

WORD

Whether you are a man or a woman, we each are called to have some motherly roles in the lives of those around us. The Bible, in numerous places, attributes to God characteristics we think of as belonging to a mother. Jesus lamented over Jerusalem that he wished to gather the children as a mother hen gathers her chicks. (Matthew 23:37) In Isaiah chapter 66 God says, "As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you."

The act of mothering is hard work, therefore we are all to share in carrying it out. It is not just up to mothers. To successfully "mother" those around us it takes all of us playing our part.

Mothers not only need our help but also our encouragement, for a mother's work is never done. Therefore, we need to encourage them, not only on Mother's day, but every day. Remind them that the great Mother Teresa also said, "The success of love is in the loving -- it is not in the result of loving."

APPLICATION

1. I am sure that you already told your mother what she means to you on Mother's Day. However don't limit it to just that day or to just your natural mother. Tell you mother, and those who have been a mother to you, just how much they mean to you on a regular basis.
2. Look at real ways that you can better live out those great qualities of a mother to the people around you and do it.

Prayer: God, thank you for making both men and women. Thank you for making mothers who pour so much into our lives. Lord bless them. Fill them up with the rewards of heaven for showing you loving nature to us all. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen

Freedom Groups were created with the belief that we are all on a journey through life and that our heart's desire is to be free to be all that we can be. We all want to find effective ways of living and be successful. Trying to find these effective ways to overcome the challenges we face by ourselves just does not work well. We are all the same, no one is different. We need others to help us successfully walk our journey to effective living. Everyone is invited to freedom groups so we can journey together. Join in!



Motherhood

NOTES

WARM-UP

Who is the greatest woman or mother that you know of?

Why would you say this woman is so great?

Do you know a lot of women like her?

Agnes Gonxha Bojaxhiu was a normal little girl who's father died when she was 8 years old. She was raised by her single, devout, hard working mother. Agnes grew up deeply involved in the life of her local church. At age 18 she went to a convent in Dublin, Ireland. As a nun she was given the name Teresa after another saint in the Catholic Church. Of course today we know her as Mother Teresa.

It is interesting that she is known as Mother Teresa even though she had no children of her own. Isn't having children what makes a woman a mother? The answer to this of course is no. Having a child makes you are parent, but being a mother is about a whole lot more than giving birth.

Mother Teresa was sent by her order of nuns to India where she received what she referred to as "a call within a call." To answer that call she started the ministry Missionaries of Charity to minister to the poorest of the poor. Her ministry grew from Calcutta, throughout India and around the world. In 1979 Mother Teresa was awarded the Nobel Price for Peace. In 1985, in the midst of the AIDS epidemic and fear, she open her first house for AIDS patients. Whoever they were, from the poorest to the most outcast, Mother Teresa and her organization sought them out to "to quench the infinite thirst of Jesus on the cross for love and souls" by "labouring at the salvation and sanctification of the poorest of the poor." Her work is renowned for reaching those that no one else would. Simply amazing. That is the power of motherhood. Sharing her wisdom, Mother Teresa said:

- "It is not the magnitude of our actions but the amount of love that is put into them that matters."
- "In this life we cannot do great things. We can only do small things with great love."
- "Intense love does not measure, it just gives."
- "I wouldn't touch a leper for a thousand pounds (money); yet I willingly cure him for the love of God."
- "Each one of them is Jesus in disguise."
- "I do not pray for success, I ask for faithfulness."
- "I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world."
- "If you judge people, you have no time to love them."
- "It is easy to love the people far away. It is not always easy to love those close to us. It is easier to give a cup of rice to relieve hunger than to relieve the loneliness and pain of someone unloved in our own home. Bring love into your home for this is where our love for each other must start."

Motherhood is About The Heart

Mother Teresa's life is truly awe inspiring. From being raised by a single mom to being the "mom" to thousands of people is truly amazing. Mother Teresa was a great mother to so many.

According to her quotes, what made Mother Teresa, and other great mothers, so great?

Motherhood ... For All?

Whether you are a man or a women, we all have a motherly role to play in the lives of those around us.

What are some of those motherly roles we can play in other's lives?

What does being a mother mean to you?

What are some of the best characteristics or traits of good mothers?

Being a Mother is Not Easy!

I am not a mother, so I do not know for sure, but I believe being a mother is not easy at all. I see the work of my wife, my own mother and other mothers I know and I see it can be hard. There are so many demands to juggle and such feelings of being responsible for everyone else to handle that it can be very demanding. Mother Teresa said, "I know God will not give me anything I can't handle. I just wish that He didn't trust me so much," and "Do not think that love, in order to be genuine, has to be extraordinary. What we need is to love without getting tired." I could image that this is the sentiment of many mothers.

What tends to make motherhood so hard?

What makes motherhood so rewarding and worth the effort?

Do you agree with not praying for success but for faithfulness?
