

## Mother's Moments

Do you cherish the place of privilege in which God has placed you?

Yours is a place of immense influence. God uses mothers to accomplish His purposes.

As Christian mothers, our primary concern for our children is that they love Jesus Christ and trust Him as Savior. Sometimes this means we must make courageous choices to order our lives according to God's Word.

Mother's Moments offer strong encouragement to every mom. We share heart-to-heart biblical principles in dealing with our children, seeking what it means to be a godly wife and mother.

Ruth Graham said, "A true mother is not merely a provider, housekeeper, comforter, or companion. A true mother is primarily and essentially a trainer."

Our children learn most of their values and attitudes about life and eternity by example—our example. The Lord wants our lives centered in Him as we seek wisdom in discipline, in handling the stresses of everyday living for building our children's character.

In Mother's Moments, we strive to recognize the important and eternal value of our children as the next generation of our society and seek to infuse them with love and godly values. Making God real to our children is our primary goal.

"We will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, his power, and the wonders he has done...so that the next generation would know them, even the children yet to be born, and they in turn would tell their children. Then they would put their trust in God and would not forget his deeds but would keep his commands" (Psalm 78: 6-7).

Christian mothers are hurting for their children today. In a world with so many negatives, we as moms want to have a positive effect on our children. So take heart, no matter how hopeless, how impossible the situations seem God has the answer.

Mother's Moments strive to make mothering a ministry and to understand the power of biblical womanhood in today's world. We are not a parenting class, although we cover many parenting issues. Rather, we focus on each facet of our lives as wives and mothers and our importance to the family. We pray that as women, we will honor Jesus Christ and that many families, not just our own, will be touched.

### Topics to Cover:

#### **Women—The "me" part of the family**

- *Devotional Life*. Keeping an active personal devotional life is a must if we are to train our children up in the way they should go.
- *Self-discipline*. Self-discipline is lacking in our culture today and needs to be cultivated.

- *Health-Exercise-Diet*. All of these elements are essential to our well being and attitudes.
- *Time management, priorities, and boundaries*. Priorities have a way of getting confused and the tyranny of the urgent can easily take over our lives and steal the order God intended and replace it with frustration and stress.
- *Prayer*. Praying for our families is the greatest influence we can have.
- *Prayer partner-friendship*. Every mom needs a support system. Our husbands cannot be our all in all.
- *Personal grooming*. Not perfect, just our best. Our husbands deserve it and our children learn by example.
- *Hobbies*. It is important to have an interest of your own that is fun. We need to develop them now for later when our children become more independent.

### **Marriage—The “we” part of the family**

- *Be your best*. Be the best you can be—“For better or worse.”
- *Love your husband*. Make your husband feel loved. You can be the wife of a happy husband.
- *Be married lovers and friends*. Staying husband and wife, not just “mommy and daddy” is vital.
- *Helpmate*. Being a helpmate is a lost art. But when you do, you become a powerful influence.
- *Homemaker*. Keep your home a place to come home to. Make it a safe place.

### **Children—The “us” part of the family**

- *Discipline*. Raise healthy, respectful, happy children with responsible behavior.
- *Developing self-esteem*. Get to know each child as an individual.
- *Values*. Remember, values are not only taught, they are caught.
- *Prayer*. Choose simple ways to teach your children to pray.

“What we have heard and know, what our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children; we will tell the next generation the praiseworthy deeds of the LORD, His power and the wonders He has done (Psalm 78:3-4).

### **Meeting Suggestions:**

- Coordinate Mother's Moments with the school year.
- Begin with a short time of coffee, snacks, and fellowship.
- Pass a baby-sitting envelope for child care donations. Pass a sign-up sheet for snacks. Announce upcoming events or speakers. Introduce new people and welcome them. Give a door prize.
- Open with prayer and devotional thoughts.
- Alternate duties between three coordinators.
- Have 45 minutes of teaching and discussion followed by prayer requests and prayer.
- Offer crafts. On craft days, the teaching and discussion are shorter. The craft can be just a demonstration or something participants make.
- Arrange for guest speakers three or four times throughout the year.
- Provide a table where women can check out books or CDs that pertain to family.

- Participate in at least one service project during the year.
- Offer a variety of topics for discussions. Consider these suggestions:
  - Hospitality - using our homes for godly purposes
  - Memory making traditions
  - Making holidays special
  - Vacations
  - Cooking and menu ideas
  - Housekeeping tips
  - Decorating with little money
  - Outreach projects in your community

You are building a firm foundation for your family. Being a mom is an important job. It takes amazing love, determination, hard work, vision, and continual teaching. Being a mom is a gift from God. He has established the family as His primary instruction for passing on the truths of His Word from one generation to the next. What a privilege, what a responsibility God has entrusted to you.

“A family altar would alter many families.”

“As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD” (Josh. 24:15).

“Unless the LORD builds the home, its builders labor in vain” (Ps. 127:1).

“Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake, O God, till I declare your power to the next generation” (Ps. 71:18).