

# Lessons from Motherhood

## Selected Scriptures

Mother's Day 2025

### Intro

In honor of Mothers and Mother's Day, this morning we will take a break from our study of Titus and instead seek to learn and apply lessons from famous mothers of the Bible...

*We get started by reminding ourselves of what the Apostle Paul wrote in...*

### **Ephesians 6:1-3**

**1 Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right.**

**2 "Honor your father and mother," which is the first commandment with promise:**

**3 "that it may be well with you and you may live long on the earth."**

Here Paul quoted the fifth commandment — and the fact that this commandment carries with it *a **promise to the obedient*** is an often overlooked fact...

- And as we celebrate Mother's Day this morning it is my hope that we will lay hold of that promise...

I will seek to accomplish this goal by taking time to study *five mothers* found in the pages of the Old Testament...

And as we move through this study it is my hope that we will ***be reminded to honor our own mothers...***

- Prayerfully, we will be challenged to be thankful for the good things that our mothers have done for us...

So, as we consider Eve, Jochebed, Naomi, Hannah and one unnamed mother in our study this morning, it is my hope that we will ***all*** learn valuable lessons from their examples...

This study is not only for mothers — ***it is for all of us*** — each of us can apply these examples to our own lives in one way or another...

*Let's begin our study by turning to Genesis 3...*

## **1) Eve - The First Mother (Genesis 3 & 4)**

First of all, I'd like to take a moment to confess that I have often spoken poorly of Eve...***And we're related...***

I must admit that I've often given Eve a bad time for falling into sin by giving in to ***the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life*** — but how often have I given in to those very same sins?...

*With that said, let's take a few moments to look at Eve's story with fresh eyes...*

Let's rightly view Eve as humanity's *first mother* and at the same time humbly admit that we are every bit the sinner that she was...

*We begin in...*

### **Genesis 3:1-15**

**1** Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"

**2** And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden;

**3** but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.' "

**4** Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.

**5** For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."

**6** So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate.

**7** Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings.

Here we see the loss of the beautiful intimacy that Adam and Eve had shared before the fall...

- *Sin brought in shame and embarrassment and tainted the relationship of our first parents...*

**8 And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.**

The loss of intimacy that Adam and Eve experienced with each other extended to their relationship with the Lord...

***WARNING - Disobedience to the Lord inevitably breaks fellowship...***

- Sin always isolates us from the Lord and from each other...  
[expand]

*Moving on to vs...*

**9 Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"**

**10 So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself."**

**11 And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"**

**12 Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."**

**13 And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?"**

**The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."**

Here Adam and Eve choose to play the blame game...

- And this is never a good idea in any marriage...

[expand on humbly taking our fair share of the blame for wrong-doing in marriage...]

*Now the Lord begins to speak prophetically in vs...*

**14 So the Lord God said to the serpent:  
"Because you have done this,  
You are cursed more than all cattle,  
And more than every beast of the field;  
On your belly you shall go,  
And you shall eat dust  
All the days of your life.**

*In vs 15 we read something very interesting...*

**15 And I will put enmity  
Between you and the woman,  
And between your seed and her Seed;  
He shall bruise your head,  
And you shall bruise His heel."**

*Here we have the first prophecy of the Messiah...*

- And when we read the Gospels we see how this prophecy was fulfilled in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ...

*But as we skip forward to Genesis 4:1 we see that Eve understood the prophecy differently...*

**1 Now Adam knew Eve his wife, and she conceived and bore Cain, and said, "I have acquired a man from the Lord."**

It seems that Eve thought that the prophecy of **Genesis 3:15** was fulfilled in this child, Cain...

*Unfortunately, we know that the opposite was true...*

Cain was not a **redeemer** — he was a **murderer**...[expand]

*But here is the point that I want us to notice...*

***Eve believed that God would do what He said He would do in Genesis 3:15...***

- Though the prophecy was not fulfilled in her lifetime, Eve fully believed that God would bring it to pass...

