

**Weekly Study of Sunday's Message.**  
**Sunday May 12, 2019. "Mother's Day".**

**A. Intro.**

Welcome to the weekly devotional that gives you some specific things to work thru from the message this past Sunday. Whether you were able to attend the worship service or not, this devotional is free-standing and you can still use it to help you dig deeper in your own spiritual walk. Take as long as you need to dive into this material and feel free to share it.

**B. Sunday.**

Sunday was Mother's Day...we hope you remembered. And we did a stand alone service remembering mothers, but we wanted to have a broader, more inclusive understanding of what it meant to have influence and impact as a woman.

For some people, Mother's Day is a wonderful time. You have a supportive loving mother who gave richly and sacrificially out of herself. And you may have kids of your own, so this day is loaded with all sorts of great 'feels' and memories.

However for others, Mother's Day is complicated...a cauldron of emotions. Maybe your childhood was more difficult than it should have been, and you didn't have a mother figure present in your life. You did have a great childhood, but your mother is gone now, and this day does bring back sweet memories, but you may still be grieving the loss. And then there are those who for whatever reason are not mothers. Whether you wanted to have children and it never happened, you lost a child, or honestly have chosen a life without children and you feel the pressure and expectations of others to have children. For whatever reason Mother's Day is really really tough for you.

We simply want to be sensitive to wherever you are on this day, and say we know this day does bring a whole set of complicated emotions and feelings. And that's why we had the service we did.

**C. Scripture.**

The scripture Sunday was a story that has been made into many movies, including an animated Disney movie, so it's very familiar and we know it pretty well. Again, read it, do a little interacting with it, and then we'll dive into a larger conversation of it.

It's found in **Exodus 2:1-10**.

As usual.

**What jumped out to you about this passage?**

**Was there anything in the account you may have not noticed before or forgotten?**

**Put yourself in the place of the characters. What must it have been like for them to do what they did?**

We had a very special 'message time' Sunday morning. We held a panel discussion about what it's like to leverage your skills and experiences as a woman and have impact and influence. The ladies

on the platform were; Darlene Shaw, (worship leader), Tami Weissert, (Associate Minister), and Nell Jenkins, (school teacher and NCC elder). Each of these women represented a different demographic of women in our culture, and gave us such incredible insight to not only this passage, but their experiences and journey in being an influential leader in our world.

And these ladies had some incredible insight and personal experiences, that we can draw some practical useful truths out of.

### **1. Releasing our kids to the care of others.**

If you're an older parent you realize that some point along the journey of raising children they stopped listening to you, (which is what many of us did with our own parents). And you needed someone to step into your kids lives and say the things you're saying. This can be; teachers, coaches, an older relative, someone at their church, or even a neighbor.

**Reflect on people who either influenced your kids, or who had a huge influence on you?  
What was it about them, what were they like, that gave them that special place?**

### **2. Praying for positive role models to enter our kids lives.**

Unfortunately for most of us, prayer is our last resort. We struggle, battle, try to work different plans, and when all of our efforts fail THEN we stop and pray. When we are in a season with our kids when it's just really tough, (and for those of you who are parents of adult children you know this NEVER ends), prayer needs to be that first place of refuge and wisdom in helping guide your kids. And sometimes this prayer takes the form of; *"Lord just bring some people in their life that they'll listen to"*.

**In general what it is that often keeps us from prayer just being a natural way of life?**

### **3. To be a positive influence and role model in the life of others.**

If our kids are entirely on their own, or we don't have any children, then we can be that 'force of good', positive influence, in the lives of others. One, kids are often looking for someone older that can help guide them, and non-judgmentally accept them. We can fill that important role. But even more, older parents will tell you; *"You love and guide my kid, and you will be my best friend"*. Parents ALWAYS appreciate people who pour into their kids.

**What can we do to be an influence and positive force in the lives of the next generation?  
How can we love and impact other kids in a way without making them be like us?**

### **D. Challenge.**

Understanding all that comes with Mother's Day, we wanted to create the most welcoming and accommodating service we could. Still recognize what day it is, AND give you some useful and helpful tools in your everyday ordinary life.

We are so thankful for all the women who gave of themselves so sacrificially for us, and we want to be able to be that same force for good in our world around us.

**Go...and make the world a better place!!**