Mother’s Day

May 9, 2021

My wife and I were recently talking to a friend of ours who is a fairly new mom when she, looked at us intently, and said… “You guys have five kids, it gets easier right?”

I had no words. All I could do was give her a hug. Being a mom is no joke. It is hard work. In fact, it is an all in sacrifice.

As a mom, what would you say if a pregnant woman came to you and asked, “What are all the things I have to know in order to be a mom?”

What would you tell her? Where would you begin?

Nursing, diaper changes, sleep schedules, proper swaddling techniques, bassinet preparation, car seat choices, music for the nursery, video monitors, then there is discipline techniques, hygiene training, basic training on what clothes to wear and when, parent teacher conferences, how to be a shoulder to cry on…the list goes on and on…Maybe the question isn’t where would you begin, but instead where would it end?

Anyone who has been a mom would realize that the job is overwhelming, there is no way to tell a soon to be mother “how to.” It is almost comical to think of explaining motherhood. It would be a little bit like trying to explain everything you need to know to be a professional quarterback.

All of the things I have already mentioned are very practical and important subjects, but I am going to propose that they are just a tiny part of being a mother and a servant to your children. What does the Bible say about the duties of parents? If the inexperienced mom went to God to ask about the intricacies of mothering Where would God begin? What would He say? Remember God knows mothering, He is like a mother to Israel and in fact, He knows what labor pains are like (He created them), in Isaiah 42:14 God says that He is going to cry out like a woman in labor. What does God say to us about caring for children?

a. To love them. Tit 2:4.

b. To bring them to Christ. Mt 19:13, 14.

c. To train them up for God. Pr 22:6; Eph 6:4.

d. To instruct them in God’s word. De 4:9; 11:19; Isa 38:19.

e. To tell them of God’s judgments. Joe 1:3.

f. To tell them of the miraculous works of God. Ex 10:2; Ps 78:4.

g. To command them to obey God. De 32:46; 1 Ch 28:9.

h. To bless them. Ge 48:15; Heb 11:20.

i. To pity (show compassion to) them. Ps 103:13.

j. To provide for them. Job 42:15; 2 Co 12:14; 1 Ti 5:8.

k. To rule them. 1 Ti 3:4, 12.

l. To correct them. Pr 13:24; 19:18; 23:13; 29:17; Heb 12:7.

m. Not to provoke them. Eph 6:4; Col 3:21.

n. Not to make unholy connections for them. Ge 24:1–4; 28:1, 2.[[1]](#footnote-1)

This is quite a list, and one of the reasons I am pointing it out is because it is a list that has a lot to do with spiritual nurture and little to do with physical nurture. Providing for your children, the diaper changes, the nursery decorations, your decision on one of the 15 styles of pacifiers don’t make these the big things. As parent’s we are to put time into praying for our children and sharing Christ with them, we are to be teaching them about how wondrous God is, and telling them and showing them that we are to obey Him. Being a mother is all about being in relationship with God and helping your child relate with God.

1. Love them. 1 John 4:19; Tit 2:4…You can only truly love your child if you have first received love from Christ.

19 We love each other because he loved us first.

1 John 4:19 NLT

4 These older women must train the younger women to love their husbands and their children,

Titus 2:4 NLT

1. Bring them to Christ. Mt 19:13, 14

13 One day some parents brought their children to Jesus so he could lay his hands on them and pray for them. But the disciples scolded the parents for bothering him.

14 But Jesus said, “Let the children come to me. Don’t stop them! For the Kingdom of Heaven belongs to those who are like these children.”