***APPLICATION - It is vital that we all take God at His Word, despite the failures we have experienced in the past...  
[expand]***

As Christians we are to ***live expectantly*** — we are to believe that ***God will accomplish what He has promised...***[expand]

*Let's move now from Eve to the second Mother we will focus on...*

## **2) Jochebed - Moses' Mother (Exodus 2)**

*We will begin in...*

### **Exodus 2:1-10**

**1 And a man of the house of Levi went and took as wife a daughter of Levi.**

**2 So the woman conceived and bore a son. And when she saw that he was a beautiful child, she hid him three months.**

*Jochebed (we learn her name in Exodus 6:20) was forced to hide her baby because of what we read in...*

### **Exodus 1:22**

**So Pharaoh commanded all his people, saying, “Every son who is born you shall cast into the river, and every daughter you shall save alive.”**

Thankfully, Jochebed *rightly refused* to go along with the sinful decree of Pharaoh...

Instead of allowing her son to be killed, she hid him and risked **her life** so that she might save **his**...

***APPLICATION — Are we living sacrificial lives? — Are we looking out not only for our own interests but also for the interests of others?...[expand]***

*Continuing on in Exodus 2 vs...*

**3 But when she could no longer hide him, she took an ark of bulrushes for him, daubed it with asphalt and pitch, put the child in it, and laid it in the reeds by the river's bank.**

**4 And his sister stood afar off, to know what would be done to him.**

**5 Then the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe at the river. And her maidens walked along the riverside; and when she saw the ark among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it.**

**6 And when she opened it, she saw the child, and behold, the baby wept. So she had compassion on him, and said, "This is one of the Hebrews' children."**

What amazing faith Jochebed showed — she trusted the Lord to provide for her baby...

***APPLICATION FROM THE FAITH OF JOCHEBED — Be willing to entrust your children to the Lord —they are ultimately His anyway...[expand]***



*We are reminded of this truth in...*

### **Colossians 1:16**

**For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.**

*Continuing on in Exodus 2, we come to vs...*

**7 Then his sister said to Pharaoh's daughter, "Shall I go and call a nurse for you from the Hebrew women, that she may nurse the child for you?"**

**8 And Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Go." So the maiden went and called the child's mother.**

**9 Then Pharaoh's daughter said to her, "Take this child away and nurse him for me, and I will give you your wages." So the woman took the child and nursed him.**

**10 And the child grew, and she brought him to Pharaoh's daughter, and he became her son. So she called his name Moses, saying, "Because I drew him out of the water."**

What a beautiful example of the Lord's provision and His sense of humor!...[expand]

- Jochebed's sacrifice and faith were greatly rewarded...

*Likewise, mothers and all who live lives of sacrificial faith in Lord will be rewarded by Him....*

## Hebrews 6:10

**For God is not unjust to forget your work and labor of love which you have shown toward His name, in that you have ministered to the saints, and do minister.**

*Now we move from Exodus to the book of Ruth to focus on the third mother of our study...*

### **3) Naomi - The Mother-In-Law (Ruth)**

*A little background information...*

Naomi, her husband and her two sons moved to Moab because of a famine in Judah...

- Unfortunately, Naomi's husband and her two sons died in Moab leaving Naomi with two daughters-in-law...

Eventually, Naomi headed back to Judah with one of her daughters-in-law, Ruth...

*We pick up the story in...*

## **Ruth 1:19-21**

**19 Now the two of them (Naomi & Ruth) went until they came to Bethlehem. And it happened, when they had come to Bethlehem, that all the city was excited because of them; and the women said, "Is this Naomi?"**

20 But she said to them, "Do not call me Naomi; call me Mara, for the Almighty has dealt very bitterly with me.

21 I went out full, and the Lord has brought me home again empty. Why do you call me Naomi, since the Lord has testified against me, and the Almighty has afflicted me?"

The tragic circumstances that overtook Naomi had caused her to be ***defined by her bitterness***...[expand]

- Meanwhile, since there was no man to provide for the family, Ruth took the initiative to glean in the fields of Bethlehem during the barley harvest...

