

## Grateful for our Mothers

We tend to hold mothers in high esteem, even though we must admit that they are human and struggle at times like the rest of us!

Mothers in the Bible represent a diverse range of experiences, from faithful matriarchs and nurturing figures to imperfect and flawed humans in need of redemption.

Key mothers in the Bible include:

- Mary, the human mother of Jesus. She was obedient to God and cooperative with the Spirit and contemplated with a sense of treasuring what the calling of God meant to her and the world.
- Hannah prayed desperately for a child. After just a few years with her son Samuel, she took him to the Temple and dedicated him to the Lord. Samuel later became a pivotal figure in Israel's history.
- Sarah, wife of Abraham, laughed at the Angel's promise that she would have a child in her older age. Miraculously, she became the mother of Isaac.
- Elizabeth had a child in her older age. Her son became John the Baptist.
- Eve is known as the mother of us all! She also, reportedly played a key role in our being introduced to the dark side of things (evil).
- Jochebed, Moses' mother, showed great courage in hiding her baby from Pharaoh.
- Ruth, loyal to her mother-in-law Naomi, married Boaz and became the mother of Obed and the grandmother of King David.
- Bathsheba, showed great resilience moving from an adulterous affair with King David to mothering Solomon and guiding him toward wisdom and strength as he ascended the throne of his father.

Biblical mothers for the most part, were nourishing, caring, and nurturing of their children, sometimes under extreme and difficult circumstances.

Proverbs 31:28 depicts an ideal woman and mother: "Her children rise up and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her."

This weekend, we recognize and honor Mothers. And we think of women who have helped to mentor and form us--women like Lois and Eunice who were mentored by Paul and set a foundation of faith for Timothy.

I'm grateful for my mother, Magdalena! She is strong, courageous, enduring, compassionate, and faithful. She is also very human and tells funny stories, experiments in the kitchen by modifying or ignoring recipes, sings unusual songs, looks out for the wellbeing of her friends in the assisted living where she resides. Mom lived in remote areas of Africa where she and my Dad served lovingly and with the warmth and welcome of Christ. There might not always be hot water, or a functioning fridge. Resources were scarce, but she lived each day on purpose and raised us children to love God and to live life with gusto! Thanks Mom!

If you are caring for, influencing, nurturing and teaching children about God and life we give you our gratitude and respect! For all the loving kindness and encouragement you give to those who are in the difficult "growing up years" we give you thanks. If you are a grandparent who is in ways more like a parent, we recognize and honor you.

May God bless our children and the generations that follow them, and may God bless our Mothers and all those who helped us to become who God created us to be.

I'm thankful for each one of you!

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