



## How To Enjoy Being A Mom



Almost every woman who comes to a shelter feels unsure about God's love for her because she feels that if He loved her – He wouldn't have let all those bad things happen to her would He?

That's the tragedy of looking at God through the eyes of the world. The world (without God) says that, as a woman, we should have a family that's all together with loving grandparents, loving mother and father, a loving husband, and happy children that excel and achieve in whatever they do.



But, for many of us it's not like that at all. We stay away from the PTA meetings because it seems like all the mothers there have children who won the science fair; got straight A's; got citizenship awards every month; were the star of the basketball team; were valedictorians of their graduating class and were offered 3 full scholarships to Yale, Harvard and Columbia!

We would perhaps come home feeling totally defeated as a mother – looking at our mixed-up under-achievers and feel like a failure. But that's the world's way, not God's way of looking at it.

God knows you from the day you were born. He knows what kind of abuse you may have had in your childhood that may have made it emotionally difficult for you to be a mom, but once you had a child, there was no way to stop and get off the merry-go-round of motherhood.

On nearly every information form that a shelter resident fills out, when the question is asked about what the woman would like to do, she puts the words, "I'd like to be a good mother to my children." Most women really want to be good mothers.

But, many times they are should be like. The kind of ideal that has come to our minds from Thanksgiving and Christmas cards and commercials; of a glowing fireplace, a lovely decorated room, a beautiful table setting, delicious food on the table, pies baking in the oven, Grandpa fixing Junior's new bike while Grandma rocks the baby; everyone laughing joyously while the Dad looks adoringly into the Mother's soft, shining eyes, sparkling in the firelight in their beautiful home with the white picket fence all around it.



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But, that ideal picture did not come from the Scriptures. There are many, many places in the Bible that talk about the troubles and problems of husbands and wives, and their children. To look at it God's way, we have to read what Jesus said about it: *"I am telling you these things so that in Me you may have perfect peace and confidence. In the world you will have tribulations (pressures, afflictions, troubles), trials, distress and frustration; but be of good cheer, - take courage, be confident, certain and undaunted – for I have overcome the world (gotten the victory!) – I have taken away its power to harm you, I have conquered it for you!"* (John 16:33)



*"And whatsoever you shall ask in My Name, I will do it so my Father may be glorified in His Son. If you shall ask anything in My Name, I will do it!"* (John 14:13,14)

Now, the choice is yours. You will either believe what Jesus has said (and is still doing), or you will choose not to believe. But, whether you believe it or not, it is still true and asking for help, in the name of Jesus, is the only answer to the loss, shame, failure and all the ugly things that burned up the ideals you had for your life, and left you only ashes.

Jesus can take these ashes that remain in our memory, and turn them into victories – using those troubles we have come through as stepping stones to a new life – so we never have to go over them again. No longer using our thoughts to rummage around in the dead memories of past suffering, but moving on to the joy and excitement of new adventures, with Jesus leading and guiding your steps on new pathways of life.



All your children need from you, to make you a good mother is for you to love them, trust them and respect them. They are a gift from God and He watches over them because they belong to Him. They have souls that are going to live forever and ever, just as yours will. They were not born rebellious, or naughty – they experienced painful things that made them act that way. Your love and respect for them will overcome their wrong behaviors, if your love and respect are real.

Keep your mind on God, instead of on your problems, and raise your children by the book of Proverbs in the Bible, so that you can say from your heart, *"You will show me the path of life; in Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand there are pleasures forevermore."* (Psalm 16:11)



## *How To Enjoy Being A Mom*

This study will be more meaningful with discussion about the following topics instead of questions and answers:

How do you feel about God's love for you?

What is your extended family like, and how is it different from greeting cards and commercials?

How do you feel about yourself as a mother?

How does Jesus say your life will be?

What choice do you think you will make about what Jesus said?

How can you show more love, trust, and respect to your children?

MEMORY VERSE (Psalm 16:11) *"You will show me the path of life; in your presence is fullness of joy; at your right hand there are pleasures forevermore!"*