



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.

Becoming a Joyful Mother of Children

A few years ago, while I was looking for a certain book in the Christian Book Store, I stumbled upon a book entitled, “Secrets of Wisdom from Mother’s Heart” by Joe Aldrich. It is a book that he wrote about his mother (who died when he was a senior in high school), and the wonderful way that she loved and raised her children for the Lord.

I was immediately captivated by the book, bought myself a copy, and then went back to buy some copies for my friends. Everyone that I gave a copy to loved it just as much as I did, and each one of us was inspired to become a more joyful mother to our children.

What was in the book that inspired us so much? It was the testimony of how this highly educated mother of nine *made it a point* to enjoy the daily details of life with her children.

As I have been preparing to write this Bible Study for you today, I couldn’t help but think of this very special mother, Doris Aldrich, and how she is such a good example of the three biblical things that I believe that everyone woman needs if she is going to become a joyful mother to her children ~ the wisdom of God about the purpose of motherhood, the knowledge of God that gives us the plan of how our children are supposed to be raised, and the understanding of God that helps us to be patient with them as we are raising them.

This will be a very practical study, and a very helpful one if you choose to apply the things that you will learn from it.

The first step to becoming a joyful mother is to gain wisdom in regards to the purpose of motherhood. What is wisdom? Wisdom is “good sense” that comes from God. The Bible says in Proverbs 3:13-20 that ‘happy’ is the person that finds wisdom. It also says that finding wisdom is better than finding silver or gold and that nothing can compare with it. As a matter of fact, it also says





that the ways of wisdom are pleasantness and peace. When you and I search for the wisdom of God in regards to the purpose of motherhood, we will find something that is very valuable and something that will make us happy because it brings us pleasantness and peace.

What does the Bible say about the purpose of motherhood?

1. Genesis 1:27-28: It is for the purpose of helping our husbands to be fruitful and multiply
2. Genesis 3:20: It is for the purpose of being a mother (or bond to the family) to all the living
3. I Timothy 2:15: It is for the purpose of redeeming our testimony as a woman

God designed motherhood as a means for women to have a part in populating the earth, changing the world, and redeeming ourselves. Someone once said, “The hand that rocks the cradle is the hand that rules the world.” This is true. If you think about it, everyone that has ever been put into authority has been brought into the world by a woman, trained to adapt to this world by a woman, and prepared to face the world by a woman. Women have been given great purpose through the opportunity of womanhood, and that is why so many mothers in the past have been so excited about it.

The second step to becoming a joyful mother to children is to gain the knowledge of the way that God wants your kids raised. I truly believe that much of what God wants women to know about child training lies in the words that God gave us in I Corinthians 14:40, “Let all things be done decently and in order”. Even though this verse wasn’t spoken precisely to mothers, the wisdom of it seems to exemplify everything that God’s Word does have to say to mothers about how they should bring up their kids.

Here are some practical things that God would want you to know about and do:

1. **Kids need consistency.** Establish a daily routine for your kids and stick to it.
2. **Kids need limits.** Establish family laws and stick to them.
3. **Kids need clear instructions.** Take the time to tell your kids exactly what you want them to say, do, or not do. And after you have said it, take the time to have them say it back to you.
4. **Kids need to be directed.** Lead your kids in the way that God would want them to go. Have a plan for their future (tomorrow, next week, next year, five years from now, when they graduate, etc.).

The third step to becoming a joyful mother to children is to gain the understanding of the fact that it takes time and patience to raise godly children.

Here are a few things that God would like us to understand the proper perspective of:

1. **Kids are like plants and need time and plenty of attention in order to grow.** Growth is a process, it is not just a happening. Give your life to the raising of your children while they are young and still at home. They need you so badly to help them to learn how to hang in there so that they can grow up and become complete and mature.
2. **Kids are little sinners and the Bible says that foolishness is bound up in them.** Don’t get upset with your kids because they act like kids. And don’t get upset with yourself because they act like sinners. That’s just what they are. They need disciplining and they need training to be able to overcome the sin and foolishness in their lives.
3. **Kids are people that are growing up in stages.** Learn the stages of childhood so that you will understand what is normal for your kids to go through when they go through it.

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



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4. **Kids need the balance of grace and truth demonstrated daily in their lives.** Grace represents the love and forgiveness that we give to them, and the truth represents the rules and punishment that we have for them.

Wisdom, Knowledge, and Understanding are the three things that will help us become joyful mothers of God. Wisdom gives us a purpose for what we are doing. Knowledge helps us to know what we are supposed to be doing. And understanding gives us the insight that we need so that we will take our time with what we are doing. And when we become mothers filled with the wisdom, knowledge and understanding of God's Word, we will become the kind of mother that Doris Aldrich was ~ a mother that a son would want to write about because she was a joyful mother of her children.

