

## Facebook Live Description:

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"Mothers are Daughters (and Everyone's a Child)"

Romans 12:9-16

May 9, 2021

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*Because God first loved you, you exist to love God and love your neighbors!*

1. 1<sup>st</sup> Set songs
  - a. Good Good Father
  - b. Jesus We Love You
2. Mingle – dismiss 2-8s (5 min)
3. Deaver – Announcements (Mothers Day, Guys Group, Zoom Possibility, EHD)

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1. Welcome
2. Rather than study one passage today, we're going to pick a bouquet of passages from God's Word this morning. And a few of them we'll slow WAY down, and spend some time reflecting.
  - a. **You'll need a pen and paper!**
3. Start with Romans 12:9-16 (someone else read with mic?)
 

<sup>9</sup> Let love be genuine. Abhor what is evil; hold fast to what is good. <sup>10</sup> Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor. <sup>11</sup> Do not be slothful in zeal, be fervent in spirit, <sup>12</sup> serve the Lord. <sup>12</sup> Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer. <sup>13</sup> Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality. <sup>14</sup> Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse them. <sup>15</sup> Rejoice with those who rejoice, weep with those who weep. <sup>16</sup> Live in harmony with one another.
4. **PAUSE AND REFLECT → What sticks out to you? For whatever reason?**
5. In this passage Paul is writing to a young church in Rome, teaching them what it looks like to love and live with one another well in the family of God.
  - a. So much here!
  - b. So much here for what we're trying to grow in our church culture
  - c. As we lean into the soil of new growth together
6. We want our love to be GENUINE

- a. Not a plastic, churchy niceness
  - b. But a deep and true love that walks through the good and the bad together.
  - c. Holds fast to what is Good, doesn't get in bed with what is evil
  - d. Loves one another with real, brotherly, sisterly affection. Not just a Sunday go to meeting mentality
  - e. Looks to elevate and bless one another – seeks to outdo one another, in SHOWING OTHERS HONOR!
    - i. Even when it's hard
    - ii. Even when we don't feel like it
    - iii. It's a risk
  - f. We long to live in HARMONY with one another
    - i. A MUSICAL term
    - ii. Doesn't mean we all sing the same notes
    - iii. Or the same exact tune
    - iv. But gives room for variation, diversity, complementary strands that work together to make a more beautiful whole
  - g. That's how we can actually Rejoice with those who rejoice. AND mourn with those who mourn.
7. Today, Mothers Day, is a great opportunity for our church family to practice this.
- a. A beautiful song of genuine love and relationship
    - i. Including HARMONIES of rejoicing and mourning
  - b. That HONORS one another. Even while sometimes being in different places
  - c. Holds space for both
    - i. Its right to do both
      - 1. Its one aspect of mutual submission w/in the Body
8. Rejoicing
- a. It's right to HONOR and celebrate mothers for their work
  - b. In the home & the church!
  - c. You mothers work HARD. Without much break. Especially in those young kids years.
    - i. Often thankless!
  - d. And it's deeply, profoundly GOOD work.
    - i. Not only the basics of giving birth and raising a child to adulthood
      - 1. The time
      - 2. The food
      - 3. The lessons
      - 4. The extra cleaning
      - 5. THE childcare!
    - ii. At it's root, mothering is Discipleship.
      - 1. Helping another person grow in wisdom and maturity
      - 2. In their personal, relational, and spiritual lives!
      - 3. Helping them to learn not only what it means to be a woman, but a daughter of God!
  - e. It's right to remember our own mothers and give thanks
    - i. Where we can!
      - 1. Even if it's simply for the gift of life
  - f. So lets start by having all the mothers in the room stay seated

