



Sermon Title: The Value of a Mother

Date: 5/10/2026

**Big Idea: God uses a mother's influence to shape a life in lasting ways.**

A mother's influence is one of the most powerful forces in a person's life - and it's woven all the way through the Bible. **Deuteronomy 6:6-7** gives a picture of what intentional investment looks like – teach God's commands to your children, talk about them at home, on the road, at bedtime, in the morning. That kind of influence doesn't happen in a single moment. It happens day after day, season after season. Today, we look at three mothers in Scripture, three different seasons, and one thing they all have in common: faithful, consistent, costly investment in the people God put in their lives.

### **The Influence That Forms in the Early Years**

In **Exodus 2:1-9**, Jochebed gives birth to Moses while the Israelites are enslaved and Pharaoh has ordered every Hebrew baby boy killed. She hides him for three months, and when she can no longer conceal him, she places him in a basket on the Nile - not abandonment, but the best option she had to give him a chance at life. She did what she could and trusted God with what she couldn't control. Through a remarkable series of events, Moses is found by Pharaoh's daughter, and Jochebed is brought back and paid to raise her own son. She uses every one of those years to pour faith, identity, and courage into him before handing him to the palace permanently.

After Exodus 2, she never appears in Scripture again - no speaking part, no mention at the Red Sea or on Sinai. But what she invested in those early, invisible years was the foundation everything else was built on. The work that matters most often happens when nobody is watching - in the patience nobody sees, in the prayers only God hears. Jochebed likely never saw Moses become who he became. But she shaped him anyway.

### **The Influence That Gets Passed On**

Three hundred years later, Naomi has lost her husband and both sons and decides to return to her homeland of Bethlehem. She releases her daughters-

in-law in **Ruth 1:8** - Go back, each of you, to your mother's home. May the Lord show you kindness. One of them leaves. But Ruth refuses, and says in **Ruth 1:16** - Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God. Ruth was a Moabite. She did not grow up worshiping the God of Israel. Whatever she knew about God, she learned from Naomi. Naomi was not her biological mother, but her influence was real enough that Ruth would not walk away even when told to go. What matters here is that Naomi is not at her best in this moment - she tells the people of Bethlehem to call her Mara, meaning bitter, because of all she has lost. And yet the imprint she left in Ruth's life was strong enough to outlast her worst season. A mother's influence doesn't require perfection. It requires consistency. God used Naomi's influence to draw Ruth into a story that leads all the way to David and ultimately to Jesus.

### **The Influence That Outlasts You**

In **2 Timothy 1:3-5**, Paul is writing to Timothy - a young pastor under real pressure, leading a struggling church in a hostile culture. He begins his encouragement by pointing back to two women: **I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.** Lois and Eunice are mentioned by name only once in all of Scripture - but Paul credits them directly with the faith of one of the most important leaders in the early church.

The courage Timothy had to stand firm under pressure, Paul links back to two women who were faithful when nobody was watching. That's the reach of a mother's influence. You may not see it for years. You may plant things that don't become visible until your kids are grown. Faith can't be inherited like property, but it can be demonstrated - and there's no better place to demonstrate it than in a family.

The most important question for anyone investing in the next generation isn't only what am I teaching, but what am I living. Because that's what gets seen, and that's what gets transferred. **Proverbs 22:6** - train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it. God uses a mother's influence to shape a life in lasting ways.

## **Discussion Questions:**

- 1. Jochebed's influence on Moses happened almost entirely out of sight - no recorded words, no public moments. How does that challenge or encourage the way you think about your own everyday investment in others?**
- 2. Naomi pointed Ruth toward God even during the lowest season of her own life. Have you ever been influenced by someone who was going through a hard time themselves? What did that teach you about what real faith looks like?**
- 3. Ruth chose to stay with Naomi even when Naomi released her. Is there someone in your life whose influence has held you even during a difficult season? How have you honored that?**
- 4. Paul said Timothy's faith "first lived" in his grandmother and mother before it lived in him. What does it mean to you that genuine faith has to be real in someone before it can be passed on?**
- 5. The sermon says the most important question isn't just "what am I teaching" but "what am I living." What is one area of your life where you want what you're living to more closely reflect what you believe?**