



## THRIVE Devotional

### Week 20 – Lesson 1

#### The Mother of All Living

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Scripture reading Genesis 4:1-10, 25-26

Genesis 3:20, *“And Adam called his wife’s name Eve; because she was the mother of all living.”*

What a great privilege and a huge responsibility was laid upon Eve. Eve did not have the privilege of being raised by a mother. She had no idea what to expect when her first child was born. She was married to a man who was clueless as well. She did have the grace of God she could rely on and the privilege of having walked with and being clothed by God. Eve, the first mother, was a fallen woman, but it was God who clothed her and restored her to fellowship with Him. Therefore, she could seek His wisdom and secure His provision as she submitted to her husband.

We assume that Adam and Eve had many children; however, only three are named: Cain, Abel, and Seth. Of the three, two served the Lord and one went his own way. The life of a mother can be filled with both heartache and joy. Nothing would be more heartbreaking than to watch a child choose to disobey God. Eve would have been greatly troubled because of Cain’s disobedience to God. Probably reflecting back on her own disobedience and regretting the actions she made early in her life. As the mother of Abel and Seth, she would have taken great delight in their obedience to God. Two sons brought great pleasure and one brought great disappointment. God brought Seth to Eve later in life. It was through Seth and her grandson Enos that *“then began men to call upon the name of the Lord.”* (Genesis 4:26) God used the son of this repentant mother to bring men back to a point of repentance and recognition of God. Eventually, through Seth, Jesus Christ would be born. Mankind would have an opportunity of full redemption.

You will face the consequences of your own sin. When you are willing to admit your sin and ask God for mercy, you will see His grace extended towards you. Through that grace, you will THRIVE.



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 20 – Lesson 2

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### The Faithful Mother

Scripture reading 1 Samuel 1:1-20

*“And she vowed a vow, and said, O Lord of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the Lord all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.”*

There are several things about Hannah’s life that made her successful as a mother. We find out:

1. She was a praying mother. Before Samuel was ever born, she spent time before God, praying and asking God to give her a child. As a little boy I can remember my mother sitting on my bed as I knelt and prayed to God. She taught me the words of a simple prayer. She was a woman who was in church on a week by week basis.
2. She considered herself a servant of God. She referred to herself as “God’s handmaid.” A successful mother will realize that she is, very simply, God’s servant. She has the greatest task in the world to accomplish.
3. She recognized that Samuel was not her child but that he was God’s child. We must remember our kids are His kids. Therefore, teach His children His ways, give them His direction, teach them to love Him with all their heart, soul, and mind.
4. She was a woman of her word. She promised God that if He gave her a child, she would give that child back to Him. She did exactly what she promised. (1 Samuel 1:28)
5. She praised God. 1 Samuel 2 records Hannah praising God for His provision and for the privilege she had of giving her son back to God.

As a mother, if you want God’s blessing on your life, be a woman of prayer. Be a servant of God. Recognize your children are God’s children. Keep your promises to God and praise Him for the opportunity of serving Him. When you do this, you will THRIVE.



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 20 – Lesson 3

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### Generational Faith

Scripture reading 2 Timothy 1:1-5

*“I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience...When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.”*

Though it is true that no man is saved just because his parents are saved, it is also very true that we can have a generational impact. No person in the family has more generational impact than a mother. Paul wrote to Timothy to remind him of the godly heritage, that he had gotten from his grandmother, Lois and from his mother, Eunice. Obviously, Paul knew the family well. Timothy would travel with Paul as his companion. However, Paul knew that he had this godly companion because Timothy had been trained by two godly mothers.

I thank God for the mother He gave me and for the mother that He gave my wife, Anna. Anna was five years old when her mother was left to raise five children on her own. She was a strict disciplinarian and very committed to having her children grow up and serve Jesus Christ. Because of her faithfulness, all five of her children grew up and married other Christians. To this day, they are faithfully serving God in local churches in different parts of this country. I can remember visiting Anna while I was dating her. Each morning, her mother was up reading the Word of God, quoting Scripture, or listening to Bible preaching on the radio. What a great example!

As a mother, you have the privilege of impacting the next generation with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. When you make a commitment to be that example, you, as a mother, will THRIVE.



