

THANK YOU MOM

A mother was putting her 4-year-old son to bed the eve of his 5th birthday. She said to him, “Johnny, this is the last night of being 4-years-old. Do you understand that?” Well, for a year little Johnny had been showing people four fingers for his four years. Now he was ready to add a thumb.

Seeing his four fingers mom said, “When you go to sleep tonight, you’ll still be a 4-year-old. But do you know how old you’ll be when you wake up?” Johnny nodded enthusiastically, added his thumb to his four little fingers and said, “Tomorrow I’ll be a handful.”

Mom’s, you can probably identify with that--children can certainly be a handful. It isn’t easy keeping up with children.

You know, if evolution were true, by now mothers would have six hands to take care of all their children’s needs and wants. Many of life’s most important lessons are learned from our mothers. For instance:

- My mother taught me about **anticipation**... “Just you wait until your father gets home.”
- My mother taught me about **receiving**... “You are going to get it when we get home.”
- My mother taught me **logic**... “If you fall out of that swing and break your neck, you’re not going to the store with me.”
- My mother taught me **medical science**... “If you don’t stop crossing your eyes, they are going to freeze that way.”
- My mother taught me **how to become an adult**... “If you don’t eat your vegetables, you’ll never grow up.”
- My mother taught me about **genetics**... “You are just like your father.”
- And the best: My mother taught me about **justice**... “Just wait until you have kids of your own—ha ha!”

Many of life's most important lessons are learned from our mothers. Being a mother is one of the most influential roles on earth. Mothers shape the future generation. Mothers especially teach us about love.

The Apostle John wrote, 1 John 4:7-8(NIV) 7Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. 8Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.

Love comes from God, and I think He infuses mothers with a special, larger dose. We talk about love; we sing about love; we preach about love.

Love makes the world go around. But when all is said, sung, and done, the greatest example of love—real, godly, agape love—is the love of a mother for her children.

Husbands love wives—wives love husband—friends love friends—family loves family—but these are all reciprocal love. A mother's love for her child is not reciprocal. She can have one or ten, yet her love is equal for each.

It may be the most God-like love (agape) of any love we humans are capable of giving. It gives and gives and gives, often times receiving nothing in return, and yet expects nothing in return.

There is a connection between mother and children unlike any other. God has given mothers a secret key to the heart of her child.

When a child skins his or her knee, they cry for mama. Children always want mommy in a crisis. Flower stores typically record their largest sales on Mother's Day.

We're all very aware that the past 30-40 years have brought change to our culture—some good, some not so good. Parenting has certainly been affected.

One thing I've noticed is how rude and insensitive children are on television and movies. These children always know better than mom and dad.

Another thing is the rise of the single mother. Either because of divorce or just living together, more women are raising their children alone. Yet she still has to have a full-time, outside the home job, to make ends meet while also being both mommy and daddy.

I think it is more difficult to be a mother today. At every turn you are told you must exercise, diet, dress-for-success, find fulfillment in career, and share tasks with your husband—if you have one.

Watch this short video as today we say, "Thank You Mom."

1. Thank you for your Influence

Mothers, your children are watching you. You are the first book read and the last book put aside in every child's library of life. Their little minds are noting what's important and not important to you.

They watch what you do and where you go. Here's the cool thing, Mothers: you have the ability and opportunity to mold the character of your child—to take each child's unique personality and direct it in the right direction.

Some of history's most successful figures, people like Abraham Lincoln and Thomas Edison, have given their mother's credit for their achievements. Their mothers knew the power of their influence on their children.

When Barbara Bush was invited to give the commencement address at Wellesley College many of the graduates were upset because a "housewife" was speaking rather than a professional or entrepreneur.

In spite of the criticism Barbara graciously accepted the invitation. In great wisdom this is what she said to those young women graduates:

"As important as your obligations as a doctor and a lawyer and a business leader will be, you're a human being first, and those connections with spouses and children and with friends are the most important investments you will ever make. And at the end of your life, you will never regret not having passed one more test or winning one more verdict or closing one more deal, but you will regret the time not spent with your husband or your child or a friend. Your success as a family, our success as a society, depends not on what happens inside the White House, but on what happens inside your home."

So mothers, thank you for your influence on your children, society, and country, and to the Kingdom of God. Thank you...

- **For your example.** Consistent and dependable.
- **For your humor.** For the funny side of life. Laughing with us.
- **For your humility.** Genuine and gracious.
- **For your hospitality.** Smiling, warm and welcoming.
- **For your sacrifices.** Not noticed until we were grown.

2. Thank you for your dependability.

In Matthew 22:37-38(NIV), Jesus said, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.' 38This is the first and greatest commandment.

Parents, you are the connection in your child's young years with God. Your children don't need you to be their friend; they need you to be their parents. Be the adult authority figure, teacher and disciplinarian that every child needs.

You have experienced what your children have not yet experienced. Whether they know it or not, or event though they may not like it, they need you for guidance and direction.

This is especially true in their budding spiritual life. You have the greatest responsibility, opportunity, and privilege showing them to love God, and of introducing your children to Jesus Christ. You are the main connection between your child and God.

Mothers, God has given you a key to the heart of your children. God has entrusted them to your care. You are the first lover of that little bundle of eagerness whose very survival depends essentially on your love.

Your hands are on your children's hearts. There comes a day when they are no longer little—they grow up. They go out into the world with its intrige and enticing bright lights and sounds.

Momma is no longer with them—but momma can give her children a spiritual insurance policy before they walk into the world on their own. You can introduce them to Jesus Christ.

Thank you for the divine guidance you give to your children to navigate the moral maze they face every day. Thank you for planting the good news of Jesus Christ in their hearts.

Thank you for making sure they know right from wrong, what is moral and ethical.

God's laws planted in a young life by Mother—the most trusted person a child knows—is the very best insurance a mother can give to her children. So, mothers, thank you...

- **For your time.** Being a mother is 24/7. Thank you for being available day and night.
- **For your counsel.** Wise and quiet.
- **For your support.** Stimulating and challenging.
- **For your insight.** Keen and honest.
- **For your flexibility.** Patient and joyful.

3. Thank you for your Determination.

Deuteronomy 4:9(NIV) Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them slip from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Moses told the Israelites, “One of the most important things you can do is make sure your children do not forget the mighty acts of God.”

One of the most important purposes of parenthood, whether your children were planned or not, is raising responsible, God-fearing children.

Raising children with Christian values means we need to have Christian character ourselves. Don't hold your children accountable for their actions, if you make excuses for your own actions.

Don't expect your children to admit when they have done wrong and to repent, unless they see you respond in the same manner when you are wrong.

The Ten Commandments are not the Ten Suggestions. If we pick and choose which ones we are going to obey, why should we expect anything different from our children?

So thank you moms for your determination to live godly, moral lives—living examples for your children to follow. Our top assignment is to teach our children to love the Lord our God with all their heart, soul, and strength. Thank you...

- **For you faith.** Solid and sure.
- **For your hope.** Ceaseless and indestructible.
- **For your love.** Devoted and deep.

Application:

Moms, you have the inside track. You walk into your child's heart whether or not you want to. You love your children without reservation. And most often never receive a “Thank you,” unless it comes years later. Thank you.