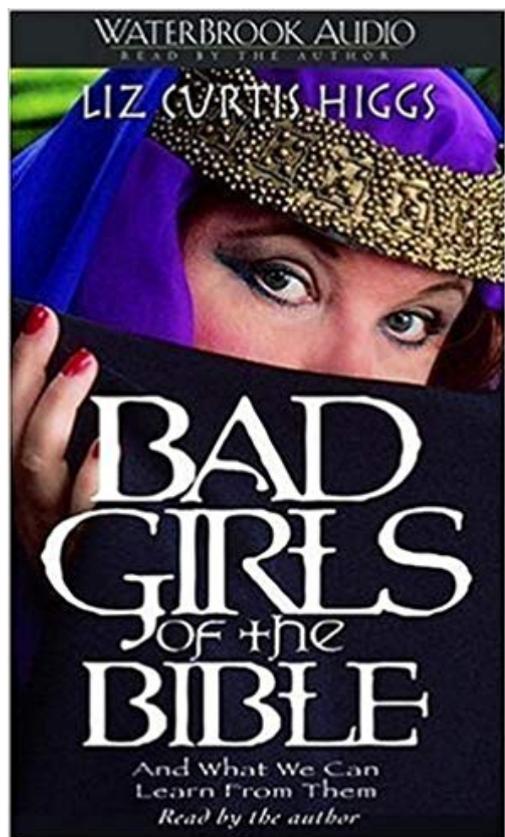


## Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them *by* Liz Curtis Higgs



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**Author:** Liz Curtis Higgs

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**Lessons in Good Living From the Bible's Bad News Belles.** Women everywhere marvel at those "good girls" in Scripture—Sarah, Mary, Esther—but on most days, that's not who they see when they look in the mirror. Most women (if they're honest) see the selfishness of Sapphira or the deception of Delilah. They catch a glimpse of Jezebel's take-charge pride or Eve's disastrous disobedience. Like Bathsheba, Herodias, and the rest, today's modern woman is surrounded by temptations, exhausted by the demands of daily living, and burdened by her own desires. So what's a good girl to do? Learn from their lives, says beloved humor writer Liz Curtis Higgs, and by God's grace, choose a better path. In *Bad Girls of the Bible*, Higgs offers a unique and clear-sighted approach to understanding those "other women" in Scripture, combining a contemporary retelling of their stories with a solid, verse-by-verse study of their mistakes and what lessons women today can learn from them. Whether they were "Bad to the Bone," "Bad for a Season, but Not Forever" or only "Bad for a Moment," these infamous sisters show women how *not* to handle the challenges of life. With her trademark humor and encouragement, Liz Curtis Higgs teaches us how to avoid their tragic mistakes and joyfully embrace grace.



# Reviews of the **Bad Girls of the Bible and What We Can Learn from Them** by Liz Curtis Higgs

## **Rarranere**

We are a Bible study group that has been together years. We wanted something for summer with a different study each week to fit vacation schedules. I saw that some reviewers did not like this study due to a contemporary story preceding each Bible study. Our group enjoyed that, and we enjoyed Liz Curtis Higgs style of teaching. She is multi sensory with humor, online visual picture boards, and music. We will try another of her studies soon.

## **Keth**

Bad Girls of the Bible, by Liz Curtis Higgs, presents Biblical lessons from a unique perspective. Some of her writing is entertaining, some of it is enlightening, and some of it seems a bit uninspired; but it is all very readable.

The book contains 12 chapters. Each of the first ten chapters is devoted to one of the Bad Girls. The first half of each of these ten chapters is a fictional account of a modern version of the Bad Girl. This is the author's attempt to make the Bad Girls and their circumstances more understandable. I had a hard time reading the first halves and focused mainly on the last halves of the chapters that dealt with the Biblical accounts of the Bad Girls. The last two chapters include some study questions and a study guide that might be used for groups that want to delve into the issues more deeply. For some of the Bad Girls whom we don't know very much about, such as Lot's unnamed wife and David's wife Michal, it seems that Ms. Higgs made some assumptions that are not necessarily Biblically supported; but, given those assumptions, all of her conclusions seem valid.

Ms. Higgs avoids technical theological terms, so her concepts are easy to understand, but some of her attempts at being witty seem unsuccessful. Two examples are calling Lot's wife "Mom the Saltshaker" and wishing that God only had one commandment, "You must not eat anything with less than four hundred calories." These do not strike me as either clever or funny.

At the encouragement of my pastor, I did a presentation of this book to our Church's Men's Group. Ms. Higgs concludes each chapter with four lessons that can be learned from the Bad Girl featured in that chapter, and these lessons were the focus of my presentation and our discussions on how much the lessons are applicable to men. In general, I conclude that the lessons are nearly as applicable to men as to women. In addition, they are excellent starting points for the lessons that can be learned from some of the imperfect men who are identified with the imperfect women, such as Samson/Delilah and Ahab/Jezebel.

## **Ydely**

I gave it 3 stars because I didn't care for the filler stories; I have 3 of her books, and I love them, but flipped past the fiction to get to the real stuff. (Just didn't care for it) In this book, the only beef I had was on page 221, where's she's talking about the sinful woman with the alabaster box.

"Sigh...another Bad Girl without a name," Liz laments. I couldn't believe she didn't know that the woman with the alabaster box is Mary, the sister of Lazarus and Martha. Matthew 26:6-13, Mark 14:3-9, Luke 7:36-50, John 11:1,2, John 12:1-8 tells the story of Mary anointing Jesus, just as He said, as a memorial to her. You have to read all four versions to piece the story together. After Lazarus was raised from the dead, a pharisee by the name of Simon, who used to be a leper, invites Jesus, Lazarus, the disciples and others, to his house for a big supper. Martha is serving them. Mary used to sit at Jesus' feet, listening to His teachings (Luke 10:39). After her brother returns from the dead, she apparently has a spiritual epiphany. Though Martha is serving, it's definitely an all male gala, and it doesn't sound like she's in the room when her sister enters, crying her heart out. John is the only one to provide her name, bless him. It shouldn't be surprising since he's the one Jesus trusted

with His mother. If after reading the scriptural references you still don't believe that it was Lazarus' sister who anointed Jesus, then I guess you could say that Jesus was crucified four times, since it's told four different ways in the gospels, by four different men. The stories of the Bible is akin to a jigsaw puzzle, whose pieces are scattered. After bringing them together, you still have to dig, because there are many layers to the Word of God. You have to pray, and ask Him to reveal His Word to you. It's a mistake to rely on one book when telling one of the Bible's stories. Each story is a stand alone sermon, but is also interconnected with others. An anointing happens only once. Samuel was anointed once, Saul was anointed once, David was anointed once, and Jesus was anointed once.

### **Jothris**

Such a good CD! I love when Liz Curtis Higgs reads her own books on CD (wish all the authors did this). I am learning so much from this CD along with reading about these stories in the Bible. I have several of her CD's and am becoming the "little librarian". When I finish listening to them I pass them out for friends and family to listen to and in turn they pass them around to their friends. My prayer is that this helps many people find the Lord.

I hope that Liz will make more and more of her books on tape!

Blessings!

### **Warianys**

Each bad girl story starts with a fictional re-telling of her biblical story in a contemporary setting and then there is analysis of the biblical version and insight on what lessons can be learned. The tone and writing style is conversational and friendly. Like girlfriends chatting over tea. I really enjoyed this.

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