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Mothers Day

- opportunity to reflect and give honor
- chance to give praise
- day of refocus
- scriptural principle – honor, encourage, renew
- shouldn't be a once a year event
- difficult for some
 - example was not set
 - lost Mom this past year

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Motherhood – role designed by God

- created with a purpose
- given a high honor and privilege
- Gen clear – two become one – be fruitful & multiply

Psalms 127-128

“Unless the LORD builds the house, its builders labor in vain. Unless the LORD watches over the city, the watchmen stand guard in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat — for he grants sleep to those he loves. Sons are a heritage from the LORD, children a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are sons born in one's youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their enemies in the gate.

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Blessed are all who fear the LORD, who walk in his ways. You will eat the fruit of your labor; blessings and prosperity will be yours. Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your sons will be like olive shoots around your table. Thus is the man blessed who fears the LORD. May the LORD bless you from Zion all the days of your life; may you see the prosperity of Jerusalem, and may you live to see your children's children. Peace be upon Israel.”

Proverbs 1:7-9 “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline. Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck.”

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Preparing for the Role

1. Fear the Lord

- begins in your heart and life
- Proverbs 1:7 *“The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.”*
- determine to know God, love God, learn his word, and be conformed to His image
- cannot pass on what you don't have

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2. Choose a righteous Husband

- Proverbs 14:26-27 *“He who fears the LORD has a secure fortress, and for his children it will be a refuge. The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life, turning a man from the snares of death.”*

- Proverbs 20:7 *“The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him.”*

- huge importance – choice of a partner

- hearts to fear God and do things His way – of supreme importance for the home and legacy of children!

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3. Build the Home – Proverbs 31

“A wife of noble character who can find? She is worth far more than rubies. Her husband has full confidence in her and lacks nothing of value. She brings him good, not harm, all the days of her life. She selects wool and flax and works with eager hands. She is like the merchant ships, bringing her food from afar. She gets up while it is still dark; she provides food for her family and portions for her servant girls. She considers a field and buys it; out of her earnings she plants a vineyard. She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks. She sees that her trading is profitable, and her lamp does not go out at night. In her hand she holds the distaff and grasps the spindle with her fingers. She opens her arms to the poor and extends her hands to the needy. When it snows, she has no fear for her household; for all of them are clothed in scarlet. She makes coverings for her bed; she is clothed in fine linen and purple. “

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“Her husband is respected at the city gate, where he takes his seat among the elders of the land. She makes linen garments and sells them, and supplies the merchants with sashes. She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come. She speaks with wisdom, and faithful instruction is on her tongue. She watches over the affairs of her household and does not eat the bread of idleness. Her children arise and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praises her: “Many women do noble things, but you surpass them all.” Charm is deceptive, and beauty is fleeting; but a woman who fears the LORD is to be praised. Give her the reward she has earned, and let her works bring her praise at the city gate.”

- Proverbs 14:1 *“The wise woman builds her house, but with her own hands the foolish one tears hers down.”*

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God's Call For Mothers

1. Transform the Hearts

- all are born in sin – hearts in need of Jesus
- job bigger than physical care, conditions for health
- called to bring children up in the knowledge of God

a) Modeling What It Looks Like

- Proverbs 22:6 *“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”*

-what you truly believe and value will be modeled in your words and actions

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b) Intentional Teaching

- bible talks about Mothers instruction
- given the privilege of passing on truth – must be intentional and progressive in this task
- must know God’s word if you desire to teach it
- your story matters – share it

c) Encouraging

- praise, words of blessing, positive speech
- warning – *“A foolish son is his father's ruin, and a quarrelsome wife is like a constant dripping.”*

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d) Willing to Discipline

- curbing selfishness, disrespect, foolish behavior
- cannot be about being popular – healthy before happy

-Proverbs 11 – *“The LORD detests men of perverse heart but he delights in those whose ways are blameless. Be sure of this: The wicked will not go unpunished, but those who are righteous will go free.”*

- The Lord disciplines those He loves
- Spare the rod – spoil the child

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2. Celebrate The Blessing

- motherhood is meant to bring great blessing and honor
- God calls children to Honor Moms
- God tells us there will be great joy in this role

a) Mark the Moments

- pictures, special gifts, demonstrations of love
- keep close for difficult days when you need to be reminded

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b) Receive the Praise

- don't live in the past or regrets
- relish the honor bestowed, celebrate what God has done and is doing
- Proverbs 31:28-31 – right to receive praise
- accept and offer forgiveness

c) Rejoice in the Legacy

- Proverbs 17:6 *“Children's children are a crown to the aged, and parents are the pride of their children.”*

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So What

1. Embrace the Role That is Given By God
2. Prepare for God's Design By:
 - fearing God, choosing carefully, developing the gifts to build the home
3. Remember God's Call:
 - heart transformation through modeling, instructing, encouraging and loving discipline
4. Celebrate the Blessings