

CHARACTERISTICS OF A GODLY MOTHER

May 9, 2021 — Mother's Day

Next Steps Devotional Guide

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1. Think back over your life. What were some of the most meaningful moments with your mother? What impact did this have on your life?
2. If humor is one of the best medicines, would you say that your mother was able to laugh at herself and had a great sense of humor? If your mother was not a part of your life (i.e., through divorce, death or abandonment), did you have someone who filled that role for you? If so, was humor part of their way of impacting your life? If you are a parent, is humor a part of your parenting? Explain.
2. Read Genesis 17:15-17 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" This passage focuses on Abraham laughing in disbelief at God telling him that when he would be 100 and his wife Sarah would be 90, they would have son. Now read Hebrews 11:8-10 from your Bible. How do you reconcile this to what Hebrews 11:8-10 says about Abraham?
3. Read Genesis 18:9-14 from your sermon notes under point #1 under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" This passage focuses on Sarah laughing also at the news from God that she would have a baby at the age of 90.
 - a. Obviously men and women look at having a baby differently. How do you think her laughing at this news differed from her husband, Abraham?
 - b. Do you laugh at yourself? At the mistakes and silly thing you do? Do you take yourself way too seriously?
4. Read Genesis 18:11-12 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*"
 - a. What is something you have prayed to God for years and years and you have grown disappointed that the prayer has not been answered? Are you still feeling hopelessness today? If so, what would it take for you to move from hopelessness to hope?
 - b. Read Genesis 18:14, Luke 1:24, 27; and Mark 10:27 from your sermon notes under point #2 under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" How does the devil, doubts, and disappointments influence you to disbelieve these passages?
5. Sometimes knowing your family's past, heritage and legacy can be daunting.
 - a. Every individual and family has things in their past (i.e. sins, mistakes, failures, crimes, addictions and etc.) they hide from others. Read Genesis 19:31-38 from your sermon notes under doing #3-a under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" One of things this passage shows is that many times desperate people do desperate things. Have you and if so, what? What were both the short and long-term consequences for you and your family?
 - b. How are you allowing these hidden secrets from your past or your family's past keep you from being the parent your children need? If you are not a parent, how is your past or your family's past keeping you from becoming the person God wants?
 - c. Read Ruth 1:11-14 and Deuteronomy 23:4 from your sermon notes under point #3-b under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" Going against the grain is hard today. What is it you "hold on to" that keeps you holy, helps you to honor God and keeps you godly? Do you courageously persist to do the godly thing no matter what?
 - d. Read Ruth 1:15-18 from your sermon notes under point point #3-c under the sub-heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*"
 - i. If the maternal side of your family is not godly, is not holy, does not honor God — then do the right thing. Find a godly and holy older woman to be a surrogate mother to you. Or find a surrogate older Christian "sister" who is godly and holy. Who can be that example and encouragement to you to help you always do the right thing? When do you plan to reach out to them?
 - ii. Sometimes, doing the godly thing means standing up to your own family and/or friends. Have you ever had to do this? If so, why and what happened?
 - iii. It takes courage to do what is godly today in our pagan culture because it is doing everything it can to get you to compromise, to go along, to be less than God intends for you to be. How do these outside forces plague you and how do you deal with them?

