

The Women of "Significant"

BY HEATHER SENGES

Significant—Six Ordinary Women, One Extraordinary God
A Study of Women in Jesus' Genealogy by Rachel Risner

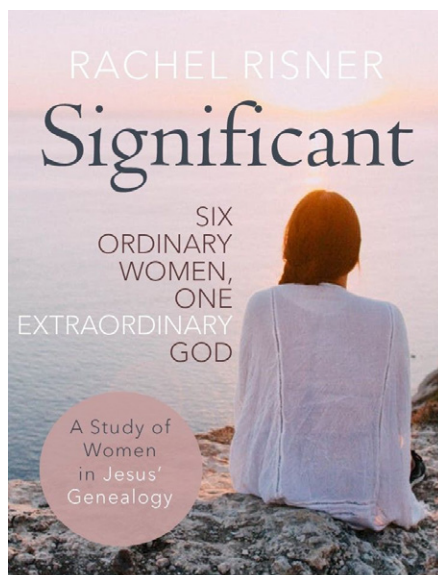
In our WCLT theme book for 2022, Rachel Risner's "Significant", six women of the Bible are studied – six ordinary women, with one extraordinary God. Six women in the genealogy of Jesus Christ. Six women who learned to live a life of significance with an unshakeable God.

But who are these women, and what can we learn about them and from them? In the next few issues of "TouchPoint" we will briefly look into their lives and learn how God can use everyone in the most unexpected ways.

Let's start with SARAH – a women of beauty.

We first see Sarah as the wife of Abram, living in Ur. Sixty years later, God calls them to leave and go to a land that He will show them. After much heartache and turmoil, we then see Sarah bearing her first child, a son, at the age of 90! God's promise to her was that through this son, Isaac, all nations of the earth would be blessed.

Sarah was a beauty, much loved and respected by her husband. Her name meant "Princess", and she was blessed and favoured by Abraham and God as well. We see Sarah as a patient and strong woman, with a daring and proactive spirit. Her strength of character sprang from her willingness



to face circumstances honestly with a serving but not subservient readiness, firmly but not stubbornly. She learned to trust God, find forgiveness for her mistakes, and reflect the true inner beauty that comes from obedience.

In Abraham's love and care, and with God's blessings, Sarah lived happily to the age of 127.

Now let's look at LEAH – a woman of worship.

Poor Leah, the unlovely and unloved older sister, always compared to the gorgeous, sought-after younger sister, Rachel. Her father resorted to trickery to have her married to Jacob, and her husband was nothing but disappointed upon their marriage. Her life as Jacob's wife was distressful. So lonely that even the Lord took note of it and blessed her with many children as a consolation. Through

2 of these sons, Levi and Judah, she became the matriarch of both the priestly (Levite) and royal (Judahite) tribes in Israel.

Little is said about Leah's physical beauty, but a great deal is said about her inner strength, her loyalty to Jacob, and her humility. Even after bearing him three sons, she was unable to earn his love. However, she did find this love that had eluded her in the place she least expected it. After the birth of her 4th son, Judah, she was able to say "This time I will praise the Lord."

Leah, the unloved, was the first woman mentioned in the Bible to give thanks to God for allowing her to safely bear children, and through her praise and worship, she was blessed.

...continued on page 3



IN THIS ISSUE

NAB Women in Ministry Leadership – An interview with Alyssa Moran	Pg 2
Featured Leadership Book "I Am A Leader" by Angie Ward	pg 3
FREE BOOK OFFER	pg 3
Women of Casa De Luz Bible Study	pg 4
Blue Ocean 2022-2023 NAB Conference Missional Initiative	pg 4
Bible Studies For Summer	pg 5

An Interview with Alyssa Moran

BY AMBER DOWD

We have been highlighting women connected to NAB who are serving in ministry leadership within their churches and communities. Our hope is by doing so, we can encourage and support other NAB women in leadership.

With this in mind, I'd like to introduce you to Alyssa Moran. Alyssa attends and serves at Iglesia Casa de Luz in Sacramento, CA. Alyssa came to faith at Casa de Luz in high school, and now at age 21 she continues to grow and serve her church and surrounding community. She also met her husband Carlos there, who is on staff as the youth pastor. They're expecting their first baby in October.

What is your role in ministry and how long have you been doing it?