*We move forward to...*

### **Ruth 2:17-23**

17 So she gleaned in the field until evening, and beat out what she had gleaned, and it was about an ephah of barley.

18 Then she took it up and went into the city, and her mother-in-law saw what she had gleaned. So she brought out and gave to her what she had kept back after she had been satisfied.

19 And her mother-in-law said to her, "Where have you gleaned today? And where did you work? Blessed be the one who took notice of you."

So she told her mother-in-law with whom she had worked, and said, "The man's name with whom I worked today is Boaz."

20 Then Naomi said to her daughter-in-law, "Blessed be he of the Lord, who has not forsaken His kindness to the living and the dead!" And Naomi said to her, "This man is a relation of ours, one of our close relatives."

21 Ruth the Moabite said, "He also said to me, 'You shall stay close by my young men until they have finished all my harvest.' "

22 And Naomi said to Ruth her daughter-in-law, "It is good, my daughter, that you go out with his young women, and that people do not meet you in any other field."

23 So she stayed close by the young women of Boaz, to glean until the end of barley harvest and wheat harvest; and she dwelt with her mother-in-law.

- [explain situation]

*Continuing on in...*

### **Ruth 3:1**

1 Then Naomi her mother-in-law said to her, "My daughter, shall I not seek security for you, that it may be well with you?"

Naomi's perspective changed because *she chose to get her eyes off of her situation and onto Ruth's situation...*

***LESSON - Bitterness is a result of being consumed with self — and it is a danger for all of us because we live in a fallen world...[expand]***

But as soon as we get our eyes off of ourselves and begin to focus on helping others — we don't have time to be bitter!...  
[expand]

***APPLICATION — If we find ourselves in a place of bitterness then we need to get our eyes off of ourselves — as get busy serving others, our bitterness will begin to fade away...[expand]***

*With that said, let's look at one final passage from the book of Ruth...*

#### **Ruth 4:13-17**

**13 So Boaz took Ruth and she became his wife; and when he went in to her, the Lord gave her conception, and she bore a son.**

**14 Then the women said to Naomi, "Blessed be the Lord, who has not left you this day without a close relative; and may his name be famous in Israel!**

**15 And may he be to you a restorer of life and a nourisher of your old age; for your daughter-in-law, who loves you, who is better to you than seven sons, has borne him."**

**16 Then Naomi took the child and laid him on her bosom, and became a nurse to him.**

**17 Also the neighbor women gave him a name, saying, "There is a son born to Naomi." And they called his name Obed. He is the father of Jesse, the father of David.**

***What a beautiful picture of bitterness being transformed into fullness!...***

And all of this was made possible because Naomi got her eyes off of herself and on to her faithful daughter-in-law, Ruth...  
[expand]

*Next we move from Naomi to the fourth mother of our study...*

#### **4) Hannah - The Sacrificial Mother (1 Samuel)**

*Let's begin in...*

##### **1 Samuel 1:1-7**

**1 Now there was a certain man of Ramathaim Zophim, of the mountains of Ephraim, and his name was Elkanah the son of Jeroham, the son of Elihu, the son of Tohu, the son of Zuph, an Ephraimite.**

**2 And he had two wives: the name of one was Hannah, and the name of the other Peninnah. Peninnah had children, but Hannah had no children.**

**3 This man went up from his city yearly to worship and sacrifice to the Lord of hosts in Shiloh. Also the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, the priests of the Lord, were there.**

**4 And whenever the time came for Elkanah to make an offering, he would give portions to Peninnah his wife and to all her sons and daughters.**

**5 But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, although the Lord had closed her womb.**

**6 And her rival also provoked her severely, to make her miserable, because the Lord had closed her womb.**

**7 So it was, year by year, when she went up to the house of the Lord, that she provoked her; therefore she wept and did not eat.**

This is an exceedingly difficult circumstance that Hannah found herself in...

