

Little-known Moms Who Made a Big Difference

A. It's wise to celebrate godly moms on Mother's Day.

"Her children stand and bless her. Her husband praises her: 'There are many virtuous and capable women in the world, but you surpass them all!' **Charm is deceptive, and beauty does not last; but a woman who fears the Lord will be greatly praised.** Reward her for all she has done. Let her deeds publicly declare her praise." Proverbs 31:28-31 (NLT)

1. "Honor your father and mother.' This is the first commandment with a promise: **If you honor your father and mother, 'things will go well for you,** and you will have a long life on the earth.'" Ephesians 6:2-3 (NLT) (*Exodus 20:12, Deuteronomy 5:16*)
2. In the Bible, godly moms are praised for godly character rather than outward appearance. "Don't be concerned about the outward beauty of fancy hairstyles, expensive jewelry, or beautiful clothes. **You should clothe yourselves instead with the beauty that comes from within,** the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is so precious to God. This is how the holy women of old made themselves beautiful." 1 Peter 3:3-5a (NLT)

IMPORTANT! God loves to use little-known moms to make a big difference. "...**God chose things the world considers foolish in order to shame those who think they are wise.** And he chose things that are powerless to shame those who are powerful. God chose things despised by the world, things counted as nothing at all, and used them to bring to nothing what the world considers important. As a result, no one can ever boast in the presence of God." 1 Corinthians 1:27-29 (NLT)

B. God used Moses' mom to make a big difference.

1. Moses' mom courageously saved his life by hiding him as long as she could after he was born. "Then Pharaoh gave this order to all his people: 'Throw every newborn Hebrew boy into the Nile River. But you may let the girls live.' About this time, a man and woman from the tribe of Levi got married. The woman became pregnant and gave birth to a son. **She saw that he was a special baby and kept him hidden for three months.**" Exodus 1:22-2:2 (NLT)

Good News! Even though it takes a lot of courage to be a godly mom, God is always with us, and He promises to strengthen and encourage us when we need it most. "Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. **I will strengthen you and help you.** I will hold you up with my victorious right hand." Isaiah 41:10 (NLT) "I prayed to the LORD, and he answered me. **He freed me from all my fears.**" Psalm 34:4 (NLT)

2. Moses' mom's name was Jochebed (Numbers 26:59) which means "The Lord is my glory." Because she trusted the Lord, Jochebed surrendered baby Moses into God's care. "But when she could no longer hide him, she got a basket made of papyrus reeds and waterproofed it with tar and pitch. **She put the baby in the basket and laid it among the reeds along the bank of the Nile River.** The baby's sister then stood at a distance, watching to see what would happen to him. Soon Pharaoh's daughter came down to bathe in the river, and her attendants walked along the riverbank. When the princess saw the basket among the reeds, she sent her maid to get it for her. When the princess opened it, she saw the baby. The little boy was crying, and she felt sorry for him." Exodus 2:3-6a (NLT)

Good News! God loves our children more than we do, and He watches over them. "See that you do not despise one of these little ones. For I tell you that **their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father** in heaven." Matthew 18:10 (NIV) "The Lord keeps you from all harm and watches over your life. **The Lord keeps watch over you as you come and go,** both now and forever." Psalm 121:7-8 (NLT)

3. God rewarded Jochebed for her courage and faith. "'This must be one of the Hebrew children,' she said. Then the baby's sister approached the princess. 'Should I go and find one of the Hebrew women to nurse the baby for you?' she asked. 'Yes, do!' the princess replied. So the girl went and called the baby's mother. 'Take this baby and nurse him for me,' the princess told the baby's mother. **'I will pay you for your help.'** So the woman took her baby home and nursed him. Later, when the boy was older, his mother brought him back to Pharaoh's daughter, who adopted him as her own son. The princess named him Moses, for she explained, 'I lifted him out of the water.'" Exodus 2:6b-10 (NLT)

Good News! "Now all glory to God, who is able, through his mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." Ephesians 3:20 (NLT)

