

MATRIARCHS

A 13 Week Study of Mothers of the Bible

*Discover the Power of Motherhood
through the Lives of Those Who Have
Gone Before Us*

Week: One

Author: Stephanie Shott

Biblical Mom: Eve

Title of Lesson: EVE - A Mother Like No Other

Key Influence: Mother of All Living Who Brought Death on All

Key Verse: Genesis 3

Video Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5InxahiMQYQ>

EVE - A Mother Like No Other

If there is such a thing as a Matriarch of matriarchs, it would certainly be Eve. Yet Scripture tells us little about this woman from whom we can learn so much. Known only as *Woman* or *Wife* before the deceiver targeted her for the ultimate deception, she was given the name *Eve* following that infamous and fatal fall.

Before we dive in, describe your concept of Eve (her character, her strengths and weaknesses, her relationship with God, her husband, and her children). _____

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“And Adam called his wife’s name Eve, because she was the mother of all living.” Genesis 3:20 (NKJV)

Eve means *Life-giver*.

How ironic that the woman who opened death’s door for the whole human race would be graced with a name that means life-giver. It may have been the enemy who came clothed in a serpent’s suit that fateful day, but it was Eve who fell, enticed her hubby, and ultimately brought death upon the whole human race.

God had just doled out the consequences for the fall which included pain in childbirth. But we aren’t sure why Adam dubbed *Woman* with the name *Eve* before she had ever conceived her first child. Perhaps it was an act of faith or maybe a gesture of condolence to sooth the heart of his wife who had just blown it big time. I mean, if ever there was a failure you’d have a hard time getting past, *this* was definitely it!

The grace of Eve’s new name echoes in the heart of this girl who has made her own fair share of foolish mistakes and destructive choices. Perhaps you can relate. Maybe like me, you too are glad that who you are isn’t forever linked to what you’ve done.

If you are a child of God, dear friend, who you are can never be linked to what you have done again. You’re in Christ and seen by the Father as perfect as He is! If you are glad that your identity isn’t forever linked to something you’ve done, will you fill in your name below as a declaration and reminder of who you are in Christ?

I, _____, am eternally thankful that who I am is no longer linked to what I have done. My sin is forgiven and my shame is gone forever!

I’m sure Eve took solace in knowing that her husband saw her for who she would become, not just what she had done. We all need someone like that in our lives. We all need to be someone like that in other people’s lives, especially our husbands and our children.

Today, let’s do a bit of digging in the treasure trove of Scripture as we look at three lessons from Eve’s life that can not only challenge us, but change us.

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1. We Need Protection from Deception

While still known only as *Woman*, she and the husband for whom she was created, had the unparalleled privilege of walking with God like none this side of heaven could comprehend. A cool mist sprang forth from the ground in this newly created world of perfection. A perfect place, filled with the perfect presence of He who defines *perfection* by the sheer essence of His being.

And He walked with them in the cool of the day. (Genesis 3:8)

Oh! Can you imagine? If you have been born again, sweet friend, He walks with you too. Yet nothing we have experienced in our personal journey with Jesus can compare to their stroll in the park on the east side of Eden when God met with His people in an unparalleled personal way.

Genesis 2:16-17 tells us that God formed man, planted a garden for Him, placed him in the garden to tend it, and gave him only one command: *“Of every tree of the garden you may freely eat; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”* (NKJV)

We aren't privy to how Eve knew about God's command. She hadn't yet been created when God passed that command on to Adam. But we can be sure she knew. Unfortunately, she was deceived.

Read the account of the Fall in Genesis 3:1-7 (NKJV) and write in the margin what affect the serpent's question had on Eve:

*“Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, “Has God indeed said, ‘You shall not eat of every tree of the garden?’” **2** And the woman said to the serpent, “We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; **3** but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, ‘You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.’” **4** Then the serpent said to the woman, “You will not surely die. **5** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” **6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and*

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ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. 7 Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.”

In 1 Timothy 2:14 (NKJV) echoes the result of that fatal fall...

“And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.”

It was the woman who was deceived. Not the man. It was the woman who was led astray. Not the man. It was the woman whom the serpent went after. Not the man. Perhaps he knew if he could get to the woman, he could also get to the man. Maybe he didn't care. But Eve was his target and she fell for his line hook, line, and sinker.

Make no mistake dear one, the enemy is after your family and he knows if he can get to you, he can get to your family. That's why guarding your heart is not an option. *Your family is at stake!*

Never forget... *the enemy of your soul is also the enemy of your family.*

Oh, sweet friend, we have to be sure not to point a finger here. We are drawn away from God's will by the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life, just like Eve was. Eve's failure is a solemn warning of how important it is to protect our hearts from that which draws it away from God.

