



Adorned

Loving Children

March 2024

“Older women...are to train the young women to love their...children.”

Titus 2:3-4

I'll be honest: it's really hard to write an article about "loving children" when you're two seconds away from losing your cool with your own children. And yet here I am, feeling like I'm about to lose my mind. But as I close my eyes and pray, the Holy Spirit reminds me that this is exactly where I'm supposed to be— on my knees admitting my own weakness and inability to love others without Christ working in my heart to sanctify me. But it's not just love that we can't do on our own; we need God in every aspect of parenting. In his book *Parenting*, Paul David Tripp reminds us that God does not call people to be parents because they are able.

“God calls unable people to do important things so that he will get the glory and not them. He isn't working so that your life as a parent would be easy, predictable, and free from struggle. He calls you to do the impossible so that in your search for help, you would find more than help—you would find him.”

When I acknowledge that because of my sin I am poorly equipped to be a parent, there I find Jesus giving me strength and wisdom. And who better to give me wisdom about parenting than The One who created my children? Scripture is clear that all children are a gift according to God's design. Eve(Genesis 4:1), Jacob (Genesis 30:2, 22), Hannah (1 Samuel 1:20), and Elizabeth (Lukel:25) all give God the glory when children were born to them. Psalm 127:3 says,

“Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward.”

The Hebrew word for heritage is *nachalah*, which refers to the idea of an inheritance, something that is passed down to the next generation. Additionally, an inheritance is something of significant value; our children are God's loving investment in the next generation. Nancy Demoss Wolgemuth expresses the weight of this responsibility in shaping the next generation:

“There's so much more at stake, and we can't afford to not do well. We want to build lives, homes, churches, and a culture that will reflect God's glory long after we are gone. We want to leave behind a model of godliness that people will choose to embrace in the next generation.”

(Leaving a Godly Legacy)

That's a tall order. Praise God that the weight of this does not fall solely on our shoulders! We are called to love and pray for the children in our spheres of influence, including grandchildren, nieces/nephews, friends, neighbors, and coworkers. I'm so grateful for our church family that surrounds my family and helps us with this monumental job! As we rely on God and His Word, asking for wisdom and guidance in prayer, He will sanctify us and equip us to be parents who glorify Him.

“When we live loved, when we remember how loved we are by God, that changes everything.”

Laura Booz

Hey, Sister!

We've nearing the end of a year-long venture of praying scripture together. This year's theme is based in Titus, and it's all about older and younger, life on life, side by side discipleship.

As we pray these scriptures together, be encouraged knowing that a woman of our prayer team is praying specifically for you! And we encourage you to join us and pray these same scriptures over your loved ones. When we pray scripture, we know we're in keeping with the will of God!

If you're interested in being part of our prayer team, praying for a small group of women each month from your home, please contact Nikki MacDonald at nikki.m@e-free-family.com

A Prayer & Heart Response for March

Lord, motherhood is such a gift, and it's intense sometimes, Each day I am reminded of my need to die to self and pour my life out for the ones You've entrusted to me. You have— You are—everything I need. Grant me the perspective and grace to be a joyful mother of children. Give me the wisdom and grace and courage to parent them well. Help me be faithful. Help me to be a reflection of Your unconditional, selfless love.

Momville

Momville is a Christ-centered community for moms of littles. Meeting on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 9:30am in the Commons, the mamas of Momville are reading the book, "Risen Motherhood." Give and receive encouragement, support, and prayer as you seek to love your family well. Childcare is provided.



Personalize & Pray These Scriptures

Psalm 78:4

We will not hide them from their children, but tell to the coming generation the glorious deeds of the LORD, and his might, and the wonders that he has done.

Psalm 113:9

He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the LORD!

Isaiah 40:29

He gives power to the faint, and to him who has no might he increases strength.

Matthew 19:13-14

Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven."

1 Thessalonians 2:7-8

But we were gentle among you, like a nursing mother taking care of her own children. So, being affectionately desirous of you, we were ready to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you had become very dear to us.

Women's Prayer Fellowship

Women's Prayer Fellowship is a group of women who meet each week to pray for our nation, church, families, and each other. Women of all ages are invited to come together to cry out to God for revival. They meet each Wednesday morning at 10:45 in the Fireside Room (lower level).

Women's Ministries

"Women's Ministries seeks to support the church's mission and vision to multiply disciples of Jesus Christ. Committed to God's Word as our authority, we're passionate about creating a culture in which Titus 2 relationships (older teaching younger) can thrive by providing opportunities, resources, and support for women to connect with one another and the Lord Jesus Christ."

He Leads Me

A 3-week study of Psalm 23

Meeting Wednesday evenings, April 3, 10, and 17 at 6:30pm in the Fireside Room

Led by Nikki MacDonald

Order your book at thedailygraceco.com

Please note: "He Leads Me" (women's edition) is currently unavailable. Order the men's version. The content is the same.



Follow us on Facebook

Did you know Sheboygan eFree Women's Ministries has a Facebook page which offers daily encouragement in your walk with Jesus? Connect with other women, ask for prayer, and share what God is doing in your life. We need each other!