

A MOTHER'S

Love



Devotions *for* Mother's Day

**Creative
Communications
Sample**



A Mother's Love Is **RELATIONAL**

Beloved, let us love one another,
for love is from God, and whoever loves has
been born of God and knows God. **1 JOHN 4:7**

God designed us to be in relationships. With our immediate family, we feel a closer bond than most friendships. We love them so deeply, everything they do can affect us, and we can affect them.

As our children grow, our relationship changes. Once they were so dependent on us for every basic need—food, shelter and love. They quickly showed independence as they grew. Sometimes it feels as if they don't want us, don't love us. But, we keep loving them.

When those babies become adults, we feel conflicted. We knew we were training them to leave us, to be independent in so many ways, but we never want them to disconnect completely. We don't want them to stop communicating, visiting, hugging and loving us. We have to find a new way to relate, to be complementary to them, to have a mutual mature adult relationship. Let's pray for all our relationships to grow and bloom in God's grace and love.



***Gracious God, help me keep my relationships
with my family strong and loving. Amen.***



A Mother's Love Is **SACRIFICIAL**

If we love one another, God abides in us
and his love is perfected in us. **1 JOHN 4:12**

Mothers sacrifice ego, vanity and time, particularly when we have a newborn. We gladly sacrifice our schedule for that of an unpredictable baby, appreciating the gift God has given us. After weeks of baby-induced insomnia, we may find our tears of gratitude replaced by tears of desperation. Nightly, we weep into our pillow, knowing we need help.

Feeling overwhelmed by the mothering? Remember to reach out. Reach out in love—even when the love seems to be all used up. Ask your family for help; you need it. Ask yourself for kindness; you deserve it. Talk to God. Share your deepest hurts and desires.

When the children are grown and gone, and you face those desperate feelings again, God will still be there. He has loved us enough to know what sacrifice is all about. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross, we can experience God's amazing love and show it through our motherly love.

***Heavenly Father, mothering is so hard.
I can't do it without you. Please be with me
in times of desperation and thanksgiving.
Amen.***



A Mother's Love Is
MEANINGFUL

And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. **COLOSSIANS 3:17**

What mother hasn't dealt with laundry, dirty diapers or dishes and thought to herself that this is not the important stuff; it doesn't really matter. After all, how can we share our love when we're elbow deep in dish water? Who could possibly find love in a dirty diaper?

We are fooling ourselves in that kind of thinking. We are to look at the faith and see not just the task. We are serving our family and God himself when we feed our family food on clean dishes (even if it's just a hot dog on a paper plate.) Don't reject the good deeds God has put in front of you. Some are stinky. Many are tedious. But, we do what we need to do in love and faith, prayerfully, positively and with thanksgiving. That's what God calls us to do.



Dear Father in heaven, thank you for reminding me that everything I do counts, but that doesn't mean I should worry about every little thing. Amen.



A Mother's Love Is HUMAN

Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. **ISAIAH 49:15**

Most mothers have noticed a strong, natural urge to protect and raise their children. These bonds that are physical, emotional and just very complex.

God gave us humanness. He doesn't want us to ignore our thoughts and feelings, but he also doesn't want us to deny our reliance on him. He didn't give us strong maternal urges so that we can behave in self-centered ways. We can take that raw emotion to God and allow him to hone it. Let our worry and concern show itself through plentiful prayer and involvement in our children's lives. Let our hurt feelings and self-awareness be a way for us to learn and model patience, forgiveness and compassion. Finally, let us always ask God what he would have us do to raise our children to be the best faith-filled humans they can be.

Gracious God, thank you for giving me children. Show me how to protect and raise these precious gifts. Amen.





A Mother's Love Is **AFFECTIONATE**

You shall nurse, you shall be carried upon her hip,
and bounced upon her knees. **ISAIAH 66:12**

Some families are very physical, expecting multiple daily hugs and wrestling matches. Others like to share inside jokes and gentle ribbing. Still others find very subtle ways to share their love. Does it mean one family loves more than another? Not necessarily.

We know that we do need to have some physical affection, even if we were raised in a very stoic family.

A hand on the shoulder, eye contact and saying "I love you" are simple and effective ways to remind our children that we do truly love them. Though a teen



boy may not appreciate a hug from Mom in front of his friends, he might respond to a slap on the back and a whispered, "I'm proud of you." God has given us unique personalities and needs. Let's look for ways to show affection that suit each of us and our families best.

Dear Lord, thank you for giving me your love. Show me how to be affectionate with my family. Amen.

WITHOUT PRAYER AND FAITH, MOTHERING CAN SEEM IMPOSSIBLE AND FULL OF FEAR AND PAIN. Even with our knowledge of God's presence, we may fight the foes of boredom, inadequacy, loneliness, fear and worry. Praise God that he is always near, ready for us to return to him for strength, courage comfort ... and LOVE!

Receive encouragement as a faithful mother, grandmother, step-mother, care-giver with this handy two-week devotional prayer booklet. Through fourteen grace-themed reflections in *A Mother's Love*, author Stephenie Hovland provides a spiritual moment each day to reflect and recharge under the fountain of God's all-encompassing grace, power and love.



By Stephanie Hovland. Design by Jeff McCall. Photos by Shutterstock.

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