

Life Group Notes 5/12/2024
Pastor Mark Warren Mother's Day

[No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at tbeachhead@comcast.net. Thank you for taking the time—Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.]

Remember: Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our hearts...and guide our discussions. **PLEASE PRE-READ THESE NOTES AND CHOOSE THE DIRECTION THAT IS APPROPRIATE FOR YOUR GROUP.** BE COGNIZANT OF YOUR GROUP'S TIME AND BE SENSITIVE! **Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.**

Note: I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 5/12. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using numbered questions as trail blazes. **The purpose is to minister to one another.** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnote:

1. [On "God is the ultimate parent."](#)

*****Important:** At the very [end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week. ***

1. What makes Moms powerful people?
2. Do you have a testimony? Has God been faithful?
3. Speak of a time where the solution to an issue took a long time.
4. What does Mark mean by "pressing in?" How do you get closer to Jesus?
5. How does that help?

I. **To the young mom.**

Pastor Mark begins with the assurance that you are not alone. You've got this. God is faithful.

1. What scriptures can you recall that prove this is a promise?
2. Look up Isaiah 30 [18](#) *Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you; therefore He rises to show you compassion, for the LORD is a just God. Blessed are all who wait for Him. [19](#) O people in Zion who dwell in Jerusalem, you will weep no more. He will surely be gracious when you cry for help; when He hears, He will answer you. [20](#) The Lord will give you the bread of adversity and the water of affliction, but your Teacher will no longer hide Himself—with your own eyes you will see Him. [21](#) And whether you turn to the right or to the left, your ears will hear this command behind you: "This is the way. Walk in it." [22](#) So you will desecrate your silver-plated idols and your gold-plated images. You will throw them away like menstrual cloths, saying to them, "Be gone!" [23](#) Then He will send rain for the seed that you have sown in the ground, and the food that comes from your land*

will be rich and plentiful. On that day your cattle will graze in open pastures. Take a moment and describe the extent of this promise.

3. Why are we weeping?
4. Who is our teacher? What will we throw away? Do you have a list?
5. Now read Psalm 32. What do you see in these verses? *6Therefore let all the godly pray to You while You may be found. Surely when great waters rise, they will not come near. 7You are my hiding place. You protect me from trouble; You surround me with songs of deliverance. Selah 8I will instruct you and teach you the way you should go; I will give you counsel and watch over you. 9Do not be like the horse or mule, which have no understanding; they must be controlled with bit and bridle to make them come to you. 10Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but loving devotion surrounds him who trusts in the LORD.* How is this like the promise in Isaiah?
6. How does this promise differ from the one we just read from Isaiah?
7. Who is our teacher? Who has taught you? Do you have a testimony?
8. What else, besides teaching us, does He do? Have you heard His counsel?
9. How?

Now look up Isaiah 40: *28Do you not know? Have you not heard? The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary; His understanding is beyond searching out. 29He gives power to the faint and increases the strength of the weak. 30Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall. 31But those who wait upon the LORD will renew their strength; they will mount up with wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not faint.*

1. What do you see? When does God give up?
2. What does it take to get your strength renewed? Does He renew the strength of the strong?
3. How does one "...wait upon the Lord?"
4. How good are you at waiting?
5. Look at this passage again: To whom does He give power? Why not to the strong?
6. Explain this principle: Jesus did not come into the world to heal the healthy. (No healthy person ever received a miraculous healing.) Whom did He come for?

II. To the working mom.

Pastor says, "Statistics tell us that 41% of mothers in the US are the main bread winners. Our culture is shifting to a new dynamic. Moms have to be mothers and work at the same time.

1. What is the result?
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. Pastor Mark says, "I want you to know: God's grace is sufficient for you." What does that mean?
4. Mark prophesied over these moms: "You say, 'I just want to be mom.' God is faithful. He will meet you in that place of need. He understands. God sees

you and the effort you are making to be faithful both to your job and your family. Your effort is not in vain. God rewards every little act of love.

5. Look up Colossians 3: [23](#) *Whatever you do, work at it with your whole being, for the Lord and not for men, [24](#) because you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as your reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.* What do you see?
6. What encouragement do you see?

III. To the mom who has children who do not speak to her.

Pastor says, "For some reason, there is not much that can cause greater pain for the mother than to see a child whom they love, and a wedge driven between them." He says, "I feel your pain."

1. Look up Isaiah 54:13 *All your children shall be taught by the LORD, and great shall be the peace of your children.*
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. Pastor prophesied concerning this situation: "Take comfort. God hears your prayers. He sees and He knows your situation. Keep trusting in His faithfulness. Know that He can heal broken relationships. Do not stop believing. Do not lose faith. Believe that God will restore that which has been lost."
4. Look up Psalm 34: [17](#) *The righteous cry out, and the LORD hears; He delivers them from all their troubles. [18](#) The LORD is near to the brokenhearted; He saves the contrite in spirit. [19](#) Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the LORD delivers him from them all. [20](#) He protects all his bones; not one of them will be broken.* How does this apply?
5. Have you cried out? Do you know you have been heard? Do you know He is near you? Look at what Psalm 51 says, "[17](#) *The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and a contrite heart, O God, You will not despise.*" How closely does this description fit your heart? How close, then, is He now?

