

PRESS KIT

READ WOMEN



MARCH IS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.

Female voices have been part of InterVarsity Press's history since 1943, when IVP's first author, Jane Hollingsworth, published her inductive Bible study *Discovering the Gospel of Mark*. Since then, IVP has strived to publish [titles](#) celebrating the contributions of women around the world and dive into deeper conversations about the challenges they face.

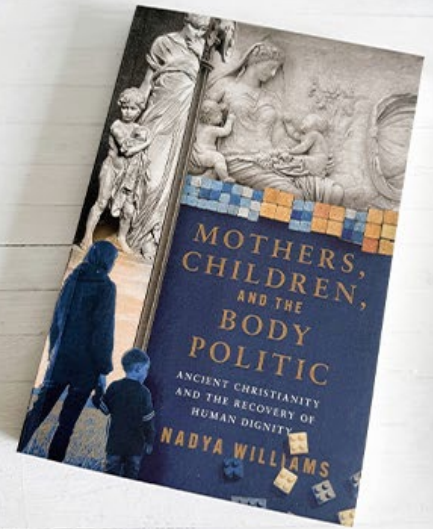
In honor of Women's History Month, the IVP publicity team is offering the following titles on women's issues. From mothers, to preachers, to teachers, these five books reach from the ancient to the modern, highlighting the untold stories and giftings of women.

[Click here](#) to see IVP's Read Women campaign and hear directly from our women authors.

MOTHERS, CHILDREN, AND THE BODY POLITIC:

Ancient Christianity and the Recovery of Human Dignity

[View Book](#)



Classics scholar Nadya Williams draws from voices both ancient and modern to illuminate how Christians can value human life amidst an empire that seeks to dehumanize that which is most precious. Bringing insights from the beliefs and practices of the early church in Greco-Roman context about motherhood, raising children, and human life, Williams suggests there is a way to recapture a vision that affirms the *Imago Dei* in each person over and above our economic contribution to society.



NADYA WILLIAMS (PhD, Princeton) walked away from academia after fifteen years as a professor of history and classics. She is now a homeschool mom, book review editor at *Current*, and a contributing editor at *Providence Magazine*. She is the author of *Cultural Christians in the Early Church* (Zondervan Academic, 2023), and numerous articles and essays in *Current*, *Plough*, *Christianity Today*, *Front Porch Republic*, *Fairer Disputations*, *Law and Liberty*, *Church Life Journal*, and others.

“In this moving, pastoral book, Nadya Williams plumbs the long history of assumptions and practices that culminate in what Pope Francis has termed our ‘throwaway’ culture. In the same way that the early Christian church dismantled the Roman Empire’s commodification of human persons, so the gospel continues to bear witness to the intrinsic value of all humans, even those society deems useless. Williams wears her considerable learning lightly, and readers will find her narrative brings both illumination and conviction.”

—**JEFFREY BILBRO**, associate professor of English at Grove City College and editor-in-chief at Front Porch Republic

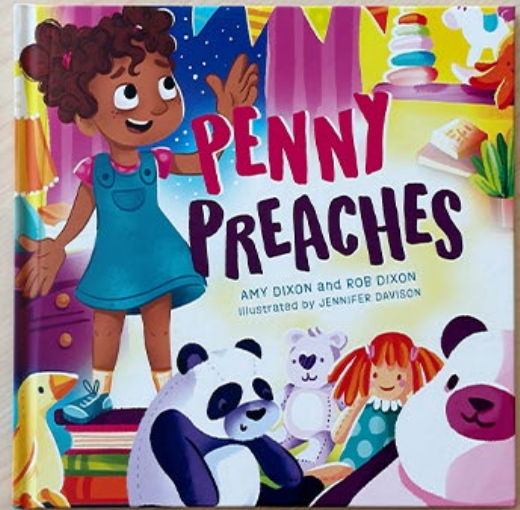


[Request a review copy or interview.](#)



PENNY PREACHES:
God Gives Good Gifts to Everyone!

[View Book](#)



“Our desire in writing *Penny Preaches* was to catch our readers in that moment of radiant confidence—When I grow up, I’m going to be a mermaid!—to see that God gives good gifts to everyone, and to begin the sacred process of wondering, What good gifts has God given to me?” said Amy and Rob. “As Penny reminds us, God gives good gifts to everyone. And while being a mermaid is, sadly, not one of the gifts, parents and caregivers have a crucial role to play in the process of helping kids discover theirs. We pray that as more young people discover their good gifts and are given the freedom to exercise them in the church, we will grow into the flourishing community we were always meant to be.”

