

God's Splendid Mothers

I love mothers!

Thank you for caring so well for your children!





Be sure to show your mother how much you love her and are thankful for all she does for you! You can show her extra appreciation on Mother's Day and on her birthday, but there are also ways to show her how much you love her many times throughout the year.



The following pages briefly tell about eight mothers I make special mention of in the Bible. You can read the full story about each of these women in your Bible.

See which of your mother's traits you can recognize in these stories.

When you pray for your mother, you can ask some of these wonderful mothers from Bible times to help your mother with their particular spiritual strengths.

The qualities of the mothers described on these pages apply to mother figures in your life as well.

Can you think of other women who manifest the love of a mother to you?

Look at this airplane I made for my mom. I put a note in it for her.

And I made my mom this card. I hope these messages encourage our moms.



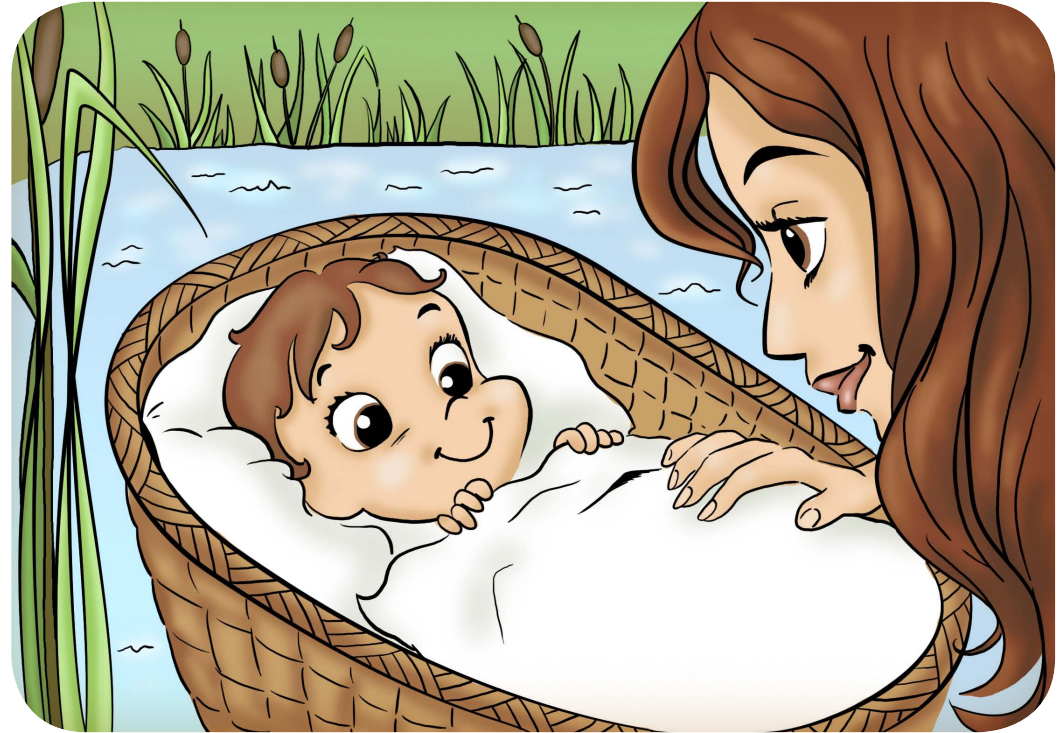


Abraham's wife, **Sarah**, believed that God could give her a child even though she was too old to have a baby. And her faith was honored with the gift of her son, Isaac. Because she did well in training Isaac in the ways of God, he grew up to be a good leader to his people and a follower of God.

Read Genesis 18:9–15; 21:1–7.



Jochebed showed her *love* for her baby boy by devising a plan to save him, even though Pharaoh had demanded that all Hebrew baby boys be thrown into the river. Jochebed wove a basket that would float on the river, and she manifested strong *determination* by putting her baby in the basket and setting the basket and baby in the river.



That baby was Moses, who was discovered by Pharaoh's daughter. Pharaoh's daughter hired Jochebed to feed and care for Moses when he was little. Moses was then raised and educated in Pharaoh's house, and later was used by God to lead the Hebrews out of Egypt.

Read Exodus 2:1–10.





Read Ruth 1–4.

One of Jesus' ancestors was **Ruth**, a Moabite, who after her Hebrew husband died, left her people to live in Bethlehem and care for her mother-in-law. God blessed Ruth greatly for being such a *dedicated* and *caring* daughter-in-law, and made her the great-grandmother of King David.

