

Theology of Motherhood



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Genesis 3:20

Happy Mother's Day! We say this every year, but we would not be here if it weren't for you moms, right? It's just reality. We are just so thankful for your role in our lives. So we hope to all the moms, you have the absolute best day. I know it has been the best day for some of you. Maybe your kids made you breakfast in bed, maybe they brought you coffee in with a little sticky note. I'm in a good season of fatherhood because all of my kids are in school now, so their teachers have them make all of the stuff for my wife for Mother's Day, so it's really easy. So, if you're a new dad and you have a three month old, it is your responsibility today to make sure that you say Happy Mother's Day to her for them. You need to speak on behalf of your three month old little girl or little boy. So there is joy on Mother's Day, but there can also sorrow mingled in for some of you. For some of you it's been a very hard day because maybe this is the first Mother's Day without your mom, or maybe you're estranged from your mom, so Mother's Day reminds you of her and your sadness. Maybe you are a mom who's lost a child, or you're a woman who's battled infertility and miscarriages,

and so Mother's Day is just really hard. We want just to acknowledge that, that today is a day of a lot of joy, but also a lot of sorrow. There's laughter, but there's also crying. So as the body of Christ, what we want to do is look around at each other and realize that we are a family together, a faith family, so wherever you are, joy or sorrow, you are sitting amongst your family. We are here to celebrate with you and also to bear with you for those who today is a really, really hard day.

You know, when you think about Mother's Day it's almost a little bit of an awkward holiday, because even amidst our culture we're not really sure that Mother's Day is quite appropriate anymore. I mean, when we say things like Mother's Day, it implies a mom, it implies a woman, and we're not really sure that's even okay anymore. We have many who would say let's just make it sort of neutral, maybe Birthing People's Day. So let's be honest, it's a little awkward just in the moment we're in to even celebrate Mother's Day and to say Happy Mother's Day. So what we're going to see in Scripture this morning is that word, mother, actually means something; that motherhood is a real thing and it's an important thing because God actually designed motherhood. So we're going to talk about a theology of motherhood. Just take a moment and ask what does the Bible say about motherhood. What does it say to moms about being a mom? So, when we look at the theology of motherhood, we're going to do three things:

1. God designed motherhood—From Genesis, we are going to see motherhood was actually His doing for His glory, but also for our good.
2. Sin distorted motherhood—Some of you're in sorrow this morning because motherhood is hard and motherhood is broken, and there's a lot of sorrow that comes from motherhood, and that's because something tragic has happened. Sin has entered the world and has distorted motherhood.
3. Jesus delivers motherhood—Jesus rescues it and saves it.

We're going to read Genesis 3:20 before we go to chapter 1 as we think about setting up this idea of Mother's Day and motherhood.

Scripture

"The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living."

We see that the woman's name is Eve, which means life giver. It's in connection with this amazing role that she is going to play; she's going to be the mother of all living. Motherhood is rooted in this Genesis idea of this garden scene where this woman is going to give birth and there's going to be more women who continue to give birth, so you need to thank your mom for giving birth to you because that's why you are here. So I'm going to pray and then we're going to walk through this idea of a theology of motherhood.

God's Design

Let's go to Genesis 1 to what we see in the very opening of Genesis, "In the beginning, God created the heavens in the earth." Now, that's a really important verse because it sort of sets the stage for everything else. It puts God as the Creator and we as creation. We are created by Him; He made us, He designed us, so He sets the rules. He gets to tell us who we are and how we are to behave. In other words, this is really important—you are creation, you are not Creator. We live in a culture that is continually confusing those two. We're no longer creation but now we are Creators, meaning we get to pick and choose how we determine our own selves rather than looking at Scripture and asking who are we as human beings.

What does it mean that God made me, and especially, that God made me either male or female? God created the heavens and the earth...either we believe that or we don't. Either we believe He's Creator and He makes the rules, or we get to determine our own life. The Bible says God is Creator and that He created human beings as male and female. Notice with me in Genesis 1:27, this is the sixth day of creation. God says this about us, humanity, "So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them." We are image-bearers of God; He fashioned us in His own image, and we get this detail—"male and female, He created them." These are the first words about human beings.

