

TOPIC: A MOTHER'S TOUCH

Mothers, your touch on your children has the impact of influencing the core of their being and shaping who they become.

KEY POINTS

- ▶ Everyone has a "mother story". It could be a mother-son, mother-daughter, grandmother, godmother, stepmother, foster mother, aunt, big sister or even a close-family-friend story. Any of these can be mothers of influence in our lives.
- ▶ Some stories will make you smile, chuckle or burst out with uncontrollable laughter (especially those grandmother stories). Some will bring a frown to your face or tears to your eyes. Some you do not want to remember, but they are your stories and they touch your life in some significant way.
- ▶ Mothers will smother, play with, make weird sounds and act ridiculously for their small children.
- ▶ As a child goes through the various developmental stages, in most cases these actions decrease and in some cases will disappear completely. However, some mothers continue to physically touch their children in some way: a hug, a pat on the head, a goodbye or goodnight kiss. Some mothers go the extra mile to physically touch their children on a daily basis.
- ▶ While a mother's physical touch is very important, there are other ways that a mother needs to touch her child.
- ▶ In 1 Samuel 1, Hannah was in the temple desperately crying out to God for a child. For years her prayer request had been the same. This time the man of God spoke life into her and her request was granted.
- ▶ Hannah, with the approval of her husband, made a vow to dedicate the child, Samuel, as a Nazirite to the Lord. She would wean him, then take him to the temple "...that he may appear before the Lord and remain there forever" (v. 23).
- ▶ Can you imagine Hannah's thoughts? No phones, no e-mails, no social media... just a visit with her son once a year, at the temple.
- ▶ Nonetheless, she honoured her vow.
- ▶ While she did not have Samuel at home to hug or care for, every year Hannah would go up to the temple with a new coat for Samuel. Even though Hannah was not physically present with Samuel, once a year she touched his life in some way.
- ▶ Surely the rest of the year her thoughts and prayers were with her son, as his coat consistently reminded him of her.
- ▶ And because his mother fulfilled her vow, Samuel became the most famous prophet in Israel's history. A mother's touch.
- ▶ A mother's touch is not just physical. A mother will move mountains and obstacles for the best interest of her child.
- ▶ It was Abraham Lincoln who said, "No man is poor who has a godly mother."
- ▶ 2 Timothy 1:5 suggests that Timothy was raised by his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. The Apostle Paul recognizes the influence of these women as he identifies the good qualities he sees in Timothy.
- ▶ Just one parent or grandparent can greatly influence a child.
- ▶ Mothers – keep planting that seed, keep sharing your faith with your child. When you tell them you love them, they need to know that Jesus loves them even more.
- ▶ Don't be fooled: your children know if Sunday is just a put-on; they know if they are just at church to make you look good. Your children know if you are faking it.
- ▶ What you do Monday to Saturday affects your children more than what you do on Sunday.

KEY SCRIPTURES

1 Samuel 1:20-28; 2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:14-15

- ▶ When you have a need, your child needs to know that you have prayed about that need. When God answers your prayers, you need to share those blessings with your children.
- ▶ You touch your children's lives by demonstrating your devotion to the God whom you serve.
- ▶ Children feel a mother's touch through her friends and associates, who will certainly influence them.
- ▶ A mother's touch will be felt in the church as she intercedes on behalf of her family and others.
- ▶ Godly mothers are encouragers.
- ▶ You may not be a birth mother but God has placed you in a position to influence others... if you allow Him to have His way in your life.
- ▶ Not much is usually said about Jochebed, Moses' mother. She knew if she kept that child he would die. Not knowing what would become of him, she lovingly placed him in a basket and put him in the river. She had no idea if she would see him again.
- ▶ It is not easy to give up your children for adoption and let someone else raise them. However, you knew that if you kept that child it would die (in the sense of not receiving adequate physical, moral, spiritual or emotional support). As hesitant as you were, you allowed someone else to raise your child. So how did you touch or influence that child? You gave life to that child. That is worth celebrating.
- ▶ Proverbs 31:1 begins, "The words of King Lemuel, the utterance which his mother taught him."
- ▶ Who was Lemuel? Some scholars say it was Solomon. Let's consider that they are correct, which would make Bathsheba the mother being referred to, giving wise counsel to her son.
- ▶ If so, Bathsheba – the object of David's lust, the woman who cheated on her husband – must have gone through some transformation with the Lord.
- ▶ Mothers are not perfect. But regardless of your circumstances, God can redeem any situation.
- ▶ Mothers – do not cease to touch the lives of your children. In so doing **you will influence the core of their being and shape who they become.**

DISCUSSION/REFLECTION TOOLS

1. To which part(s) of this lesson do you relate to most closely, as a mother or as the offspring of a mother?
2. Which aspect(s) give(s) you the most hope?
3. What can we do to support mothers in general, and/or specific mothers in our circle of influence?
4. What opportunities do women have to provide a mother's touch to a non-biological child? How can others support non-biological mother-figures?
5. Is it possible to get a (good) mother figure in our life if we don't have one now? How might this be done?

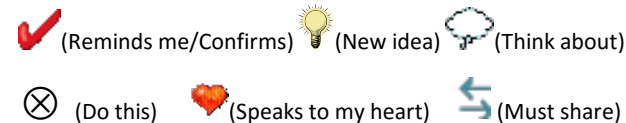
Prayer Time

Lord, thank You for providing a mother's touch, both through human vessels and by Your own divine Spirit.

WEEK OF SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2017

NOTES

Meditate as you read through/listen to this week's message. If it helps, use symbols for your notes.



PRAYER NEEDS/THANKSGIVINGS

L.G. Ice-Breaker: Do you think celebrating a yearly "Mother's Day" is a good idea? Explain.