



# Men of the Bible: A One-Year Devotional Study of Men in Scripture

By Ann Spangler, Robert Wolgemuth



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**Men of the Bible: A One-Year Devotional Study of Men in Scripture** By Ann Spangler, Robert Wolgemuth

Men of the Bible offers both men and women a fresh way to read and understand the Bible?through the eyes and hearts of the men whose stories unfold in its pages. This unique book takes a close-up look at fifty-two men in Scripture?complex flesh-and-blood characters whose strengths and weaknesses will seem strangely similar to your own. Heroes and villains, sinners and prophets, commoners and kings ... their dramatic life stories provide you with a fresh perspective on the unfolding story of redemption. Though our culture differs vastly from theirs, the fundamental issues we face in relation to God and the world remain the same. We still reach for great dreams and selfish ambitions. We wrestle with fear and indecision, struggle with sexual temptation, and experience the ache of loneliness and the devastation of betrayal. And, like many of these men, we long to walk more closely with the God who calls us into an intimate relationship with himself and who enables us to fulfill his purpose for our lives. Men of the Bible offers men and women today a unique devotional experience that combines five elements. Each week becomes a personal retreat focused on the life of a particular man: Monday: His Story?a narrative retelling of the biblical story Tuesday: A Look at the Man?focusing on the heart of the man and how his story connects with your own life Wednesday: His Legacy in Scripture?a Bible study on principles revealed through the life of the man Thursday: His Legacy of Promise?Bible promises that apply to his life and yours Friday: His Legacy of Prayer?praying in light of his story Designed for personal prayer and study or for use in small groups, Men of the Bible will help you make Bible reading a daily habit. Whether you dip into portions or read every page, this book will help you grow in character, wisdom, and obedience as a person after God's own heart.



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### Editorial Review

#### From the Back Cover

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#### About the Author

Ann Spangler is an award-winning writer and the author of many bestselling books, including *Praying the Names of Jesus* and *The One Year Devotions for Women*. She is also coauthor of *Women of the Bible* and *Sitting at the Feet of Rabbi Jesus* and the general editor of the *Names of God Bible*. Ann's fascination with and love of Scripture have resulted in books that have opened the Bible to a wide range of readers. She and her two daughters live in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

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Blog: [www.annspangler.com/category/blog](http://www.annspangler.com/category/blog)

In August of 1996, Robert released his first book, *She Calls Me Daddy: Seven Things Every Man Needs to Know about Building a Complete Daughter*. The book became a bestseller. He is also the author of many other titles including *The Most Important Place on Earth: What a Christian Home Looks Like and How to Build One*; *Seven Things You Better Have Nailed Down before All Hell Breaks Loose* and the sequel to his first book, *She Still Calls Me Daddy: Building a New Relationship with Your Daughter after You Walk Her Down the Aisle*. He has also co-written *The Most Important Year in a Man's Life: What Every Groom Needs to Know* with Mark DeVries, and *What's in the Bible* with Dr. RC Sproul.

His speaking assignments have taken him across America and through several foreign countries.

Robert Wolgemuth has served two terms as the Chairman of the Evangelical Christian Publishers' Association. As a layman, he has taught adult Sunday school classes since 1969 in Texas, Tennessee and Florida

A 1969 graduate of Taylor University, he received an honorary doctorate in 2005. Robert, a widower, is the father of two adult daughters and five grandchildren. In the fall of 2015, Robert married Nancy Leigh DeMoss. .