So, what does it mean to be human? Well, for one, it means that you're made in the image of God. Every person on the planet that you run into is made in the image of God. Which means every person on the planet has value, dignity and worth. Whether you agree with them or disagree with them, whether you like them or you don't like them, they're all made in the image of God. This means we should treat every person that we see as an image-bearer of God, with love, compassion, mercy, and grace. That's how we should be, especially as the church, because we know that human beings are made in the image of God. We also see that as image-bearers of God, these humans are made in a specific way—they're made either male or female. In this maleness and femaleness, we see that both of those genders are about the glory of God. Both of those genders picture different things about who God is. Both genders are created for different roles and different purposes. We're going to see that that female is going to have this glorious opportunity to be moms with this beautiful idea of motherhood. So, we see right off the bat that gender is not a social construct. It's not something that we created and came up with that now we can sort of rearrange and change it. No, gender is found right in the pages of Scripture. God made us as gendered beings. So you're male or you're female and that was God's doing, and it's for ultimately God's glory, but also for your good.

I heard it said that in the early church Christians had to fight for the doctrine of Jesus. Who is Jesus? Is He God? Is He man? Is He a mixture? Is He fully God? Is He less than God? Then you get to the Middle Ages, we had to fight about the doctrine of the church. What is the church? What does it mean to be the church? What about leaderships in the church? Who is the church? How does the church operate? And then, we got to the reformation and we had to deal with the doctrine of salvation. How do we get saved? Is it works? Is it faith? Is it mixture of works and faith? The reformers declared salvation is faith alone in Christ alone by grace alone. So we had those doctrines kind of settled through, and now we find ourselves in a new moment. So what are we having to argue for, or champion for in the church now? It's the doctrine of humanity. What does it mean to be a human being? That's the question our culture is wrestling

with, that the church is wrestling. What does it mean to be in our skin? How do we define ourselves? What are the rules around ourselves?

So as we come to this text of Scripture, what it says to us as a church is there are certain things about us and one of those things is that we are male and that we are female. Christopher Watkin says about our modern culture that there have been sort of two ditches. The first ditch has been humans are just machines. This was of course championed by evolution. We're just machines, we're just biology; we're just neurons firing. It's just bodies, there's nothing in us—no spirit, no soul—we are just bodies and we are determined bodies. We don't have any control, we don't have any power, we just kind of do whatever our biology tells us to do. Well, now we have another ditch, and it's not that we are machines; it's that we are gods. As gods, we get to not settle ourselves as creation; we get to be Creators. We get to create ourselves; we get to create our identities. We get to say and do whatever we feel and want. We get to rearrange things however we want. We determine; we don't have to look at Scripture and say okay God, who am I? We say God, this is who I am, now you accept me, so we have become Creators in that sense. But what we see from Scripture is that we're not machines and we're not gods; instead, we are creations and that gives us even more value. Because as creations, we are image-bearers of God therefore our dignity, value, and worth doesn't come from our own identity, it comes from our identity rooted in Him. That we are sons and daughters of the King of the universe, that God made us in His own image, but there are things He tells us about ourselves.

So as we come to Mother's Day, it's a very human holiday. Now, we have to know what a mother is to celebrate Mother's Day. I mean, just to make it really obvious, you can't have Mother's Day without moms. That's what Mother's Day begins with, moms. Well, what does that mean? We have to say some true things, and one true thing would be not all women are mothers. Some of you women aren't mothers. But it is true that all mothers are *women*. Now, we don't say that mean, or callous, or to be unkind; we say that to just tell the truth about motherhood. It's rooted in gender, it's rooted in biology, because God designed it and He made it that way. We want to make sure we champion and we celebrate that. So as we speak to

our culture, we definitely speak with truth, but we also speak with love, with compassion and mercy because we are in very confusing times. We want to walk with people and love people who disagree with us and be compassionate and generous, but we also have to know what the Bible says about who we are as human beings, and the Bible says motherhood is rooted in biology, rooted in gender.

