



Ladies of Grace
Bible Studies for Women
The Ministry of Womanhood Series

Every woman has been born into the ministry of God. It is spelled out for her in Scripture, lived out before others in her home, church, and community, and recorded by God in the pages of eternity.

Mothering A Son Toward Maturity

For the past two weeks, we have been learning about what the Bible says about raising sons. The first thing we learned was that God wanted our sons to grow up and become mature, like “plants grown up in their youth”. The second thing we learned is that there is a certain pathway that a boy must be led through if he is going to reach maturity. And this week we are going to focus on what a mother can do to help her son follow that path and eventually become the mature Christian man that God wants him to be.

This is going to be a very practical study ~ one in which will help you to know what to do as you mother your son in the midst of the everyday issues of life.

Let’s begin by talking about some of the great mothers in the Bible and what they did that helped their boys to become mature Christian men:

1. **Mary, the mother of Jesus** (Luke 2): Mary took care of his basic needs, prayed for him, corrected him, respected his need to be about his father’s business, allowed his earthly father to teach him a trade, believed in him, and obeyed God in her everyday life.
2. **Elizabeth, the mother of John the Baptist** (Luke 1): Elizabeth rejoiced over his birth, trusted her husband’s direction from the Lord in naming him, prepared him to serve the Lord with boldness, and was an excellent Christian example for him.
3. **Hannah, the mother of Samuel** (I Samuel 1): Hannah asked the Lord for a son, promised God that her son would serve Him, kept her word, cared for his basic needs, and trusted God to work out His will for her little boys life.
4. **Jochebed, the mother of Moses** (Exodus 2): Jochebed loved her son, cared for his needs, taught him how to be loyal to the people of God, and trusted God to work in the life of her boy while he was growing up in a heathen home. She was a woman who mothered by faith in a time of great fear.
5. **Eunice, the mother of Timothy** (Acts 16:1-2; 2 Timothy 1:5): Eunice taught her son the Bible, kept him close to godly people, and lived a sincere Christian life in front of him even in the midst of being married to an unbeliever.
6. **Sarah, the mother of Isaac** (Genesis 21): She was a happy mother, one who nurtured her son in his early years, turned his heart towards his father, and used her influence to encourage her son to place his total trust in God and his father.





After studying the testimonies of these good mothers, and studying what the Proverbs has to say about raising sons, I came up with one conclusion, and a list full of biblical suggestions on what a mother can do to help her son become a mature Christian man.

My conclusion: This is not a job that a mother can do alone. She is going to need the help of the Lord and the assistance of Dad and other godly people in her life. Now, I know that in our culture we are taught to believe that a good mother is all that a boy needs, but according to the Word of God ~ if he is going to grow up and become all that God wants him to become, he is going to need much more than that.

Now, having said that, I want to also say this: If a boy is going to grow up and become a mature Christian man someday, he is certainly going to need his mother to do her part.

What is a mother's part in raising her son according to God's Word?

1. **To be an example of a good Christian woman.** Boys need to have a godly feminine role model if they are every going to fully mature in their manhood someday. They need to see their mom embrace her womanly design. What does that mean? It means that they need to see her behave like the woman in Proverbs 31 and Titus 2:3-5. They need to see her be sensible, love her husband, love her children, work hard around the house, dress like a lady, go to church, read her Bible, serve God, help her neighbors, be discreet in her behavior, and be happy to work hard behind the scenes. The clearer that he sees you embrace your feminine role while he is growing up, the easier it will be for him to embrace his masculine role as he grows up.
2. **To love him and show him how to show his love to others.** Little boys needs lots of hugs and kisses when they are little. They also need mom to spend lots of time playing with them and saying kind things to them. This helps them to feel secure within themselves, and later this will help them to help others feel secure as well. But a boy needs more than just his mother's love if he is going to grow up and show his love to others ~ he needs to see his mother respond favorably to the love that she is shown by him and his father, no matter how deficient she believes this love to be. If a son sees his mother accept and appreciate the love his father gives to her, it gives him the confidence to believe that someday he will be able to love a woman like he is supposed to as well. Also, accept the way that he wants to love you by receiving his strange gifts and his left-handed compliments with thanksgiving.
3. **To respect him and show him how to respect others.** The first way she does this is by respecting his father (remember, a young son will see his manhood as an extension of his fathers), and other men around her. This is not always easy, but it is so important if we want our sons to become mature men. The second way is by allowing a son to do the things that he is capable of doing (remember this though, no son ever becomes capable enough to praise himself or make his own chocolate chip cookies!). Let the little boys wipe their own noses, pick up their own toys, make their own beds, etc. And let the bigger boys answer for themselves, make their own lunches, figure out their own problems, stick up for themselves, etc. The third way she can do this is by teaching him how to show honor to others: opening the car doors for women, giving his seat up for the elderly, being quiet when other people are talking, cleaning up after himself, picking up trash when he sees it, etc.. A fourth way is to send him to his Dad and other godly men for his advice so that he will respect the wisdom of those that are older than him. And a fifth way is to refrain from correcting him in public or telling other people about his personal business.
4. **To teach him about the basic things he will need to know.** A son needs to know about God and the things of God. He needs to know how to walk, talk, eat, and clean up after himself, mind his own business, finish what he starts. He also needs to know how to obey the rules, how to be kind to others, to work hard, to save money, serve others, to be sorry for doing wrong, stand up for what he believes, and other things like that.

