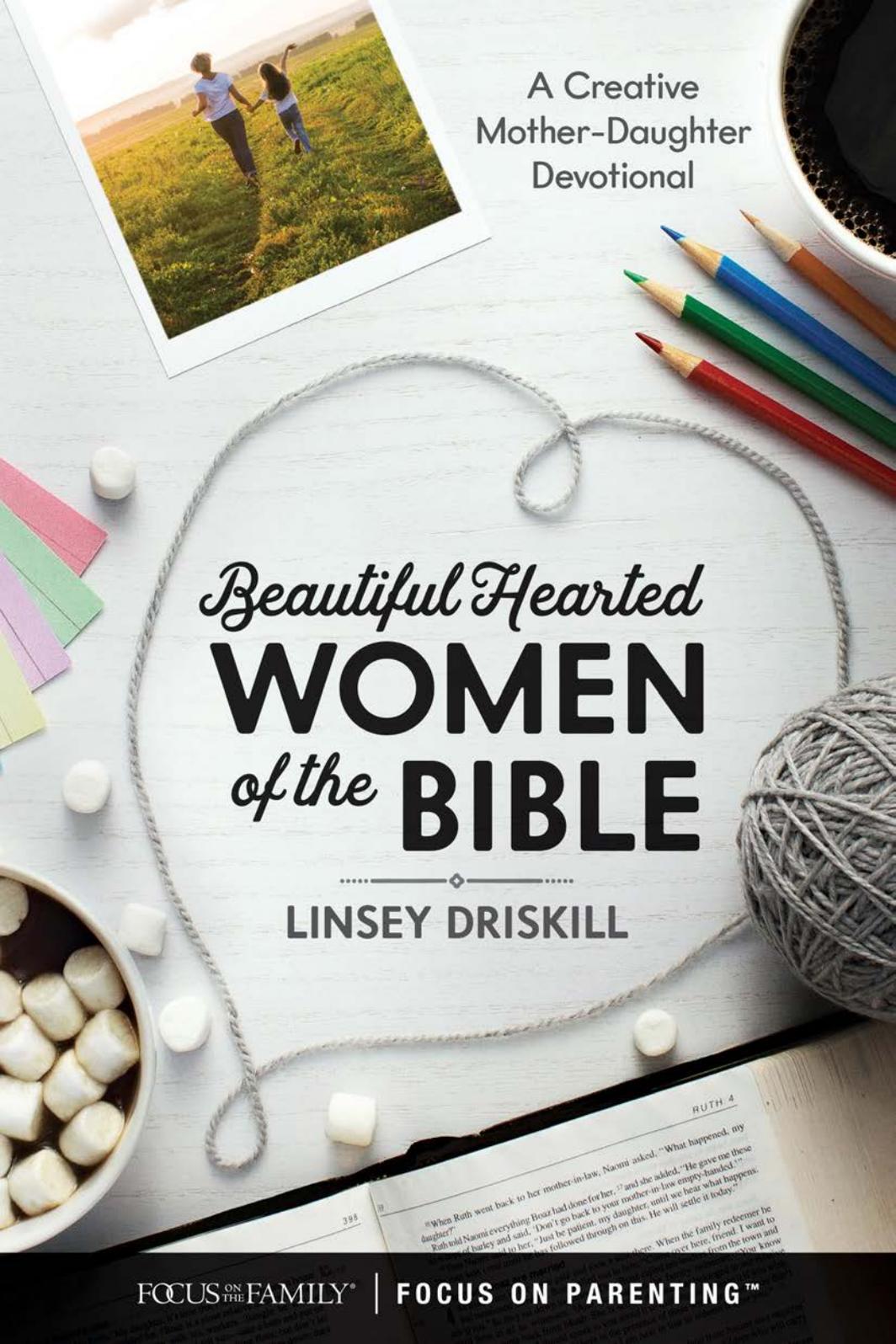


A Creative
Mother-Daughter
Devotional



Beautiful Hearted
WOMEN
of the **BIBLE**

—◆—
LINSEY DRISKILL

RUTH 4

298

39

"When Ruth went back to her mother-in-law, Naomi asked, 'What happened, my daughter?'" Ruth told Naomi everything Boaz had done for her, and she added, "He gave me these." Ruth told Naomi and said, "Don't I go back to your mother-in-law empty-handed?" Naomi said to her, "Just be patient, my daughter, until we hear what happens." Naomi followed through on this. He will settle it today."