- But as heart-breaking as it was, the Lord was using this situation to get Hannah to the place where He wanted her to be...

***REMINDER - Difficult situations seem to be the Lord's tools of choice...[expand]***

**James 1:2-4 (NKJV)**

**2 My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials,**

**3 knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience.**

**4 But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing.**

*Now, Hannah does the right thing in the midst of difficulty — she takes her problem to the Lord...*

## **1 Samuel 1:10-11**

**10 And she was in bitterness of soul, and prayed to the Lord and wept in anguish.**

**11 Then she made a vow and said, "O Lord of hosts, if You will indeed look on the affliction of Your maidservant and remember me, and not forget Your maidservant, but will give Your maidservant a male child, then I will give him to the Lord all the days of his life, and no razor shall come upon his head."**

Amazingly, Hannah prays for the Lord to give her a son so that she might give him back to the Lord!...[expand]

***APPLICATION QUESTION - As parents are we willing to give our children over to the Lord?...***

- Do we acknowledge the fact that our children really belong to Him?...[expand]***

Now, when Hannah had finished praying she was at peace — she had given the whole situation over to the Lord...

***APPLICATION QUESTION - Are we holding on to situations that we need to give over to the Lord?...[expand]***

*Moving on to...*

## **1 Samuel 1:19-28**

**19 Then they rose early in the morning and worshiped before the Lord, and returned and came to their house at**



**Ramah. And Elkanah knew Hannah his wife, and the Lord remembered her.**

**20 So it came to pass in the process of time that Hannah conceived and bore a son, and called his name Samuel, saying, "Because I have asked for him from the Lord."**

**21 Now the man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the Lord the yearly sacrifice and his vow.**

**22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "Not until the child is weaned; then I will take him, that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever."**

**23 So Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him. Only let the Lord establish His word." Then the woman stayed and nursed her son until she had weaned him.**

**24 Now when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, with three bulls, one ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and brought him to the house of the Lord in Shiloh. And the child was young.**

**25 Then they slaughtered a bull, and brought the child to Eli.**

**26 And she said, "O my lord! As your soul lives, my lord, I am the woman who stood by you here, praying to the Lord.**

**27 For this child I prayed, and the Lord has granted me my petition which I asked of Him.**

**28 Therefore I also have lent him to the Lord; as long as he lives he shall be lent to the Lord." So they worshiped the Lord there.**

Hannah faithfully fulfills her promise to the Lord — despite the fact that it was an incredible sacrifice...

*Let's skip ahead to...*

## **1 Samuel 2:18-21**

**18 But Samuel ministered before the Lord, even as a child, wearing a linen ephod.**

**19 Moreover his mother used to make him a little robe, and bring it to him year by year when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.**

- [explain situation]

**20 And Eli would bless Elkanah and his wife, and say, "The Lord give you descendants from this woman for the loan that was given to the Lord." Then they would go to their own home.**

**21 And the Lord visited Hannah, so that she conceived and bore three sons and two daughters. Meanwhile the child Samuel grew before the Lord.**

***REMINDER - We can't out-give God! — Hannah gave to the Lord and the Lord gave back to Hannah five-fold!...***  
***[expand]***

*This reminds me of what the Lord Jesus said in...*

## **Luke 6:38**

**"Give, and it will be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure that you use, it will be measured back to you."**

*And the Apostle Paul put it this way in...*

## **2 Corinthians 9:6-8**

**6 But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.**

**7 So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.**

**8 And God is able to make all grace abound toward you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.**

***It seems clear that Hannah reaped bountifully because she sowed bountifully...[expand]***

*Now we move on to our final section...*

## **5) The Unstoppable Mother (2 Kings 4)**

I love this passage because it is the record of a mother who refused to take "no" for an answer...

*We pick up our story in...*

## **2 Kings 4:8-30**

**8** Now it happened one day that Elisha went to Shunem, where there was a notable woman, and she persuaded him to eat some food. So it was, as often as he passed by, he would turn in there to eat some food.

