



Sons of Encouragement

Francine Rivers

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In this five-book compilation of the Sons of Encouragement series, *New York Times* best-selling author Francine Rivers illuminates the lives of five Biblical men who stood behind the heroes of the faith and quietly changed eternity. Aaron, Caleb, Jonathan, Amos, and Silas each faithfully sought after God in the shadows of His chosen leaders. They answered God's call to serve without recognition or fame. And they gave everything, knowing their reward might not come until the next life.

Sons of Encouragement Details

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From Reader Review Sons of Encouragement for online ebook

Yza Santiago says

Good read!

Though work of fiction, the reflection of characters can be applied in modern day real life. Highly recommended for entertainment and reflection for men of God.

Yari says

Extremely happy that Rivers used Amos as one of the "sons of encouragement." Amos was a man of few words. He encouraged me because despite his brevity, God used him to deliver a strong message. He was the "blue collar" man, the prophet among the common people to show that God uses the meek; He gets all the glory! God selects what people reject. From Rivers' story I can see how it may not have been easy for Amos to say yes to the call to prophecy. However, his humble profession did not disqualify him from the call nor did it excuse him from ministry. That I can be as obedient as Amos is my prayer.

Kim says

Great read.....

Elizabeth says

This collection is a nice companion to Francine Rivers' "Lineage of Grace" series. Though I personally enjoyed "Grace" more than "Encouragement."

Both sets are written from a biblical character's point of view - which I like. Novels like these show the Scriptures in another perspective. Instead of listing an account of history you're there with the person living the history. This greatly helps to understand the period in which the events take place.

It can get kind of tricky writing books of this kind so close to biblical verse and the author handled it pretty well. My only criticism is directed towards two particular novels: The Priest (Aaron) and The Prince (Jonathan). We know a whole lot about these two guys in the Bible so the books leave little to be explored. This is not a bad thing at all, more praise to her for being so precise and careful with the source material, but reading them was a long and almost dry going. On the other hand the other three, The Warrior (Caleb), The Prophet (Amos) and The Scribe (Silas), engaged me more because we know minuscule information about them, which makes the author's view on who they were especially fun to read.

But please remember that these stories are just a companion to Scripture. They do not replace the inspired Word of God at all and for that reason Francine Rivers gets extra points for including Bible studies after each novel.

Hilary says

I really enjoyed these. 5 novellas, each about a lesser-known person from the Bible: Aaron, the priest, who encouraged and stood behind Moses; Caleb, the warrior, who stood and fought beside Joshua; Jonathan, the prince, who stood between his father Saul and his friend; Amos the prophet, who spent years pleading with the Israelites to turn back to God; Silas, the scribe, who traveled with Paul and Peter to spread the Good News.

I often find that these Biblical retellings make me much more aware of timelines - how long people travel, or how long a war goes on, or how old people are when certain events happen - and that gives me even more insight into the motivations and possible thoughts at the time. These were no exception.

Each was very well written, and very close to the information you'll find in the Bible. (I think Silas was the most fictionalized, but really she just rolled other unnamed characters into "Silas" because we know so little about him.) And the best part, for me, wasn't the discussion questions (though those will be good another time) but including the relevant Bible passages at the end of each story, so you can read the truth for yourself and immediately see where certain details came from. This is one to buy!

Steve Donoghue says

Even the wooliest atheist stands a good chance of liking this collection volume! Here's my review:
<http://www.openlettersmonthly.com/now...>

Kelly says

In this five-book compilation of the Sons of Encouragement series, New York Times best-selling author Francine Rivers illuminates the lives of five Biblical men who stood behind the heroes of the faith and quietly changed eternity. Aaron, Caleb, Jonathan, Amos, and Silas each faithfully sought after God in the shadows of His chosen leaders. They answered God's call to serve without recognition or fame. And they gave everything, knowing their reward might not come until the next life.

Man planned but God prevailed

Whew I finally finished this book. I don't know why but this book took me a while to get through. Over a year to be exact. I enjoyed the stories though and I took my time going through the Bible studies between each of these sons.

I love the way this author tells stories. It really. Rings scripture to life and think about emotions they probably felt. I don't know about you but when I read the Bible I don't often take time to think about how the person writing must have felt. The last story is probably stretched quite a bit because scripture doesn't tell us a lot about Silas but I found it very intriguing to think about the grief and struggle Christians must have felt back then, constantly seeing their leaders and co laborers being killed as martyrs.

This book wasn't as good as her others but I still liked it

I rate this book a 3 out of 5 stars.

Casey Daniels says

A compilation of five retellings of stories in the Bible, each one centering on a man who wasn't necessarily the star of the story in scripture. Aaron, Caleb, Jonathan, Amos, and Silas. The author takes some liberties with fictionalizing the account, but the majority is based in scripture and most of it is quoted from the Bible. This book was a great way to dive deeper into the Bible and imagine the characters as they were - men of God, humans who made mistakes but honestly lived out their faith. It's a slow read but worth the time for those who want to better understand the important people who helped found the Christian faith.

