

HIGHER PURPOSE CHURCH

Pastor Lawrence Williams

5-DAY DEVOTIONAL

Not Perfect, Just Present

Based on the Mother's Day Sermon Series: Home Training

This five-day devotional is designed to help you carry the message of *Not Perfect, Just Present* from Sunday into your week. Each day includes a scripture reading, a brief devotional reflection, questions for personal application, space for your notes, and a closing prayer. Whether you are a mother, a child, or someone navigating a complicated family relationship — this devotional is for you.

How to use this guide:

- Set aside 10–15 minutes each morning or evening.
- Read the scripture slowly — more than once if needed.
- Work through the reflection questions honestly.
- Use the note space to capture what God is speaking to you.
- Pray the closing prayer — or use it as a starting point for your own.

DAY 1 YOU ARE THE VESSEL, NOT THE ARCHITECT

God's Design for Motherhood

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Jeremiah 1:5 — *"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."*

DEVOTIONAL

Before your child ever took a breath, God had already written their story. He knew their name, their calling, their purpose — and He chose you to carry them into the world. Not because you were perfect. Not because you had all the answers. But because He trusted you with one of His most sacred assignments.

Motherhood was never meant to be a performance. It was meant to be a partnership — with God. You bring the presence, the prayer, the nurture, the love. He brings the purpose, the plan, the power. Your job is not to engineer your child's destiny. Your job is to create the conditions for it to grow.

Mary didn't know she was carrying the Savior of the world. She just said yes. And that yes changed everything. Today, God is not asking you to figure it all out. He's asking

you to say yes — to stay present, stay faithful, and trust that He knew exactly what He was doing when He placed that child in your arms.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What area of your child's life have you been trying to control instead of trusting God with?
2. How does knowing God designed your child's purpose before birth change how you see your role?

MY NOTES

Use this space to write down what God is speaking to you today.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Lord, thank You for trusting me with this child. Help me remember that I am the vessel — not the architect. You wrote their story before I knew their name. Give me the wisdom to nurture, the faith to trust, and the grace to let go of what only You can carry. In Jesus' name, Amen.

— End of DAY 1 —

DAY 2 THE DYNAMIC IS DESIGNED

Embracing the Shifts and Seasons

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Lamentations 3:22–23 — *"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*

DEVOTIONAL

Every parent knows the feeling — the child who needed you for everything becomes the teenager who barely speaks, then the adult who finally calls to say they understand.

The relationship was never meant to stay the same. It was meant to grow.

God is a God of process. He didn't send Jesus to earth as a thirty-year-old man. He sent Him as a baby who had to be nursed, held, and taught — because relationship is built in the ordinary moments, not just the milestone ones. The same is true for you and your child. Every season — the sweet ones and the hard ones — is developing something in both of you.

When the relationship shifts and you don't know how to navigate the new version of your child, remember this: God's mercies are new every morning. You don't have to figure out the whole journey today. You just have to show up for today. His compassion covers the distance between where you are and where you need to be.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What season of the relationship with your child are you currently in — and how are you responding to it?
2. In what ways have you seen God meet you in the ordinary, unscripted moments of parenting?

MY NOTES

Use this space to write down what God is speaking to you today.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, help me embrace every season of this relationship — even the ones that are hard to understand. Thank You that Your mercies are new every morning. When I don't

know how to reach my child, remind me that You never stop reaching for us. Give me patience for the process and faith for the journey. In Jesus' name, Amen.

— End of DAY 2 —

DAY 3 FAITHFUL, NOT FLAWLESS

Releasing the Pressure of Perfection

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

Matthew 11:28 — *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."*

DEVOTIONAL

The Surgeon General of the United States issued a formal advisory in 2024 about the mental health crisis among parents. Nearly half report overwhelming stress on most days. Loneliness is at crisis levels. And that was before social media added the pressure of comparing your real, complicated life to someone else's filtered highlight reel.

But here is what God says about that pressure: you are carrying a weight He never intended for you to carry. His assignment was never perfection. It was faithfulness. There is a difference. Perfection demands you get it all right. Faithfulness simply asks you to keep showing up.

