



Women & Identity (LBS)

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“One of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship’s most important contributions to the evangelical church at large has been the popularization of, motivation for, and training for inductive Bible study.” – Andy Le Peau, editorial director, IVP

Other LifeGuides for Women:

- *Motherhood: Being Grounded in Christ*
- *Woman of God*
- *Women of the Old Testament*
- *Women of the New Testament*

Creating a Legacy of Inductive Bible Study

Since the publication of the first LifeGuide® Bible Study (LBS), *Genesis*, in 1985, InterVarsity Press has been striving to create accessible Bible studies for individuals and groups.

In 1982, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship staff member Jack Kuhatchek and IVP editors Andy Le Peau and Jim Hoover conceptualized what became LifeBuilder Bible Studies (soon renamed LifeGuide® Bible Studies). The idea was to produce a quality series of Bible study guides that would be relevant and inductive and appeal to both Christian students and laypeople in churches. The first seven studies were published in 1985, with a plan to have an LBS for almost every book of the Bible as well as numerous topical studies.

“Over ten million LifeGuide® Bible Studies have been distributed around the world since InterVarsity Press first started publishing them in 1985,” says Cindy Bunch, associate editorial director and LBS series editor. “They are designed to create conversation around Scripture passages. The discussion format is easy to lead, and the focus on a single chapter of Scripture allows everyone to enter the conversation, even those with little prior knowledge about the Bible. LifeGuide® Bible Studies create a context for God’s Word to speak into our lives today.”

Editors and authors include the late John Stott, J. I. Packer, Jack Kuhatschek, Dale and Sandy Larsen, Rebecca Pippert, Patty Pell, James Sire, Paul Borthwick and many others. With over one hundred titles currently in print, IVP has accomplished its original goal to cover the Old and New Testaments, Bible characters and major Christian themes.

In the latest LifeGuide Bible Study, *Women & Identity*, authors Adele Ahlberg Calhoun and Tracey Bianchi write:

Have you ever been in the presence of a woman who, in spite of hardship, sorrow and disappointment laughs generously, lives freely, and loves God and others sincerely? She lives with grace when a moment goes awry. She is vulnerable enough to own her mistakes, and has courage to tell her story without spin or censorship. She knows how to receive and accept herself as well as those around her. She is animated by purpose and the confidence that she has something of God to offer this world. She lives her full life. Our desire is that this would happen for you in the midst of your circumstances. Does this sound challenging or perhaps impossible?

If so, you are in the company of women such as Sarai, Ruth, Hagar, Naomi, Hannah, and Puah and Shiphrah, who learned in the crucible of hardships that God’s invitation to them was to live wholehearted lives. They maneuvered their way through challenges like slavery, infertility, gendercide, polygamy, death and

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BOOK DETAILS

poverty, and found God never forgot them. This study features many Old Testament narratives that point to the wholehearted life that comes through Jesus. Ruth and Naomi lay down their lives for one another. Shiphrah and Puah have a Christlike wisdom that enables them to stand up for truth. Mary and Elizabeth set aside their personal comfort and agenda and lean into God's will, just as Jesus did. These vignettes accompany studies that address some of the cultural milieu women face today.

We believe these biblical women have something to teach us today, and it is our hope that by spending time with them you will see yourself and God through new eyes, and that you will embrace what it is to live wholeheartedly.

– From the Introduction