- i. And the rest of us stand and applause in their honor
  - ii. Extra credit to the last clapper!
    - 1. Every church has one (Usually It's me)
  - g. Yes it's right that we honor and rejoice over mothers. → an important part of the song!
- 9. But along with the melody line of rejoice is mingled the harmony of Mourning –
  - a. Especially on mothers day
  - b. Mothers Day is also an opportunity to MOURN with those who mourn.
  - c. with those who Desperately long to be mothers, but aren't
    - i. Single
    - ii. Married w/o kids
      - 1. Infertility
      - 2. Miscarriage
      - 3. Death of a child
  - d. With mothers who are estranged from their children
    - i. Or the waywardness of a child
  - e. Divorce has mangled that mother/child bond
  - f. Or those who have unresolved trauma from their own relationship with their mothers.
  - g. I know many in this room, in our own church family that struggle with these
  - h. Who mourn today. Because it's mothers day.
- 10. So as a church, it's right that we do both this morning.
  - a. To enter in together knowing that BOTH are right and good.
  - b. A potential for HOLY loving harmony in our church.
  - c. Different notes sung together that TOGETHER are beautiful. Good. Connecting.
  - d. So wherever you're at this morning, I invite you to come just as you are.
    - i. Rejoicing or mourning
    - ii. And a hundred shades in between.
  - e. You're welcome. Wanted. Valuable. Just as you are.
  - f. We see you. And acknowledge both the joys and the sorrows.
  - g. And we're going to do our best to sing together (both literally and figuratively) in harmony of true Christian love – by the help of the Spirit!
- 11. In order to sing well together, to hold space for rejoicing and mourning together, is to begin singing the same SONG. Otherwise we simply have discord.
- 12. Get back to the foundation. The beginning.
- 13. Genesis 2
- 14. <sup>5</sup>When no bush of the field<sup>[a]</sup> was yet in the land<sup>[b]</sup> and no small plant of the field had yet sprung up—for the LORD God had not caused it to rain on the land, and there was no man to work the ground, <sup>6</sup>and a mist<sup>[c]</sup> was going up from the land and was watering the whole face of the ground—  
<sup>7</sup>then the LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature.
- 15. <sup>18</sup>Then the LORD God said, "It is not good that the man should be alone; I will make him a helper fit for<sup>[d]</sup> him."

16. <sup>21</sup> So the LORD God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and while he slept took one of his ribs and closed up its place with flesh. <sup>22</sup> And the rib that the LORD God had taken from the man he made<sup>into</sup> into a woman and brought her to the man.
17. **PAUSE AND REFLECT – What sticks out to you? What is going on in your soul?**
18. All of mankind – humans, we are created by God Himself.
- a. He is our Father. Both men and women. All humans.
  - b. God is our Father – he breathed into us. Made us. Gave us life.
  - c. And at an even more profound level for those of us who follow Christ, we have been ADOPTED into God’s royal family as beloved sons and daughters.
  - d. Speaking of Jesus, John teaches us that though many rejected Christ:
    - i. **“But to all who believed him and accepted him, he gave the right to become children of God. They are reborn, not with a physical birth resulting from human passion or plan, but a birth that comes from God.” John 1:12-13 (NLT)**
  - e. So at root, even below our identities as mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, we are each of us Children
    - i. And God himself is our father
    - ii. Especially for those of us who believe in Christ
      - 1. We are his beloved child
19. So for the remainder of our time together, I want to invite all us to engage not primarily as moms, or dads, or singles, or husbands, wives....
- a. But rather as a child ....of God
  - b. That means, moms, you’re not coming with your mom hat on, thinking about your kids, or how well you’re doing as a mom....or NOT doing...Or anything like that.
  - c. **but you’re coming as a daughter**
  - d. For indeed you are
  - e. **Today’s teaching is called Mothers are Daughters – and Everyone’s a Child.**
20. This morning....God wants to engage with each of you as his beloved daughter. As his beloved son. First and foremost. At a root.... Foundational level.
- a. At the core place of our Identity
  - b. Our identity takes a hit over and over again in this world
    - i. For all of us!
  - c. Especially for moms
    - i. Young kids – exhaustion, WHO AM I?
    - ii. Do I matter?
    - iii. Does what I do matter?
    - iv. Am I a good mom?
    - v. I’m a failure.
    - vi. Nobody sees me.
      - 1. I don’t have any real friends.
    - vii. Nobody really knows me.
    - viii. I’m stuck – trapped.
    - ix. I’m not beautiful because I don’t look like her
      - 1. Do everything she’s doing

- x. My kids don't behave like their kids
- xi. My house isn't clean enough
- xii. I don't work outside the home like she does
- xiii. I'm not using my degree
- xiv. I'm NOT
- xv. I'm Not...

