



Date: _____

Series: The Early Church
Spring Year 1, Lesson 58

Thank You, God, for Mom!

Primary Scripture: Ephesians 6:1-3; Proverbs 31:25-31

Key Verse: Ephesians 6:2, “Honor your father and mother that everything might go well for you, and you may have a long life on earth.” This is an important commandment with a promise.”

How does this address a need in our kids' lives?

Kids need to understand that it is God who has given them all the good gifts of life. One of the greatest gifts is the gift of parents—particularly moms. Moms are designed by God to nurture their children with selfless love. Kids need to give thanks to God for their moms and show appreciation to them. Giving thanks to God is an important part of worship, and on this Mother's Day, kids take their expression of thanks home to their mothers as well.

Be especially sensitive to children who do not have mothers. Help them transfer this “honor” or appreciation to other women who show them God's love such as grandmothers, aunts, sisters, etc.

How does Jesus fill this need?

Jesus for us: Jesus showed us his selfless love when he gave his life for us on the cross. Through the power of his forgiveness we can overcome our selfishness and show true appreciation for others, especially our moms.

Jesus in us: Jesus lives in us so that we have the power of his love that can be expressed to others.

Jesus through us: Jesus has a message of appreciation and thankfulness to be delivered to moms on this day. Jesus will use children to deliver that message.

Stamp of Excellence:

Remind the kids what excellent worship looks like. We are in God's presence to honor him. Put on your best manners. This might include wearing your name tag, participating eagerly at all times, listening when the leader is talking, raising your hand to speak, not distracting others, playing the learning game with cooperation, singing enthusiastically, and praying reverently. Offer rewards or positive reinforcement to those who worship with excellence.



Worship

Invocation:

Let kids bring forward the worship symbols such as the cross, candles, Bible, and offering plate. Invite God's presence and call by name Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Attention Grabber:

Capture the children's attention and help them focus on the worship theme for the day.

Props needed: a wrapped box with a removable top filled with several objects—a cross, a picture of someone's mother, something that reminds us of food such as a plate or food itself, the Bible, a book, and toy.

Show the box and say:

The Bible says in Psalm 92, "It is good to give thanks to the LORD, to make music to praise your name, O Most High. It is good to announce your mercy in the morning and your faithfulness in the evening... You made me find joy in what you have done, O LORD. I will sing joyfully about the works of your hands."

We worship today and give thanks to God for the works of his hands. These are some of the things he has done for us. What would they be? Let's look inside this gift box. I see some things in here that remind us of God's gifts.

The most important gift God gives us is what? Hold up the cross. Yes, it's his own Son, Jesus, who gave his life for us. When we trust him, we can be his forever friend.

But what else does he give us? Hold up a Bible. Yes. The Bible tells us more about who God is.

Some other things? Hold up food object such as the plate. **Yes, our food and our health;** (show books) **school and education;** (show toys) **toys and the friends we have to play with.**

But there is one gift that could almost be at the very top. Can you guess what I'm thinking of on this special day? Mother's Day? Hold up the mother picture.

God used our mothers to give us life. Without them we wouldn't have been born. God uses mothers, or if we don't have a mother, grandmothers, aunts, sisters and others, to show his love—especially when we are helpless and need someone to care for us. That is what moms do best. So when we think of all the gifts God has given us, today we will think of the gift of moms.

As we think today of our moms as a gift God has given us, let's give thanks to him. Let's worship him today for all of his goodness and especially for his gift of our moms.

Songs of Worship:

Choose two or three songs. Briefly introduce songs so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God!

Your choice of music

The Power of the Cross:

Jesus has given his life for us that we might have forgiveness and power to live for him.

Philippians 2:14 *"Do everything without complaining or arguing."*

How many of you have complained or argued this week with your mom? Does anyone want to share an example?

Wow! It seems to be so easy to do. But God wants to help us change. To do that, we must see our sin is serious. God himself is the one who told us not to do it. So, if we complain or argue, we are not just disobeying our moms or dads, but also God.

After we see how serious it is, we must turn to God and tell him about it. We ask him to forgive us, or lift the burden off of us so that we are free to do better by obeying and cooperating. We can pray to him for forgiveness and power – because Jesus died for our sin and rose again to give us power for changed living.

Let's pray:

Dear God, thank you for Jesus.

Jesus, thank you for giving your life for us—to forgive us of our sin. We admit that there are ways that we have not cooperated with our moms or dads. We might have even argued or complained. We know that it is wrong and it is not only disobedience to them, but also disobedience to you. We want to tell you about it and ask you to forgive us. Moment of silence for quiet prayers of confession.

Come live in our hearts so strongly that we want to be like you and not complain or argue but, instead, cooperate and be healthy. Especially let us do that on this Mother's Day, when we are so thankful for our moms or those that show us your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Song of Response:

Choose a song to help the children turn to Jesus. Or, you may want help them celebrate what God has done by singing a song of praise.

Offering:

Teach the importance of giving and talk about the mission activities they are supporting.

Who would like to tell about a gift you gave your mom that really surprised and delighted her?

Have one person share his/her story by speaking into the microphone.

When we give gifts to someone, it says, "We appreciate you and love you." We are not trying to buy their love, but we want to show our love.

When we give offerings to God in church, are we trying to buy his favor or pay for his love? No, of course not. We're simply giving him a gift of appreciation as a way to say, "Thank You," and "I love you."

Do you think God is delighted with our gifts? Of course he is. What delights him most is that he knows it is best for us when we are thankful and generous.



The Word

Learning Game:

Some churches dismiss children from the adult service at this time to join Kids Church. The learning game provides a fun kinesthetic activity to help kids connect with each other. The learning point will help reinforce the theme of the day.

