

May 10, 2026 Mother's Day: The Love That Shapes Us Proverbs 31:25–31; John 14:15-21

“Honor her for all that her hands have done.” (Proverbs 31:31)

“...those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them.” John 14:21

There are few influences on earth as deep and lasting as the love of a mother. Long before we speak our first word or take our first step, a mother's presence is shaping who we become. Today we honor that love—not just biological mothers, but every woman who nurtures, guides, and pours herself into others. Their influence is quiet but powerful, gentle but strong, often unnoticed but never unneeded.

How many of us wish we could go back in time and give our moms more credit for the following?

- Giving birth to you (or bringing a new life into a family through adoption).
- Waking up in the middle of the night to feed, burp, change, and soothe you back to sleep.
- Teaching you how to walk, talk, and ride your bike.
- Holding your hand in the doctor's office when you received your shots.
- Always ensuring there was food on the table. - Packing your lunch.
- Making each birthday and holiday special.- Washing and folding your laundry.
- Taking time off work when you were sick.
- Helping you get ready for your first date and being prepared with an excuse to leave if it went poorly. - Drying your tears after your first breakup.
- Dropping you off at college. - Crying at your wedding.
- Being there to call when your kids are on the verge of chaos.

Moms—have you ever second-guessed your purpose when things feel like Groundhog Day? Have you been frustrated when your kids or husband goes through the day without asking how your day has been? Or maybe they don't say "thanks" to you? Have you found it hard to spend time with God, pray, or attend a small group? It's really tough to be a mom!

As we celebrate our mothers today, we want to explore the comparison between a mother's love and God's love. As we honor them, we also honor the God who comforts, strengthens, and walks with us all. It is important to note, **first, that a mother's love reflects God's Heart.** Isaiah 66:13 — “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.”

When God wanted to describe His tenderness, His nearness, His compassion, He chose the image of a mother comforting her child. That's not accidental. God is saying, *“You know that feeling of being held, soothed, protected? That's how I love you.”*

Think about a mother's comfort: When a mother holds a crying child

- She doesn't need many words. Her presence alone brings peace. Her arms become a refuge. God says, *"That's Me. That's my heart toward you."*

So when we honor mothers today, we are also honoring the ways God's character shines through them — His patience, His gentleness, His strong love.

Secondly, a mother's faith plays a vital role in shaping future generations. In 2 Timothy 1:5, Paul says, "I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice..." Timothy's faith didn't begin with a sermon or a synagogue. It began at home with a mother and grandmother who prayed, taught, and lived out their faith in his presence. Mothers preach some of the most powerful sermons— not from pulpits, **but from** kitchen tables, bedtime prayers, and everyday faithfulness. Some of the greatest spiritual heroes in Scripture were shaped by the quiet strength of godly women.

Thirdly, a mother's work is holy work. Proverbs 31:25–31 celebrates a woman whose strength and compassion bless everyone around her.

Notice what Scripture honors:- Her character, **not** her perfection- Her faithfulness, **not** her performance - Her fear of the Lord, **not** her busyness. Motherhood is not measured by spotless homes or perfect schedules. It is measured by love—daily, sacrificial, Christlike love. Every diaper changed, every meal prepared, every ride given, every prayer whispered, and every tear wiped—God sees and honors it. You may feel tired, but God strengthens you. You may think you're not doing enough, but God says, "Well done."

Mothers are the anchors of families, providing love and stability. They often serve as the emotional center in many homes by:- Holding traditions together.- Creating safe spaces for family members to return to.- Nurturing unity, forgiveness, and connection. Even amidst life's chaos, a mother's presence can bring calm and direction.

.The key message for today is to love as we have been loved. Jesus says in John 14:21, "Those who love me will be loved by my Father, and I will love them." The love of a mother reflects the love of Christ—self-giving, patient, and enduring.

Today, the invitation is simple:

- Give thanks for the women who have shaped your life.
- Encourage the weary mothers around you.
- Honor the women who serve quietly and faithfully.
- Reflect God's love to others, just as someone has reflected it to you.

Happy Mother's Day!