21. And we know it's not just moms that are constantly assaulted in their identity

- a. Each of us are in constant propaganda warfare – a spiritual battleground
  - i. Spiritual messages about what's true and who God is, and WHO WE ARE
  - ii. Spiritual warfare is waged not with physical might
  - iii. But with ideas
    - 1. **2 Cor 10: 3-5**<sup>3</sup> For though we walk in the flesh, we are not waging war according to the flesh. <sup>4</sup>For the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but have divine power to destroy strongholds. <sup>5</sup>We destroy arguments and every lofty opinion raised against the knowledge of God, and take every thought captive to obey Christ
  - iv. Daughters. Sons
  - v. It's a battleground for belief. The arena is our thoughts. What we trust.
  - vi. And the stakes are far higher than physical warfare
  - vii. The implications far more dire
  - viii. Because beliefs don't just sink into our skin and bones.... They soak down into our very souls
  - ix. The core essence of our being
  - x. And THAT is the ultimate goal of our enemy
    - 1. Satan aims to attack and enslave us at a heart level. To get us to believe his lies rather than God's truth

b. And one of the most potent attacks in this is on our identity

22. Even good things that aren't the best things can become victories for the enemy

- a. So many mothers take on something else as a core of their identity, rather than their ultimate identity as a child of God
  - i. Your identity as a mom
    - 1. It's good! But it's not who you truly are.
    - 2. Who you were before you had a child.
  - ii. Identity from your kids
    - 1. What they do, how well they do it (or DON'T)
  - iii. Your home... beautiful or messy
  - iv. Your grandbabies
- b. ALL Of us are tempted constantly to take our identity from somewhere other than who our Creator, or Heaven Father says we are:
  - i. Your health
  - ii. Your body image
  - iii. Exercise
  - iv. Money
  - v. Education
  - vi. Work

- vii. Relationships – or lack thereof
  - c. These can become our silhouettes, the contours of our selves
    - i. The things we are known for
    - ii. And eventually, what we see of ourselves in the mirror
  - d. What we give attention to, we empower.
    - i. What you feed, will grow.
    - ii. What you believe will hold you
23. Identity struggles are a hugely successful tactic of the enemy not only against individuals, but especially against the family of God: the Church
- a. And it completely eviscerates our ability to sing together
  - b. The same song
  - c. We don't know who we are. WHOSE we are.
  - d. Our part in the song.
  - e. So we're utterly unable to
    - i. rejoice with those who rejoice
    - ii. And mourn with those who mourn
24. Devotional Engagement 1
- a. Get a pen and paper
25. What sticks out to you from this? What might God be drawing your attention to?
- a. Speaking to you, about you? And how he sees you?

**Psalm 139:13-18 NLT [King David, speaking to God]**

- <sup>13</sup> You made all the delicate, inner parts of my body  
and knit me together in my mother's womb.
- <sup>14</sup> Thank you for making me so wonderfully complex!  
Your workmanship is marvelous—how well I know it.
- <sup>15</sup> You watched me as I was being formed in utter seclusion,  
as I was woven together in the dark of the womb.
- <sup>16</sup> You saw me before I was born.  
Every day of my life was recorded in your book.  
Every moment was laid out  
before a single day had passed.
- <sup>17</sup> How precious are your thoughts about me,<sup>[b]</sup> O God.  
They cannot be numbered!
- <sup>18</sup> I can't even count them;  
they outnumber the grains of sand!  
And when I wake up,  
you are still with me!

