

Courageous Mothering

By Lorena Oplinger

A few months after we got married, my husband and I lost everything we had worked so hard for. I lost my job and the opportunity to finish my college education. We couldn't meet our household expenses, so we ended up losing our apartment and moving into his parents' basement. Our lives changed dramatically. Our hopes, dreams, and expectations of building a bright future and a family together dissipated in the air. I was devastated!



There are important lessons, however, that we can only learn through the darkest valleys of life. One of the most important lessons I have learned is the value of hard work. It was during this hard and painful time that I really experienced the grace of God in my life. He gave me the courage and the strength that I so needed. My perspective about life changed, so I made the decision to work even harder to recover my life, my hopes, my dreams, and everything that we lost back then.

I am now a mother of two preschoolers, Natalie and Nathaniel. I love them so much! I call them “my gifts from God.” They are my joy, my source of inspiration, and the reason I have to keep trying, to keep fighting, to keep working, and to keep pursuing my goals and dreams every day. My primary goal as a mother is to make sure that my kids are well taken care of. I want to provide not only for their physical needs, but also for their spiritual, mental, and emotional growth.

I am a full-time mom, a full-time worker, and a full-time college student. I also volunteer at my local church and serve in my community. My life is extremely busy with the kids' schedule, my work and school responsibilities, and my church and community commitments. One of the most challenging parts of being a mother, wife, worker, student, community leader, and server is trying to find a healthy balance in all these areas.

Possibly your journey as a mother is different from mine, but deep inside our desires are the same—we want to nurture, care, and provide for our kids and family. The work of a mother is extremely exhausting, and many times is under-appreciated. However, the love of a mother doesn't know boundaries. It is so profound that we are able to overcome our challenges, to face our fears, to endure our pains, and to enjoy our sacrifices. The love of a mother is powerful. It works miracles. It does the impossible. God's love for us does the same! His love is so perfect that He sent His Son to die for our sins on the cross so we could have a personal relationship with Him.

Our work as a mother is endless, but we can be reassured that God gave us this responsibility because He knew He could help us handle it. Motherhood is not an easy journey, but it surely is an adventurous one!