



**T h e
M o t h e r
W h o
S e e k s A f t e r G o d**



L A U R A M A R T I N





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Daily Devotional for Busy Mums

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CHRISTIAN
FOCUS



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For Georgia and Lucy

Thank you for making this task of motherhood so fun. Thank you for overlooking my failures, for always wanting cuddles, and for making daddy and me laugh so much.

Georgia – your compassionate heart and your helpful attitudes are such a joy to me.

Lucy – your adventurous spirit and your constant desire to laugh and be cuddled are things I treasure in my heart.

Proverbs 3:5-6

Love Mummy xx

With special love to my dear mums

Sally Beard

Julia Martin

And because of Bryan, who encouraged me to write it all down in the first place. Thank you for being my best friend, favourite preacher and precious husband.



Introduction

We live in a world where success is measured by some key external elements: popularity, looks, the size of your bank account and the size and location of your home. I recently saw a bumper sticker that said it all: “Whoever dies with the most toys wins!”

This philosophy of external success has even made its way into parenting. I don’t know about you but when I was expecting my eldest daughter, I had in my mind some key things which I thought would define my success as a parent. Things like getting the baby sleeping through the night by twelve weeks; keeping an immaculate home; showing hospitality at the drop of a hat and all the while *always* looking attractive for my husband.

As you can probably guess, I set myself up for discouragement and exhaustion. Eventually the reality that I was never going to be the superwoman mother that I had in my mind sank in. So what now? Well (it’s with embarrassment that I am confessing this to you) I started to actually think about what I had been praying all through my pregnancy, “Father please help me to be a mother who seeks after You above all else.”

You know they say that pregnancy depletes your brain cells and lowers your ability to think sensibly. Let me tell you that I am living proof of it! Thankfully the Lord opened my eyes to my wrong thinking and set me on track to consider exactly



The Mother Who . . .

what a mother who seeks after Him really “looks like”. She’s not someone who majors on all the externals like I was – although there’s nothing wrong with having secondary goals of that nature. But as I prayed and read the Scriptures I soon saw that the mother who seeks after God is a woman who seeks to honour and glorify Him in all she does – including the amazing and privileged task of motherhood.

This devotional book is the end product of my own personal study and desire to become such a woman. It’s been a huge blessing in my life to have the truths of God’s Word minister to my heart and mind in this way and my prayer is that you will be blessed and encouraged by it also.

So for those of you who might visit my home, you’ll probably notice a bit of dust here and there, and a sad lack of home baking in the tins. In fact if you were to arrive without warning, I would probably be in my jeans and a sweater with my hair tied up and a token gesture of lipgloss on. But if you are coming so that we can chat about the Lord’s high calling for mothers to seek after Him then our conversation will be rich indeed, for that is where my heart is.

So let’s get started. Lay aside that duster (for now!), make a pot of tea, reach for your Bible and curl up in a chair ready to consider what it is to be a mother who seeks after God. May the Lord say of us as he once said of Mary: “[she] has chosen what is better, and it will not be taken away from her” (Luke 10:42).





1

The Mother Who... Worships

Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name. Bring an offering and come before him: worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness.

1 CHRONICLES 16:29

Recently I was speaking to a friend who had just moved and was looking for a new church home. She attended one church and I asked her what she thought. She replied “The worship was great, but the preaching was so-so.” I knew what she meant but it sounded like she was saying that worship is confined to that twenty minutes of singing before the sermon. Maybe that might even be the way you define worship. Many churches today are compartmentalising worship by the creation of “worship leaders”, “worship services” and “worship teams”. Although they might not mean to restrict worship to twenty minutes of fantastic music and singing, many people are growing up in churches thinking that way. That’s a problem. A serious problem – because when people believe their worship is restricted to twenty minutes on a Sunday morning, what do the rest of their lives mean? A critical part of worship is hearing the Word of God preached and responding to it – and this is often not even considered as important in some churches.

So we see Christians who need their worship fix on Sunday mornings – with the right band, the right worship leader, the





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right atmosphere, the right songs ... suddenly worship is about them and not about God. Worship becomes an emotive, subjective response to stimulus provided by musicians, vocalists and the guy (or girl) who chooses the songs. Uh oh! Let's stop the worship whirlwind and look at how God actually wants to be worshipped!

God is to be worshipped:

1. In a manner worthy of His name.

"...worship the LORD in the splendour of his holiness"

(1 Chron. 16:29)

God is holy. That means that He is set apart from anything that is unclean, unrighteous, impure or sinful. Remember back to the book of Exodus chapter 3, when God called Moses to return to Egypt and deliver His people. God called to Moses from a burning bush. Moses took a few steps towards the bush for a closer look but God told Moses to remove his sandals because *"the place where you are standing is holy ground"* (Exod. 3:5). Moses then hid his face from God because he was afraid to look at Him. The holiness of God produced a reverent fear in Moses. If we have a wrong view of God, our worship will not be in a manner worthy of God. But the right view and a high view of God will cause us to worship in reverence and awe with fear and trembling.

2. In spirit and in truth.

"God is spirit, and his worshippers must worship in spirit and in truth"

(John 4:24)

To worship in spirit means that we are genuine in our worship. It's not just an outward gesture but a heart response to an





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awesome God. To worship in truth is to worship according to what Scripture demands of us and to what Scripture reveals to us about God.

3. With our lives.

“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship”

(Rom. 12:1)

This confirms for us that worship is not just about a time of singing and praise. Of course that is one expression of worship, but true worship should flow from a life that is given to God for His glory, for His purpose, for His use, every single day of our lives. Worship is to happen in our homes, in our workplaces, in our cars, as we watch television or read a book, as we speak to one another, as we do the housework ... it’s a 24/7 commitment.

The mother who seeks after God is a woman who worships minute after minute, hour after hour, day after day. So go ahead, ascribe to the Lord the glory due His name, bring an offering and come before Him; worship the Lord in the splendour of His holiness.

Father what a privilege it is to worship You. Forgive me for the times I have placed a wrong emphasis on worship. I want to be a woman who worships You in spirit and in truth – with my very life. You are a holy God, worthy of worship all day, every day regardless of how I feel or what’s happening in my life. Please help me to worship You as Your Word instructs us to. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

VERSES FOR FURTHER STUDY

- Psalm 8
- Psalm 19
- Matthew 2:1-2





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QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Why do you worship God?
- How do you worship God?
- What hinders your worship?
- How can you begin/build on your family worship time so that your children understand what it is to worship God?

