

Motherhood Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. What is one thing your mother (or a motherly figure) taught you when you were young?
2. What was your favorite subject in high school?

Read the following passage: Read 1 Thessalonians 2:7b-12.

As far as we know, the apostle Paul was unmarried and had no children. Yet he frequently referred to himself as a father (and, in this passage, even likened himself to a mother) in his communications with the men and women in the churches he started. Regardless of whether we have natural children, God calls us to play the role of a father or mother at different seasons in our lives.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. God has designed mothers to bond deeply with their children. For this reason, mothers can have significant influence in their children's lives and need to carefully guard what happens in their hearts. Read Mark 6:17-24. How did the issues in Herodias' heart play out in her daughter's life? What are some other ways the activities in a mother's heart can play out in the lives of her children?
2. What are some positive ways the nature and character of God are demonstrated in mothers?
3. Describe your relationship with your own mother. How has this relationship impacted your life?
4. Read Luke 2:33-35. Mothers often experience pain because of the things that happen to their children or because of their children's choices. How can a mother guard her heart to weather these painful moments or seasons?
5. When it appeared that she would not conceive, Sarah gave her slave, Hagar, to Abraham to be his wife and to bear offspring for him. Eventually friction developed between Sarah and Hagar, and Sarah demanded that Hagar be dispatched. Hagar, now a single mother, was left in extremely vulnerable circumstances. Read Genesis 21:14-21. How did God help Hagar? How can Hagar's example be an encouragement to us?
6. Mothers often make great sacrifices for their children. Sometimes this can lead to mothers centering their lives around their children. Why do you think we're prone to make an idol out of the things we sacrifice for? What are some things you have

sacrificed for that could potentially play an outsized role in your life? What can we do to keep this from happening?

7. Are there any “motherly” attributes that you would like to see developed in your own life?

Pray