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Enjoying the Everyday Moments of Mothering

When our children were young, we had lots of pets. Everywhere we lived, we managed to gather a menagerie of dogs, birds, bunnies, fish, kittens, and hamsters. It was mostly Sabrina that enjoyed the animals, and it was always Sabrina that was heartbroken when something fatal would happen to one of them.

When Sabrina was about six years old, we bought her a hamster which she named Cheesy. Cheesy was a very hardy little fellow, and lived to be about four years old. I'm not sure how old that is in hamster years, but I do know that is older than hamsters are usually supposed to live.

Anyways, the time finally came when Cheesy's life was about to end. And every day we would watch as he moved around a little slowly and how he wouldn't really eat very well. We were all very concerned about him, and Sabrina was especially concerned.

"What is going to happen to Cheesy when he dies?" she asked my husband one day.

"Who is Cheesy?" he replied.

"It's my hamster Dad! I can't believe you didn't remember that." Sabrina answered quite defensively.

"Oh, that's right. Sorry about that. Well, I guess when he dies, he will get buried in the back yard and we will have to make a tombstone for him."

"That's a good idea. But I hope he doesn't die soon. I will sure miss him when he is gone."

"I hope he doesn't die soon either." my husband told her with as much compassion as he could muster for the hamster he was just reminded about.

A few days after this, Cheesy really took a turn for the worse and I knew that he was going to go at any time. Sabrina spent this day watching him carefully in his cage, while the rest of us went about our daily business.

Part of our business on this day was to run down the street to get something from the store. When my husband and I left the girls that day, we told them that we would only be gone for about thirty minutes and that we would call them from the store when we got to the store.

Well, when my husband called home on that day, my daughter Sabrina answered the phone and said to my husband, "Get Mom." My husband was a little taken aback by this and said, "What's the matter Sabrina?" "Just get Mom," was her only reply. So he handed me over the telephone, and when I said hello, my little girl started crying as she shared with me that Cheesy had just died. I felt so bad for her, and so I told her that we would be right home. So we left our shopping and drove straight home.

When we arrived, we found Sabrina busy making something on the floor of her room. She had dried her eyes, boxed up her little hamster and was preparing for his proper burial.

"What do you think about this Mom?" she asked as she showed me a cross that she had made as a grave marker.

"It's beautiful." And it was. It was painted red and on it she had inscribed, "Here Lies Cheesy, A Good Hamster, Always Loving, Always Caring." After she showed this to her father, he grabbed a shovel, the box that the hamster was in, the cross that she had made for him and we went out back and gave him a proper burial. It was such a sad and tender moment, and we all

cried as we placed what was left of this little fellow in the ground.

A few days later, after Sabrina felt a little better, my husband asked her, "Sabrina, why didn't you want to tell me about Cheesy over the phone? Why did you keep asking for Mom?"

"Because Dad," she replied very matter-of-factly, "I was afraid you were going to say, 'Cheesy Who?'"

We all laughed over that one and we continued to laugh over the next few days when we attempted to help Sabrina replace him with another one.

"Mom, I have five dollars and fifty-seven cents. Do you think I could buy another hamster with that much?"

"At Wal-mart you probably could."

"Will you take me to Wal-mart so that I can get one?"

"Yes, I will, get your stuff together and we will go right now." So we went to Wal-mart and she bought another hamster. He wasn't exactly like Cheesy, but that was ok, she was just glad to have another hamster in the house.

But after she put this new hamster in Cheesy's cage, she noticed that something was not really right with him, and the next day when she woke up, he was dead.

Poor Sabrina! When she saw his dead little body, she cried, got a box, made him a tombstone and buried him in the back yard, and then we went back to Wal-mart to get another hamster. (At Wal-mart, if your hamster doesn't live at least three days, you can bring your receipt and get another hamster or your money back.) So back to Wal-mart we went, and back home with a hamster we came. This time the hamster lived one whole day and then died. Once again Sabrina cried and then got a box, made him a tombstone, and buried him in the back yard. I was beginning to wonder just how much a little girl's heart could take. And then we brought home the third hamster and he lived for three days and then died. This time she just put him into a box and buried him in the back yard. No tears, no tombstone, no talk about getting another one. I thought this was a strange way for Sabrina to react, but I kept my thoughts to myself and didn't say anything about it.

A few days later, while we were having lunch together, Sabrina said to me, "Mom, you probably noticed that I didn't cry when this hamster died."

"Yes, I did notice that," I told her in reply.

And then she burst out into tears and exclaimed, "I wished he would have died sooner! Then I would have gotten my money back!"

I laughed as I hugged my Sabrina on that day and I thanked God for giving me the delightful experience of being a mother to my children, to be able to comfort them when they mourn, to encourage them as they keep going, and to be able to laugh with them when they finally see the practical side of life.

And then you know what I did? I took her to the pet store and I bought her another hamster (who lived for another three years I will have you know!).