So, we're going to see that the first words that God said to a woman had to do with motherhood. We're going to look through Genesis 1, 2, and 3 and see this celebration of motherhood. Now, I know there are all sorts of concerns and hurt all throughout this congregation concerning motherhood, and we're going to deal with that in a moment when we talk about things aren't like they were meant to be because we live in a fallen world. We live in a sin distorted motherhood. But here, we are going to look at what God's design is. What's His picture? You might not fit into that picture right now, and you might think...*Am I broken? What's happening?* No, we're going to get to the effects of the fall, but first we're going to see what the picture is. What did God do in motherhood?

The very first words God speaks to human beings have to do with fathers and mothers. Notice what it says in Genesis 1:28, "And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it..." Notice two things there—blessing and babies. The very first things that God says is two human beings, we're going to bring you together, male and female, Adam and Eve, and He blesses them. As human beings, we've been blessed by God. Then He tells them something, and the very first thing He tells them is "be fruitful and multiply." That means have babies. Now why would God command these two to have babies? Well, they bear the image of God. What's God's passion? To spread His glory throughout the world. How do you get His glory throughout the world? You spread it through more and more image-bearers filling the earth. As an image-bearer of God, you procreate more image-bearers of God and have them fill the earth so that the whole earth will be filled with human beings who all bear God's glory.

So, the very first thing God said to a woman is in connection with motherhood, so it's not just a side thing. This is a really cherished thing in

the sight of God. Motherhood should be championed and celebrated, and often we see it as the opposite. Some believe pregnancy is not a blessing it's a burden. It's something that women have to do and it's not fair, it's not equal, because women have to do more and it might put them behind in certain things. But we see in Scripture that it's a blessing. Women, you have a superpower, and your superpower is you make more humans! I don't know how much cooler you could get than that. Of all superpowers you make more humans, that's an amazing thing. It's absolutely unbelievable, and what we need to do is just celebrate it as a strength and applaud motherhood because it is absolutely fantastic. You hear a little girl say she just want to be a mom and then someone say it's not okay just to be a mom, you need to be something more, something different. Or we see that language of *just be a mom*, as if it's like this little thing. There's no *just be a mom*; mom is the pinnacle! Being a mom is amazing and awesome, and we should celebrate the idea that God in His provision and planning is going to cause some of you to be moms. Now it's not all of you, we see that in Scripture—there is singleness, God loves the idea of singleness, but some of you are going to be moms. That's an awesome thing, and we should celebrate that, champion it, and then applaud it. So I want to say to all the moms, you're awesome and you have superpowers. You brought us into the world and that is a pretty amazing thing so let's make sure that we celebrate that.

We also see this idea of motherhood connected to marriage. We see right in the story in Genesis 2 with Adam and Eve. It says, "Therefore a man shall leave his father and mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh." There is a connection between motherhood and marriage. We have a "Therefore," so we need to look what it's there for. Well, God just made human beings in His image as male and female, so because you're male and female you should leave father and *mother* (notice the connection to motherhood) and you should hold fast to each other, this male and female, and you now are going to make more babies. There's going to be procreation, there's going to be reproduction. That is going to happen through you. Notice what we learn about motherhood just in this text. It's connection to marriage, and again this is God's ideal picture. Now, I know there are a lot of different circumstances and we're

not in the ideal world but this is God's ideal picture that motherhood be connected to marriage. We also see that motherhood was always made to be temporary, not permanent. There is a "leave" your mom. Some of you need to hear that this morning, leave your mom. It's time to leave and go do something else. If your mom just looked at you and nodded, that's probably your clue that it's time to move out and go do something on your own, right? So just a little hint—it's not meant to be permanent, it's always meant to be temporary. The point is to raise them up and let them go, to send them out so that they can do the same. Motherhood is always temporary, but marriage is meant to be permanent. So kids are to be temporary, to be sent out, and to also do the same—to get married and have babies so that the world could continue to populate, and go over and over.

