

**Unsolved Mysteries
Mystery Mom- Session #2
Small Group Notes**

Introduction:

What is the funniest or hardest question that you have ever heard a mother asked? How did they respond? How would you have responded?

What is something that you wish you knew more about your mother?

For today's discussion, we are going to see how the relationship of a mother and child has points that reflect the gospel in our lives. And while there can seem to be mysteries to motherhood that are relatable or hard to grasp, similarly, we learn to trust Christ in our lives for salvation and growth!

Before we begin to discuss, please read Ephesians 2:1-10

Discuss: What do Mystery Mom's reveal?

1. Moms reveal to us that life is a gift

- Read Ephesians 2:8
- 1st clue: Salvation is a gift we receive, not a condition we have produced.

Explain: It's too often typical for us humans to suppose that our actions can help earn our eternal life. Paul wrote that this is never true. Trusting wholly in God's provision is the opposite of trusting in one's own contribution to salvation. The whole of our redemption—past, present, and future—is God's gift, by His initiative. For this reason, no one can boast about a personal contribution to salvation.

Ask:

What has been a gift that you had a difficult time to receive before in the past? Why? In what ways can it be hard to understand the FREE gift of salvation?

2. Moms reveal how pain often proceeds life!

- Read Ephesians 2:4-5
- 2nd clue: Our spiritual life came as a result of Christ's painful death

Explain: Just as in the time of labor, there are pains that a mother feels in the process. Yet for her the reward of the birth of a child far outweighs the temporary pain and discomfort she experiences. Similarly, the gift of grace and eternal life involves trusting the work of Jesus on the cross and the pain he experienced on our behalf while knowing our redemption was greater than the pain and death he experienced. Just as verse 5 affirms, Jesus did this while we were still sinners.

Ask: What is the significance of affirming that Jesus went to the cross knowing that we were still sinners? How does this impact your understanding of His grace and mercy He provides?

3. Moms reveal how we are nourished and nurtured!

- Read 1 Peter 2:2 and Matthew 23:37
- 3rd Clue: Spiritual growth will always be a result of our dependency on Christ!

Explain: The call to grow up into Christ draws from the imagery of a mother feeding her children the essential nutrients they need to live daily. Yet, as a child grows, they are to transition from milk that is provided to their ability to feed themselves. For the Christian, we can so often put our faith in pastors or other leaders to simply feed us without going and finding ways to feed our own nourishment. True spiritual growth begins in learning to trust in Christ.

Ask: What is an area that you are being challenged to grow spiritually during this season of life? How can your group come along and support you?

4. Moms mirror the mercy of God.

- Read Ephesians 2:4-5
- God reveals His love to us through grace and mercy
- 4th clue: God's grace trumps our past!

Explain: Paul describes what it means to have a new life in Christ. He began by piling up overlapping terms that describe the divine basis for our salvation. We owe everything to God's character. First, notice the reference to God's "mercy." Mercy is "the disposition to act compassionately in response to the plight of someone in need." Second, notice the reference to God's "love," His sacrificial concern. Paul stressed the abundance of God's love just as he had noted the abundance of His mercy: it was great.

Ask: How do you connect the relationship of mercy and love with your experience with your mother? How are they ultimately different?

What is your "But God" moment?

5. Moms help us to understand our calling!

- Read Ephesians 2:10 and Jeremiah 29:11

Explain: Here is His power not only in giving us new life but also in helping us to walk in good works throughout this life and into eternity. We cannot do anything to earn salvation. Yet God means for us who have received salvation to produce good works. If

we have been given new life, raised with Christ, and seated with Him, we will certainly do good works as evidence that we have received this great salvation.

Ask: What can be difficult in understanding your call today? How does understanding the way that God see's you in verse 10 as a "workmanship" or "masterpiece" impact your calling to live for Him?

6. Moms were never meant to be the true cornerstone.

- Read Ephesians 2:19-21
- The greatest challenged of motherhood today is to prepare your child to live without you.
- Moms find peace and our children find Christ when we stop playing God
- 6th clue: Godly parenting means turning the dependency your children have on you and transferring it to God.

Explain: Seeing Christ as the Cornerstone is both a call to mothers and children. For moms, it means that you can't save your children spiritually, that rests with Christ. Your role is to continue to point your children and others to Him. For children, it means that as godly as our mothers are, they are not our salvation, it is Christ and Christ alone!

Ask: What does it look like to point others to Christ as the Cornerstone? How can we be hindered in pointing people to Christ? What are opportunities that you see that exist for this? What are current relationships that you have that you can begin to point people to Jesus?