Matthew 19:13-14

…Your child was conceived in God’s mind before they were conceived in your womb they belong to Christ first. Teach them the gospel of God’s love and grace through Jesus, without it all your discipline and correction will lead to utter discouragement.

c. Train them up for God. Pr 22:6; Eph 6:4…If your child belongs to God then offer yourself as a living sacrifice to be servant training a servant.

d. Instruct them in God’s word. De 4:9; 11:19; Isa 38:19…God’s Word is life, teach your child how to find life.

e. Tell them of God’s judgments. Joe 1:3…Those who do not trust God will suffer under God’s righteous judgment.

f. Tell them of the miraculous works of God. Ex 10:2; Ps 78:4…God is awesome, there is none like Him. Mom’s one of your most important jobs is to tell your kids about His mighty works. God’s works trump, even your ability to simultaneously get a hot dinner for eight on the table while facebooking all the details of the upcoming field trip, texting with your girlfriend about women’s Bible study, reminding your husband of a parent teacher conference, and dealing with cramps and a migrane. Yes, God’s works are even mightier than that.

g. Command them to obey God. De 32:46; 1 Ch 28:9…Obedience, mom’s know this word well teach your children to obey God and it will go well with their soul.

h. Bless them. Ge 48:15; Heb 11:20…Give them words and deeds that bring them happiness.

i. Pity (show compassion to) them. Ps 103:13…Remember it is hard being a mom and it is hard being a kid share in their joys and comfort them in their sorrows.

j. Provide for them. Job 42:15; 2 Co 12:14; 1 Ti 5:8…This is where the car seat shopping, diaper changing, nursing, feeding, bathing, and clothing and the likes come in.

k. Rule them. 1 Ti 3:4, 12…Along with your husband rule over your kids, manage your house, which means keeping it in order. A household, even if it is a single mom and one child needs respect and order because it is relational.

l. Correct them. Pr 13:24; 19:18; 23:13; 29:17; Heb 12:7…It may seem loving to just let your kids slide. It isn’t. Sparing discipline bears witness to the opposite, it means you don’t care. Jesus loves them even when they fail and so do you, when the gospel is understood correction is “Like oil on the head that makes us smell sweeter.”

m. Do not provoke them. Eph 6:4; Col 3:21…Don’t push their buttons, choose wisely, according to their bents, how to discipline them and when to discipline them. Don’t try to get their goat.

n. Do not make unholy connections for them. Ge 24:1–4; 28:1, 2.[[2]](#footnote-2)…Help them choose their close friends carefully. Those who commit their lives to fools and unbelievers will suffer much.

Now that I have sort of overwhelmed you, let me remind you that you are loved. God does not expect that you will learn to be the perfect parent overnight and so also we should not expect our moms to be perfect. In stating the obvious I will say motherhood is a huge responsibility and one of the toughest jobs on the planet, but don’t be discouraged because Jesus says that His yoke is easy and His burden is light. He is knows your difficulty and He feels your pain, yes, He even understands labor pains. Trust Him, lean on Him, and stay connected to Him. Yes, you are responsible for keeping your kids fed, bathed, clothed, and physically cared for (in fact, your care for them physically should help them understand God’s provision for them). But ultimately, our battle is not against flesh and blood, as mothers, fathers, and mentors, we are servants of God and everything we do should be aimed at following Jesus and leading those under our care to follow Jesus.

Remember how I started today’s message? I asked you mom’s how you would answer the expectant mom who asked “What do I need to know to be a mom?”

It isn’t that kind of job. Because it isn’t a job, it is a laying down of a life for a lifetime. I’m thankful for the way my mom laid down her life for me. She didn’t get it all right, but she has never stopped being my mom. And I understand now that when she was…

Teaching me the Bible.

Telling me of God’s judgments (Or her judgments)

When she was commanding me to obey God

As she provided for me

As she corrected me

When she showed compassion to me

And even when she told me who I should and shouldn’t hang out with…

It was my mom showing me the blessings and sacrificial love of Christ.

So keep it up mom’s…your love pays off. It costs everything, but it does payoff.

1. Torrey, R. (2001). *The new topical text book: A scriptural text book for the use of ministers, teachers, and all Christian workers*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Bible Software. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Torrey, R. (2001). *The new topical text book: A scriptural text book for the use of ministers, teachers, and all Christian workers*. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Bible Software. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)