IV. Mom who has children not walking with Jesus.

Pastor begins saying, "The pain is similar to that of the mother whose child is not talking to them. Watching the child struggle, knowing what the end will be for the one who is not walking with the Lord. Seeing the pain that is on them that come directly from the choices they make. The ache in your heart is profound. Remember this: God is the ultimate parent. God can parent your child better than even you can, and his love for your child surpasses even your own. Keep praying. Keep showing them unconditional love. Remember, the pressure is not on you to save your kids. God loves your kids, and paid the price on their behalf to show you this is true."

1. What do you see? What does this make you think?
2. Do you have a testimony?
3. Look up 1 John 5:14-15 [13](#) *I have written these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. [14](#) And this is the confidence that we have before Him: If we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. [15](#) And if we know that He hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we already possess what we have asked of Him.* What do you see?
4. How do we know saving our children is according to His will?

5. How do we know softening your child's heart is according to His will?
6. John says further, "This is that victory that overcomes the world: even our faith." What does that tell you? When do you give up?

V. The mom who is unsure of her own faith.

Pastor points out that you might be grappling with faith issues, and the meaning of faith. He says, "It's OK to have questions. God is not concerned with you having questions. He loves the honesty and the transparency of your heart. He is faithful." Look at Hebrews 11:6 [And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who approaches Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.](#)

1. What do "faith" and "seeking" have in common?
2. Does the person who has found God seek Him? Explain.
3. Does the person who has faith stop seeking? Explain.
4. Do you have a testimony? What have you found when you looked?
5. Look up Matthew 7: [7Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. 8For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened.](#) What does this promise?
6. How sure is this promise?
7. Who is left out?
8. Is giving up an alternative? Why not? What will one find if one gives up?
9. How many times did pastor repeat, "God is faithful?"
10. Look at what the prophet Hanani told king Asa, after Asa gave up: 2 Chronicles 16: [9For the eyes of the LORD roam to and fro over all the earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose hearts are fully devoted to Him.](#) What will it look like, when God shows Himself strong on your behalf?
11. What does it take to be included in this promise? Who is not included?
12. Is this a promise to Jews only? Or is it to everyone in the whole earth?
13. What does it take to be excluded?
14. What does a heart look like that is fully devoted to Him?

VI. The spiritual mom.

Women in the room who do not have biological children, but you have taken on a dimension of care and support for others that you stand as a surrogate mom. Pastor says, "Your prayers and concerns are heard. The effect you are having in those around you is significant."

1. Do you have a testimony?
2. Are you mentoring anyone? Whom can we pray for? Take a moment and pray.
3. Look up Proverbs 31:26 *She opens her mouth with wisdom, and the teaching of kindness is on her tongue.* What do you see? How are you doing?
4. Pastor says, "God is faithful. God is working in your life. He is working for your life. He is working on your behalf."

He summarizes with this exhortation: Pursue Jesus. Love your kids.

1. What does this remind you of?

2. Look up Ecclesiastes 12:[13](#) *When all has been heard, the conclusion of the matter is this: Fear God and keep His commandments, because this is the whole duty of man.* Is it possible to do any better than this?
3. Look at Micah 6: [8](#) *He has shown you...what is good. And what does the LORD require of you but to act justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God?* Why is this so comforting?
4. Is it possible?
5. What will the Lord do in response, according to the promises we've seen today?

VII. Wrapping up. God is faithful

Pastor raised several issues.

1. You are not alone. You do not need to carry all this burden alone.
2. We get stuck in a moment of time, and we get overwhelmed by what we see, but God sees time, and he knows what He's doing. He's working.
3. Over time you will see the work of God in your children's lives.

Pastor lists changes that the church is seeing:

1. We want to be sensitive to the needs of working moms.
2. We have initiated childcare for life groups.
3. We have family ministry, to prevent the feeling that you are alone.

As the burdens become more complex, Grace is putting support in place on the web site.

1. The church family is here for you.
2. Do not be afraid to ask.
3. Do you have a testimony or an encouragement?
4. What do you see? What needs do you know of that could be met?

The Follow-up Application

1. Use the [SOAP journal studies](#) below throughout the week.
2. Throw away any idols you have. Describe the result.
3. Write down any encouragement that comes this week resulting from the prophecies spoken in the sermon. Tell someone about it.
4. Remember the children that were mentioned in life group this week, and all those for whom you are concerned. Pray for them all.
5. Pray for a mom in need that you know of.

Take the time to pray.

Scribe's Notes:

1. On **"God is the ultimate parent."** Review the parable of the prodigal son again in Luke 15:11-37. How do you describe each of the sons? Think through the themes Pastor Mark addressed concerning parenting and children. Put yourself in the place of each of the characters. Have you ever acted like the father acted toward your own offspring? Toward the offspring of others?

For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP**... (**S**cripture—Copy the scripture. / **O**bservation—Write what you see. / **A**pplication—What is God saying? / **P**ray—What is your response?) ...method to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: Isaiah 30:18-23
Tuesday: Psalm 32
Wednesday: Isaiah 40:28-31
Thursday: Colossians 3:23-24
Friday: Isaiah 54:13-14
Saturday: Psalm 34:15-20
Sunday: 1 John 5:13-15

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.