

## Mother's Day 2019 - "Who Is Your Favorite Mother from the Bible?"

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Though her womb was closed, God promised nations and kings would come from her. Ten years passed and motherhood seemed as impossible as the day it was promised. But the Lord is faithful to keep his promises and she bore a son who made her laugh.

- Sarah – The Promised Mother / The Mother of Isaac

She was a mother who experienced the loss of her two sons, yet she gained a daughter who said: "Where you go, I will go. Your people will be my people. Your God will be my God." A mother and her daughter-in-law became family by faith.

- Naomi – The Spiritual Mother of Ruth

Taken from the side of her husband. She was gifted with bringing forth life. The first woman's name means "the mother of all the living." She was the first of many mothers to come.

- Eve – The Mother of All the Living

When Pharaoh became angry at the fruitfulness of the Hebrew mothers, she sacrificed her motherhood for the sake of her son. When Pharaoh's daughter saw her child in the river, she took him home and raised him in Pharaoh's palace. Because of this mother's sacrifice the Israelites found freedom.

- Jochebed – The Sacrificial Mother of Moses

She was the first-born, but overlooked by her husband, who gave his heart to her younger sister. When the Lord saw how she was treated, he opened her womb and she gave her husband 4 of his 12 sons. One of her 4 sons would be the one through whom the Savior would come.

- Leah – The Forgotten Mother of Judah

She was a virgin who was unmarried, but was found to be with Child from the Holy Spirit. The motherhood of this blessed woman was more than a continuation of a family name. It was a way for God to bring a Savior into the world and save his people from their sins.

- Mary – The Mother of the Savior

Her husband had another wife to give him children. Year after year the other wife made fun of her because she couldn't have a child. Finally, she made a vow to the Lord, that if he gave her a son, she would give him to the Lord, to serve him his entire life. The Lord answered her prayer and his name actually means "Because I asked the Lord for him."

- Hannah – The Mother who Dedicated Samuel to the Lord

From the Garden to the cross there have always been women in the Bible who could be called "Mom."

A teacher gave her second grade class a lesson on the magnet - what it is and what it does. The next day she included this question on the test: *My name has six letters. The first letter is M. I pick things up. What am I?* The teacher was shocked to find that over half her students answered with the word: "Mother."

Kids can get confused about the role their mom plays in their lives, but no one, not even kids, misunderstands the love that a child receives from their Mom. And so today, we're here to worship God, but we do so on a day set aside to honor mothers.

Mothers are special. A Christian mother is a child's first experience with the kind of love we receive from God. A child begins to understand what God's love looks like. Love isn't a noun. It's a verb. It's an action. Moms demonstrate their love for their child. A child sees God's love in their mother's love for them.

Moms have this unconditional acceptance for their children. We are loved because of who we are, even when we've failed to return that love, or done unloving things. Mothers understand there aren't any perfect children. There's only been one, and they ended up crucifying him between a couple of thieves. A Christian mom understands that

children need that same forgiveness they have in Jesus, and the same unconditional love God has for them.

God loves us even when we don't act like the children he has called us and chosen us to be. He cherished us enough to send his Son to be the payment for all of our sins. And yes, sometimes there are consequences for our sins, but the eternal and everlasting consequences have already been taken care of by Jesus.

Like their children, moms aren't perfect, either. They mess up. And even though a mother's love isn't a perfect demonstration of God's love for us, it does leave a lasting impression on the heart and on the mind of a child. A mother's love matters. God has uniquely positioned you Moms, to make a difference in your child's life.

- Those long talks in the car between all those activities ..... making a difference.
- Those bedtime prayers ..... making a difference.
- Those little notes you pack in their lunch ..... making a difference.
- Helping them with their math, even though you don't have a clue ..... making a difference.
- Bringing your kids to church week after week after week ..... making a difference.

God has designed things the way he does for a reason. Newborn humans need parents to raise them. He puts us into families. It's possible for God to create creatures that don't need their parents, and he has. Most of the planet works that way.

Did you, as a child, ever watch a bunch of chicks hatch in an incubator? They come out pretty much ready to go. The momma is nowhere to be found, because the chicks come out already knowing how to eat and take care of themselves.

Humans need parents ..... for years. God did that on purpose, so that we'd grow up in a setting where we'd experience and begin to understand what his love for us is all about.

And so, on this Mother's Day, we say: *"Thanks Mom, for introducing us to God."* God chose you to be the Mom your children need – and it doesn't matter how old they become or you become. You are setting their eyes on the Lord, and that makes an eternal difference.

Some of you moms are in a role that's kind of odd. Because you're taking care of your own mom and still have children of your own who need their attention, you are sandwiched in between the two. That's a reversal of roles, where the child takes care of the parent.

And for those of you in that challenging situation, realize what a great way to express your appreciation for all the times she took care of you. Thank you for being a parent for your parent. And if you're being cared for by your child, what a great day to express your thanks to them.

A young father was trying to explain what marriage is to his 4-year-old daughter. Since pictures can often help explain things, he got out their wedding album and showed his little daughter pictures of their wedding service. When he was finished, he asked if she had any questions. She pointed to a picture of the wedding party and asked: *"Daddy, is that when mommy came to work for us?"*

At times, within our own families and our own congregation we take for granted all the things Christian moms do for their families. That's why we need to encourage them and show them our appreciation for raising us as a child of God who follows him by faith now right into eternity.

And, if your mom is no longer here, you can still thank God for her, and honor her by leading your children and your grandchildren to God now, while looking forward to a family reunion in heaven.