



A Lineage of Grace

Francine Rivers

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In this compilation of the five books in the best-selling Lineage of Grace series by Francine Rivers, we meet the five women whom God chose—Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary. Each was faced with extraordinary—even scandalous—challenges. Each took great personal risk to fulfill her calling. Each was destined to play a key role in the lineage of Jesus Christ, the Savior of the World.

A Lineage of Grace Details

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From Reader Review A Lineage of Grace for online ebook

Adrienna says

This is all five stories via five women and how they find the grace of the Lord including the lineage of Jesus Christ. I believe this is the first time I read this author and loving it so far!

Unveiled: Tamar's story of being unloved but not forgotten. It was believed that she had a curse on her husbands, or the first two line of Hebrew men since it was there custom on both sides (Canaanite and Hebrew Jew) to marry next male child in line if your first husband dies. She had to dress and become a harlot to get what was rightfully hers; to carry the seed of her husband. It showed disobedience can be life-threatening, but she held on to the promise regardless of the lie Judah told her in the fear of losing his youngest son after the first two died. She made it happen under life-threatening circumstances because when a woman is accused of adultery, this leads to her very death by family members (and others). I've always liked this Bible story but she crafted and weaved a well-needed and written story. 4.75 stars.

Unashamed: Rahab's story of believing a god that demonstrated its power: One and True God. She risked her life by helping two Israelites who were spies to see how they can take what was rightfully there's--seize it at all costs. I love the message of the "scarlet cord" which is the scarlet curtain hanging to signify to pass her home and all those inside like the lamb's blood across the doorposts in Egypt during the worst plague. 3 stars.

Unshaken: Ruth's story and her change of heart after losing her husband. She was encouraged to go back to her mother's land and have a fresh start to remarry since she was young. Her sister-in-law, lost her husband a year prior and stayed around until all their husband's died and Naomi would go back to her homeland. She left to go back to her former homeland and gods, but Ruth was determined and adamant about going with her mother-in-law, Naomi. Naomi warned her about their customs and religion which they were forbidden to worship any other god, Ruth agreed that she'd worship her god; also forewarned about the four deaths of stoning, burning, strangling, and slaying with a sword but this didn't easily scare Ruth off. She continued to follow. Overall, most single Christians always refer to this story; finding their Boaz. "A good wife is more precious than rubies." This story was heart-felt and could imagine being in Ruth's shoes; the writer not only written a great story but evokes emotion and seeing Ruth through your own eyes. 4 stars.

Unspoken: Bathsheba's story starts off with an eight year old Bathsheba having a crush and dream of marrying David someday. At the time of his visit, she sat on her grandfather's lap and admired David like the others, but she believed and knew someday she would be his wife regardless of his three wives already, also fighting a war against King Saul and his armies at the time. (For me, this opening was hard for me to believe she was only a child dreaming of marrying the soon-to-be king.) Later, she does marry Uriah and get into the part where David watched her on the roof bathing, to summoning her to his palace to make love to her. The author carefully wrote these parts and only certain parts gripped at my heart but oddly felt no pity for Bathsheba for committing adultery even though her husband was away at war most of the time and didn't want to lay down with her when he had the chance. You do learn a valuable lesson in this story that deals with not only adultery, but murder and losing their son after all this scandal. "When you grow up, you will understand the wisdom of worshiping God and not man." 2.75/3 stars.

Unafraid: Mary was touched by the Holy Spirit and heard the angel speak to her that she would be with child. She also was attacked by a chorus of dark voices that tried to discouraged her. This was a plus to the story since it would seem that the enemy would speak the opposite to her while the angel was telling her that

she would be with child, Jesus. This story shared that she had other children after Jesus, at least several, and how she took the death of her son. Ultimately, she learned that she couldn't view him as her son any longer after his death and sacrifice on the cross, that he was her Savior and Lord. 3 stars.

Out of every one of these women in the lineage of grace series, each woman carried the promise seed and saw the importance of worshiping the one and true God.

Oddly, my least favorite book was Unspoken (Bathsheba's story) which I thought would have been the one of best stories of the series. For some reason, these was something missing and didn't seem consistent to me as far as what I've learned about this woman as a biblical figure.

However, I loved the first story with Tamar entitled Unveiled(which I gotten even more clarity than I already knew about her story from the movie Joseph, and read on it in the past with one of the books that tells the stories of the women in the Bible.) The other favorite was Ruth's story, Unshaken, which I shared briefly on my DYRP Midnight Hour program recently on unconditional (agape) love. Rahab's story, got more insight since I rarely read or heard this one taught before but was a mediocre read.

Adrienna Turner
Author of "The Day Begins with Christ"
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Meredith White says

Overall, this book was a terrific read, and it was difficult for me to put it down, because it was easy, intriguing and engaging. I appreciated the addition of the Bible study incorporated at the end of each novella, even though I did not engage myself in them. I was more interested in reading the book rather than lengthen the time by engaging in the Bible study at this time.

Particularly, I am looking for leadership principles and this gave five women, each of historic and Biblical validity and focused on their circumstance, how they responded, and what they learned. The greatest learning I received in general from all five women was that while their circumstances were extenuating, they always did the RIGHT thing no matter the cost or outcome. It was easy for me to give them the answer as I read, but that was because I knew the outcome; however, if I were to put myself in their position would I have responded similarly - without confidence of a 'happy ending'?