Read the verses below and circle the excuses Adam and Eve used in response to God:

“9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 So he said, “I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself.” 11 And He said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?” 12 Then the man said, “The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate.” 13 And the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?” The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.”” Genesis 3:9-13 (NKJV)

As moms, we need to be careful about what we allow into our lives and about the excuses we make for sin. It's important to remember...

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- The things you allow into your life, your children will most likely allow into theirs.
- The excuses you make for sin will be the same excuses your children will use.

Eve made three mistakes that fateful and fatal day:

1. **Eve never should have entertained a conversation with the enemy of her soul.** Nothing the enemy whispers to our hearts can ever be good for us. Don't even go there. It never turns out well.
2. **Eve should have run to God, sought His will, His ways, and His Word.** When she said they weren't permitted to even *touch* the tree, she either didn't fully understand God's command or she intentionally added to it. Yet, she could have gone straight to the Source and ask Him what He said. There will be times when we aren't sure of what the Word of God says, or maybe we don't understand it, or perhaps we even have doubts... in those times, we can't assume it says something it doesn't, we need to run to God, study His Word, find out for ourselves and strengthen our knowledge of the Word of God so we won't easily be led astray.
3. **Eve should have talked to her husband before she did something so foolish.** Have you ever wondered what would have happened if Eve would have gone to God or asked her husband what he thought? Would he have said, "No, God didn't say anything about not touching the tree? Don't listen to that snake in the grass!" We can't ever know for sure, but God places godly people in our lives so that we can run to them when we have questions, doubts, or need to make a big decision. Eve blew it on the biggest decision of her life. We can't afford to make the same mistake.

Proverbs 4:23 (NLT) warns us to, "*Guard your heart above all else, for it determines the course of your life.*" And as your life goes...so goes the life of your loved ones.

You and I can not make the mistake of thinking we are beyond succumbing to temptation. I've been driven all the way to the end of Temptation Road and I can assure you the final destination never leaves you where you want to be. **Eve may have been the first woman to be deceived, but she is definitely not the last.** The ultimate consequence she faced was death. Those consequences affected her husband and eventually her sons and every person on the planet from that time forward.

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May we learn from Eve to guard our hearts! There's too much at stake not to.

What has deceived you? How can you begin protecting yourself from deception today?

2. We Need to Not Mother Alone

In the beauty of the newly formed creation, the first woman was just that... the first woman. She had no childhood memories of baking bread with her mom. She had no good, or even bad, example to follow. She had no friend to confide in, ask questions, bounce ideas off of, or just listen.

No one to turn to for advice or a word of encouragement when she was overwhelmed or didn't know what to do. No one to tell her what birth would be like, what postpartum depression is, how to breast feed, what to do when she didn't know what to do. No other woman to help her in her journey.

Like everything else in Eve's life, motherhood was literally a first.

Take a minute and immerse your heart in Eve's introduction to motherhood.

"1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord." 2 Then she bore again, this time his brother Abel. Now Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground. 3 And in the process of time it came to pass that Cain brought an offering of the fruit of the ground to the Lord. 4 Abel also brought of the first-born of his flock and of their fat. And the Lord respected Abel and his offering, 5 but He did not respect Cain and his offering. And Cain was very angry, and his countenance fell." Genesis 4:1-5 (NKJV)

Perhaps you are familiar with the rest of the story. Cain couldn't handle that God would accept Abel's sacrifice but wouldn't accept his, so he lashed out and killed his very own brother.

We don't know if sibling rivalry was an issue in the first family, but we do know that Cain was jealous of Abel. Maybe Cain felt like God was taking sides, but God doesn't play favorites (Romans 2:11).

Sometimes it is easy to look at how God is working in the lives of other sisters in Christ and feel like God is taking sides. He is not. His character assures that He is definitely not playing favorites.

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And there was Eve, the mother of two sons. One obedient. One arrogant. Like you and I, I'm sure she longed for Cain to walk with God, to serve Him and fulfill his God-given destiny. Maybe she wondered where she went wrong or why Cain would try to go to God like that when he knew better.

Cain's means *possession*. What a painful way for a mother to learn that she can never possess her child. Cain's disobedience reminded Eve that she couldn't control the outcome of her kids - and neither can we.

Eve was the only mother who has ever had to mother alone. Yet, she is not the only mother who has. Eve didn't have a choice. You and I do.

Eve mothered without a mentor and it made her journey hard. We often mother without a mentor because we try to avoid being inconvenienced, because we don't like feeling awkward or vulnerable, because we don't want to appear as though we need anything, or because we want to handle it ourselves.

Motherhood may have been a solo journey for Eve, but it wasn't meant to be that way for the rest of us. May we learn from Eve that we need each other, that God created us for community, and that we really are BETTER TOGETHER.

