

Open: Bow and Arrow: The Bow is the mother the Arrow is the child, and the target is the Purpose of God for that child's life.

Psalm 127:3-4 3Behold, children are a gift of the LORD, the fruit of the womb is a reward. 4Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth.

God tells us to give honor to those whom it is due, God's Kingdom is one of honor.

Life Lesson: Mothering the next generation is not a task only given to those who can have their own physical children, but God calls the church to spiritually mother those who have no Godly example. ** Moms are needed now more than ever to heal the wounds of so many. Whether you are a young mom or an older "retired" mom there are spiritual sons and daughters who could use a mother in their life.

1. **The honor of the faithful mother Ephesians 6:1-3** **1** Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. **"Honor your father and mother"**—which is the first commandment with a promise— "so that it may go well with you and that you may enjoy long life on the earth." ** God is the one who commands the blessing from children to mothers. He does so to exalt the holy position of a mother so that the world will honor and respect it. God takes Parenting very seriously because He understands how the children of one generation determine the character of the next.
 - a. **LIFE LESSON: Godly children are a blessing from Mothers to the next generation of humanity.**
2. **We want to release value for the faithful mother: Being a mother is by far the most important and blessed task given to women in the bible.** **The bible speaks of parenting as being especially important and training your child as a holy responsibility. ** **Proverbs 31:27-29** 27She looks well to the ways of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. **28Her children rise up and bless her;** Her husband also, and he praises her, saying:29"Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all. **Today in some circle's motherhood is looked upon as an inferior calling in life or some trial to be endured and not celebrated. God wants you to know that Mothers are valuable now and forever.
 - a. Mothers are more **compassionate.**
 - b. Mothers are more **persevering.**
 - c. Mothers are great **multi-taskers.**
 - d. Mothers are great **teachers.**
 - e. Mothers are trained in **leadership.**
 - f. Mothers have great **ingenuity,** they are **creative!**

- g. Simply put motherhood, makes women great, and dare I say helps bring out the full potential of a woman's life.
 - h. If the only title you ever have in this life is mom, you have a great title worthy of Honor and Praise. Your children will rise and call you blessed, and God will be pleased with the work you have done in raising your children.
3. **We want to give encouragement for the discouraged mother.**** Remember that God gives grace to the humble and He is near to the broken hearted. When we struggle with our kids remember that those kids also belong to God. Do not be prayerless during your struggles with your children, give a cry to your trial to the Lord and He will hear you.
- a. Do not give up hope for your children if they are wayward. Keep pressing Heaven for their redemption.
 - b. Do not stop speaking words of life to your children. They need to hear your **VOICE** now more than ever.
 - c. Do not let the enemy condemn you when your child misbehaves or forgets the good teaching you showed them. Every human is responsible for their own soul. And great parents can have bad children.
 - d. Seek the Lord for Patience to wait for God's plan to happen.
 - e. Ask God for hope to continue fighting the good fight of faith for your children.
 - f. Pray for Favor and Wisdom to lead your children even if it is leading from a distance.
 - g. Quote Evangelist Billy Sunday: I do not believe there are devils enough in hell to pull a boy out of the arms of a godly mother. ~ Billy Sunday
4. **We want to give Encouragement for the Single Mother: If you are a single mother, I want you to know you are my hero! I do not know how you do it. You are a walking miracle every day. You are living proof that there must be a God and that He is able to help as He co-labors with you to raise your children. Single moms are worthy of ample respect, and we want to encourage our single mothers that Pendleton First is proud of you and we are here to encourage and support you in your journey.**
5. **God will pour on compassion to those who have said goodbye to their mothers and miss them on Mother's Day.**
- a. For those who have said goodbye to your Mother's I want to encourage you to remember the good things they poured into you today.
 - b. Take a moment and thank God for their legacy that is found in your life.
 - c. If your mother served Christ faithfully, know that she is radiant and beautiful and is waiting for you to see her again.

d. We are called to encourage each other today that those wonderful mothers in Christ who have gone on into heaven are not dead but very much alive and anticipating our arrival.