Walking away from the book, I feel encouraged, strengthened and challenged myself to consider my life and how I am using in accordance with God's plan and purpose for my life? Am I seeking after Him? Do I really trust Him and His purpose? Have I really given my life to Him, and abandoned all others?

Great book - good read! Looking forward to more of Francine Rivers.

Joan says

I am just about done with this book.... and I LOVED it! (love it...since I am still in the midst of the last story about Mary). The first story just kind of....ended. However as you read the following stories, they are much

more in depth and very well written. Although it is historical fiction...I understand so much more about these women and why they may have made the decisions they made. Very well written, very intriguing. And that cover! Beautiful!!!

Michelle says

Great book. Loved how the author made their stories relatable and personable while staying true to the Bible's account.

Kathy says

These 5 woman in the lineage of Christ are simply amazing ladies! Francine Rivers tells their stories in such a heart warming way. You laugh, cry, get angry and truly feel for each of them. I have read their stories several times over the years in the Bible account but never really felt that I understood them like I do now! Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba and Mary. It's no wonder they are listed in the blood line of Christ. Francine follows the Biblical account but has researched the historical aspects to what life would have been like in each story! Excellant!!!

Nick S. says

I can't even explain the spiritual effect that book had on me. Yes, it was just a book full of old, some well known, others not as familiar Bible stories of women as perceived by one author. But if anything is clear about this book it's that God used it in my life. May God bless every person who uses there talents for the good of His Kingdom. I highly recommend this book, as well as the author, to anyone who enjoys reading.

Megan Lewis says

What a book. I feel driven to God's word as I read this book. Yes, it is only one author's interpretation of scripture BUT there is so much truth in it too that the stories have such meaningful life. The way that the biblical tales are retold brings new animation and it makes my mind consider what it was actually like to be in Biblical times and in the shoes of these women.

Beautifully written.

Kristi Kunselman says

Amazing, amazing stories featuring women of the Bible. This brings stories to life!

Leigh Ann Coffey says

Having never read any of Francine River's work before, I wasn't sure what to expect, but I definitely liked this book. It is really five novellas in one, each telling the story of a different woman in the Bible. Because they were short, there wasn't time to develop a lot of character and plot outside of what is mentioned in the Bible, but I thought that made it nice to have fewer added details. This version also included a Bible study at the end of each story with the Biblical text included, which made it easy to see which parts came directly from the Bible. Overall, I enjoyed reading this book and will read more of this author.

Hallie says

Loved this book! The story of Mary (Unafraid) was especially moving to read right before Christmas!

Laura says

I am a big fan of historical fiction, and historical fiction that stirs my affection for the Lord is even better. I really enjoyed these five stories. In each book I was struck by how awesome God is -- that he would use such broken, unremarkable people in such amazing ways. A prostitute, a foreigner, an adulteress, a peasant -- all used by God, ultimately leading to the birth of the son of the God of the Universe.

The stories themselves are also enjoyable and quick reading. I am familiar with each woman as they are written about in scripture, but have never been able to relate to them as actual people as much as I have through Rivers' stories. They were real women who experienced grief, uncertainty, significant times of waiting and suffering. Women who experienced deep shame and deep love, and who were beautifully redeemed by God's grace -- again and again.

A good read.

Rachel says

This book is a mixture of 5 different women's stories from the Bible. I think the biggest obstacle for any writer tackling the Bible is turning it into somewhat of a fiction story while still keeping the original message in tact. I loved the first two stories immensely (Tamar and Rahab). Not a lot of information is in the Old Testament about the two women and the way Francine wove in historical information and their faith really inspired me. Ruth was decent, but by Bathsheba, I was losing interest. Mary was ok as well. I did get some out of that story that I wasn't expecting to. As a whole, I would recommend just reading Tamar and Rahab.

midnightfaerie says

Beautifully written and easy to comprehend, this book gives the stories of five prominent women of the bible and their struggles. Rivers does an excellent job of putting biblical allegory in laymen's terms and even

includes studies at the end of each story. I highly recommend this book. The only reason it didn't receive 5 stars is because the study questions were not as thought provoking as they could have been. I suppose I was looking for a study that was a little more atypical, however, the questions still cover the topics adequately.

Natalie Weber says

A Lineage of Grace profiles the lives of Tamar, Rahab, Ruth, Bathsheba, and Mary with imaginative and fictional stories created by the author. Sometimes the accounts seem overly romanticized and probably more true to modern western thinking than historic Jewish culture. It is helpful, though, to remember that these biblical women were real people. It's also a good reminder that God uses the humble, lowly, sinful ones among us to be part of His overarching plan of redemption.

Caylene says

Francine Rivers is the only Christian fiction author I can stand to read. She develops plots and characters in an enchanting way. This collection of stories is particularly wonderful because it is Rivers' interpretation of the lives of five women who made up the lineage of Christ. Rivers reconstructs what their lives must have been like in biblical times and the struggles they overcame to bring a royal Messiah into the world.