In Matthew 1:1–16 you will discover how she's also one of Jesus' ancestors.



Samuel was one of the greatest prophets recorded in the Old Testament. You can read stories about him in the Bible books of the same name, 1st and 2nd Samuel.

Samuel's mother, **Hannah**, had been married many years, and wanted to have children, but she never became pregnant. One day she told God that if He gave her a baby boy, she'd give the child back to Him to be trained to serve God. She had *confidence* in God's ability to answer her prayer and give her a child.





Read 1 Samuel 1.

Soon after Hannah had made that pledge she got pregnant, and later had a baby boy that she named Samuel. When Samuel was a young boy, his mother took him to the temple to be raised in God's way by Eli, the priest. That wasn't easy for Hannah to do, and because she lived so far away she only saw Samuel once a year after that. But she loved God so much, and was so thankful to God for giving her Samuel, that she willingly gave Samuel back to God.

God rewarded Hannah for giving Samuel to Him, and later Hannah gave birth to more sons and daughters.



When the prophet Elijah asked the **Widow of Zarephath** to make him bread from her remaining flour and oil, she gave him the last bit of food she had on hand for her and her son. It was a great step of *trust* and *obedience* for her to do this during a famine.

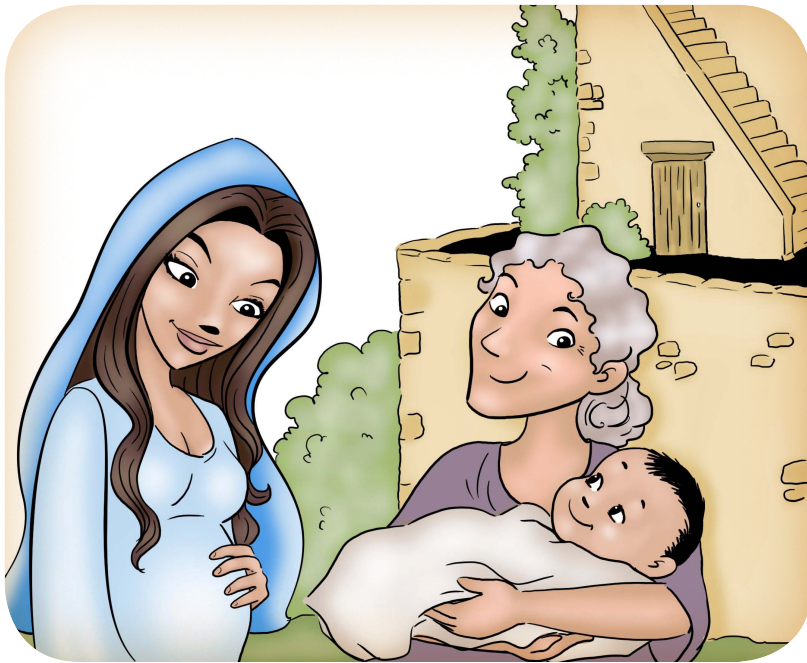
Elijah promised the widow that if she did this then God would bless her with more flour and oil. The Widow of Zarephath believed God's promise and gave the last of her and her son's food to Elijah. Because of this God gave back to her, and she had plenty of food for herself, her son, and for Elijah for the duration of the famine.

The Widow of Zarephath knew the best thing she could do for her son was to obey God.



Read 1 Kings 17:10–24.





Read Luke 1–2:20.

And there was Jesus' *devoted* earthly mother, **Mary**, who became pregnant even though she had never been married or with a man. She could have said no to God, because of worry about what people would think. But she didn't. She instead said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to Thy word" (Luke 1:38). She *yielded* to God's call in her life, and because of this she has gone down in history as "blessed," just as she prophesied. (Read Luke 1:48.)

Mary's cousin, **Elisabeth**, was another special mother, who though she was "*righteous* before God," was childless and passed the age of childbearing. However, God had a special plan for Elisabeth, and in her old age he made her the mother of John the Baptist, who became the prophet preparing the way ahead for Jesus.



The Early Church would not have progressed nearly as far as it did if it was not for the faithful mothers who raised their sons and daughters to know of God and His Word. One of Paul's most faithful followers and disciples was Timothy, who was raised in great faith by his mother, **Eunice**, and grandmother, **Lois**. Their *diligence* in training Timothy in the Word helped propel the Church forward when later Timothy as a grown man served God with Paul.



Read 2 Timothy 1:5.

S&S link: Christian Life and Faith: Witnessing and Missionary Training: Great Men and Women of God-1a.

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