Aside from being my husband's partner – assisting him with his studies and sermon preparation, he and I together started an after school program. We noticed over the past four years that many of the kids who have been attending our VBS through elementary and middle school didn't have anything to do after school, so we set up a safe spot for kids to come every Tuesday and Wednesday. We drive around and pick up about 7 kids and bring them back to the church after school to do homework, eat together, play games, and talk about life. This is in addition to our regular youth meetings and missional community on Fridays. One Friday per month we might go play volleyball, have a BBQ, do neighborhood cleanup, or homeless outreach. The other three Fridays are Bible study and fellowship.

How did God lead you to this role?

Although I had both Christian and Catholic family members growing up, it was not necessarily a Christian



household. At age 15 I started coming to Casa de Luz with my older sister and soon after I gave my life to Christ. I did ministry with some of the other girls for a few years before marrying Carlos. We worked on Carlos' team, helping with childrens and VBS, and of course that's how I met Carlos. And now we are partners in ministry!

What motivates you as you work with youth?

I'm really just trying to love Christ, love my neighbor and love the kids around me. It's a blessing to be able to partake in everyday life with them. We go to their soccer games, school events, help with their grades, and pray for their families. One even got baptized last Easter! He comes on his own without his parents and even started playing in the worship band.

How do you weave in your faith as you interact with the kids?

Right now our group is all boys, which creates a certain dynamic in the group. They know what we're about- some have interest in our faith and will mainly ask us to pray for them, and some are just there to have fun. It's important to keep our time together safe and relational. Now that

we've been meeting for a year, we've started praying at the start and end of each time. We might also read a verse from the Bible or encourage them to journal about life.

What are some of the particular challenges you've faced in ministry?

In a general sense, as a pastor's wife it sometimes feels lonely. I've heard others say this was true for them, too. Being the wife of a pastor puts me in a different place in life compared to my friends. There are many pressures– Carlos and I are young, our role is big, and lots of people are looking to us to lead them. Some of the big life stuff can be hard to navigate when relationships are mixed with ministry. It's hard to find a balance of friendships that don't have the added connection to my church work. I'm in the process of praying for God to bring me a friend who's close to my age and in a similar situation.

Do you have any big dreams or things you're anticipating?

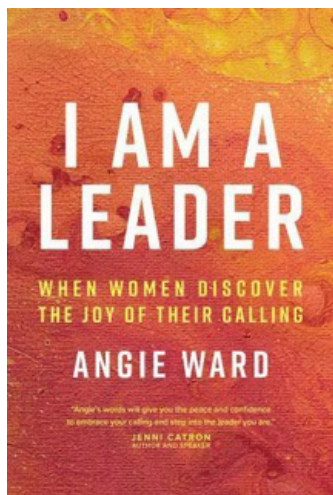
I do! We are hoping to move into the community in a few months so we can live among the kids. I'm really hoping to build more relationships within the community and have more opportunities to love them and bring them to Christ. I'm also finishing up my teaching program and about to have a baby, so a lot of things are about to change but I know my heart for this work will remain the same!

What wisdom or encouragement would you offer to other women working in ministry similar to yours?

The first word that has come to mind since the beginning is patience. I've learned it's important to have patience with our church, with the people around me, and with the process of ministry. God is still growing me in this area, but it's been an encouraging reminder that others might appreciate.

Featured Leadership Book

This issue's pick for a book on leadership is *I Am A Leader* by Angie Ward



“You feel it deep in your bones: God is inviting you to join Him, to participate in His redemptive work in the world. And yet, as a woman leader, you see many potential obstacles, competing time demands, changing seasons of life, not to mention self-doubt and criticism.” In her book *I Am A Leader* Angie Ward encourages women that they can pursue their leadership calling with joy and intention. *I Am a Leader* will help you understand the concept of calling and prepare you to consider challenges that you may meet along the way as a woman leader. Embrace your calling with courage and confidence as you join God in his Kingdom

work in the world!”

Angie defines leadership as “influence on people to movement toward a vision. By that definition, if you have any type of influence in any kind of relationship, you are a leader.”

She asks us to consider the questions: Where do I have influence, and how are you using that influence to bring honor and glory to God.

To clarify Angie's position on leadership Angie defines “calling” as a strong inner impulse toward a particular course of action especially when accompanied by conviction of divine influence.