- a. Take off your other identity hats right now, and put on only the one that says I'm a child

- i. I'm a son of God
  - ii. I'm a daughter of God
  - iii. Write that down. A sentence.
- b. What does it feel like to take off all your other identities before God?
  - iv. What does it feel like to come before him simply as a child?
- c. **Isaiah 66:13** - As a mother comforts her son, so I will comfort you,
  - v. What are you holding that needs comforted by your Heavenly Father?

26. One of the great barriers to our ability to rejoice and mourn well is Trauma. Hurt. Brokenness.

- a. Wounds that come from living in a world that doesn't work right
- b. The most shaping of these come from our younger years with our families.
- c. Even the best families aren't perfect. Parents aren't perfect. So all of us experience and carry trauma from our childhood from growing up in a world that isn't perfect. Often FAR FROM.
- d. Big T & little T
  - i. Big T => abuse, neglect, rejection, overt harm. Big scenes where harmful words cut to our core.
  - ii. Little t => frequent, smaller caliber lashes that add up to same effect
    - 1. Unhealthy attachment
    - 2. Emotional distance
    - 3. Unkind or hurtful words, messages, little comments, that build up over time.
  - iii. Family/Generational curses passed down (not magic, neuroscience!)
    - 1. We inherit our genetic code from our mothers and fathers
    - 2. Also family histories! – not just in passed down cultures and heirlooms
      - a. In our heredity as well! Our Genes!
    - 3. Epigenetic Modification
      - a. Not just hard coding genes, but also choices and experiences physically change the way our DNA is read and expressed!
      - b. Our choices change the way our genes are read and expressed
      - c. And that DNA expression alteration get passed down to our children
      - d. To the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> generation
        - i. – **remember that stat! – epigenetic modification is passed down through 3-4 generations!**
      - e. That means you've inherited not only your great grandmother's chin, but also her predisposition to addiction
      - f. not only your grandfather's high blood pressure, but also his bent toward anxiety because of growing up in that addicted/chaotic home
      - g. Your mom's predilection to depression and emotional fallout from the divorce
    - 4. Yes – we pass down our predispositions toward addictions to our children
      - a. And their children....
      - b. Your porn addiction will literally affect your great grandchildren on a genetic level!

- e. Add to that the specific ways we were parented
  - i. Whether healthy or not
  - ii. Helicopter, disengaged
  - iii. No boundaries ... rigid
  - iv. Strict disciplinarian, permissive
  - v. Whether they wanted you to be GOOD or be HAPPY
- f. All of us come through our childhood and formative years shaped by traumas
  - i. And we learn how to make life work.
  - ii. All of us have a story! Women and Men..... young and old. We are not an island!

27. All of us are coming in with blessings and curses inherited from our families. (what are yours?)

28. Let's read a passage from Exodus where God meets with Moses and tells him His Own Name – a paragraph of HIS identity:

- a. Exodus 34:7
  - i. <sup>5</sup>The LORD descended in the cloud and stood with him there, and proclaimed the name of the LORD. <sup>6</sup>The LORD passed before him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD, a God merciful and gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness, <sup>7</sup>keeping steadfast love for a thousand generations, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, but who will by no means clear the guilty, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children and the children's children, to the third and the fourth generation."
  - ii. **PAUSE AND REFLECT → What do you sense God speaking to you through this?**
- b. Isn't that fascinating in light of what we know now about epigenetics?
  - i. God knows that the sins of the fathers (and mothers) get passed down to their kids, their grandkids, to the third and fourth generation!
  - ii. He knows about epigenetics!
  - iii. And how our traumas get passed down from generation to generation
    - 1. Most naturally as curses
    - 2. Natural cause effect curses that make your life harder...
- c. Our Heavenly Father has a much bigger heart for blessing than curses
  - i. He longs to bless us! ... not just like the curses. ... BUT FAR FAR MORE!
- d. **Romans 12: <sup>2</sup>Do not be conformed to this world,<sup>[a]</sup> but be transformed by the renewal of your mind,**
  - i. Neuroscience has taught us only somewhat recently that our brains are moldable – plastic – they can change over time, physical structures and connections can substantially rewire over time through diligent effort and repetition.
  - ii. We literally can renew our minds
  - iii. It takes TIME!
  - iv. But it's possible. And God longs to bless us. To bring us healing. In our minds. From our traumas. And the ways we've learned – ie: SHAPED OUR BRAINS – to respond and cope with them.