**9** And she said to her husband, "Look now, I know that this is a holy man of God, who passes by us regularly.

**10** Please, let us make a small upper room on the wall; and let us put a bed for him there, and a table and a chair and a lampstand; so it will be, whenever he comes to us, he can turn in there."

**11** And it happened one day that he came there, and he turned in to the upper room and lay down there.

**12** Then he said to Gehazi his servant, "Call this Shunammite woman." When he had called her, she stood before him.

**13** And he said to him, "Say now to her, 'Look, you have been concerned for us with all this care. What can I do for you? Do you want me to speak on your behalf to the king or to the commander of the army?' "

She answered, "I dwell among my own people."

**14** So he said, "What then is to be done for her?" And Gehazi answered, "Actually, she has no son, and her husband is old."

**15** So he said, "Call her." When he had called her, she stood in the doorway.

**16** Then he said, "About this time next year you shall embrace a son."

And she said, "No, my lord. Man of God, do not lie to your maidservant!"

**17 But the woman conceived, and bore a son when the appointed time had come, of which Elisha had told her.**

*This woman was blessed with becoming a mother...*

**18 And the child grew. Now it happened one day that he went out to his father, to the reapers.**

**19 And he said to his father, "My head, my head!"  
So he said to a servant, "Carry him to his mother."**

**20 When he had taken him and brought him to his mother, he sat on her knees till noon, and then died.**

*This was a terrible tragedy — but this mother refused to simply accept the situation...*

**21 And she went up and laid him on the bed of the man of God, shut the door upon him, and went out.**

**22 Then she called to her husband, and said, "Please send me one of the young men and one of the donkeys, that I may run to the man of God and come back."**

**23 So he said, "Why are you going to him today? It is neither the New Moon nor the Sabbath."  
And she said, "It is well."**

*This mom was completely focused on the mission at hand — she would not be deterred...*

**24 Then she saddled a donkey, and said to her servant, "Drive, and go forward; do not slacken the pace for me unless I tell you."**

**25 And so she departed, and went to the man of God at Mount Carmel.**

**So it was, when the man of God saw her afar off, that he said to his servant Gehazi, "Look, the Shunammite woman!"**

**26 Please run now to meet her, and say to her, 'Is it well with you? Is it well with your husband? Is it well with the child?' "**

**And she answered, "It is well."**

*No time for small talk...*

**27 Now when she came to the man of God at the hill, she caught him by the feet, but Gehazi came near to push her away. But the man of God said, "Let her alone; for her soul is in deep distress, and the Lord has hidden it from me, and has not told me."**

**28 So she said, "Did I ask a son of my lord? Did I not say, 'Do not deceive me'?"**

*This mother was overwhelmed by grief...*

**29 Then he said to Gehazi, "Get yourself ready, and take my staff in your hand, and be on your way. If you meet anyone, do not greet him; and if anyone greets you, do not answer him; but lay my staff on the face of the child."**

**30 And the mother of the child said, "As the Lord lives, and as your soul lives, I will not leave you." So he arose and followed her.**

This unstoppable mother wouldn't settle for Gehazi — she wanted the absolute best for her child...[expand]

- And to make a long story somewhat shorter, Elisha raised the child from the dead...

The woman's unstoppable faith was rewarded and her son was given back to her...

***APPLICATION - As parents, we should be unstoppable when it come to praying for our children — we should seek the Lord continually on their behalf...[expand]***

- ***This principle also applies to all believers as we seek the salvation of unbelievers — we should be unstoppable in our prayers for those who do not believe...[expand]***

## **Conclusion**

*Now, as we wrap-up our time together, I hope these true stories of five extraordinary mothers have inspired you...*

- It is my prayer that these scriptures have encouraged you — whether or not you are a mother...

*Because, as believers, we all have a vital role to play in God's eternal plan — this is made clear in...*

### **Ephesians 2:10 (NKJV)**

**For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.**