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 20 – Lesson 4

### Elisabeth and Mary

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Scripture reading Luke 1:25-47

*“And Mary said, Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word. And the angel departed from her...Elisabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost: And she spake out with a loud voice, and said, Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.”*

The stories of Elisabeth and Mary are the stories of two mothers. Elisabeth thought she would never have children, but she was faithful to serve the Lord. She was much older than Mary. Mary was the chosen vessel to carry the body of the Lord Jesus Christ. Why did God choose these two women to be the mother of John the Baptist and the mother of our Lord Jesus Christ? In their stories, we see much of their character. Elisabeth said, *“Thus hath the Lord dealt with me in the days wherein he looked on me, to take away my reproach among men.”* The greatest honor bestowed upon a Jewish woman in Elisabeth’s era was to bring forth a child. She was going to bring forth John the Baptist, the one who would announce the coming of Jesus, King of Israel. She took no credit and gave total honor to God the Father. She knew it was God Who had given her this child.

When Mary was told by the angel that she would be carrying the Son of God in her womb, she responded, *“Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word.”* Mary had the attitude of humility and service, willing to do exactly what God wanted her to do. When Elisabeth and Mary meet each other, there is no spirit of competitiveness between them. Elisabeth blesses Mary, and Mary rejoices in God.

God bless the mother who honors the name of Jesus. God bless the mother who is surrendered to Him. God bless the mother who recognizes the provision of God. God bless the mother who praises God. It is no wonder that God chose Elisabeth and Mary. Let me encourage you to follow the example of these two godly mothers so that your life may THRIVE.



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 20 – Lesson 5

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### Honor Thy Mother

Scripture reading Exodus 20:12

*“Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.”*

Paul the Apostle says that this commandment *“is the first commandment with promise; That it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth.”* (Ephesians 6:2-3) God wants us to honor our mothers. God did not tell us to honor our mothers because they are perfect. He very simply tells us to honor our parents because it is right. God used your mother’s womb to keep you safe for nine months. He used your mother’s cooking to feed you and your mother’s care to bathe and nourish you. He used your mother’s warmth to keep you warm at night and her encouraging words to guide you throughout your life.

I was the last of my mother’s six children. My mother was raised during the Depression. When she got married in her early twenties, she married someone who turned out to be an alcoholic. He was very abusive to her. She stayed faithful to him until he threatened to do bodily damage to her children, my older brothers and sister. When my father offered to take her away from that situation and move her to Las Vegas, Nevada, after much consideration, she took the offer. She moved to Las Vegas, where after six weeks of residency, she was able to divorce her first husband and then marry my father. It was during that time that both my father and mother trusted Christ as their Savior. My mother was in her mid-thirty’s and had three more children with my father. I was the last of those three children. My mother was committed to Christ. Nine days after I was born, I was in church. Because of my mother’s faithfulness, I have been in church almost every Sunday of my life. She was far from perfect, but she determined that we were going to have a chance to walk with God. I heard my mother pray. I heard my mother sing Christian songs. I watched my mother live a life for Jesus Christ. I thank God that I had a mother that taught me to pray, tithe, sing, and the importance of being in church as often as possible.

It is a command from God that you honor your mother. Let me encourage you to honor your mother. When you do, you will THRIVE.



# THRIVE Devotional

## Week 20 – Lesson 6

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### The Virtuous Mother

Scripture reading Proverbs 31:1-9

*“Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies...She looketh well to the ways of her household, and eateth not the bread of idleness. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.”*

Solomon’s mother was a virtuous woman. We know that because he declares it to be so. In verses 1-9, Solomon tells us what his mother taught him. Solomon’s mother, Bathsheba, was not a perfect woman, but she wanted to teach her child how to be a successful leader. I believe a virtuous woman is one who will pour her life into her children.

Look at these characteristics:

1. She determined to raise him to succeed.
2. She taught him to listen. My mother used to say, “David, you have two ears and one mouth.”
3. She warned him about women. (Obviously, he did not heed her warning. He married 800 wives; but she did warn him.)
4. She warned him not to drink. Today, Christians justify the drinking of wine. Here this godly woman is warning her son that it is not for leaders to drink. In fact, she says to give wine to those who are hopeless and who are about to die.
5. She taught him to speak up for those who cannot speak up for themselves. V. 8
6. She taught him to judge righteously.
7. She taught him to care about the poor and the needy.

It is no wonder that Solomon thought of her as a virtuous woman. She poured virtue into her son’s life. When you pour virtue into the life of your children, you and your children will THRIVE.