

**DAILY BIBLE READINGS - Week of May 14, 2023**

**THEME: "Mothers' Day"**

**VIRTUOUS WOMAN**

**Sunday ..... Read Proverbs 31:10-19**

*"Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies. The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her, so that he shall have no need of spoil. She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life."* Although God has given the gift of being single to some men and women, it is His plan for most to be married. It was through the marriage relationship that God decided to populate His earth, through a family unit: a home. After having first created Adam, paraded all the animals before him to name them. After doing that, God took one of Adam's ribs and created a woman. Adam instantly knew he had a partner for life, and that became earth's first home and family.

**NEW FAMILIES**

**Monday ..... Read Genesis 2:24**

*"Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh."* When sons and daughters became of age, they were told by God to leave their home and establish a new home. The world would then be populated with new homes. It is the plan of God that families shall be the basic social unit of the culture! Extended families would be the joy of all people. Throughout the years, God has marvelously used extended families to further His work. Think of the solid relationship Abraham had with his nephew Lot. How about those special cousins, Elizabeth and Mary, the mother of Jesus. Mary could not wait to tell her cousin Elizabeth about her pregnancy. They could compare their common experiences: she with Jesus in her womb, and Elizabeth with John the Baptist in hers. The fact that God had these pregnancies recorded in Holy Scriptures emphasizes the importance of fellowship and communication.

**INWARD BEAUTY**

**Tuesday ..... Read I Peter 3:1-6**

*"But let it be the hidden man of the heart, in that which is not corruptible, even the ornament of a meek and quiet spirit, which is in the sight of God of great price."* Although physical attraction may be a real plus for a woman, it is the inner beauty of the woman that honors our Heavenly Father. Outward beauty may win beauty pageants, inner beauty will win the favor of God! To demonstrate the fruit of the spirit brings delight to a woman's husband and comfort and peace to her children. The husband in a home is fortunate indeed when his wife displays the fruits of the spirit mentioned in Galatians 5:22-23: *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."*

**PARENT**

**Wednesday ..... Read Psalm 127:1-3**

*"Lo, children are an heritage of the Lord: and the fruit of the womb is his reward."* The baby in the womb is a gift from God to a mother. It is a work of God during that nine months of development. Each of us according to Psalm 139:14 was a special creation of God: *"I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."* We know that God gives us the personality and talent to accomplish His plan for us while He is molding us in the womb. That is what we are told in Jeremiah 1:5: *"Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations."* It is important for parents to train their children in the ways of God. The earlier sons and daughters make a commitment to Christ as Lord, the more likely they will follow the career path of God's choosing. Good parents make happy successful children.

**HONORABLE**

**Thursday ..... Read Ephesians 6:1-2**

*"Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honour thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise."* Children are instructed by God to obey their father and mother and honor them. If children are commanded to honor their parents, parents are obligated to be honorable. What is it that makes a person honorable? The best way to be honorable is to be Christlike! That is possible only by living a life in tune with the Holy Spirit. A mother will demonstrate the epitome of love: a Christ like love! A mother filled with the Spirit will ensure that her children follow God!

**DISCIPLINARIAN**

**Friday ..... Read Proverbs 13:24-25**

*"He that spareth his rod hateth his son: but he that loveth him chasteneth him betimes. The righteous eateth to the satisfying of his soul: but the belly of the wicked shall want."* Godly mothers are good disciplinarians. Children, as parents, should live according to high standards of behavior. Not to do so is an injustice to our children. There's no question that living according to God's way is the best way to live a truly fulfilling life. That is what we are told in II Timothy 3:16-17: *"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."* To follow God's instructions for living is the ideal life. A good mother will insist on her children following these instructions. If they do not, they will suffer the consequences.

**PARISHIONER**

**Saturday ..... Read I Corinthians 12:18-20**

*"But now hath God set the members every one of them in the body, as it hath pleased him. And if they were all one member, where were the body? But now are they many members, yet but one body."* A local church is made up of people assigned by God as led by the Spirit. Mothers are an essential and beneficial part of any local Church, especially in the times of fellowship after a worship service and various activities. Young

girls and teenagers can benefit greatly by interacting with mothers. Just by being present at services, mothers honor God, and they set a good example by having worship as a high priority! It is probably safe to say that mothers are among our most faithful prayer warriors! They do all of us a favor by heeding the command of Colossians 4:3: *"Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds."*