Publishers Weekly called *Penny Preaches* “one of IVP’s more provocative titles” in its portrayal of a little girl who longs to teach God’s words to others, since many Christian denominations don’t allow women in preaching or teaching roles.

“Our hope for every child is that they would be able to discern, embrace, and cultivate whatever gifts God has given them, even if those gifts push the boundaries of how the church has historically understood gifting for women and men. I pray that we are forming a church in the future where that isn’t a problem anymore,” said Amy and Rob.

Penny Preaches will be enjoyed by children as well as the adults who read with them. [Click here](#) to read an article from the authors to encourage further conversation about the topic.

*“When I was a small child, I heard God whisper to me, ‘I’ve got a job for you to do,’ but because I had never seen a woman preach, I never knew that might be the job God had in mind for me. I am overjoyed to be able to endorse *Penny Preaches*—a book I hope will broaden the imagination of all the young children God is calling to be future leaders of God’s church.”*

—**APRIL FIET**, copastor of First Presbyterian Church in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, and author of *The Sacred Pulse: Holy Rhythms for Overwhelmed Souls*



Amy Dixon is the author of three picture books—*Maurice the Unbeastly*, *Sophie’s Animal Parade*, and *Marathon Mouse*—as well as a middle grade novel.

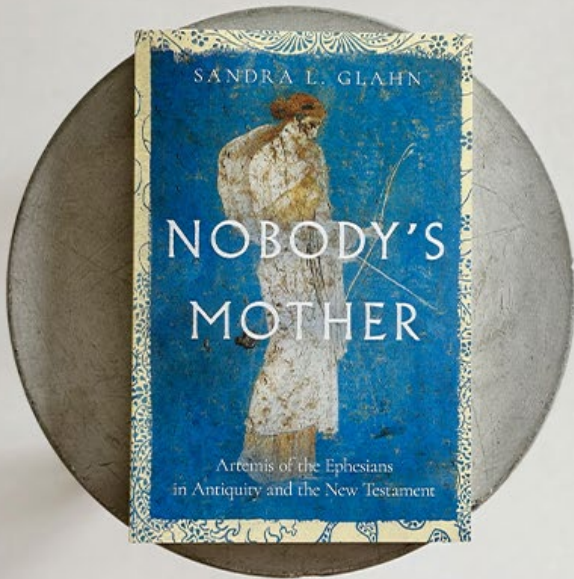


Rob Dixon is the author of *Together in Ministry: Women and Men in Flourishing Partnerships*. In addition to serving on InterVarsity staff for more than twenty-six years, Rob teaches at Fuller Theological Seminary and Fresno Pacific University.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)





NOBODY'S MOTHER:

*Artemis of the Ephesians in Antiquity
and the New Testament*

[View Book](#)

How has misinterpreting Paul led to the silencing of women?

Some Christians think Paul's reference to "saved through childbearing" in 1 Timothy 2:15 means that women are slated primarily for delivering and raising children. Alternate readings, however, sometimes fail to build on the best historical and textual evidence.

This book is for those who want to avoid sacrificing a high view of Scripture while working to reconcile conflicting models of God's view of women. Through the unexpected channel of Paul's advice to Timothy—and the surprising help of an ancient Greek myth—*Nobody's Mother* lays a biblical foundation for men and women serving side by side in the church.



SANDRA GLAHN is professor of media arts and worship at Dallas Theological Seminary, where her emphases are first-century backgrounds related to women, culture, gender, and the arts. She has authored or edited more than twenty books, including *Vindicating the Vixens*, *Earl Grey with Ephesians*, *Sanctified Sexuality* (coeditor), and *Sexual Intimacy in Marriage* (coauthor).

"Nobody's Mother is an impressive contribution to the discussion about women in church leadership and the background of 1 Timothy. With studious attention to archaeological and exegetical details, Sandra Glahn dives deep into some of the most complex questions surrounding one of the most complicated passages in the New Testament. Not every reader will agree with Glahn's conclusions, but everyone who is interested in what Paul was trying to say in 1 Tim 2:8-15 must wrestle with Glahn's scholarly, responsible work. I found this book very hard to put down!"