C. God used Timothy's mom to make a big difference.

"Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. **His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek.**" Acts 16:1 (NLT)

Good News! God can use godly moms to bring their entire families to the Lord. "And if a believing woman has a husband who is not a believer and he is willing to continue living with her, she must not leave him. **For the believing wife brings holiness to her marriage**, and the believing husband brings holiness to his marriage. Otherwise, your children would not be holy, but now they are holy... **Don't you wives realize that your husbands might be saved because of you?** And don't you husbands realize that your wives might be saved because of you?" 1 Corinthians 7:13-14 & 16 (NLT)

1. Timothy was raised in a godly home where his mother and his grandmother taught him about Jesus. "Timothy, I thank God for you... **I remember your genuine faith, for you share the faith that first filled your grandmother Lois and your mother, Eunice.** And I know that same faith continues strong in you... You have been taught the holy Scriptures from childhood, and they have given you the wisdom to receive the salvation that comes by trusting in Christ Jesus." 2 Timothy 1:3a & 5, 3:15 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! Passing our faith on to our children is the most loving thing we can do for them. "We will not hide these truths from our children; **we will tell the next generation about the glorious deeds of the LORD, about his power and his mighty wonders.** For he issued his laws to Jacob; he gave his instructions to Israel. He commanded our ancestors to teach them to their children, so the next generation might know them— even the children not yet born— and they in turn will teach their own children. So each generation should set its hope anew on God, not forgetting his glorious miracles and obeying his commands." Psalm 78:4-7 (NLT) "You will show me the path of life; **in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.**" Psalm 16:11 (NKJV)

2. Eunice, whose name means "joyous victory," watched her spiritual investment in Timothy pay eternal dividends in the lives of many when Timothy became Paul's right-hand man. "If the Lord Jesus is willing, I hope to send Timothy to you soon for a visit. Then he can cheer me up by telling me how you are getting along. I have no one else like Timothy, who genuinely cares about your welfare. All the others care only for themselves and not for what matters to Jesus Christ. **But you know how Timothy has proved himself. Like a son with his father, he has served with me in preaching the Good News.**"
Philippians 2:19-22 (NLT)

IMPORTANT! "So, my dear brothers and sisters, be strong and immovable. Always work enthusiastically for the Lord, for you know that **nothing you do for the Lord is ever useless.**" 1 Corinthians 15:58 (NLT)

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Connect Group Questions:

1. What do you admire most about your mom?
2. Read Exodus 2:1-10. How do you think Jochebed felt putting baby Moses into a basket and letting him float away down the Nile? How did her faith in God come into play? (Psalm 121:7-8, Matthew 18:10)
3. Why do you think God chose Jochebed and Eunice to be the moms of prominent men in the Bible? (Proverbs 31:28-31, 1 Corinthians 1:26-29, 1 Peter 3:3-5)
4. Read Isaiah 41:10, Psalm 34:4, & 1 Corinthians 15:58. How could you use these verses to encourage a young woman who is anxious or afraid about becoming a mom?
5. Discuss the following statements. Why do you think some people in our culture would disagree with them?
 - Children are a blessing from the Lord. (Psalm 127:3)
 - God can use godly moms to bring their entire families to the Lord. (1 Corinthians 7:13-16)
 - Passing our faith on to our children is the most loving thing we can do for them. (Psalm 16:11 & 78:4-7)
 - If you honor your father and mother, things will go well for you. (Exodus 20:12, Ephesians 6:2-3)
6. Discuss the following quotations:

"All that I am, or hope to be, I owe to my angel mother." Abraham Lincoln

"Becoming a mother makes you realize you can do almost anything one-handed." Unknown

"A mother understands what a child does not say." Jewish proverb

7. Spend some time praying as a group. Ask God to bless the moms in our church with courage, strength, wisdom, and creativity. Ask the Lord to also give them conviction and clear direction as to how they can lovingly pass their faith on to their children. Please also ask God to comfort those who are grieving the loss of their mothers and to bless those who are seeking to have children and become moms.