

The Measure of Mothers

PASTOR MIKE YODER • SELECTED SCRIPTURES



**SARAH: Struggling to
wait on God's timing.
(Genesis 15–21)**



Sarah decided that she could make God's promises come true by her own machinations.

Now Sarai, Abram's wife, had borne him no children. But she had an Egyptian slave named Hagar;

so she said to Abram, “The Lord has kept me from having children. Go, sleep with my slave; perhaps I can build a family through her.”

**Sometimes the greatest punishment in life is
when God gives us over to our desires, our timing,
and our plans.**

Then Sarai said to Abram, “You are responsible for the wrong I am suffering. I put my slave in your arms,

*and now that she knows she is pregnant,
she despises me. May the Lord judge between you
and me.”*

Abraham and Sarah were already very old, and Sarah was past the age of childbearing.

So Sarah laughed to herself as she thought, “After I am worn out and my lord is old, will I now have this pleasure?”

Then the LORD said to Abraham, “Why did Sarah laugh and say, ‘Will I really have a child, now that I am old?’

Is anything too hard for the LORD? I will return to you at the appointed time next year, and Sarah will have a son.”

Now the LORD was gracious to Sarah as He had said, and the LORD did for Sarah what He had promised.

Sarah became pregnant and bore a son to Abraham in his old age, at the very time God had promised him.

Abraham gave the name Isaac to the son Sarah bore him.

When his son Isaac was eight days old, Abraham circumcised him, as God commanded him.

Abraham was a hundred years old when his son Isaac was born to him.

*Sarah said, “God has brought me laughter,
and everyone who hears about this will laugh
with me.”*

And she added, “Who would have said to Abraham that Sarah would nurse children? Yet I have borne him a son in his old age.”

And by faith even Sarah, who was past childbearing age, was enabled to bear children because she considered Him faithful who had made the promise.

God is faithful to His promises even in our doubts about His timing.

NAOMI: Modeling a pattern of faithfulness. (Ruth)



It's easy to turn bitter when you face unpleasant circumstances. Both Naomi and Ruth rejected that course and chose gratitude and camaraderie.

*Then Naomi said to her two daughters-in-law,
“Go back, each of you, to your mother’s home. May
the LORD show you kindness, as you have shown
kindness to your dead husbands and to me.*

May the LORD grant that each of you will find rest in the home of another husband.”

But Ruth replied, “Don’t urge me to leave you or to turn back from you. Where you go I will go, and where you stay I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”

Where you die I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD deal with me, be it ever so severely, if even death separates you and me.”

God is our portion and cares in our pain.

**HANNAH: Learning to
keep our promises.
(1 Samuel 1–2)**



*In her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD,
weeping bitterly.*

And she made a vow, saying, “LORD Almighty, if You will only look on Your servant’s misery and remember me, and not forget Your servant but give her a son,

then I will give him to the LORD for all the days of his life, and no razor will ever be used on his head.”

Hannah trusts the Lord in her pain. She runs to the Lord amidst her pain, rather than running from Him.

So in the course of time Hannah became pregnant and gave birth to a son. She named him Samuel, saying, “Because I asked the LORD for him.”

Once a mother, always a mother. But mothering has stages, designed by God.

God wants our longings and fears to drive us to pray and trust Him. God is able to be trusted with our children.

**LOIS & EUNICE: Instilling
a knowledge of God.
(2 Timothy 1, 3)**



I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it,

and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

God uses our example of faithfulness and our commitment to His Word to impact future generations.

Just as a nursing mother cares for her children,

1 Thessalonians 2:7b

so we cared for you. Because we loved you so much, we were delighted to share with you not only the Gospel of God but our lives as well.

**Anyone who has been born and bred in a
Christian home has received from God a blessing
beyond price.**

John Stott

Mothers are gifts from God. Be thankful! Mothers are called to trust God. Be prayerful!

