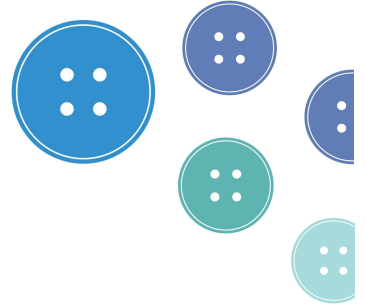


Mother's Day Sermon

By Mark Holmen



Suggested Theme The Faith@Home Focused Mum

Scripture Deuteronomy 6:4-9

@ Home Tool Faith Begins@Home Mom by Mark & Maria Holmen

Preparation Have a big bowl of popcorn for the children's sermon.
Have free (or subsidised) copies of Faith Begins@Home Mom for all moms.

Children's Sermon Popcorn Mother's Day

- Bring the kids forward and tell them this is going to be a popcorn children's sermon (you can even have a big bowl of popcorn that you welcome them to grab a handful of as they come forward.)
- Explain that a popcorn children's sermon is where you are going to ask a few questions or make some statement that you want them to simply shout out answers for, like popcorn popping, and you keep going until every kernel has popped.
 - For example, let's practice...how would you respond to the question my favorite color is...?
- That's how it works. Well today is Mother's Day so we are going to have a popcorn children's focusing on moms. So let's start.
 - My mom is...
 - My mom's favorite thing to do is...
 - Something my mom has taught me is...
 - I love my mom because she...
- Give the book, Faith Begins@Home Mom to each of the children and invite them to take it back and give it to their mom as a Mother's Day gift. Make sure they sign and date the front cover!
 - Let the rest of the congregation know that you have additional free (or subsidised) copies in the foyer for all moms.
- Thank the kids for coming forward and close in prayer for mums

Sermon

I. Opening

- a. How many mums are here today? Raise your hands. Have everyone applaud the mums who are with you that day.
- b. How many mums that are with us today want to be a good mum? Anyone here want to be a bad mum?
- c. So we want all want to be good mums and I think that is a pretty universal truth. Now don't get me wrong I know there are some dead beat mums out there who have abandoned their children and who have no interest in being a mum. If anyone here has experienced that as a child please know that this was never God's intention and I pray that you have grown to understand and experience the fact that you are dearly loved by your eternal parent, your Heavenly Father.
- d. But for every mum here, who wants to be a good mum, let me ask one more question; What defines what a good mum is? In other words how will you know if you have been a good mum or not?
- e. In the book, *Impress Faith On Your Kids*, Pastor Mark Holmen defines being a good parent in the following manner.
 - i. For me, a great parent is one who leads their children into life not death. Is that plain and simple enough? I think we would all agree that any parent who knowingly leads their children into death is not a great parent. That's just wrong and thankfully we have laws that punish any parent for doing this. But on the other end of the spectrum is the opportunity to lead our children into life...eternal life and any parent who does that, in my opinion, is a great parent!
 - ii. Read Deuteronomy 30:19-20 *This day I call heaven and earth as witnesses against you that I have set before you life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you and your children may live and that you may love the Lord your God, listen to his voice, and hold fast to him.*
- f. At the end of the day we are going to teach our kids a lot of things and we are going to lead them in certain ways. We are going to lead them away from things like hot stoves and getting into the car of a stranger and towards other things.
- g. Yet death is a reality for all of us but through faith in Jesus Christ who defeated death for all who would simply believe in Him we and our children can have eternal life.
 - i. Isn't that something we would want for our children?
 - ii. In fact, isn't that the most important thing we should be leading our children towards?
 - iii. I mean as much as I may want my kids to do well in school and get good grades that's not going to give them the ability to conquer death whenever it comes for them and I don't want death to be the end for my kids! Amen?
- h. So, as mums we have been given an opportunity to lead our kids to life so the question now becomes how do I do that?
- i. Thankfully, today's passage shows us how.

II. **Read Deuteronomy 6:3-9** and replace "O Israel" with "Hey Mums"

Hear, O Israel (Hey Mums), and be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly in a land flowing with milk and honey, just as the LORD, the God of your fathers, promised you. Hear, O Israel (Hey Mums): The LORD our God, the LORD is one. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts. Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads. Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

III. Point #1 – Be Careful So That

be careful to obey so that it may go well with you and that you may increase greatly