Name at least one other woman you can call upon to help you in your mom journey: _____

Please be sure to [contact The MOM Initiative](#) if you'd like to learn how to begin a MOM Group!

3. We Need to Know that God Redeems Our Losses

"8 Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him. 9 Then the Lord said to Cain, "Where is Abel your brother?" He said, "I do not know. Am I my brother's keeper?" 10 And He said, "What have you done? The voice of your brother's blood cries out to Me from the ground. 11 So now you are cursed from the earth, which has opened its mouth to receive your brother's blood from your hand. 12 When you till the ground, it shall no longer yield its strength to you. A fugitive and a vagabond you shall be on the earth.""

Genesis 4:8-12 (NKJV)

Oh, how my momma's heart hurts for Eve as I read this tragic encounter in Scripture. Oh sweet friend, these aren't just words on a page. These were Eve's boys. The sons who captivated her heart just like your children captivate yours.

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She had held them in her arms, nursed them from her breasts, felt their newborn skin, gazed from tent door as they played together in yard, dreamed big dreams for them as they learned skills from their father, and longed for them to walk with God.

But now they were men, and in one jealous rage, she lost them both. Abel, she lost to death. Cain she lost to the consequences of his own envious heart. Cain would never become the man she knew he could. Abel would never have the chance. Cain would be forever banned from the garden and from the presence of God. Never again would this grieving mother see either of her children again.

What great loss! What a crushing blow for a precious momma who probably wondered were she went wrong with Cain, what she could have done differently-why God would allow that to happen to her boys.

We aren't told how she found out, but I've heard the cry of a mother who had just discovered that she had lost her child before. It's a very distinct, heart-wrenching, groaning type of wail like no other sound on the planet. Though we don't read the details in holy writ, I believe with all my heart that Eve grieved just like every other mother who has lost a child.

And then we read this in Genesis 4:25-26 (NKJV)...

“25 And Adam knew his wife again, and she bore a son and named him Seth, “For God has appointed another seed for me instead of Abel, whom Cain killed.” 26 And as for Seth, to him also a son was born; and he named him Enosh. Then men began to call on the name of the Lord.”

The loss of a child is not something a mother ever gets over. Perhaps you're reading this and you are well aware of how painfully true that is. We don't always understand why loss is real or why God allows tragedy in this sin-cursed world. But the wicked acts of man do not altar the character of God, they only remind us of how much we need Him and how wretched our hearts can be apart from Him.

God loved Eve too much to leave her alone in her grief.

The Bible tells us that God gave her a son whom she named Seth, which interestingly enough means *compensation*. Perhaps she felt like he would somehow compensate for her loss, yet knowing nothing ever could.

Now look again at Genesis 4:25-26. There, we find that God not only gave Eve another son, but He gave her a grandson as well. And *then men began to call upon the name of the LORD* (Yahweh).

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Some theologians believe that it was because the family finally got their act together and were ready, willing, and able to truly worship God, that He was making Himself known by His personal, powerful and covenant keeping name, YAHWEH.

In Genesis 1:1, God revealed Himself as Elohim. Then in Genesis 2:4, He introduced us to Himself by the name Yahweh. It is His covenant-keeping, all-powerful, yet personal name, and it is that name which men began to call upon after Eve's son, Seth and her grandson, Enosh were born.

You and I know there can be no greater desire for a momma's heart than to know that her children... and her children's children are calling up the name of the Lord.

Eve lost both of her sons. Another child could never replace them.

God didn't replace her loss, *He redeemed it.*

Sweet friend, I don't know what kind of loss you have suffered. Perhaps it's not something God can replace. But He can redeem it. He alone can bring beauty out your ashes. He can use whatever you have been through in the lives of those you love, in the lives of those who need it most.

He is YAHWEH, the almighty, covenant-keeping God who is also very personally interested and engaged in your life. He is there for you today, my friend. Let Him redeem your losses and discover that there is a time coming when it will be okay to smile again.

Maybe that time is now.

What losses do you need God to redeem today? Please be willing to list them here and then ask God to do what He alone can do! _____

WHAT THIS MOMMA LEARNED FROM THAT MOMMA: _____

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HOW I CAN APPLY IT TO MY LIFE: _____

MEMORY VERSE:

“For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.” Romans 15:4

PRAY ABOUT IT: *Father, being a mom is hard. Being a mom without a mentor is even harder. Help me be the mother you created me to be and thank you that, unlike Eve, I have other mothers to reach out to and to call upon for help. Help me guard my heart so I won't be easily deceived.*



Stephanie Shott is the founder of The MOM Initiative, a popular speaker, and an author who is passionate about knowing Jesus and making Him known. To connect with Stephanie or invite her to speak at your next event, visit her StephanieShott.com or TheMOMInitiative.com.