Dr Angie Ward is a leader, teacher, seminary professor, award winning write, and a pastor's wife. She is a Professor of Leadership, Education & Discipleship and Associate Dean at Capital Seminary & Graduate School. Angie is passionate about helping leaders and organizations realize their full potential. See her share about her book on [youtube.com video.search.yahoo.com](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=search.yahoo.com)

A FREE COPY of *I Am A Leader* will be given to the first woman to send an email to jhewing@roadrunner.com. Include your name and address.

The Women of “Significance”

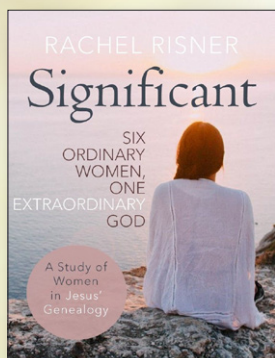
...from cover

Her husband Jacob even honoured her upon her death. And through her, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has triumphed! She left a legacy of victorious praise by offering herself as a living sacrifice. Leah was loved; Leah was significant.

Additional support materials from Rachel:

- Online video lessons and discussion guides - no separate Leader Kit needed!
- Promotional materials for Bible study group use. Find promoting your own Significant study group.

- eBook: *Level Up Your Women's Ministry with Social Media*. Find a free e-book on leveraging the powerful tool of social media for your ministry.
- [RachelRisner.com](https://www.RachelRisner.com). Find encouraging posts, book giveaways, shareable images, a chance to subscribe, pics of her family, and more goodies on her blog [rachelrisner.com/blog/](https://www.rachelrisner.com/blog/)



Women's Connection is offering your NAB church **ONE FREE COPY** of *Significant* by Rachel Risner

This copy can be requested by a woman in leadership from your church.

Send your request to Heather Senges at hsenges@telus.net.

Please include your name, address, phone number, church and leadership position in your email.

Women of Casa De Luz | Sacramento, California

Enjoy A Love God Greatly Bible Study

Galatians – Freedom to Grow in Christ

BY FABIOLA CAMPOS

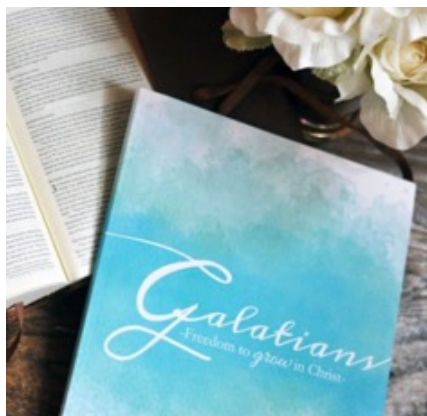
After experiencing very difficult COVID times, we finally were able to meet in person for Bible study. Not that we didn't meet at all before, but like many churches we had to be creative when it came to gathering as a church, and doing it online took away some very important elements for the church.

We truly longed for the time when

we would meet face to face again, give hugs, share meals and practice hospitality. Amazing and special things happen when we meet in person that the online experience can't provide.

For the past month, some women in our church got together to study the book of *Galatians—Freedom to Grow in Christ* in Spanish. It was such a blessing coming together to study the word of God and being able to share each other's experiences. There were special moments in which we laughed about things, and in some others we cried. We prayed and encouraged each other every week, and every time we felt the presence of God in our gathering.

The materials we used were from www.lovegodgreatly.com. I recommend their website, they have a lot of studies that are free to download (and inexpensive if you prefer to purchase a journal) and have translations in many languages! The materials are more like a devotional/journal type, and I recommended it for personal and group Bible studies as well. We are looking forward to our next study and continue to learn and grow together.



Who is Love God Greatly?

MORE THAN BIBLE STUDY TOOLS...WE ARE A COMMUNITY

Our desire is to help EVERY WOMAN in EVERY NATION have access to God's Word in THEIR LANGUAGE. To accomplish this goal, Love God Greatly has developed a network of trained translators, who help us translate all our Bible studies into 40+ languages (view languages). As a result, we have been able to establish hundreds of Bible study communities globally, and our Bible study tools have now reached 100+ of the countries of the world!

We publish 6-7 Bible studies annually as either topical or book-based journals, which are available for purchase on Amazon. The funds from each Bible study journal purchase go right back into the LGG ministry, allowing us to train and equip our translators as they build communities.

