

May 14th – Sermon notes

I asked several mothers to answer one question ***“If you had a single sentence of inspiration to offer mothers what would it be?”***

I think it will be most helpful to you if you don't listen to their words as a checklist on motherhood, but instead, just relax and let their words wash over you like refreshing waters or like a warm bath. And just enjoy. And listen for the ideas that are most relevant to you.

In order to help them share freely, I told the moms that I would not put them on the spot by disclosing their names. But if a particular comment strikes you as relevant and you would like to interact with the mom who made the comment further about it, let me know and I will ask for permission to get her name to you.

Here are their responses:

- Proverbs 3:5,6 Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways, acknowledge Him, and he will direct thy path.
- Do all you can do and trust God for the results. I didn't come up with that, but it has spared me from over fretting.
- Entrust your child to God. Entrust means to commit to another with confidence; put something in someone's care or protection.
- When you're a mother and you're feeling like your children aren't doing the things you feel like they should be doing - and they're probably not - and you're worried. Remember that when you train a child up in the way of the Lord they will return and that is His promise to you and His promises are true.
- Motherhood is a wonderful blessing in so many ways. Being a mother isn't always easy or rewarding, and there will be ups and downs, happiness and tears. But do feel blessed because you were chosen by God to take on that special role of being a mother. May you be continually blessed by God, knowing that he is always with you, and will never forsake you.
- You were chosen and trusted by God to bring life into this world and evolve into a mother of great wisdom.
- Mothers and Mother figures of any age and phase: God chose unique you to provide life, love, encouragement, special moments, your imperfections, and admission that you are learning and growing in the role of motherhood as you develop your relationship with the Lord. Where you are with the Lord may affect the look, feel, and be received differently throughout your relationship with your children. It's okay because God ultimately has it all. PRAISE THE LORD!!

- Where do I begin??? Once you have done, and are doing, all you can, you have to leave their place, pace, and process in the hands of their creator. You were entrusted with their care, but you never had control. God always did. Sometimes you have to move over, let Him work, and live with the results. It's okay if their life choices don't match the unrealistic image you created in your mind. Just love them through it the best way you know how. You were chosen as their mom....just as you are.
- My advice is Give yourself grace. My *explanation* is being a mom is hard. You try and it's never enough. You feel that you are failing your child. All you can do is do your best. You will make mistakes but it's ok. You are only human.
- Motherhood is a journey that has many highs and lows. Don't rush the journey by always looking forward to the next milestone but instead appreciate and savor each moment along the way because you only have that one moment in time.
- Our kids are on a stewardship program from God. They're just on loan to us from God. So if I can instill in them what I can until they are 18 and not really sweat the whole thing, because if I sweat the whole thing I will miss enjoying them growing up.
- I would say: Do not be afraid to ask for help or support!
- I had to find 1-2 trusted moms to kind of bounce things off of.
- If I could only give one sentence to inspire a mother of any age group, I would remind her that God views His creation of humans as the "apple of His eye" and as celebrities, thus as a believing mother to remember, every day, the holy, divine, and supernatural privilege that it is to mother His creation.
- And from me, not as a mom but as a pastor: You don't have to be a perfect mom to be an excellent one.