And then, we see that Eve's very name reflects motherhood. Let's read chapter 3, verse 20 again, "The man called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living." Adam calls the woman Eve, which means life giver, and the reason he names her life giver is she's going to be the mother of all living. Now, what's really crazy about that is the fall has just happened. Adam and Eve just sinned against God and their curse is death. So they both have a death sentence over their heads, and then Adam says...*Hey honey, you know what? We've both just died before the presence of God, but I'm going to name you life giver because you're going to be the mother of all the living.* In other words, this is a moment of grace; that God is not done with these two people who sin against Him, but somehow through their sin, life is going to come, life is going to continue. So even in the naming of this first woman, there's this picture of motherhood entwined with even her name.

Then we see the first Mother's Day, chapter 4, verse 1 says this, "Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, saying, 'I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord.'" The spotlight in bearing Cain is put on Eve not Adam. Notice the language, *she* conceived and bore Cain. The spotlight is on this idea of motherhood bringing forth the next generation in giving birth. On this first Mother's Day event, notice what Eve says, "I have gotten a man with the help of the Lord." I mean that's an

amazing thing—think about motherhood in connection with God. As a mom, you don't create life; you procreate life with a man. There's a procreation. God only creates; we procreate. We don't produce; we reproduce, so that's why she is saying it is with help with the Lord that I'm bringing forth this baby. Then in Psalms, David would say that God knitted him together in his mother's womb. So if you're a mom looking at your kid, and you're thinking...*I did this with God's help. God and I did this together. This is something that happened between us. This is an amazing thing!* Here's Adam and Eve, a man and a woman come together, but then it's by God's help, by God's design, God is knitting together this human being in the womb of this first mom! Isn't that just amazing? I mean, just picture that. It's you with the Lord that's growing this little one inside of you. Some of that's happening right now; you've got a little one in your womb and God's knitting him or her together! You're not doing a whole lot. You're eating and sleeping and it's all just happening because it's with the help of the Lord that God is doing something.

So, let's just make a summary point. First thing we see is God designed motherhood. It was God's design. So, we have to believe that. So what should that lead us to do? If we know that God designed it, it's rooted in gender, it has to do with marriage ideally, and it's then for children—if that's His picture and plan, then what should we do in life? What's an application point from this first point? Well, I have three applications.

1. We should praise God on Mother's day.

If you're thankful for your mom first, praise God because it was His idea. It's bound up in His glory. Yes, it's our good, but praise God first for this beautiful thing called motherhood that He made from His mind that He fashioned. Let's celebrate, let's champion, let's applaud the Lord for the work He did.

2. We have to speak the truth in love to our culture.

When culture is confused about what motherhood is and that it's not rooted in gender, we have to be able to speak and articulate in love what is also true. That's really tough and that's really difficult, but we've have to be the people who have conviction but also great kindness. You can't have

conviction without kindness. You can't have truth without love. No, we have to be those who are truth in love, to say true things about Mother's Day and motherhood.

3. Make sure and thank your mom today.

If your mom's around and you have access to her, this day better be special for her. So kids, go do something crazy special for your mom. Clean your room, clean out the hamster cage; do something nice for mom. Kiss her, love her, hug her, try to make her a hot dog for dinner, just do something extraordinary for your mom because it's God's great plan an idea, and moms are awesome. Love your mom today.