Kathryn says

I read Francine Rivers' *A Lineage of Grace* many years ago and loved (and have reread it several times since) but I only recently became aware that there was a similar version for 5 of the men of the Bible.

The first 4 stories are of Old Testament men of God - Aaron (Moses' brother), Caleb (one of the 2 spies of "the land flowing with milk and honey" fame), Jonathon (King Saul's son and David's friend) and Amos (the prophet), and the last story is that of Silas (secretary and companion to Peter and Paul) after the executions of Paul and Peter, but looking back over the time when Jesus was first starting his ministry and onward from there.

As I read this, I was continually reminded anew of how events of Old Testament times prepared the people and pointed the way toward the coming of Jesus, with Old Testament happenings foreshadowing how we live in Christ after the resurrection. I was also reminded that although times change, people's attitudes don't, as I could see similar attitudes of sin in my life as the Israelites struggled with in their time - the specifics change, the basics stay the same.

I also like the final section describing Silas' travels with Paul and Peter - Paul's passionate conviction in his letters often intimidates me and Francine Rivers describes some of the people that Paul and Silas meet or work with also feeling a little intimidated by Paul, so I'm glad that other people are similar to me in that respect!

Melanie Wissel says

This book is actually a compilation of 5 books on the Bible characters of Aaron, the priest, Caleb, the warrior, Jonathan, the prince, Amos, the prophet, and Silas, the scribe. It is fiction. That being said, Rivers takes the scripture and bases the story of their lives on the Biblical facts but in writing her narratives adds things that might have happened as in the time period as well as dialogue and emotions. It makes their stories come alive. However, I think it is very important to go back to the scriptures to see what is actually true, so that you don't confuse fact and fiction. I felt like, in reading this, I came away with how incredibly rich the lives of these men were as well as an appreciation for their faith and dependence on God in hard times. It makes me want to strive to be more godly.

Bill says

A set of 5 historical/biblical novelisations of the characters Aaron, Caleb, Jonathan, Amos and Silas. Having started with many reservations, I won't say I've become a Francine Rivers fan... but it wasn't too bad! I do enjoy the way this kind of retelling draws out the flow of the biblical story in ways that can sometimes be obscured by the genre of the biblical books (not always being narrative) or by our bible reading habits (reading a few chapters a day). To make it work Rivers has to highlight overarching themes, character developments and plot twists. Sometimes this is great, when these are biblical -- for example, Israel's continual struggle ('contending with God') vs God's endless grace is very clear in the first 2 stories. The 'suffering prophet' image of Amos was helpful, and I loved the depiction of the network of relationships between the apostles and missionaries in the Silas story. However, sometime Rivers has to draw some fairly unlikely biblical conclusions -- or flat out make stuff up -- in order to craft a convincing story (in the early lives of Caleb or Silas for example) and this undercuts the credibility of those stories. Finally, I don't think Francine Rivers was quite able to make the transition from her usual female audience to a male readership. The overall tone was a bit feathery and fluffy with plenty of emotional introspection -- which meant I just wasn't highly motivated to pick the book up and read it, making it a bit of an exercise in discipline. I mean really, how many blokes want to read about (the promo line) "five men who quietly changed eternity"?! I suspect this is a book aimed at women who want to buy a book for their husbands. And while it didn't tick all the boxes for me, it was worth reading none the less.

Tammi M says

True to form, Rivers delivers biblically and historically sound perspectives of these men of God. She again illustrates her ability to capture the truth of humanity and the issues that plague us today in her fictional retelling of the lives of those living in age-old stories. This is a genuine GoodRead every time.

Lisa says

Re-read.

C. says

Wow, just wow!! Another amazing novel by my absolute favorite author.

This is five books in one. All well researched and wonderfully written. There is something special in the way that these stories are told. Francine Rivers brings these men to life with such detail, I feel as though I actually knew them, personally.

Even though these stories are fictional, the characters are not. Reading this book has given me a greater understanding of God's word and I feel that His message is clearer having read Sons of Encouragement.

I highly recommend anyone who wants to grow closer to the Lord and/or enjoys biblically based fiction.

Mandy J. Hoffman says

MY REVIEW:

Can I just tell you how much I love this book? Okay! Well let me share!

Francine Rivers makes you feel as if you are back in time as these men of faith - Aaron, Caleb, Jonathan, Amos, and Silas - are living their lives. While it is a combination of Biblical facts woven into her well researched imagination, it offers a glimpse of what was and what might have been making the Bible come alive in your mind and heart. Understanding the Bible times on such a personal level helps you understand the mercy and grace of God and how it has spanned time to apply to your life even today. Francine's writing is real, fresh, and inspiring!

Some portions of this book can be a little detailed and hard to read through, but most anyone will enjoy this book even if they have to skip a page or two! This is a great book for both teens and adults.
