

INTRODUCTION

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## Introduction



How about we begin with a hypothetical scenario? You are a writer for a popular magazine with thousands of readers each week. Always looking for an angle on your next big story, you receive an anonymous lead on what could be the human-interest piece of the year. You are not going to pass up this golden opportunity. This article would involve a small group of women, each of whom has a different story to tell. Tasked with finding the common thread that runs throughout each woman's distinct narrative, you desire to provide a safe venue in which to accurately hear each voice.

What are you to make of the somewhat sordid details you've gathered regarding each unfamiliar female?

- An infertile woman who provided for her deceased husband's mother in a foreign country.
- An unwed, pregnant woman engaged to a man who is not the biological father of her child.
- A married woman who committed adultery with her husband's murderer.
- A twice-widowed, childless woman who arranged an incestuous encounter with her father-in-law.
- A prostitute woman who hid enemy spies to save her life.

You are surprised by these diverse, sobering realities, yet motivated to uncover that collective cord woven throughout each memoir. With such different encounters and experiences, what commonalities in life could they all share? Might those only consist of the hardships or life-altering decisions they faced? Or does it go deeper than that? Are the headlines about these women even true, or are they faulty assumptions? In the face of so many unanswered questions that spur finding the answers, you are swept up in the intrigue of it all. You initiate an informal meeting with these ladies, not knowing what the outcome will be, but suspecting it will be worth your time.

Before you know it, you are facing five unique, but courageous women of faith, each bearing the markings of challenging, adventurous lives, having endured seasons of unplanned change and unexpected transformation. Each one exhibits a radiance of joy and gentle assurance, as if keenly aware of something with which you are unfamiliar but will soon discover. As you begin to listen, each woman's story echoes an identical refrain: her life is not about her. Each life is about Someone greater with a divine plan grander than each woman's personal circumstances.

After more questions and additional answers, similarities within their stories begin to emerge amid the differences. The humbled gratitude in their voices strikes you, as each woman explains how God's redemptive grace has impacted her. How can these women continue to trust the Lord, even though they experienced great trials of suffering and hardship throughout more than one season in life? Your cautious curiosity remains piqued, and you realize this interview will take more time than you originally scheduled. With undeniable interest, you arrange another meeting with these five distinctive ladies, sensing that this encounter might become an unforgettable memory that will affect you more deeply than you could have ever imagined. Here endeth the hypothetical scenario.

The stories of five biblical women that I invite you to explore here provide intriguing details about historical moms who were joined together as family members within a multi-generational ancestral lineage only made possible by God's redemptive grace. They are specifically referenced and identified in the genealogy of Jesus Christ in **Matthew 1**. Who are these particular women, perhaps deemed as Odd Moms Out? What do the details of their individual stories reveal? Why were their exclusive stories purposefully included in the Bible? How did God's redemptive grace impact each mother? How do their stories point to Jesus and His gospel message?

The Lord can choose any person He desires as a grace-recipient to display His mercy and love in accordance with His plan of salvation and sovereign will. By exploring the stories of five mothers from the past who were impacted by God's redemptive grace, you can discover that no matter who you are or what your story is, God's grace is able to impact your life as well. **"But by God's grace I am what I am, and His grace toward me was not ineffective" (1 Corinthians 15:10 HCSB)** 

## DO YOU BELIEVE GOD'S GRACE REDEEMS LIVES?



Coco Mons Oct God's Redemptive Grace in the Lives of Five Biblical Mothers Learn more at: Tamar Miller.com

*Odd Moms Out* shares the stories of five biblical mothers central to the genealogy of Christ. Discover how God's grace can redeem a life and point to Jesus and the Gospel.

Meet:

- Tamar: twice-widowed and childless, she arranged an incestuous encounter with her father-in-law
- Rahab: the prostitute who hid enemy spies to save her life
- Ruth: the barren widow who cared for her mother-in-law in a foreign country
- Bathsheba: the married woman who committed adultery with her husband's murderer
- Mary: the pregnant woman engaged to a man who was not the biological father of her child

Their stories of hope will encourage and challenge you to trust your Savior and rely on His redemptive grace no matter what you face.



Tamar Miller, a pastor's wife of 25 years and mom of two teenage sons, desires to glorify her heavenly Father, faithfully follow Jesus her Savior, and consistently study God's Word. She is committed to the church in SW Florida, where she has been a member for the past 20 years and has served in the Women's Ministry as a Bible teacher.

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