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**ADAM** His Name Means "Of the Ground" His Work: Until his sin, Adam was naked and was the happy caretaker of the Garden of Eden. After succumbing to temptation, he tailored his own clothes and became a farmer. His Character: The first man, Adam, was initially God's perfect human creation. Adam was in harmony with nature and with his wife, who was formed from one of his ribs. His Sorrow: More tragic than any story in the Bible, Adam disobeyed God, was expelled from the Garden of Eden, and spent the rest of his life in hard labor. His Triumph: Adam was the firstborn of all creation. Key Scriptures: Genesis 2–3 Monday **HIS STORY** "What's that sound?" The tension in Eve's voice reflected the new feelings in Adam's gut. His mind and heart swirled with sickening sensations, ones he wished he had never experienced, born of deepest guilt and the terror of truth. Until this moment, his life had been filled with remarkable delight. It all began when Adam took his first breath. The span of time between morning consciousness and gathering enough energy to open one's eyes usually takes just a few moments. But for Adam, the prewaking experience of semiconsciousness must have taken some time. This was unlike anything that had ever happened before—or has happened since: a full-grown man literally sucking in his first gulp of air. As he lay somewhere between sleep and full consciousness, Adam's first thoughts must have been, Who am I? What are those sounds? Where am I? What is this? Brushing the sleep from his eyes, accepting life, Adam slowly sat up. He looked down at his own legs and arms and saw smooth skin and firm, strong muscles. He lifted his hands to his face, bending and stretching his fingers, studying the sinews. He drew his hands closer and touched his face, feeling the contours of his eyes and cheekbones, then briefly to his hair, thick and long. Adam slowly stood to his feet. He tightened the muscles of his legs and stretched his new arms skyward. He drew in a deep breath of fresh, cool air that would rival a pristine, deep forest breath. And it was only then that Adam saw something of the breathtaking beauty that surrounded him. The foliage was lush, the flowers a panoply of color. The fully orchestrated sounds of songbirds and animals filled his head with sheer ecstasy. I am alive. He took another deep breath. Life is good. Adam began to walk. Slowly at first, then a jog, finally a dead run. Like a child turned loose, the man finally pulled up and spun around, his arms spread wide. He sang and shouted sounds from his own mouth, something he had never heard before. And if the sounds and the beauty and the wind tousling his hair were not enough to flood his senses, Adam felt an indescribable Presence. Yes, there were lots of living things around him, but this was different—an inexpressible Someone. All about him. Over there . . . over there . . . and over there. Whoever it was, Adam inherently knew that he was not the only one in the garden. Yet he was not afraid; instead, he was comforted by the Presence. Adam stopped in a small meadow, the soft grass cushioning his feet. The glowing yellow sun in the sky warmed his shoulders. He looked at the trees surrounding him and felt a vague emptiness in the pit of his stomach. And then, for the first time, Adam heard a voice, a sound different from the sound of any of the other living things around him. He heard words—a language that took shape and became immediate knowledge in his mind. The voice was quiet and authoritative, and he recognized it as belonging to the Presence. "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden," the voice said, "but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." Adam nodded his willing compliance. He had noted again the tree to his left and decided he was more than willing to obey. With all of this, he thought, looking all about, why would I miss the fruit of that tree? It's an easy promise. Walking to a small bush covered with red fruit, Adam pulled a berry from a reluctant stem and tentatively bit into it. Juice covered his tongue and ran down his throat, tickling his mouth with a delightful sweet-tart sensation. Eagerly, he gathered others and shoved

them into his mouth. Then from the woods and skies, animals and birds approached him. As though mysteriously commanded to organize, these living things passed by, and group by group, Adam called out their names. And once they were named, they scattered again. If ever a man experienced satisfaction by his surroundings, it was Adam. There was the invisible Presence, the creatures, the vegetation, and the fruit. But they weren't enough. Deep in his soul, Adam longed for something—or someone—else by his side. "It is not good for you to be alone," the voice spoke again. "I will make a helper suitable for you." Adam sat down. The words warmed him. He knew that the Presence understood his longing. First a drowsiness, then a complete fatigue overwhelmed Adam. He laid his head on the soft grass and closed his eyes. In what seemed like a moment, he slowly opened his eyes, snatching consciousness from the mist of sleep. As his eyes took focus, he saw a form lying on the ground next to him. His heart raced at the beauty of the creature, like him in some ways, different in delightful other ways. Rising to his feet, Adam took the hand of the woman, helping her to stand. Their eyes met. They smiled and gently extended their arms toward each other until they embraced. Feeling the warmth of her body against his own, Adam nestled his face on the woman's neck. And her presence filled the hollowness in his heart. A perfect companion.

## **Users Review**

### **From reader reviews:**

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#### **Steven Resnick:**

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#### **Nancy Tandy:**

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