



Mother's Day - Celebrating the Love of Mothers And the Love of God - by Karen Sue Nyquist

Many of us gather together with families on Mother's Day to wish mothers, "Happy Mother's Day!" Mothers are God's idea and He made them to be very valuable. Even though God wants to relate to us as our heavenly father, there is a gentle, nurturing side of God that He deposited into women. "So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply' (Genesis 1:27-28). From the very beginning, God envisioned that women could reflect that aspect of His image, His nurturing love. He also purposed that many would become mothers, who could express even more of the loving, tender aspects of God.

There are many verses in the Bible that reveal God as a father. Jesus taught that we could refer to God as "Our Father" (Matthew 6:9). Now let's look at those verses where God tells us He wants to relate to us also with the love like a mother. (The Mother Heart of Father God by Denise Jordan, Fatherheart Ministries, <https://fatherheart.net>>the-mother-heart-of-father-god)

A. How does God relate to us with love like a mother?

1. Love Like a Caring, Expectant Mother - While the mother prepares for the arrival of her new baby, the Lord is carefully creating a precious new life in her womb! God says, "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; Before you were born I sanctified you" (Jeremiah 1:5).

2. Love Like a Compassionate, Comforting Mother - God reassures us, "Can a woman forget her nursing child, And not have compassion on the son of her womb? Surely they may forget, Yet I will not forget you" (Isaiah 49:15). "As one whom his mother comforts, So I will comfort you; And you shall be comforted ..." (Isaiah 66:13).

3. Love Like a Wise, Protective Mother - Just like baby chicks run under their mother's wings, when children are afraid, they run into their mother's arms. As she holds them close to her, they know that she is wise and will keep them safe. Likewise, when we're afraid, God wants us to come close to Him, trusting in His wisdom and surrounded in His presence. "He (God) shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge" (Psalm 91:4). God even says His love can be fiercely protective like that of a mother bear for her cubs. He declares, "I will meet them (your enemies) like a bear deprived of her cubs" (Hosea 13:8).

4. Love Like an Adoptive Mother - Sometimes, a child loses their birth mother or is not receiving the love from her that they so desperately need. God can relate to any of us by adopting us as His own! The Bible says, "But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son...that we might receive the adoption as sons" (and daughters) (Galatians 4:4-5).

5. Love Like a Faithful Mother - A faithful mother loves her children without wavering, so does God. "For the Lord is good and His love endures forever; His faithfulness continues through all generations" (Psalm 100:5 NIV).

Mothers can be in very difficult situations. Allowing God's love, wisdom, and strength to flow through them, they become strong role models, molding their children's moral character, and raising them up to impact the world for so much good! Let's look at a few.

B. Biblical examples of God-inspired mothers and the powerful children they raised

1. Caring, Expectant Elizabeth, John the Baptist's Mother - Elizabeth was barren and already too old, but she believed in God's miracles and became pregnant (Luke 1). Later she and her husband released their son, to serve God, not as a priest like his father, but in his own way as a prophet, preparing the way for Jesus' Christ's ministry. John was, "The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord; Make His paths straight'" (Matt.3:1,3; Is. 40:3-5).

2. Compassionate, Comforting Mary, the Lord Jesus Christ's Mother - The angel Gabriel told Mary she would miraculously conceive, "that Holy One who is to be born will be called the Son of God (Luke 1:35)! Mary agreed, knowing pregnancy before marrying Joseph would cause trouble. She and Joseph married and Jesus was born! While young, Jesus had to flee to Egypt as a refugee (Matthew 2:13-15), move to Galilee as an immigrant (Matthew 2:19-23), and grow up feeling different from other children, because He was the only one living without sin (2 Corinthians 5:21). During these times, Mary often compassionately, comforted Him. With God's help, she trained up the Savior of the World (1 John 4:14-15)!

3. Wise, Protective Jochebed, Moses' Mother - Born a slave, Jochebed realized she could not raise her baby son because of Pharaoh's order to kill all the





slaves' baby boys. With God's help, Jochebed chose life for her son (Exodus 1:15-22; 2:1-10). She waterproofed a basket, then gently laid him inside, placed it into the Nile river, and stationed his sister nearby to watch over him. Then God led Pharaoh's daughter to find Moses and compassionately adopt him. Next, Jochebed was allowed to nurse him. In spite of her short time with her son, her mighty prayers for him influenced the rest of his life. Moses later delivered all their people out of slavery (Exodus 13-14).

4. Adoptive Parent Mordecai, Queen Esther's "Father" - Besides Pharaoh's daughter, there are no clear examples of women adopting children in the Bible, but there are several men who showed God's love in this way. After Mordecai's niece, Esther, became orphaned, he adopted her. They were both captured during the war and were brought to Babylon (Esther 2:5-7). Esther was put into the king's harem, but later married him (Esther 2:17). As queen, she saved the lives of her people (Esther 8-9). Like Mordecai, adoptive parents can save hurting children.

5. Faithful Eunice, Apostle Mark's Mother - Though Eunice was married to a non-Christian, her faith and that of her mother, Lois, was passed onto her son Mark, going from generation to generation. "Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). "We will not hide *them* from their children, Telling to the generation to come the praises of the Lord, And His strength and His wonderful works that He has done" (Psalm 78:4). "Tell your children about it, *Let* your children *tell* their children, And their children another generation" (Joel 1:3). God anointed Mark to write the Gospel of Mark, so the faith of grandmother Lois, mother Eunice, and son Mark has gone around the world!

God wants to do more than love you through a mother, He wants to adopt you as His own son or daughter. God says, "Yes, I have loved you with an everlasting love; Therefore with lovingkindness I have drawn you" (Jeremiah 31:3). "I will be a Father to you, And you shall be My sons and daughters, Says the Lord Almighty" (2 Corinthians 6:18). "God decided in advance to adopt us into His own family by bringing us to Himself through Jesus Christ" (Ephesians 1:5 NLT).

C. How can we be adopted by God, this heavenly Father? The Bible teaches us:

1. Confess we are a sinner and repent of our sins - "all have sinned (*done wrong things*)" (Romans 3:23). "Now repent of your sins and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped away" (Acts 3:19NLT). "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

2. Believe in and confess Jesus - "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). "the wages of sin *is* death, but the gift of God *is* eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23). "if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved" (Romans 10:9). Jesus said, "Follow Me" (Matthew 4:19).

3. Receive Jesus as our Lord and Savior - "But as many as received Him (*Jesus Christ*), to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His (*Jesus*) name" (John 1:12). "the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior" (Titus 1:4).

Suggested prayer: "God, I repent of my sins, please help me to turn away from them, and forgive me. I believe Jesus is the Son of God, died for my sins, and raised from the dead. I confess Jesus as my Lord and Savior and will follow Him. I want to be Your adopted child. Thank You for loving me and saving me. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

Name _____ Date _____

Now God will start revealing Himself more to you. To steadily improve your relationship, spend time with Him, pray to Him, and read His book, the Bible. Go to a good church where you feel God's presence and they preach the Bible. There you can get baptized in water, be filled with the Holy Spirit, and can fellowship with other believers. Come visit us! Enjoy your new life with your Heavenly Father!

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