***There will be no game today since time will be needed to complete the craft.*

Bible Presentation:

Help children pay attention by giving them a word or concept to listen for as you read. Consider letting a child read who could do so with excellence.

Read Proverbs 31:25-31

This passage describes the blessings of a wonderful mother. Does it also describe your mom or any other person that has shown you God's love? Verse 28 says, "Her children and her husband stand up and bless her." Of course, no mom does all these things perfectly, but all moms do some of these things. We give thanks to God for our moms today and tell him, "Thank you for giving us such wonderful moms."

An appreciation tribute:

Invite three children who are very good readers to come forward. (You may want to have them practice beforehand.) Explain to the group that as we are thankful to God for moms, we have some simple questions and answers regarding moms.

We are going to read a question that was asked to kids at an elementary school. Then we will read some of the answers kids gave. Some of these are funny, and I hope that it makes you all think about how you might answer the same questions if asked about your mom. Some of these questions and answers might help us better appreciate our moms.

Read the following questions. Let the child readers supply the answers from the paper. If you think some of these answers are not appropriate for church, please edit freely. The purpose of this activity is to think about moms and understand a child's perspective.

Elementary School Survey

Why did God make mothers?

1. She's the only one who knows where the Scotch tape is.
2. Mostly to clean the house.
3. To help us out of there when we were getting born.

How did God make mothers?

1. He used dirt, just like for the rest of us.
2. Magic plus super powers and a lot of stirring.
3. God made my mom just the same like he made me. He just used bigger parts.

What ingredients are mothers made of?

1. God makes mothers out of clouds and angel hair and everything nice in the world and one dab of mean.
2. They had to get their start from men's bones. Then they mostly use string I think.

Why did God give you your mother and not some other mom?

1. We're related.
2. God knew she likes me a lot more than other people's moms like me.

What kind of little girl was your mom?

1. My mom has always been my mom and none of that other stuff.
2. I don't know because I wasn't there, but my guess would be pretty bossy.
3. They say she used to be nice.

What did mom need to know about dad before she married him?

1. His last name.
2. She had to know his background. Like is he a crook? Does he get drunk on beer? Does he make at least \$800 a year? Did he say NO to drugs and YES to chores?

Why did your mom marry your dad?

1. My dad makes the best spaghetti in the world. And my mom eats a lot.
2. She got too old to do anything else with him.
3. My grandma says that Mom didn't have her thinking cap on.

Who's the boss at your house?

1. Mom doesn't want to be boss, but she has to because Dad's such a goofball
2. Mom. You can tell by room inspection. She sees the stuff under the bed.
3. I guess Mom is, but only because she has a lot more to do than Dad.

What's the difference between moms and dads?

1. Moms work at work and work at home, and dads just go to work at work.
2. Moms know how to talk to teachers without scaring them.
3. Dads are taller and stronger, but moms have all the real power 'cause that's who you've got to ask if you want to sleep over at your friend's.

What does your mom do in her spare time?

1. Mothers don't do spare time.
2. To hear her tell it, she pays bills all day long.

What would it take to make your mom perfect?

1. On the inside she's already perfect. Outside, I think some kind of plastic surgery.
2. Diet. You know, her hair. I'd diet, maybe blue.

If you could change one thing about your mom, what would it be?

1. She has this weird thing about me keeping my room clean. I'd get rid of that.
2. I'd make my mom smarter. Then she would know it was my sister who did it and not me.

Application:

Read Ephesians 6:1-2

Now for a more serious Bible reading. *“Children, Obey your parents because you are Christians. This is the right thing to do. ‘Honor your father and mother that everything may go well for you, and you may have a long life on earth.’ This is an important commandment with a promise.”*

What does it mean to honor? It means to show or tell someone that they are very special. We can show our mom that she is special and we respect her by obeying her and not complaining or arguing. But we also can show her that she is special on this Mother's Day by making a gift for her.

When we share gifts with our moms, it is a way we say “thank you” to them. Remember, moms are wonderful gifts that God has given us. Of course, the best gift he has given us is his own Son Jesus, who gave his life for us. Moms are very much like Jesus because they sacrifice much of their lives to make sure we have all that we need.

Order some special crafts to be made for moms from S&S Christian Activities. Phone (800) 243-9232 for a catalog or go to the web site at www.SSWW.com. These crafts are inexpensive and kids will enjoy them.

Here are some suggestions for a special craft for mom. Paint a chipped wood heart box, make a bird feeder, make a picture frame for mom, key chains or other ideas. Think of putting a phrase on the art project that says, "Thank you, God, for my mom!"



Witness

Witness and Tell:

Give children opportunities to share how God is working in their lives. It is best to use a microphone to ask children interview questions around the theme for the day.

Tell special ways you can show appreciation to your mom.

Prayer:

Let the kids pray out loud. If you are using a microphone, invite children to form a prayer line and speak their thanksgivings or requests. If you have portable microphones, you can roam the audience. Kids can also go to prayer stations set up for specific types of prayer.

Blessing:

Speak a blessing prayer over the children. Personalize this to your setting. Use a special scripture verse or blessing around the theme of the day.

Song of Sending:

Choose one song. Briefly introduce song so kids can better understand what they are singing and be drawn into a more focused worship. Keep the attention on God.

Supplies:

Attention Grabber:

- wrapped box with removable top
- a cross
- a picture of someone's mother
- something that reminds us of food
- a Bible
- a book
- toys

Application:

- pre-order craft for today from S&S Christian Activities, www.SSWW.com, or (800) 243-9232

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