29. All of us

- a. In a fallen world, filled with fallen broken people, all parents will damage our kids



- i. Even the best parents
- b. We were wounded in relationship
  - i. We must be healed in relationship
  - ii. God has provided ONE ANOTHER to help heal and reparent each other
  - iii. This is both a solemn charge
  - iv. And a glorious hope
  - v. (and a reckless risk?)
- c. In the church, we can help reparent one another into blessing
- d. Whether you have your own children or not, you can be a spiritual mother to others in this body
  - i. A spiritual father
  - ii. Sister, Brother
- e. Even if you had very traumatic parenting, God longs to redeem!
  - i. To restore what the locust have stolen
  - ii. To help one another heal and offer healing to one another
- 30. Yes We are deeply and inescapably tied to our mothers, and fathers, our family lines, our heritage – whether we like it or not
  - a. Whether we know it or not
  - b. WHETHER WE KNEW THEM OR NOT
- 31. And it has everything to do with how we parent, how we engage with God, others in the Church... even how we view ourselves.
- 32. Moms, the best thing you can do for your kids is to get healthy yourself – to heal – to lean into your own story, what you’ve inherited, what’s been done to you, what you’ve done, how you’ve responded
  - a. Dads, this is true for you too
  - b. Church folks of all kinds.
    - i. The best thing you can do for your church, for your brother and your sister here
    - ii. Is to open your eyes, and understand your own story
      - 1. And move into healing and health
- 33. The Body of Christ is God’s primary means for this healing.... This reparenting
  - a. To begin to heal what was broken
  - b. Renew your mind
    - i. The deep parts of you that were shaped as a child
    - ii. Where you learned the world was unsafe and what you needed to do and be to survive
    - iii. The STYLES of relating you learned to make life work
    - iv. The deep identity you take for yourself....
  - c. He wants to slowly but surely heal THAT part of you. So that you can learn to trust HIM as your Father
    - i. Live in THAT safety
    - ii. Learn your TRUE name
      - 1. It’s not stupid
      - 2. Or failure
      - 3. Or ugly
      - 4. Nor is it valedictorian
      - 5. Or pretty
      - 6. Or successful

- iii. It's who GOD has uniquely made you to be. Before the world broke your heart
- iv. And you learned to survive
- v. Even if you've forgotten, he hasn't
  - 1. And he's moved heaven and earth to bring you home
  - 2. He came and hung on the cross, died for your sins, took your brokenness upon himself
  - 3. And rose again on the third day
  - 4. So that he can call you daughter
  - 5. Son
- d. And he does this through his church.
  - i. His spirit moves here
  - ii. He's chosen this.

34. It begins when we sing the same song

- a. The Gospel song that tells us who God is, and who we are. And what he's done for us.
- b. And comes to life when we sing the harmonies of rejoicing and mourning together.
- c. Singing and speaking words of truth and life to one another
- d. Participating in His great work of healing us. Renewing our minds. Reparenting us.
- e. Reprocessing our generational curses into blessings for a thousand generations!

35. Through the church, we hear the Voice of the Father on the Lips of the Saints

- a. From Your brother and sister hear over and over:
- b. You are not alone
- c. I see you
- d. God loves you.
- e. You are lovable.
- f. Valuable.
- g. He is strong enough to hold you
- h. Powerful enough to heal you
- i. And good enough to do so, even at great cost to himself
- j. He is your Father
- k. And He is For YOU**

36. Mothers are Daughters (and you are a child too)

- a. To end: What is your Heavenly Father saying to you this morning?
- b. What would that change for you?
- c. Who needs to hear those words from God through you?
- d. 2 min to write/journal**

**37. Pray**

38. No Longer Slaves

39. Springtime

40. The Blessing