—PRESTON SPRINKLE, author, speaker, and host of the *Theology in the Raw* podcast



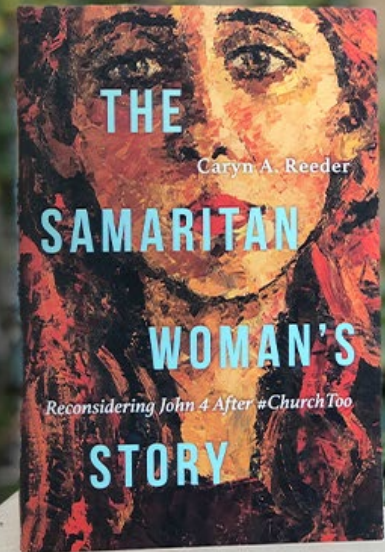
[Request a review copy or interview.](#)



THE SAMARITAN WOMAN'S STORY:

Considering John 4 After #ChurchToo

[View Book](#)



"In a world that is quick to dismiss the lived experience of women, Caryn Reeder's timely exploration of the woman at the well brings new insights to a familiar but often misunderstood story. She dives deep into the interaction between Jesus and a woman who is often sullied without cause. Applications to today's #MeToo world spring from each page."

—**RUTH EVERHART**, pastor and author of *The #MeToo Reckoning: Facing the Church's Complicity in Sexual Abuse and Misconduct*



Caryn A. Reeder (PhD, University of Cambridge) is professor of New Testament and co-coordinator of the Gender Studies program at Westmont

College. Her books include *The Enemy in the Household: Family Violence in Deuteronomy and Beyond* and *Gendering War and Peace in the Gospel of Luke*.

Most Christians have heard a familiar description of the Samaritan woman in John 4: she was a sinner, an adulteress, even a prostitute. Throughout church history, the woman at the well has been seen narrowly in terms of her gender and marital history. What are we missing in the story? And what difference does our interpretation of this passage make for women and men in the church?

Caryn A. Reeder calls us to see the Samaritan woman in a different light. Beginning with the reception history of John 4, she pulls back layers of interpretation entangled with readers' assumptions on women and sexuality. She then explores the story's original context, describing life for women and expectations regarding marriage and divorce in the first century. With this clarified lens, Reeder's exegesis of the passage yields refreshing insights on what the Gospel says—and does not say—about the woman at the well.

In the age of #MeToo and #ChurchToo, *The Samaritan Woman's Story* offers a bold challenge to teach the Bible in a way that truly honors the value and voices of women.



[Request a review copy or interview.](#)





TELL HER STORY:

*How Women Led, Taught, and Ministered
in the Early Church*

[View Book](#)

Women were there. For centuries, discussions of early Christianity have focused on male leaders in the church. But there is ample evidence right in the New Testament that women were actively involved in ministry, at the frontier of the gospel mission, and as respected leaders.

Nijay Gupta calls us to bring these women out of the shadows by shining light on their many inspiring contributions to the planting, growth, and health of the first Christian churches. He sets the context by exploring the lives of first-century women and addressing common misconceptions, then focuses on the women leaders of the early churches as revealed in Paul's writings. We discover the major roles of people such as:

- Phoebe, Paul's trusted coworker
- Prisca, strategic leader and expert teacher
- Junia, courageous apostle
- Nympha, representative of countless lesser-known figures

The New Testament writers tell their stories. It's time for the church to retell them, again and again.

[Click here](#) to read a conversation with Nijay Gupta on early-church women in ministry.

"This book is a significant contribution to the ongoing conversations about women in leadership in the early church. Nijay Gupta takes the reader on an important journey throughout the New Testament and demonstrates that 'wherever men were doing ministry, women were there doing it as well,' leading, teaching, and ministering not as second-class citizens but as equals bearing witness to the power of the gospel to transform lives."

—**LISA BOWENS**, associate professor of New Testament
at Princeton Theological Seminary



Nijay K. Gupta (PhD, University of Durham)

is professor of New Testament at Northern Seminary. His books include *A Beginner's Guide to New Testament Studies*, *Paul and*

the Language of Faith, and commentaries on Galatians, Philipians, Colossians, and 1-2 Thessalonians.

[Request a review copy or interview.](#)