Sin Distorts

We're going to see that sin distorts motherhood. Some of you moms hear all we've talked about and you think...*that's not how motherhood happened to me*. It's been painful; it's been hurtful. You have kids and you don't know about it being a blessing. Woo, some days, right? I mean let's be honest. See, motherhood was created for a garden—perfect, pleasure, joy, bliss, laughter, joy—it's all great, all kids obeying all the time. But we live in a desert, we live in a fallen world that's broken and distorted, so motherhood is going to be really hard, and complicated, and messy, and we're not going to get it right. That's what we need to see next. There is a sin that has taking place, the fall has just happened, and instead of trusting God and living under God's Word, Adam and Eve trusted themselves. They wanted to become creators instead of living as creation. They took the world in their hands and sin entered the world, and now it's broken and distorted and there are now complications. There are consequences from their sin and it comes by way of a curse from God. Genesis chapter 3, verse 16 says, "To the woman He [God] said, "I will surely multiply your pain in childbearing; in pain you shall bring forth children." So we have this curse that's laid on the woman and it touches the woman very specifically, it's in childbearing. The man gets cursed primarily in his work, but the woman gets cursed primarily in her childbearing. It is pretty obvious that giving birth is painful. If you've seen

a movie in any scene where a woman is having a baby, like, it's obvious that it's not pleasant.

We've got four kids and I've been in the room with all four, and it's not pleasant. Now, for the first three Katie had that glorious epidural. That was great; it was awesome! Now, when I say awesome...I don't mean an epidural is like a happy day at the beach. It's still painful and terrible and it hurts. There's a moment where it's tolerable, but there's a lot of other stuff that goes with it and after it, but it's painful. If you're a lady, I don't have to tell you that but I'm just explaining to all the guys in the room that it's painful. Now, with our fourth one, Katie said, "I think I want to do this natural. I want to feel what it's like without an epidural or anything." I'm said, "Okay, but I'm not sure it's a good idea." And let me tell you—the fourth one, if you ask Katie, she knows it is true—it is painful! There was one moment where I thought she was going to die. It hurts, the whole birth process, and that is a result of not giving birth in a garden anymore. We give birth in a desert; there's pain to bring forth new life into the world.

Now, I think don't this verse just extends to the delivery room; I think it extends all the way through raising children as well. Are any of you in the teen years right now? You're thinking...*I'll go back to the delivery; that was the easy days!* Do you know what's really hard for us right now? The mouth all the time; this is what's tough! I've grounded him so many times, it's just constant, the pain and the tears and the drama and the yelling that I'm at my wit's end! Some of you moms feel that. And some of you moms have toddlers right now, and there's all sort of pain with that, right? They call it the terrible twos for a reason. They're terrible in those moments and you're just like, "I love you so much, but I don't know that I can take much more!" It's hard, it's painful, it's tough. It's often more burden than blessing. What we need to see is from Scripture is there is a reason why that is true. It's because we're raising kids in the desert, not the garden. Do you know what makes it really hard with parenting? It's because kids sin, and when they sin, they sin a lot. They just have a reaction to just sin. Do you know what else is true? Moms also sin, and it makes parenting really hard. Now, we're going to get to you fathers on Father's Day, but this is to moms, but the reason parenting is so hard is kids sin and also you

sin. When you put two people sinning together, it just makes for a big mess. Just the process of trying to raise kids in the way of the Lord is hard, it is messy, and it's often painful.

So we see there's a mixture of both joy and sadness, of rejoicing and sorrow, of laughter and crying when it comes to motherhood. We have fertility, which is an amazing thing; women are able to get pregnant and grow a baby in nine months and give birth. That is a miracle. But also, we have infertility because we live on this side of the curse. Sin entered the world and it's not perfect anymore. It's broken, and we live in that brokenness. We have birth, which is such a blessing, but we have miscarriages, which are devastating. So many of you in here are mothers through adoption, and we love adoption, we champion it, we can't celebrate adoption enough, it is a beautiful thing—but we also have abortion. And so, we see this joy and this sorrow mingled together. We have kids who are both obedient and also rebellious. And so, for some of us we're feeling that, and we're almost crushed in just some of the surrounding things around us. So what does the Bible say to us? There was a good design, but sin has distorted and broken all of it. So yes, it is hard. Mothers, you mother under the curse, and because of the curse, the curse is going to take your mother from you one day. That's a really hard thing. That's why Mother's Day is a very human holiday. It's mixed with both joy and also deep sorrow. God designed motherhood but also sin distorts in motherhood.