Mary didn't parent perfectly. She lost Jesus for three days. She tried to pull Him out of His ministry. She stood at a cross watching her son suffer and couldn't stop it. And yet she is honored throughout scripture as a faithful mother. Not because she had all the answers. Because she stayed. She kept showing up. She kept loving. That is the assignment. And it is one you can fulfill — starting today.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What does the pressure of "perfect parenting" look like in your life right now?
2. What would it look like to trade the weight of perfection for the freedom of faithful presence?

MY NOTES

Use this space to write down what God is speaking to you today.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Jesus, I am weary. I have been carrying a standard You never placed on me. Today I lay it down at Your feet. I receive Your rest. Help me to be faithful — not flawless. Help me to show up — even when I don't feel like I have enough. Your grace is sufficient for every gap. In Jesus' name, Amen.

— End of DAY 3 —

DAY 4 CALL IT OUT

The Power of a Mother's Voice

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

John 2:5 — *"His mother said to the servants, 'Do whatever he tells you.'"*

DEVOTIONAL

At the wedding in Cana, no public miracles had happened yet. Jesus hadn't officially started His ministry. But Mary looked at her son and saw something nobody else in the room could see. She saw what was already there — the anointing, the power, the potential — before it had been publicly revealed. And because she saw it, because she spoke it, because she placed a demand on what hadn't manifested yet — the water became wine.

Mothers carry a unique spiritual perception. You have spent more time with your child than anyone else on earth. You held them before they had words. You prayed over them before they had needs you could name. And that intimacy gives you a vision for them that nobody else has. Do not dismiss it. Do not let the world's assessment of your child silence what God has shown you.

Your artwork is terrible — but mom sees an artist. Your grades need work — but mom sees a scholar. Your path looks unclear — but mom sees a called, purposed, set-apart child of God. Keep calling it out. Keep praying it forward. Keep speaking life over what hasn't manifested yet. Because Cana-level miracles are still released when a mother refuses to stop believing.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What do you see in your child that the world has not recognized yet?
2. How can you be more intentional about speaking life and destiny over your child this week?

MY NOTES

Use this space to write down what God is speaking to you today.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Lord, give me Mary's eyes. Help me to see in my child what You have already placed there — even when the world can't see it yet. I refuse to let circumstances define my child's future. I choose to speak life, speak purpose, speak destiny. Use my words to release what You have already deposited in them. In Jesus' name, Amen.

— End of DAY 4 —

DAY 5 LOVE STAYS

Reconciliation, Reconnection, and the Grace That Outlasts

TODAY'S SCRIPTURE

1 Peter 4:8 — *"Above all, love each other deeply, because love covers a multitude of sins."*

DEVOTIONAL

At the cross, after the temple misunderstanding, after the intervention, after every moment of tension and distance — Jesus looked down from His suffering and made sure His mother was cared for. The relationship survived everything. Not because it was perfect. Because love stayed.

There may be distance in your relationship with your child right now. There may be hurt, misunderstanding, silence, or conflict that has gone unresolved longer than it should have. The enemy wants you to believe that the conflict is the conclusion. But God specializes in reconciliation. The same grace that covers our sin can cover the distance in our most important relationships.

Don't wait for the funeral to try to fix what can be healed today. Don't let another season pass in silence when a conversation could begin restoration. Re-engage. Reach out. Write the text. Make the call. Show up. Because love that stays — imperfect, complicated, sometimes clumsy love — is still the most powerful force in your child's life. And it is never too late to let it lead.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. Is there a relationship with a child, parent, or family member that needs re-engagement?
2. What is one practical step you can take this week to stay connected or begin reconciliation?

MY NOTES

Use this space to write down what God is speaking to you today.

TODAY'S PRAYER

Father, I thank You that love never fails. Where there is distance, bring me close. Where there is silence, give me words. Where there is hurt, bring healing. Help me to re-engage — not out of guilt, but out of love. You are the God of reconciliation, and I trust You to redeem what feels broken. Help me to stay. In Jesus' name, Amen.

— End of DAY 5 —

HIGHER PURPOSE CHURCH

Real People. Real Life. Real Love.
Pastor Lawrence Williams

Join us every Sunday and don't miss a week of the
Home Training: How Family Forms Who You Become
message series.

"Don't let the conflict cut off the connection."

— *Pastor Lawrence Williams*