



## Introduction:

God has uniquely designed and equipped women to be exceptional life-givers and caretakers (Genesis 3:20). A pregnant mother is a beautiful picture of a believer's relationship with God. In the womb, the child's lifeline and connection for growth is through the umbilical cord; in the same manner, our connection to the Father and our source for growth is our connection through Christ (Ecclesiastes 11:5; Ephesians 4:13-16). Upon birth, the mother still has the greatest impact on the life of the child. It is the provision of a nursing mother that provides the child with everything it needs to develop into a healthy child. In the same way, God's provision of His Spirit and Word are essential to the development of every believer (John 16:13; Ephesians 3:6; 1:13-14; 1 Peter 2:2). Mothers are the greatest picture physically of how our God spiritually provides and protects us as we grow and mature in faith. Mothers, are you committed to seeing your children choose to be in Christ and grow up in Him? God desires for mothers to be dedicated to seeing their children be difference makers for God.

## The Focus:

- Every mother can raise a difference maker for God. How?
  - By teaching them that God can always be trusted.
  - By teaching them to stand firm on their convictions.
  - By teaching them to make right choices.

## Response to the Sermon:

On Sunday, Pastor Dan taught from Hebrews 11:23-26, which focused on Moses' mother, Jochebed (Exodus 6:20; Hebrews 11:23). In his earliest and formative years, Moses was allowed by God to be taught by his mother (Exodus 2:9-10). The Bible recounts Moses' actions, which were greatly influenced by his mother's example (Hebrews 11:23-26). What an impact she had on her son. What an impact Moses made for God during his life. He became one of the greatest leaders in the history of the world; he was a difference maker for God. Mothers, you must remember that you are influencing and impacting your child's life (hopefully for good and for God). You are a role model. So, how did Jochebed raise a child that was a difference maker for God?

First, she taught Moses that God can always be trusted. Hebrews 11:23 says that Moses' parents did not fear Pharaoh's commandment to kill their son (Exodus 1:15-20). That is faith. She taught faith by her example: sparing his life (Exodus 2:2), hiding him for three months (Exodus 2:2), placing him by the river (Exodus 2:3), giving him over to Pharaoh's daughter to raise (Exodus 2:10). When Moses encountered scary situations (before Pharaoh, the Red Sea, etc.), I'm sure he thought back to his godly mother and said, "My mother was not afraid of the king's commandment, so I too can say (Hebrews 13:6), *"The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me."* Today, we need mothers who will be women of faith. Are you

teaching your children to put confidence in God? Do your children see you full of worry and fear? Do they see you trying to manipulate your circumstances? Moms, do your children see you trusting God and walking by faith in Him?

Second, she taught Moses to stand firm on his convictions. A conviction is a firm belief. Our children need to be taught that whether we stand alone or with many, we must stand with a heart and mind that is unwavering and totally resolved to hold to what is truth. God's Word says (Hebrews 11:24) Moses *"refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter."* Moses, when he was able, did not allow himself to be called her son. Doing so would have shown others that he had turned his back on his family, his nation, and his God. However, Moses refused to do it. As we look at our culture, it is obvious that many children are growing up with no convictions whatsoever. This philosophy of living is called "amorality." Amorality means the absence of, indifference towards, or disregard for morality. Increasingly, children are being desensitized to evil because the line between right and wrong has been blurred to the point of non-existence. Although we know that Christ is the answer for our children, parents, it is you that the hope of Christ lies with. You are it. You must instill in them strong, Bible-based convictions. You must teach them to say "no" to those things which are opposed to the values and commands that God has established.

Third, she taught Moses to make right choices. Moses had a very clear choice. He could suffer affliction while doing right or enjoy the pleasures of sin while doing wrong. Moses made the right choice (Hebrews 11:25-26). Our children must be taught to make right choices. You must teach that their choices should always be based on the Bible. You must instill in them that God's Word is our final authority and has the final say on everything, regardless of what our culture, education, entertainment, or media has to say on a given matter. You must teach them that their choices have long-range consequences. It is very possible that if Moses was not taught to make right choices, he too could have been a leader in Pharaoh's army and been drowned beneath the Red Sea. Teaching children to make right choices will dictate their path will be guided by God (Psalm 119:105). Also, you must teach them that right choices sometimes mean sacrifice. Our sacrifices and sufferings, when done for a right purpose, always lead to glory (Romans 8:18). Do your children see you willing to suffer in order to make right choices?

### **Bible Study Thoughts & Questions:**

Studying Paul's epistles, a parent will come away with one main principle that must be instilled in their kids – obedience (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20). Paul gives us two reasons why we must instruct and train our children to be obedient. The first is that it is right (Ephesians 6:1). This is so crucial because it is so contrary to our human nature. Our nature is bent towards disobedience (Ephesians 2:2; 5:6; Colossians 3:6). The second is because it pleases God (Colossians 3:20). The idea of pleasing God is connected to faith. The Bible says in Hebrews 11:6 that without it, *"it is impossible to please him."* If our children are going to please God they must exercise their faith by being obedient to His Word.

Children are commanded to obey their parents (Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20), but how do you instill obedience in your children (Ephesians 6:4)?

What tools are you given as a parent that equip you to instruct and train your children to obey God (Ephesians 6:17-18)?

What must every parent understand that will help them know that God has placed them in their child's life to provide understanding and wisdom (Proverbs 22:15a)? Your position on this truth will direct and influence the formative years of their life.

What will be the greatest influence on your kids' lives that will motivate them to follow your example as you follow God and His Word (Ephesians 4:22-24)?

### **Application Questions:**

Parents, you have an opportunity to teach your children not to live for the moment, but to look into the future and see how their choices will affect them. Mothers, your consistent example is a powerful teaching tool, and godly difference makers don't happen by accident. It is going to take intentionality and effort. God desires that we teach our children God's ways (Ephesians 6:4).

What does Hebrews 11:23 teach us, as parents, we must do for our children?

What gave Moses' parents the ability to fearlessly oppose Pharaoh's command (Joshua 1:7-9; Ephesians 3:12, 16-20)?

What was the motivating factor that provided Moses the confidence to refuse all that a life in Egypt could offer (Hebrews 11:23-25)?

What decision would your children say you would make in the face of adversity (Joshua 24:15)?

Moses' mother and father instilled in him a commitment to God, regardless of the situation (Hebrews 11:23-26). How will your children be able to endure the afflictions and persecutions in this life (2 Corinthians 4:17-18)?

**Prayer:**

- Pray that you would raise your children by godly instruction and loving discipline (Ephesians 6:4).
- Pray that you would follow God's instruction and that your children would follow your example (Philippians 4:9; Ephesians 6:1; Colossians 3:20).
- Pray that your children would see the value of following Christ, rather than pursuing the comfort of the world (Hebrews 11:23-26; 2 Corinthians 4:17-18).