Jesus Delivers

Praise be to God that Jesus delivers motherhood, that Jesus actually rescues motherhood, and that there is a gospel that speaks to all of you who are mothers. The gospel speaks loud and clear to you that Jesus died and rose again so that motherhood and all of its messiness and all of its sorrows can be redeemed and be resurrected in a new Kingdom. Let's see what Genesis 3:15 says. Now, this is right before the curse to the woman. It is a curse to the snake, to Satan, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." In this moment, God declares war towards Satan. Satan, in the form of the serpent, caused our first parents

to be tempted and sin. Well, he tempted them they sinned. Notice the language of motherhood, "offspring." He said "between *your* offspring," which means there's going to be a line after him who is going to align themselves with him. It's going to be the offspring after Satan, but there's also "her offspring," the offspring of the woman, those who are going to be faithful to the Lord. But then we zero in on one particular offspring—He shall bruise your head. So there is one offspring, there is one Son, and this one Son is going to bruise the serpent's head. Some translations say crush the serpent's head. This is what Jesus Christ did on the cross by way of His death and resurrection. He stomped on the head of the serpent. He killed both sin and death. Those things that make it really hard to parent, He has killed those, and He is now redeeming those.

Notice the storyline of the Bible, it's an unbroken story of mothers giving birth to babies, mothers giving birth to babies, mothers giving birth to sons over and over and over again, until one woman, who is a virgin, gives birth to the Son, whose name is Jesus. And then, notice something that's really cool—motherhood actually gives birth to the gospel. If you don't have moms, you don't have the gospel. If you don't have Mary, you don't get Jesus. So motherhood, you could say, gave birth to the gospel. And then, what's really cool is motherhood is now reborn by the gospel. Motherhood birthed the gospel and motherhood is reborn by the gospel. Mary had Jesus, and then Jesus came to save Mary. That's an amazing thing. Notice what it says in Galatians 4, "But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of woman..." There's a connection between motherhood and the gospel. God's own Son came through a womb, the womb of Mary. Motherhood is connected. The promise to Eve was found true in Mary who gives birth to Jesus. And then it says, "...born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, so that they might receive adoption as sons." Notice all the motherhood language. There's birth by a woman, and then this birth brings forth adoption, which by the way, is how we get into the family of God. We get into the family of God through adoption. That's why at Hardin we love adoption so much because there's a picture of the gospel. If you have adopted kids or if you're an adopted kid that is an amazing thing because that's the picture of the gospel, that's what God does to us. We are all adopted kids, and it was through a woman

giving birth to a Son named Jesus that we all get to be adopted sons into the Kingdom of God. So mothers gave birth to the gospel and then it was the gospel that is making mothers now reborn in this new Kingdom.

And notice what we see. Let's go back to Genesis 3:21, "And the LORD God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them." This is after the fall has happened and now there's this pronouncement of God is now making this mom and dad, Adam and Eve, garments of skin. Now why is that important? Well, if you remember the story, when Adam and Eve sinned, they covered themselves with fig leaves. They covered themselves up because they felt guilt and shame. How do we stand before each other and all of our sin? How do we stand before God and all of our sin? We have to cover it up, we have to lie, and we have to hide because we feel guilt and shame. Adam and Eve are trying to cover up, but their coverings didn't work so they tried to earn their way back to God by covering up all of their sin. By the way, that's called works righteousness; you get back to God by covering up your sin. But do you know what God did? God brought them something new; He brought them new clothing, He brought them garments of skin. Do you know how you get a garment of skin? Something has to die...so there is a death in the garden. There is a carcass that is bleeding so that Adam and Eve can have garments of skin. They are now standing before God no longer in guilt and shame; their sins have been covered by blood because something died in their place. That is the gospel. That's what Jesus is for us. We don't come to God in our works and in our own righteousness; we come to God in the righteousness of another.