- iv. Matthew 1 lists 5 women in the genealogy of Jesus: Tamar (whose husband Onan refused to give her children. So, she tricked her father-in-law and she had children through him. Talk about a family skeleton in Jesus' ancestry. Then there was Rahab: a prostitute in Jericho, who was the mother to Boaz, an ancestor to David.. Then there is Ruth in our text today — a Moabite woman the Old Testament forbid the Jews from associating with them. Then there is Bathsheba: the woman King David had an affair with and had her husband, his best friend and personal bodyguard, killed. Talk about a skeleton in Jesus' ancestry. Then there is the Mary, the unmarried mother of Jesus who God made pregnant as a a virgin before Joseph ever married her. Five women — five mothers — who God took in spite of their circumstances to give us the Messiah, the Savior of the world, Jesus Christ. What does say to you as a mother or an individual as to what God can do with you in spite of your past or your family's past?
 - v. In a nationwide survey, mothers gave 10 reasons why do not always do what they know their children need them to do. If you are a parent (if you are not a parent, reflect on your own parent's parenting), look at this list: (1) Are tired from a long, hard, frustrating week and don't need the extra stress of arguing with their child. (2) They don't want to fight with their spouse or ex-spouse undermines their attempts at authority. (3) They don't want to be seen as mean, unfair, cruel or oppressive. (4) Are afraid of their children's threats to leave or rebel or disobey. (5) Feel helpless in the face of "other moms and parents are more lenient and allow their kids more freedom to make their own choices. (6) Lack the confidence about their rules and consequences being fair and reasonable. (7) Are moved by love and don't want to see their child upset. (8) Are too self-absorbed (new lovers, new work, new hobbies) to devote the necessary time. (9) Buy the professional psycho-babblers nonsense that discipline is psychologically harmful. (10) 87% of mothers surveyed say they want their child to be their friend and 75% said having their child's approval was "very important" to them.¹ Which of these affect you as a parent and what could you do. If you are not a parent, which of this affected your parents and how did that affect you?
 - vi. Read Proverbs 29:15 from your sermon notes under point #3 under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" What does this tell you as about parenting your own children? If you are not a parent, would you say your parents model this passage? Whatever you answer is, how did it impact you?
6. Read 1 Samuel 1:10-11 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" The Hebrew verb tense here suggests that Hannah prayed daily to God for a son. What do you pray to God for the most?
7. Read 1 Samuel 1:16 from your sermon notes under point #4 under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" Now read the explanation for the Hebrew word translated as 'wicked.' Have you ever felt this way? Why?
- a. Now read the explanation for the Hebrew words translated as "*struggling passion and agony.*" **Question:** How often do you pray for your children if you are a parent? When pray for your children, is it with passion? Is it with an agony that they will honor God with their lives and for you to be the godly parent you need to be to them no matter the cost? If you are not a parent, whose children could you pray for daily like this?
 - b. **Question:** Do you pray faithfully for your children with such intensity that no matter how our culture, the media, educators, or others try to make you feel you are a bad and worthless? What can you do to prevail against these outside forces?
 - c. **Question:** Have you promised God that the children He has given to you, you will give them back to Him for Him to use them as He sees best? Why or why not? Are you willing to accept and support whatever God's purpose is for your children?
 - d. Read 1 Samuel 1:20 from point #4 under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" Samuel goes on to become one of the greatest prophets of God. He anoints Saul and eventually David to be king over Israel. Children are very observant. They know when their parents are praying for them. Are your children aware that you are praying for them? How do they know this?
 - e. Pastor Kelly shared about the impact and influence the mother of Moses, the mother of John and Charles Wesley, the mother of George Washington, and the mother of Billy Graham had on all of them. They went on to be literally "world and history changers." At the time, none of these mothers could ever imagine the impact their prayers would have on their children that would result in the people they became. How should you start praying for God to do the same thing through your own children?
 - f. Read James 5:16 from your sermon notes under under point #4 under the heading, "*Characteristics of A Godly Mother.*" The word translated as "earnest" is the Greek word [ἐνεργέω; *energeō*]. It is where we get our English words "energy, energize." Read James 4:3; Ps. 66:18; Prov. 15:8; 28:9). James says that the prayers of a righteous and godly person can has much energy because the prayers are strong. Weak prayers come from weak people; strong prayers come from strong people. The energetic prayers of a righteous person are a powerful and energizing force in calling down the power of God for restoring weak, struggling children and believers to spiritual health. How could your prayers do that?

¹Dr. Laura Schlessinger, Parenthood By Proxy, p. 157.