

## MOTHERHOOD TALK

### INTRO:

- **Video clip** ...Motherhood is not for the faint-hearted!! It a **relentless, 24/7 task** of self sacrifice often plagued by guilt and punctuated with lots of “I should have, I could have, if only....”
- Start off on the journey of motherhood, aiming to be the perfect mother ... vowing that we’ve learnt from the mistakes our moms made. Vivid memories ....“I’ll never do that to MY kids” Of course I was only setting myself up the make the same mistakes etc. In fact I would often hear myself saying things that were vaguely familiar and thinking, “O my gosh that sounds just like my mom!” History has a strange way of repeating itself.
- Debate as to whether life begins at 40 or 50, but Rigby and I agree that life begins when your kids leave home!! Enjoying being able to catch our breath before grand children! Get your car keys and clothes back.
- But whether you are a mom just starting out (like Mildie and Annalise) or a grandmother this morning, we hope that the message you hear loud and clear is that mothers are really **CRITICAL** and that mothers are **UNIQUE**.

### MOTHERS ARE CRITICAL (PART 1)

- **“The hand that rocks the cradle, rules the world.”** Very true!
- Bonding between mother and child begins at the earliest stage of pregnancy, and when a baby is born, his mother is his universe. She has everything he needs to sustain him/her = child bond is one of the strongest bonds etc
- Taking a look at history.... nation builders– people like **Billy Graham, Martin Luther King Junior, C.S.Lewis, Winston Churchill** all gave their mothers credit for how they shaped them and influenced them to become what they were.
- Looking even further back into the Bible we find mothers who changed the course of history.....**David** mentions his mother twice in the Psalms as a godly woman who significantly shaped him to become the man, and King he would be later. (Ask who knows her name.) **Mose’s** mother, – through her ingenuity and love saved her son who would ultimately set the entire nation of Israel free. And then of course, **Mary** who was chosen to bear the Messiah!
- The **Apostle Paul** acknowledges the role that **Rufus’s mother** had in his life in Romans 16;13, saying she was like a mother to him. (I

- can't imagine her packing sandwiches for him when he went on a journey, can you?)
- And finally, **Timothy** in the New Testament, came from a great lineage of women. His **grandmother** and then mother, catalysed his faith.
  - Thus, **Motherhood is one of the highest callings afforded us.** It not something we do to get the T shirt and then do something REALLY NB.

**Helen Jackson: "The woman who creates and sustains a home and under whose hands children grow up to be strong and pure men and women is a creator second only to God."**

- **MOMS ARE ABSOLUTELY CRITICAL**

## **2. SECONDLY, MOMS ARE UNIQUE.**

- In fact they are irreplaceable! And I'm talking about biological and adoptive moms too!
- I do love what PJ said last week though, that when the ideal is absent, grace is very present.

**Three unique things that mothers are to their children.**

### **1. Moms are nurturers.**

- Many of you have heard Simon Gere on Cape Talk in the mornings. A few weeks ago he spoke about the two types of parenting that are so important for children to experience. The **up close and nurturing one of a mother**, and the one of a **father that often watches from a distance** (even if it is from behind a newspaper!)
- He didn't say this but God parents us in both of these ways. When Jesus weeps over Israel He says "O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, how often I have longed to gather you like a hen gathers her chicks." And then in the story of the prodigal son we see God as the father who is watching from a distance to see His son return home.
- A scientific fact: When a baby's **mother walks into the room** and he hears her voice, his heart rate slows and his pupils narrow. **When dad walks in** and he hears his voice, his heart rate increases and his pupils dilate. Moms bring safety, calm and nurture, while dads bring excitement and adventure.

**(I want to know what happens to dad's heart rate when mom walks into the room- scientifically speaking of course!!)**

### **Q1. What do mothers nurture in daughters?**

- Mothers give daughters their **sexual identity**. Young girls transition well into womanhood with lots of feminine affection and

nurture. They will inherit from her a love for being a woman and a positive sexual identity.

## Q2. What do mothers nurture in sons?

- Mothers give their sons a **confidence in relating to the opposite sex**. She can also nurture **tenderness and compassion** in a son, that is so vital for him in his own husbanding and fathering. A healthy mother/son relationship will help him to bond well in his own marriage.

## 2. Moms are teachers.

- Keller: If the essential ingredient in a marriage is friendship, the **essential ingredient in parenting is teaching**, ....mother with the child 24/7.
- From the time a baby is born its mother will start talking to him. She is constantly **teaching him words related to world about him**, and if she is a Christ follower, her greatest desire would be to pass on her faith.
- She will also teach then obedience and to know right from wrong. Proverbs 31 is instruction written to King Lemuel by his mother, teaching him to make godly choices as a young man.
- Paul to Tim: Older women to teach younger!

## 3. Moms are prayers.

- No one knows a child like MOM! = Generates greatest ally/care, and worry!
- Someone one said **"If you can worry, you can pray!"** In fact if you worry, you already have two of the most essential ingredients for prayer.
  - a) You have your **mind fixated** on something. (concentration)
  - b) You are able to **stay awake**. (perseverance)
- Ask me, I can be a real worrier. I can lie awake all night, worrying that I chose the wrong fabric for a stupid couch.

**Ps 94:19 "When anxiety was great within me, your consolation brought joy to my soul" David prayed: "Know my anxious thoughts."( Ps139:23)**

- Prayer is simply **inviting God into your worry process**. Tim Keller (anyone heard of him?) said "Whatever makes you sigh, turn into a prayer"
- I've learned how to pray for my kids over the years.

**Wrap up: Dahlia story in closing**

- Mothers are by no means flawless and faultless, but they are perfect in design for their God-given task of Motherhood.

**MAY THIS DRASTICALLY INFLUENCE THE GIFT YOU GET GIVEN ON MOTHERS DAY!!**