



Book review

Women of the Bible by Ann Spangler and Jean E. Syswerda

Available from Koorong:

\$19.99 paperback

\$11.99 e-book

I picked up this gem a few weeks ago, looking for something different for my quiet times. I discovered gold, as I began reading, thinking about, praying through and learning from women in the Bible.

The authors have selected 52 women from the pages of Scripture, some of whom are very well known but others much less so. Thirty-five of the women, Eve to Gomer, are in the Old Testament and seventeen, Elizabeth to Priscilla, are from the New Testament. Some of these women are not even named. These are real people who face the same issues we do, including love, faithfulness, godly living (or otherwise), decision-making, marriages, children, widowhood and tragedies. Their various stories reveal faith, doubt, tenderness, passion, godliness, evil. They are women like us, whose stories all contribute to the bigger Story of God and His love and grace towards His people.

The book allows you to focus on one of the women of the Bible each week, for a year. Each devotion provides the appropriate Bible reading and summarises that woman's character, sorrows and joys. There are five points of focus each week – inspiration (usually a retelling of the woman's life), some background information reflecting on her times and the culture, a short Bible study that can be used individually or in a group, promises from the Bible that apply to her life and also to the reader's, and a reflection to guide your prayers.

While this book is written for a year's devotions, it is flexible and undated, allowing you to work through it at your own pace. While I have only read through the first nine sections so far, from Eve to Potiphar's wife, this book has been a blessing to me and I recommend it to you.

Jenni Smith