

Mothers' Ministries'

1. If the person found quotes about fathers, have that person read them. Also the two jokes about fathers.
2. Read the article that is to be handed out. Get it printed off. It is "Mom, What is the High Calling of Mothers?"
3. Jot down things you might say responding to the discussion questions.
4. Fill in the questionnaire yourself.
5. Accept what is being said. For many this may be a subject they have not talked about with others so here we are providing time for interaction which might be embarrassing or confronting, yet uplifting.
6. Pray for the people in the class and for the discussions that they might be helpful, supportive, enlightening.
7. God also provides what is needed to fulfill that calling.
8. Ask a person who has Internet access to bring back three quotes about mothering.
9. Ask another person who has Internet access to bring back two jokes about mothers.

In a way this is a session for celebrating mothers and who they are for the rest of us. We all know we wouldn't be here if it weren't for our mothers. As leader of your group, one of your jobs is to assist the group in discussion and perhaps with some visual aid to show high regard and honor to the mothers in the group. There might be some people who want to share about what their mother meant to them. There is no one in the group who does not have many memories of their mother unless their mother died early.

So this is a time for acknowledgement, of finding ways to help mothers in the class realize how much they have given of themselves for the sake of their children. And, of course, often overlooked is the concern a mother has, the hard issues she is dealing with. Most mothers in the group will probably not talk about the heartaches they have faced. That is okay. But it doesn't mean that the group has to hold back when it comes to naming some of the hurts that break mothers' hearts.

The full measure of what a mother provides is usually not recognized by children. Often much later in life or upon a mother's death does one come to see what a special person their mother was in all those growing up years and beyond. This class period is made to order for people to honor mothers and perceive what they give to our lives, yes, and when they are still alive and perhaps among us.

The questionnaire gets into the story of the Syrophenician or Gentile mother in Mark 7:24-30. She will not take "No" for an answer and Jesus respects her great faith. She is adamant and passionate for the sake of her daughter. In what seems like a putdown of this woman, what he is really drawing out from this woman is her willingness to go beyond some kind of rejection to stay with her full commitment to her daughter. Jesus recognizes there is this deep priority in her heart that



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transcends any shame she might feel. How many mothers today have been so influenced by the standards and mores in our society that they have lost track of how important their children are to them? We want to expose this tendency that mothers can fall into. To counter this we want to address the great role mothers play in having difficult conversations with their children so they do not get taken by the wolves we talked about in Session Two. Even though it seems like the commitment mothers have, has that commitment been diluted by other priorities? This session can help mothers recognize again how important their children are to them.

Mothers are sensitive and recognize dangers. They not only protect their children but equip them along with their fathers to be able to detect and fend off evil. Two of my children were on the ground flagging for a pilot spraying crops with chemicals. The first chemical was not toxic to humans. It was not going to affect our children's lives. But then the pilots turned to a second chemical that was very toxic. The pilots wore protective suits and face masks when dealing with it. However, the pilots did not tell our kids of its danger. So they were endangering them when they sprayed them from overhead. As soon as my wife heard of this, she immediately went to the pilots and said her kids would no longer work for them. Mothers can be like mother bears. They will protect. They will act. They will confront. They will prepare their children for all those who plan to take advantage of them. Pride and passivity lose, love and protection wins.

As leader of the class, make sure the class connects this often-unnoticed passion of a mother with the dangers, grooming, scheming others are perpetrating on her children. Women need to recognize their deep commitment to: "I will not lose one." We see this in the mother of Moses. (Exodus 1:22-2:10) Also in Mary the mother of Jesus and all she went through for the sake of her son. (John 19:25-27),