"I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Psalm 40:8



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5. **To encourage him in the good things that he does.** Boys need a cheerleader. They need to be praised for the good things that they do or are trying to do.
6. **To lead them in a close relationship with their Dad.** Sons need to spend as much time as possible with their Dads (or another godly man if there is no dad). They desperately need this if they are going to have a vision for themselves as men. Mothers need to allow Dad to correct their sons without any intervention from them. I know that sometimes dads can be a little harsh, but this will help to 'toughen them up' and make them stronger for the battles or correction that will often come later on. Mothers also need to work hard to reinforce the instructions that are given by the father, for example, "Dad said we need to do this," or "Dad said that he wants you to do that."
7. **To forgive them when they do something wrong.** Women represent the grace of God in the lives of their sons. Because of this it is very important that a mother forgives her son after he does something wrong. If a boy is going to grow up and become a mature Christian man, he needs to understand that he is not a failure just because he falls down. He needs to know that he can get back up, apologize for what he has done wrong, and that God will forgive him and give him another chance to do the things that he is supposed to do. This is a principle that he can learn early in life as his mother forgives him and helps him to move on and do the next thing.
8. **To provide a godly environment for him to be raised in.** Boys are very easily influenced and distracted. If they are going to grow up and think right and do well, they are going to have to be brought up in a home that encourages them to think right and do well. Fill your home with good books, good music, good programs, good toys, and good games. These are the things that promote healthy learning and growth, and will help him not to become stunted in his manhood later on.

This is not an all inclusive list of what a mother can do to help her son become a mature Christian man, but it is a good beginning. And I assure you, that if you will do these things, your sons will grow up and head in the direction that God would want them to go ~ in the direction of becoming mature Christian men.

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What If There Is A Problem With Dad?

The whole time I have been preparing for this Bible study, I have heard the imaginary voice of someone asking me this question, “But what if there is a problem with Dad?”, and to tell you the truth, I think this is a very fair question.

Why do I say this? Because we live in a day and age where many dads behave like children and many children are being raised without even the presence of a dad.

But even though that is the case, God still wants boys to grow up and become mature Christian men, so I would like to share with you a few ideas on what to do when you feel like your son will be adversely affected because there are problems with dad.

If you are a single mom, and your son has contact with his dad:

1. Try to reconcile with your husband if at all possible. For your son’s sake, put your differences behind and begin to work things out.
2. If this is not possible, decide that you are only going to say positive things to your son about his dad. For the sake of his future maturity, he needs to see the good qualities in his dad.
3. Pray that God will send mature godly men in the life of your son as role models. Church is a great place to look for them!
4. Allow your son to spend plenty of his time working for others and helping the men at church.
5. Send your son to the preacher for advice about life and his future.

If you are a woman married to a less than ideal man:

1. Accept him for who he is. He is the man you married and he is the man God chose to be the father of your son.
2. Forgive him for not being perfect. Let’s face it, we all have our flaws. Men aren’t perfect and they aren’t usually going to be everything they ought to be.
3. Love him anyway. Your son doesn’t need a perfect father as much as he needs to see that his father is loved by his mother.
4. Respect him no matter what. You may not always agree with what your husband does, but he is your husband and because of his position he deserves your respect. Don’t put him down, argue with him, or complain about him (especially in front of your son). This only confuses your sons ability to comprehend the order of things. And don’t change dad’s rules. If dad says that something goes, just enforce it.
5. Pray for him faithfully. If your husband isn’t everything that he ought to be, pray that God would help him to become the man that God would want him to be. Pray that God would lead him and guide him and strengthen him, and pray that God would give him a desire to be the man that he needs to be in your sons life.
6. Enjoy him anyway. Families need to have fun and your son needs to see doing things with your husband and having fun while you do them.

And remember this, you and God make a majority. If you do what you are supposed to do and God does what He promises that He will do, you won’t have to worry so much about what your husband does or does not do, because in the end, God will work everything out and it won’t very much matter!