- a. Discuss the importance of “being careful to obey”
 - i. It’s easy not to obey, in fact, disobedience is easier than obedience.
 - ii. How many here would agree with that statement?
 - iii. Yet, I believe obedience is easier when we know where it’s leading. If I know obeying is going to lead me to a better place/outcome I am more excited about and am more committed to obeying.
 - iv. And in this passage God tells us where obedience to His ways leads us.
- b. “So that it may go well with you”
 - i. Obeying God and God’s ways means life will go well with you and that’s because God wants life to go well for you. God wants to help you avoid the hot stoves and strangers seeking to cause you harm. Obeying His ways will help you do this.
 - ii. How many here like the sound of that?
 - iii. That doesn’t mean life will always be easy, yet even in hard times it will be well.
 1. Share a personal story of how life can be well for a mom, through faithful obedience to God and His ways, even in difficult times.
 2. I knew a mom that lost a teen daughter to a drunk driver yet through it all she kept her faith in Christ, and continued to remain obedient to Him and His ways and now 25 years later has found great reward and blessing in the thousands of parents and teens she has been able to speak to as a speaker for Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD).
- c. That you may increase greatly
 - i. The second thing God wants to do through your obedience is to bless not only you but your children and children’s children. He wants to increase greatly His blessings by pouring them out on your children and grandchildren.
 - ii. How many like the sound of that?
 - iii. Faithful obedience to God and God’s ways not only impacts you but your children and grandchildren as well.
- d. This is why we are being admonished to “be careful to obey”
 - i. This now sets up a question,
 - ii. What are the commands/ways of God that we need to be careful to obey?

IV. Point #2 – They Will Love Who You Love

Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one. ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. ⁶ These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts.

- a. The commands that are to be upon our hearts are simply:
 - i. There is one true God; Father, Son and Holy Spirit
 - ii. We are called to live in a loving relationship with this one true God.
- b. Who are some people that you love?
 - i. Make a mental list of people you love deeply.
 - ii. Now ask yourself, do your kids love them too?
 - iii. That illustration makes the point being made here.
- c. That’s the plain and simple truth, Moses is trying to get across to the people of Israel. If you want your kids to love Jesus it starts with you loving Jesus because your kids are going to love who you love.

- d. Self Assessment Test
 - i. Q1 – Are you in love with Jesus?
 - ii. Q2 – Would those who know you best say you are in love with Jesus?
 - iii. Q3 – If you asked your kids who you were in love with, would Jesus make the list?
- e. If you want to lead your children to life, through faith in Jesus Christ, the very best thing you can do, as a mom, is to personally live in a loving relationship with Jesus Christ where you love Him with all of your heart, soul and strength.

V. Point #3 - Talk About It

Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

- a. What do you think is the percentage of active, church going teenagers who have talked with their mom about faith? 12% (Faith Begins@Home Mom Pg41)
- b. Mums, faith talk is not something that we can outsource to the experts at church.
- c. If you want to lead your kids to life you need to be talking to and about God with your children all the time.
- d. How do you do this?
 - i. Interview a few moms who engage in faith talk with their kids through prayer and/or blessing each morning, evening or in the car. OR
 - ii. Share 2-3 examples of how moms can engage in faith talk from Chapter 3 of Faith Begins@Home Mom.

VI. Point #4 - Wear It Well

Tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.

- a. The point here is that, as mums, we are called to wear our faith with us wherever we go.
- b. Our kids need to see that being a Christian is not something where we act, dress and behave one way at church and a completely different way at work or home.
- c. Share or interview a few moms who share examples of how you can bring your faith into your workplace, car, school, community, etc.
 - i. Bible on your office desk.
 - ii. Listen to Christian music/radio in the car
 - iii. For more ideas read “Beyond Words—Faith In Action” on pages 42-44 of Faith Begins@Home Mom.

VII. Point #5 - Home As Church Too

Write them on the doorframes of your houses and on your gates.

- a. The final point is that our home should be the primary place where our faith is lived, nurtured and expressed.
- b. This passage does not say that we should write the ways of God on our church buildings but on the doorframes of our houses.
- c. It's not easy being a Christian in the world today but the one place where it should always be authentically lived out is at home.
- d. Share or have a few moms share ways this can be done.
 - i. Bibles in every room.
 - ii. Christ honoring things in our homes/rooms.

VIII. Closing - Faith@Home Mom Is...

- a. Someone who leads her children to eternal life through faith in Jesus Christ by...
 - i. Loving the Lord with all of her heart, soul and strength
 - ii. Engaging in faith talk with her children anytime and all the time
 - iii. Living out her faith at work and play and
 - iv. Establishing her home as the primary place where faith is lived, nurtured and expressed.

Creative Options

- Engrave “*A Faith@Home Mom...loves the Lord with her heart, soul and strength, engages in faith talk anytime and all the time, lives out her faith at work and play and establishes her home as the primary place where faith is lived, nurtured and expressed.*” into a magnet or some sort of resource that you can give to all the mums.
- Video
 - Go to www.sermonspice.com or YouTube to find a good video clip for Mother’s Day that focuses on how kids learn things from their mums.
 - If you have the ability to make your own video...do it!
 - Start the video with interviews of young mums answering the question, “What are things you look forward to teaching your son/daughter?”
 - Transition to mums and teenagers responding to the question, “What are some things that have learned from your mum? In what ways are you like your mom and/or how is your son/daughter like you?”
 - Transition to interviews of grandmothers asking them to reply to the questions, “If there is one thing you hope your child has learned from you what would that be?” Or ask, “If you had it to do over again, what is something you would have spent more time focusing on during the parenting years?” (These will probably be more reflective and hopefully focused on spending more time making sure they knew, loved and followed God.)