The devotion of the faithful mother: Being a great mother is one of the hardest tasks on the earth, to raise children with wisdom, Love and grace is a task that calls upon the best of every woman who undertakes it.

6. **A faithful mother must . . .**

- a. **Wake up early to get ready to live and prepare for her children.**
- b. **Study to help her children with their school.**
- c. **Keep their husbands engaged with the kids.**
- d. **Juggle a multitude of responsibilities, schedules, headaches, and heartaches while keeping a good attitude because as we all know, our kids are watching.**
- e. **Find time to seek the Lord to receive strength and wisdom to lead successfully.**
- f. **Forgive and move on past previous mistakes by herself, her kids, and others.**

7. **Stories and testimonies of the impact of the imperfect but Godly mother Genesis 18:11-15**

A. SARAH Mother of Isaac This is the mom who gives hope to everyone who waited a little late to get started on the Mommy Track. Not that she did not try; her womb was just on a different biological clock. God made a promise to Abraham that he would be the father of many nations. This led Sarah to the logical conclusion that she would be the mother of many nations. When that was not happening in a timely manner, Sarah decided to do her own "thang," so to speak. She gave her handmaiden Hagar as her maternal stunt double. This resulted in *a* child but not *the* child . When the messenger of the Lord told Abraham that it really would be Sarah that was going to deliver the promised baby, Sarah overheard, laughed, and promptly got in trouble for it. But if you were her age you would laugh, too, just at the promise. No doubt she was thinking about how breast-feeding would be easy now that she could just lay Isaac on her lap to do it. Sarah is a sister who could laugh at her late start with motherhood knowing that good things come to those who wait. There are no lost moments in God, His timepiece is not broken for your life. There is still time!

REBEKAH Mother of Jacob and Esau Genesis 27:1-46

B. For every mom who has ever had the temptation to play favorites with her children, pay attention to Rebekah. She did not just play favorites, she schemed and connived and was an accessory to one of the biggest Daddy Dupes in all of history. It says it plain in Scripture that Isaac loved Esau because he was an

outdoorsman, but Rebekah loved Jacob. This kind of favoritism does not bode well for a family. When the lines are drawn and it is obvious who is thick with whom, life can get very messy. Rebekah was in collusion with Jacob (even his name meant “trickster”) to take the birthright from his older brother. I am sure she rationalized that it was not such a terrible thing since the twin boys were only separated by moments, but her hand in helping Jacob trick his father was her way of encouraging her vision of her plan for her sons to take place over the normal order of things. God allowed Rebekah to pick Jacob because of a profound mystery relating to Christ but as it turns out that this family rift initiated by Rebekah lasted for a long time. Rebekah reminds us that it is a dangerous thing to use maternal power for manipulation.

BATHSHEBA Mother of Solomon 2nd Samuel 11

- C. Bathsheba was well-named as it was her “bath-ing” that attracted the attention of King David. Their illicit affair resulted in the birth of a son. David tried for some damage control by sending her husband out to war, back to the house hoping for a copulating cover-up, and then out to the frontlines to get killed. (And we think we have seriously evil plots in *our* current movies.) David got his wish — Bathsheba’s husband was killed in battle, and David thought he had gotten away with it. The Prophet Nathan confronted him, and David repented bitterly and wholeheartedly. But we never really hear how it all affected Bathsheba. Their sin is well documented and the effects on David’s household long-lasting. However, a son was born from their union and Solomon turned out to be a peaceable ruler whose wisdom was legendary. Bathsheba’s motherhood gives women hope that, regardless of the circumstances surrounding your pregnancy and the birth of your child, God can redeem any situation. You never know, you might just have the wisest person ever on the planet staring back at you from that highchair.

Conclusion: Being a mother is hard and rewarding work. The lessons a mother teaches and learns through raising her children are certainly remembered and passed on for generations to come. Never forget that you do not have to be perfect to be a good mother that makes a serious impact for God’s glory. Mothers, your greatest work in this life will be in raising your children to serve and honor the Lord. Never let anyone ever diminish your value to the world we live in, because without your faithful contributions this world would fall apart.