

Year 9 Summative Assessment 1 – Creation & Covenant / Prophecy & Promise

Extraordinary Women of Faith

Esther: A young Jewish woman who risked her life to save her people from genocide, Esther exemplifies courage, wisdom, and the power of divine intervention. Her story is a testament to the importance of using one's influence for good, even in the face of overwhelming odds.

Deborah: A prophetess and judge, Deborah led Israel to victory over their enemies, demonstrating that women could rise to positions of leadership and influence. Her story challenges traditional gender roles and highlights the importance of recognizing and utilizing the gifts God gives to all people.

Miriam: A prophetess and Moses' sister, Miriam played a crucial role in the Exodus story, leading the women in song and celebration after their miraculous deliverance from Egypt. Her leadership and prophetic voice were instrumental in shaping the early history of Israel.

Hannah: A barren woman who poured out her heart to God in prayer, Hannah's story highlights the power of persistent faith and the importance of fulfilling vows made to the Lord. Her son, Samuel, would become one of Israel's most influential prophets and judges.

Why is Marriage important to a Catholic?

- **Sacrament**
- **Public statement**
- **Lifelong union**
- **Family values**
- **Respect**
- **Sacred pact**
- **God's grace**

The Sanctity of Life

- **Religions** state that **human life** is the most **valuable** and **special** of all **life forms**.
- **Religious** believers think humans are the **highest form of creation** and within the highest levels of **spiritual development**
- This means that the **value of human life** is beyond measure, so it needs **protection** and **care**.
- Most **religious believers** are '**Pro-life**' in issues relating to **life** and **This often relates to the sanctity of life**
- The **Sanctity of Life** is the idea that human life is **important** because it is part of **God's creation**
- This is a core idea in any part of **religious ethics** that deals with the **value of life**. This includes:
 - **Abortion**
 - **Euthanasia**
 - **The death penalty**
 - **War**
 - **Medical treatment**
- Some religious groups extend this belief to **animal** and **plant life** too, but **human life** often occupies a **unique** and **higher place** in **creation**
- Decisions relating to **religious ethics** around matters of **life** and **death** often relate to the **sanctity of life v quality of life**

What can we learn from Sarah?

When God told Sarah and Abraham that they would have a child in their old age, they both laughed. Their laughter at God's plan showed their disbelief that He could do what He said He would do. The Bible tells us, "Then the LORD said to Abraham, 'Why did Sarah laugh and say, 'Will I really have a child, not that I am old?' Is there anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year and Sarah will have a son.' Sarah was afraid, so she lied and said, 'I did not laugh.' But he said, 'Yes, you did laugh.'" (Genesis 18: 13-15). We would like to think Abraham and Sarah believed God at once without any doubt, but this is not the case. They find God's Word nearly impossible to believe. After all, Sarah is well past the age of childbearing. However, their response to the Lord does not display total disbelief in the covenant promise. Abraham falls on his face, symbolic of submission, trust and worship. Their lives show us that real confidence in God doesn't rule out times when His incredible promises are hard for us to see.

What can we learn from Rachel:

- She was the younger daughter of Laban and Jacob's favoured wife.
- She gave birth to Joseph, who saved the nation of Israel during a famine.
- She bore Benjamin and was a faithful wife to Jacob.
- The site revered as her burial place (Rachel's Tomb) is one of the holiest sites in Judaism.
- Rachel is an important matriarch from the Old Testament and a crucial figure in the development of Israel.