

Water of Life Community Church

MOTHER'S DAY

THE SACRIFICE OF MOTHERHOOD

LUKE 1:38-55; 2:19

ICE BREAKER

PRAYER

WORSHIP

INTRODUCTION

From the very onset, motherhood is a call to sacrifice. While the blessings that come with motherhood are great, so are the challenges. This point is so substantial that Jesus used childbirth as an analogy of suffering followed by joy (John 16:21). Mothers suffer and rejoice during pregnancy. Mothers suffer and rejoice during childbirth. Mothers suffer when children rebel, and rejoice when children walk with the Lord. Mothers suffer when children leave the nest, and, after having left, rejoice when those children soar. There is no doubt about it: suffering, sacrifice, and satisfaction are interwoven into the very fabric of motherhood. Jesus' mother Mary knew this well. What we'll find as we take a look at Mary's life is that those who humbly make themselves available to God are able to truly live out the selfless and sacrificial calling on their lives.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. READ LUKE 1:38.

a. What is surprising to you about Mary's response to the angel's pronouncement that she would give birth to the Messiah? What are some things you might have expected Mary to say upon learning that she, a virgin, was to conceive by God's will and intention?

b. In what sense might Mary's statement in Luke 1:38 be used as a principle for motherhood in general?

c. When is selflessness in motherhood or other areas of life most difficult for you?

d. How can you cultivate an attitude like Mary's, one of selflessness and availability in service to the Lord—no matter what?

2. READ LUKE 1:46-55.

- a. How did knowing the truth of God from the Old Testament enable Mary to respond to God not with fear or doubt but with willingness and praise?
- b. How would the biblical truths expressed in this song Mary sang while pregnant with Jesus serve her later on when He hung on a cross?
- c. How does making one's self available to God in the study of His Word prepare a mother to make herself available to God in trying times?
- d. What scriptural truths stand out to you as encouragement in those times when the satisfaction of motherhood and parenting seems overshadowed by the struggle and sacrifice of it?

3. READ LUKE 2:19.

- a. How does this verse speak to you about Mary's relationship with the Lord?
- b. Read Philippians 3:10. While Paul was in prison, what was his expressed goal in life?
- c. Generally speaking, would you say that your goal in life is to avoid struggle and sacrifice or, like Mary and Paul, to know and treasure God through any and every situation you face? Why does it matter?

PRAYER/MINISTRY TIME

GOING DEEPER

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MEMORY VERSE

Luke 1:38 Amplified Bible, Classic Edition (AMPC)

Then Mary said, Behold, I am the handmaiden of the Lord; let it be done to me according to what you have said. And the angel left her.

NOTES