

# “Mother’s Day”

## Unexpected: Following Jesus #4

### INTRODUCTION

In our sermon series, Unexpected: Following Jesus, we saw how the look, touch and voice of Jesus can speak to us in surprisingly powerful ways. This weekend we will focus on how mothers, and those who are like mothers to us, can apply these principles and uniquely bring Jesus into the lives of those they love.

#### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

Do you have a special Mother’s Day memory?

### Study Questions (45 MIN)

#### **The Look of Encouragement and Love**

##### **Q1. Read Mark 10:17-23; 1 Timothy 4:12**

Jesus looked with love on the rich young ruler (Mark 10:21). A loving look sees beyond the surface. Based on their interaction, what do you think Jesus saw in this man that others did not? Who are you best able to look “beyond the surface” and see in them what others do not?

Paul had a special love for his “spiritual son” Timothy. What kind of look did Paul warn Timothy against? What did Paul say to Timothy in order to counter this attitude of others? Is there a “Timothy” in your life who needs to hear your love and encouragement?

#### **The Touch of Grace and Mercy**

##### **Q2. Read Psalm 84:11; Psalm 51:1**

Each of us has a unique relationship with our mother. Many are fortunate to have mothers who extended grace (giving us what we did not earn) and mercy (withholding judgment). Psalm 84 tells us God doesn’t withhold any good thing from those who walk uprightly. How do you think God determines which things are “good” and which are not? Did your mother ever withhold something that you thought at the time was good, but in retrospect now know was not?

In Psalm 51 David asks God to blot out his transgression. What was the transgression that David was referring to? David knew he was deserving of judgment, but he also knew God’s unfailing love and great compassion. Think of a time someone forgave you of a great transgression. Can you recognize

God’s nature revealed through their action? Is there someone who has trespassed against you that is in need of your mercy?

#### **The Voice of Prayer and Hope**

##### **Q3. Read James 5:16; 1 John 5:14**

It is impossible to number the prayers that have been offered by faithful mothers and grandmothers for their children. Whether for health and prosperity, a future spouse or for prodigals to return to faith, the prayers of a righteous parent can be powerful (James 5:16). Do you know of anyone who prayed faithfully over a long period for someone they loved? How does 1John 5:14 instill hope for those who are still offering up faithful prayers for their children?

#### **Wrap-Up**

The expression of God’s love can be seen in many ways. A look, a touch or a voice can convey God’s heart to us. Mothers have a unique opportunity to bring Jesus into the lives of their children. Our mothers may be the only ones who encouraged us with grace, mercy and hope when we need it most. But we all have the opportunity to invest the powerful and unexpected qualities of Jesus into the lives of others as we choose to follow his example.

#### **Memory Verse**

*These commandments that I give you today are to be on 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.*

*Deuteronomy 6:6-7 NIV*

#### **Prayer (20 MIN)**

*Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life: \_\_\_\_\_*

*Pray for your group members’ needs: (see back for more notes) \_\_\_\_\_*

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#### **Challenge:**

*Seek out the scriptures about godly women like Ruth, Mary, Deborah, and Priscilla this week and consider the how their lives reflected their faith.*

