

Mother's Day

1 Thessalonians 2:7-9

*"But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children."
- 1 Thess. 2:7*

Main Point: A mother's love can make a difference like no other.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

If you had to describe your mom with one word, what would it be?

What did your mother teach you that you still carry today? What traits of your own life do you attribute to her?

In speaking with the church at Thessalonica Paul describes his love for them like that of a mother. While that love can be tough at times it also carries with it an unconditional clause. Moms work tirelessly to provide the best for the children and give of themselves each day to raise them into maturity. So what does it take to be that kind of mother?

A mother who loves her children will demonstrate a spirit of:

1. GENTLENESS. Have a volunteer read 1 Thessalonians 2:7.

Was Paul always a gentle person? What image does he use to describe his gentleness? Why is this fitting?

Have you ever experienced a leader who demanded obedience? How did you react to that individual?

Why is it important that we are gentle as Christians? Would you describe yourself as a gentle person? Read **Matthew 11:29** and describe how Jesus' words could be used as a model for parenting.

2. SHARING. Have a volunteer read 1 Thessalonians 2:8.

Paul viewed the church as his children who he was there to feed and help grow into maturity as believers. What things do you find yourself sharing with your children or loved ones because you care for them?

How do you focus on sharing your life with those you love? Why is this important?

Read **Hebrews 2:14-18**. What do we see Jesus sharing in? Jesus' suffering enabled him to be sympathetic towards us. What life experiences can you recall that would help you sympathize with them?

The most important thing we can share with our children is the good news of the gospel. How are you succeeding in this? How are you failing?

3. SACRIFICE. Have a volunteer read 1 Thessalonians 2:9.

Paul's love was shown by the fact that he had undertaken long hours of manual labor in order to avoid burdening the Thessalonians financially. How can you relate to this as a mother/parent? Or, how have you seen your own mother labor on your behalf?

Are you doing whatever it takes to impart the wisdom of the gospel in your family? Where could you improve?

What good things are you willing to sacrifice for the sake of better things in the lives of those around you?

Pray:

Pray for the mothers in your group. Give the Lord thanks for placing children under their care. Ask Him to lead you in a spirit of gentleness and self sacrifice. Pray that God would give you the strength to share yourself even when it's hard. Pray for God's blessing on each family and thank Him for the mothers you have.

Coming up the Life of VillageChurch:

May 22: Village Open Golf Tournament

- Cobblestone Park and Golf Club. Register today online at blythewoodvillage.com

May 28: Graduate Sunday

- Send picture of your graduate and name of school graduating from and where they are heading to james@blythewoodvillage.com

June 4: Discovery Class

- Want to learn more about VillageChurch and what it means to be a member? Register today by emailing kerri@blythewoodvillage.com

July 10-12: Vacation Bible School

- 9am-12pm. Theme: Gadgets and Gizmos.

- Visit orangevbs.com for details about the programming and blythewoodvillage.com to register your children today!