



SESSION

7

MOTHERS AS IMAGE-BEARERS

*THERE'S NO ONE
LIKE MOM—
EXCEPT GOD.*

INTRODUCTION

Once upon a time, a teenage girl from a small town in Galilee let God have His way in her life, and as a result she became the most famous mother in all of history. Mary, the “mother of all mothers” and the mother of Jesus, provides a fitting introduction to our topic in this session, motherhood.

Watch the DVD
and record your
thoughts here.

Let's turn to the ultimate authority, the Bible, for our starting point. Read individually or as a group:

And the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus." . . . And Mary said, "Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word." . . . And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the baby leaped in her womb. And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit, and she exclaimed with a loud cry, "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted to me that the mother of my Lord should come to me?" . . . And Mary said, "My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior, for he has looked on the humble estate of his servant. For behold, from now on all generations will call me blessed."

—*Luke 1:30-31, 38, 41-43, 46-48*

When Jesus [on the cross] saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing nearby, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son!" Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother!" And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.

—John 19:26-27

You might also want to read:
John 2:1-11.

Use the blank lines below the discussion questions to record your initial thoughts, questions, and whatever God might be saying to you through the video, so you can review and reflect on all of this later.

WHAT DO YOU THINK?

1. How did Jesus view and treat His own mother? What was admirable about Mary's character? To put it another way, why do you think God chose her, above all women, to be the mother of our Savior?

2. In what ways is God like a mother to us? How should God's "mothering" nature serve as a model for human mothers? What's unique about a mother's role in the family?

3. How would you describe the ideal mother? Who in your life has come closest to that ideal? (Tell us about her.) What do you appreciate most about your own mother?

4. Moms, what to you is the most meaningful aspect of motherhood? How did becoming a mother affect your relationship to God? What has it taught you about Him and His heart toward us, His children?

5. Have you observed or even experienced firsthand an attack on motherhood in today's culture? If so, tell us about it. What ideas about women form the basis for such attacks?

I CAN TAKE
TOMORROW

Think of and write down at least one practical thing you can do tomorrow as a result of today's session.

WRAP-UP

Who else bears the image of God? That would be fathers, since God himself is pleased to bear that title. Next session, we stop to ponder the character of our Father in heaven and the nature of fatherhood today.