We've been clothed by the blood of Christ. Now, what does it have to do with motherhood? Well, I think it connects because there are two ways to do motherhood. You can either mother in fig leaves or you can mother in garments of skin. What I mean by that? Well, mothering in fig leaves means you are mothering in good works and you think that your good works as a mother is going to make you accepted to yourself, to your mom, to God. Your mothering is all about making sure you're a really good mom and you're going to do it right. You're going to raise them right because how they grow up and the decisions they make is all rooted in

your very identity. Your very goodness, greatness, value, and dignity as a human being are wrapped up in how good you do as a mother. If your kids turn out well, you must be great. If they turn out not so well, you must be broken, you must be bad. So your whole identity is based on how your kids are doing. The weight of your motherhood, it is daunting, it is a burden. That's why you don't have joy around your kids because you're just constantly yelling because your identity is rooted in their identity, and it's just bringing you down. That's mothering for good works. I'm going to make sure they turn out right so everybody will think you are right. But there's a better way to do motherhood, and it's mothering in grace. It's mothering knowing that God has already put clothing around you; He has already wrapped you in the righteousness of Christ. And guess what moms? You are not a mom first; you are first a daughter. It's really important to remember that first and foremost, you are a daughter of God and God loves you. Not because of how good of a mom you are. You're not valuable based on how good of a mom you are; you are valuable because God made you and you bear His image and He loves you. You are His daughter. You don't have to earn His love; you already have it. Therefore, you don't have to mother in works, you can mother by grace knowing that how your kids turn out don't reflect your value and identity. It's not them that make you special or not special. You can just love them because you're already well loved in Christ. Your identity in Christ roots you and grounds you so that you can properly have a relationship with your kids, and it will be a lot more joyous because the pressure of the world is not on you. You can just be a daughter of God and love your kids, and try to raise them in the way of the Lord, but not have all the pressure of your identity rooted in your motherhood. That's mothering through grace.

Sarah: Trust

I want to show you just four words that come from four moms in Scripture, and hopefully you can take these four words into your motherhood. From Sarah, we get the word trust. Think about Sarah. She didn't trust the Lord; she got Hagar, she tried to have a kid out of God's plan, didn't work out good. She had promise but didn't trust those promises. Moms, don't be like Sarah instead trust God. There are a lot of things that culture would say

you have to trust God, you have to trust God's Word. You have to have to think, okay, I'm going to trust God with my kids. So we're going to trust God more than working hard.

Jochebed: Protect

Number two is from Jochebed, Moses's mom—we have to protect our kids. The commandment was kill all the sons, and Jochebed said um no, God doesn't want me to do that. So she defied her culture, she defied the edict, she defied the law and she protected her kids. Moms, we have to be the ones who protect our kids. When we know what's right and we know what God says, we have to protect them against the things that are coming for them.

Hannah: Give

Number three, we see Hannah, Samuel's mom. We have to give our kids to God. She couldn't have kids so she prayed to the Lord and said if you give me one, I'll give him right back to you. Then God blessed her and she had Samuel and gave him right back to God. Moms, we need to remember that our kids are not ours. First and foremost, our kids belong to God. Do you know what we need to do every morning? We need to give them back to Him... *God, I had these kids for a little bit of time, but they're actually yours. I'm reminding myself that they are yours and I'm giving them back to you.*

Eunice: Pass

Then we see Eunice, Timothy's mom. What we need to do is pass on the faith. Notice what it says in 2nd Timothy, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well." I love that Paul tells Timothy... *I applaud is your faith. You know where your faith come from, your grandma and your mom, they had faith and they passed it on. They poured their faith into you.*

So as we come to Mother's Day, what exactly are we celebrating? What are we doing? We have to remind ourselves what exactly it means to mother. We see God designed it; it's for His glory, but also for our good. We see

that sin distorted it, which makes it really hard, and some of you feel the weight of that right now, but praise God that Jesus delivered it, that Jesus saves us. He rescues you as moms so that you can mother now, not in fig leaves, you can mother in the blood of the gospel knowing that you are first and foremost daughters who get to mother kids. You're not just moms who's whole identity comes from that term, mom; no, it comes from you being a daughter of the King, and our pray is these lessons help you to mother well.