



Mother's Day Prayer

God our Creator, we pray:

For new mothers, coming to terms with new responsibility; for expectant mothers, wondering and waiting; for those who are tired, stressed or depressed; for those who struggle to balance the tasks of work and family; for those who are unable to feed their children due to poverty; for those whose children have physical, mental or emotional disabilities; for those who have children they do not want; for those who raise children on their own; for those who have lost a child; for those who care for the children of others; for those whose children have left home; and for those whose desire to be a mother has not been fulfilled. Bless all mothers, that their love may be deep and tender, and that they may lead their children to know and do what is good, living not for themselves alone, but for God and for others. Amen.

Mompetition: The one-up rivalry that moms play, making their child seem better, smarter and/or more advanced than yours. This may involve two or more moms and any number of children.

Mommy Wars: Describes the “us” vs. “them” attitude surrounding a mother’s decision to work or stay at home, to breast or to bottle-feed, etc. In short, mommy wars are always seeking to pit moms against one another based on any or all decisions that a mom makes regarding her parenting choices.

SAD RESULT: You will feel like you are not doing enough and yet simultaneously feel like you are doing too much.

- Intensive motherhood does not run on love, compassion, mercy or justice. RATHER, intensive motherhood runs on guilt, fear and ambivalence.
- Intensive motherhood leads to competition instead of cooperation. God designed us to live in community; to build one another up; to love each other.

WHAT ABOUT GOD?

- Have we consulted with God recently?
- Have we asked what God desires for mothers?
- Have we looked to God’s example of motherhood in God himself?

“My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness.” So, I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

2 Corinthians 12:9 (NRSV)

But if you are bitterly jealous and there is selfish ambition in your heart, don't cover up the truth with boasting and lying. ¹⁵For jealousy and selfishness are not God's kind of wisdom. Such things are earthly, unspiritual and demonic. ¹⁶For wherever there is jealousy and selfish ambition, there you will find evil and disorder or every kind.

James 3:14-16 (NLT)

- God is not male; God is not female; God _____
- Male and Female are created in the image of God

*God **is spirit**, and his worshipers must worship him in the Spirit and in truth.*

John 4:24 (NIV)

Motherly Characteristics of God

1. God as the One _____
You were unmindful of the Rock that bore you; you forgot the God who gave you birth.
Deuteronomy 32:18 (NRSV)
2. God as a _____
Yet it was you who took me from the womb; you kept me safe on my mother's breast. On you I was cast from my birth, and since my mother bore me you have been my God.
Psalm 22:9-10 (NRSV)
3. God as _____
I will fall upon them like a bear robbed of her cubs, and will tear open the covering of their heart.
Hosea 13:8a (NRSV)
4. God as _____
I will comfort you there in Jerusalem as a mother comforts her child.
Isaiah 66:13 (NLT)
5. God as _____
Listen as Wisdom calls out! Hear as understanding raises her voice! On the hilltop along the road, she takes her stand at the crossroads. By the gates at the entrance to the town, on the road leading in, she cries aloud.
Proverbs 8:1-3 (NLT)
6. God as _____
Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those sent to you, how often I have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing.
Luke 13:34 (NIV)