



WEEK 4

May 13 - 14

Are You Brave Enough?

This Discussion Guide should be used the week following the sermon it supplements. If you are using the guide in your small group, try to work through the questions on your own before you meet. You might not get to all of the questions, and that's okay. If your small group does not meet one week, walk through the guide on your own so that you can stay in sync with the series.

MAIN TEXT: Various

SUMMARY: Happy Mother's Day! Are you brave enough to take on this awesome responsibility? This week we will examine how Mary handled it.

GETTING STARTED

God Mothers Are Brave!

DIGGING DEEPER

1. Good mothers bravely plan
 - a) Read Luke 1:38 – What is Mary's "attitude"? Can you find humble? Servant? Confident? Why would she feel these emotions?
 - b) Read Proverbs 22:6 – What are the most important years in which a child learns? How do they learn – listening or watching, or both?
 - c) Did Mary have a plan? Did she know Who her son was?
 - a. What did Mary face as a pregnant, unmarried, teenager?
 - b. Was she deterred from her task?
 - c. How important is the job of being a mother?
2. Good mothers bravely challenge their children.
 - a) Read John 2:1-5 – What can we gather from this about the relationship between Jesus and Mary?
 - b) How well does Mary know her Son? Jesus initially protests but Mary directs the servants to do what He says? Why?
 - c) Is challenging different than pushing? Different than demanding? Different than living YOUR life through your child? Are you afraid to challenge your child?

"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2

FAMILY DISCIPLESHIP

While you are relaxing with your children this Mother's Day, and possibly washing the butter and pancake syrup out of your sheets from the breakfast in bed, ask them honestly what is the most important thing you have ever taught them? Listen carefully. Ask them to play "house" or "mommy" and watch how they treat their "babies". Are you teaching them well? Do you ever hear your words coming out of their mouths? Are they good words? Are they glorifying, encouraging words? Are you brave enough to raise a disciple?

3. Good mothers bravely trust God's work

- a) Read Luke 1:46-56. Read verse 45 – Mary has believed the angel for 33 years.
 - a. We are not told how, but Mary knew Jesus could do what she asked. How well do you know your children? Do you know what they can and cannot do?
- b) Where does this song place Mary's confidence?
- c) How hard is it to place your child in God's care?

Additional discussion: What if all else fails? What if you train up your child, trust God, and still the worst happens? Does that mean God is less than trustworthy?

NEXT STEPS

- Think about it: What are you teaching your children – by your words, your actions, your relationships, your life?
- Be aware of everything you do this week. Try to see it through the eyes of your children. They are watching you.
- Your children are a gift from God. How does He want them raised?

"What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men who will be able to teach others also."

2 Timothy 2:2