When the family redeemer he
ever here, (friend, I want to
from the town and
You know

Beautiful Hearted
WOMEN
of the **BIBLE**



A Creative
Mother-Daughter
Devotional

LINSEY DRISKILL

FOCUS
ON
THE FAMILY®

*A Focus on the Family Resource
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Introduction

*A*s my daughters were curled up in bed one night, reading princess books and wanting to dress up like them, a dream surfaced in my heart and mind.

What if my daughters wanted to imitate women in the Bible who loved God and others?

What if there was a devotional through which my daughters and your daughters could learn about women who changed the world? And what if they were inspired to imitate those women?

What if our daughters saw the freedom in caring more about inner beauty than outward beauty?

What if they saw that humility was the way to true beauty?

What if they grew in confidence as they learned to depend on the Lord?

What if we slowed down and took time to connect with our daughters?

What if a foundation could be built in our daughters' hearts, minds, and souls, to love Jesus with all their hearts and to love one another with the kind of love that expands God's Kingdom?



This book, *Beautiful Hearted Women of the Bible: A Creative Mother-Daughter Devotional*, is my answer to all of those what-if questions.

The Bible women in this book are beautiful hearted because they loved the Lord and others. They were moms and daughters just like we are. And they made mistakes and had areas to work on just like we do. But the examples of their lives, as recorded in Scripture, can serve to strengthen our faith and point us to the One who is perfect and has the power to forgive: Jesus.

Building Relationship . . . and Faith!

While one of our greatest desires as mothers is to be close to our daughters, it's easy to get swept up in technology and busyness and miss the chance to connect. This devotional offers a sweet space to slow down, be present, and interact with each other, so that relationship with the Lord and one another can supersede all else.

As the mother of triplets and a former teacher, I have learned that questions are a powerful way to engage children—not just to ensure they're paying attention and comprehending, but also to tap into their imaginations and hearts so we can learn more of who they are. Reflective and imaginative questions *within* each story help us do this. The questions should not be rushed, as they provide a window into our daughters' souls if we really listen to their answers.

The reflective questions within the stories help us to avoid

teaching *at* our daughters, and instead encourage us to learn *with* them. Jesus asked about eighty questions just in the book of Luke, many times leading people to truth through reflection, so that is also my approach in this devotional.

This devotional helps build a strong faith foundation in our daughters' hearts, minds, and souls, while they're still coming to us for answers.

Devotional Components

Before each story, there is a verse called *Words for Your Heart* that can be reflected upon or memorized. You may want to write the verses on note cards, punch a hole in each corner, and then put them on a key ring for easy reference. A fun way to memorize Scripture is to create melodies and hand gestures to go with the words.

Stories of beautiful hearted Bible women follow each verse. Reflective and imaginative questions *within* each story foster connection and engagement. Following each story are three questions and a prayer.

The *Daughters in Action* section provides practical ways to put faith into action.

The *Creative Fun* section brings life and fun to our faith and relationships with the Lord and our daughters.

My kids and I have had so much fun doing all the activities together, and they have helped the truths of Jesus take root in their hearts.

Age for the Devotional

The devotional is written with six- to ten-year-old girls in mind; however, girls younger and older can also enjoy the lessons and activities and grow from them. Because of the reflective and

imaginative questions, this devotional reaches a wide range of ages. Deep within, God has given us the ability to imagine, reflect, and uncover new truths about Him each day, so we can all grow from this devotional.

Some parts of the Bible are too advanced or too mature for young girls. Corrie ten Boom, in her famous book *The Hiding Place*, remembers a time when her father asked her to carry his heavy suitcase. “It’s too heavy,” she said. He replied, “Yes, and it would be a pretty poor father who would ask a little girl to carry such a load. It’s the same way, Corrie, with knowledge. Some knowledge is too heavy for children. When you are older and stronger you can bear it.”

The devotions in *Beautiful Hearted Women of the Bible* are written at a young girl’s level so she is not given knowledge too heavy to bear.

How to Use the Devotional

Doing one devotion each week works well. This allows time to complete the activities without being rushed.

Each story takes about ten to fifteen minutes. The story time is intended to be done one-on-one—Mom and one daughter at a time. The connection you gain from having special time with one child, as well as hearing her answers to the questions without being influenced by a sibling, is powerful.

