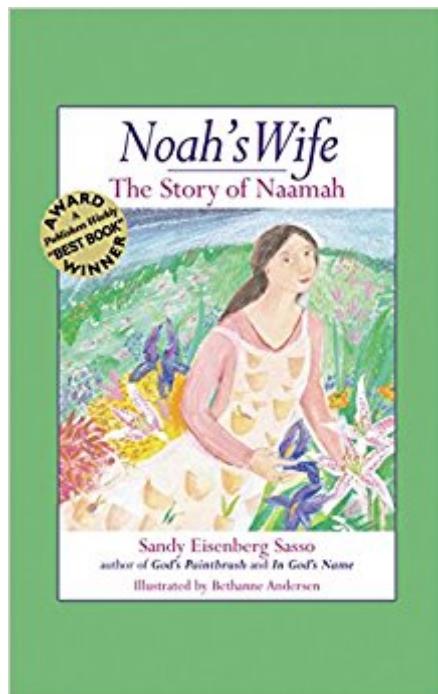


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# Noah's Wife: The Story Of Naamah



## **Synopsis**

Nondenominational, Nonsectarian  
Endorsed by Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish Religious Leaders  
"Walk across the land and gather the seeds of all the flowers and all the trees. Take two of every kind of living plant....Work quickly. The rains begin tomorrow." From award-winning author Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, a new story which lights our spiritual imaginations. When God tells Noah to bring the animals of the world onto the ark, God also calls on Naamah, Noah's wife, to save each plant on Earth. Entrusted with this task, Naamah sets off to every corner of the world, discovering a fabulous array of growing things, and gathering seeds, bulbs, cuttings, spores, and roots. She fills a room on the ark with every type of plant--from amaryllis, soybeans, and wheat to lilies, moss, and even dandelions. Then, after 40 long days and nights on the ark, the most important part of Naamah's work begins. In this new story, based on an ancient text, Naamah's wisdom and love for the natural harmony of the earth inspires us to use our own courage, creativity, and faith to carry out Naamah's work today.

## **Book Information**

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Average Customer Review: 5.0 out of 5 stars 8 customer reviews

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Age Range: 9 - 12 years

Grade Level: 4 - 7

## **Customer Reviews**

At last, we learn the secret of how plants recovered from the Great Flood. In this nurturing story, Naamah....inspires us all to carry on her tradition as stewards of Earth's garden." -- Michael J. Caduto, co-author, The Keepers of the Earth® books; founder, P.E.A.C.E.® (Programs for

Environmental Awareness and Cultural Exchange" A story for people of all faith traditions. With humor, tenderness, and wisdom, it speaks nevertheless with urgency: Care for creation--it is God's gift to us." -- Rev. Carla V. Berkeda, Founding Director, Earth Ministry, Seattle, WA "A lovely tale....Children of all ages should be drawn to this parable for our times." -- Tomie dePaola, artist/author of books for children

Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso, a parent, spiritual leader and storyteller, is the award-winning author of God's Paintbrush, In God's Name, God In Between and many other inspiring books for children of all faiths and backgrounds. The second woman to be ordained as a rabbi (1974) and the first rabbi to become a mother, she and her husband, Dennis, were the first rabbinical couple to jointly lead a congregation •Beth-El Zedeck in Indianapolis. They have two children, David and Debora, and three grandchildren. Sasso, who holds a doctorate in ministry, is active in the interfaith community, and has written and lectured on the renewal of spirituality and the discovery of the religious imagination in children of all faiths. Rabbi Sandy Eisenberg Sasso is available to speak on the following topics: Nurturing the Spiritual Imagination of Children Tell Me a Story: Reading the Bible and the Religious Imagination of Children Filling in the Blanks: How Women Read the Bible Women and Judaism: A Personal Journey Midrash as a Tool for Spiritual Reflection [Click here to contact the author.](#) Bethanne Andersen received her MFA from Brigham Young University, and has studied illustration in the Masters Program at the School of Visual Arts in New York. She is the illustrator of But God Remembered: Stories of Women from Creation to the Promised Land. Her work is in many museums and university private collections.

Love the midrash on Noah's wife.

I recommend this book for children and adults. It opens the story of Noah up and it gives Noah's wife a name which she does not have in Genesis. It also has beautiful illustrations and a touch of God's sense of humor.

Not only is Sandy's story fun, it demonstrates the process of "playing" with Scripture, interacting with its questions and yours.

This delightful children's tale is based on an imaginative elaboration of the biblical text contained in the ancient Midrash Genesis Rabbah, which states that Noah's wife was named Naamah "because

her deeds were neimim, Hebrew for "pleasing." The book focuses on what Naamah did during and after the famous biblical flood. It helps us see how women and men are partners in all that transpires. The author is the second woman who was ordained as a rabbi, but her book, which was awarded a Publishers Weekly "Best Book," is appropriate for and will be pleasing to people of all faiths. The illustrator has a master's degree in visual art and her art works appear in museums. While the Bible tells us that God instructed Noah to save the animals by taking two of every kind, and seven of some, aboard the ark that saved him and his family, Sasso reveals that God gave Naamah a different mission, to "take two of every kind of living plant and bring each one onto the ark." Sasso describes Naamah's difficulties and how she overcame them, and about her decision about weeds, such as dandelions. Sasso also reveals how the dove was able to bring back an olive branch to Noah and Naamah in the ark to show that the flood waters had receded: how could the dove find an olive when the flood destroyed everything? Children will enjoy this tale and learn much from it.

The Story of Naamah tells of Noah's wife's contribution to the Ark. In this beautifully illustrated book, while Noah is gathering the animals, Naamah is gathering all the seeds. It is a wonderfully intentional tale, ripe with meaning and purpose. I am a childless twenty-something heh. I read this children's story, and I found myself really appreciating the beauty of religious storytelling. I would imagine some people would get their panties in a knot about this tale, because it is not taken directly from any religious texts. It is simply an inclusive way to explore biblical concepts. It is designed to get kids (especially girls, who can often feel neglected in the patriarchal world of Judeo-Christian monotheism) excited about God and the wonders of the Earth. I can't think of a better harmony. At the end of the book, the author, a rabbi, explains the impetus behind the story, as well as the meaning of the name Naamah. The author had to create a name because Noah's wife is simply "Noah's wife" and lacks a name in the religious texts. This is an incredible book, especially for people who want their children to use their imaginations and get excited about the world around them.

I use this book all the time to encourage children to truly engage the stories of the bible, to see that they are about real people, facing real problems and finding creative solutions, knowing that God will love them through anything and help them to be the best they can possibly be. Sandy Sasso writes with sensitivity and humor. Children and adults alike will love this book.

I read this book several years ago, when I didn't have children yet. I was studying botany as an undergrad, and I am still studying botany in my PhD program. I found a wonderful inspiration in this book about Noah's wife, gathering the seeds as Noah gathers the animals. People often forget that the plants around them are creatures, too. Plants shape our world and are necessary for life, just as much as animals. Naamah, as the wife of Noah, is given this important, life-sustaining task, and she succeeds in her mission. Beautiful book. Now that I have my own child, she loves to read it (and look at the pictures), too. I highly recommend this book. It is well-written and superbly illustrated.

Wonderful story to share with children of all ages. Expands the Biblical story of Noah adding God's call to females to be providers and caregivers of our environment.

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