Visit our website www.lovegodgreatly.com

Consider Joining an NAB Blue Ocean Cohort

Blue Ocean is a one-year introduction to what it means to join God on mission, to be formed into a follower with the character of Christ, and to learn to reach friends and neighbors with a robust Gospel in our culture.

We meet three times a year in three different cities across the United States and Canada for multi-day retreats. Blue Ocean includes pastors, leaders, and regional ministers from across the NAB. Each cohort represents a cross-section of regions, church sizes, and ministry styles. The discussions are both encouraging and challenging.

Contact scardy@nabconf.org for more information

2022



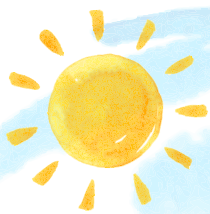
2023

BLUE OCEAN

VANCOUVER, BC:
OCTOBER 16-19

SACRAMENTO CA:
FEBRUARY 5-8

CHICAGO, IL:
APRIL 24-26



SUMMER'S COMING!

Try some of these fresh summertime ideas to impact your community

- Plan a "summer nights series" of outdoor worship and fellowship.
- Stage an outdoor Christian music concert or produce a Christian dinner theatre dramatic production.
- Invite the church neighborhood for a homemade ice cream party.
- Do a free outdoor family movie night, projecting on a large exterior wall.
- Challenge every church member to plan a "Cookout with Your Neighbors" at their home sometime during July to develop friendships and invite neighbors to church.
- Why not morph your church-wide picnic into a city-wide event, with special invitations to VBS and church daycare families?
- Invite the community to attend your kids' camps, Vacation Bible School or Wednesday night salad suppers. You may be surprised how many participate when invited!
- For the Sunday prior to July 4th, plan a "red, white and blue jean" Sunday. Invite local government leaders to attend your worship service, present them a gift, and voice a prayer for them.
- Form a jump-rope team for girls, jumping to Christian music or rhymes.
- Plan day trip adventures for moms and kids.
- Organize a Wii bowling league with multiple projections on a large exterior wall.
- Entice local kids who skateboard to attend youth Bible study by building a rack to hold skateboards.
- Do a reading club or weekly kids' story hour in the church library.
- Organize a bike ride that ends at the church. Arrange a Christ-focused teens' art day-camp.
- Invite the community to join you for outdoor tournaments, such as volleyball, horseshoes, softball, bocce ball, 3-on-3 basketball.
- Plan a father and kids' campout on the church lawn or a huge kids' sprinkler party.
- Your teens can organize a drive-through to pass out free snow cones and an invitation to Sunday worship.
- Do a gigantic garage sale, with proceeds going to purchase an impressive new entry sign for your town or a similar project. At the sale, play live music and distribute Bibles, church brochures and lemonade.

BIBLE STUDIES FOR SUMMER

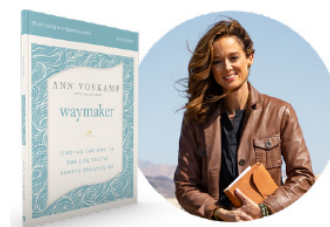
Summer Online Bible Study from FaithGateway Online Bible studies

FaithGateway is an online community for readers to discover great content and engage with their favorite Christian authors and many different forms: daily blog posts, book excerpts, devotionals, free downloads, videos and more.

Find out more by going to www.faithgateway.com and register for the free summer study by Ann Voskamp

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WayMaker: Finding the Way to the Life You've Always Dreamed Of by Ann Voskamp



Study dates:
June 13 - July 31
Registrations
are open now!
JOIN TODAY

Discover the daily habit of S.A.C.R.E.D

In the WayMaker Online Bible Study you'll journey with Ann Voskamp to discover a S.A.C.R.E.D daily habit that will reorient your soul to God through Scripture, prayer, and study. In this six-week study you will learn:

S – Stillness to Know God
A – Attentiveness to Hear God
C – Cruciformity to Surrender to God
R – Revelation to See God
E – Examine to Return to God
D – Doxology to Thank God

This powerful spiritual practice will become a directing compass through the hard seasons when it feels like there is no way – only to find you have a WayMaker making an unexpected way into the life you've only dreamed of.

**CONNECT
WITH US**

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