That being said, I know as moms our days are busy, so if you have multiple children, do what works for you.

Regarding the activities, I did some of them one-on-one, but most of the activities I did with all my kids at the same time.

If you choose to just read the stories and not do the activities, you could do one devotion reading each day. You can pick and

choose some of the activities or complete all of them—whatever works for you.

However, the activities inspire connection with our daughters and help the truth from the Bible take root and settle into our children's (and our) hearts. They're also a lot of fun!



I am filled with joy as I imagine this devotional in your hands as you connect with your daughter. May the Lord work in both your hearts as you seek Him together. I pray that this devotional would inspire you to draw close to Jesus and each other and to follow the Lord's two greatest commandments: to love God and others.

*With love,
Lynsey*

LOYAL TO THE PROMISE—SARAI

(Genesis 12, 15)

Words for Your Heart

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not rely on your own understanding.*

PROVERBS 3:5

Sarai was married to a man named Abram. They lived in a place called Haran. When Abram was seventy-five years old, God told him and Sarai to leave their home and move to a new place.

God didn't tell them where they were going, but He promised to show them the way. When God said it was time to move, Abram and Sarai trusted God and did just what He said. Sarai showed loyalty to her husband, Abram, by staying by his side throughout the long journey to the new land. *If you could move anywhere in the world, where would you want to go?*

Sarai and Abram were old—old enough to be grandparents. But they had no children.

Quite some time after they moved from their homeland, God appeared to Abram. God promised that Abram and Sarai would have a son even though they were too old to have children.



The Lord took Abram outside and said, “Look at the sky and count the stars.” He then told Abram that he and Sarai would have as many descendants as stars in the sky. Descendants are the children, grandchildren, and so on, who would come after them. *So how many descendants did God promise them?* As many as the stars in the sky—that’s a whole lot!

If you look at the sky on a dark night, you’ll see many, many stars. But the Bible tells us that God knows every star in the sky, decides how many there will be, and even has a name for each star! (Psalm 147:4). *What does that tell you about God? If you could name a star, what would you name it?*

Every night, the stars in the sky were a reminder to Sarai and Abram of God’s promise to them and His faithfulness. The

stars were also a reminder for Abram and Sarai to remain loyal to the Lord and to each other as they remembered the promises to come.

However, God's promise didn't happen right away. Sarai and Abram waited, but there was still no baby. Sarai became jealous of a woman named Hagar who could have children. Imagine all your friends getting what they want, except you—well, that's what happened to Sarai. Sarai was so jealous that she mistreated Hagar. *If you hurt someone's feelings or mistreat someone, how can you try to work it out?*

Despite Sarai's imperfections, the Lord was with her and showed her grace. The Lord is also with you when you do well and when you make mistakes. *Do you think God forgot His promise to give Abram and Sarai a child just because Sarai made wrong choices?* No! God always keeps His promises.

Just as it was probably difficult for Sarai to believe in God's promise that she would have a child, it can also be hard for us to have faith when things don't happen right away. Sarai was learning to trust God more and more. Proverbs 3:5 tells us to trust in the Lord with all our hearts, even when we don't understand everything. We'll find out more about Sarai and Abram in the next devotion. *Can you guess what happened?*



QUESTIONS

- How did Sarai show loyalty to Abram and to God?
- How can you be loyal to your friends and family?
- What is beautiful about Sarai's heart?



PRAYER

Lord, help us to be loyal as Sarai was, and help us trust You when we don't understand everything. In Jesus' name, amen.



DAUGHTERS IN ACTION

A trust fall shows the importance of trust. Stand behind your daughter and extend your arms toward her. Call out, “Trust me!” and encourage your daughter to fall backward into your arms. Make sure to catch her! Discuss how people will trust us when we are dependable and loyal.



CREATIVE FUN

Materials: A pan with raised edges, various food items

Create an edible model of the land Abram and Sarai traveled. Look up the Bible story in Genesis 12 and consult a map in the back of your Bible or online. Together with your daughter, brainstorm food items to represent water, land forms, and trees. For example, for water you could use blue licorice. Other ideas might include graham crackers for the land with squirts of chocolate syrup for mud, green sprinkles for grass, cupcakes with green icing for hills, and green lollipops for trees (you can use marshmallows to help them stand up). Let your imaginations come alive. Then enjoy eating your delicious creation!