

Women of Faith - The Measure of Love:

Mothering is a sacrificial way of living.

Sacrificial - because it is always seeking to give everything possible, regardless of cost.

A way of living - because it never ends.

God's love for each of us is perfect mothering and perfect fathering.



Old Testament stories on Mothering Sunday tell of such sacrifices – which foretell the self-giving love of God in Christ. The mothers of Moses and Samuel gave their children into the care of others; as God gave his Son into our care. *Ex 2.1-10 & 1 Samuel 1.20-28*

'She named him Moses, 'because', she said, 'I drew him out of the water.' *Ex 2.10*

Moses means 'child saved from water'. Moses mother hid him from danger; she gave him up to save his life. Pharaoh's daughter adopted a baby found among the bulrushes. Moses grew to lead the Israelites into the promised land.

'For this child I prayed. The Lord answered my prayer. Therefore, as long as he lives, he is given to the Lord.' *1 Samuel 1.28.*

Blessed in her old age by the son she desperately prayed for, Hannah named her son Samuel (meaning 'Name of God'). Honouring her promise, she left him in the care of Eli, the priest who had heard her prayer. Samuel grew to become a great prophet.

On Mothering Sunday, we can thank God for being the father and mother of us all, for the sacrifice of his Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross to save us, for the motherly support of friends and neighbours, and for all who make sacrifices to safeguard others.

We offer into God's fatherly care all mothers;
single mothers, single fathers, grandmothers,
mothers who commit their children into the care of others,
mothers who struggle to cope, foundlings, adopting families, foster families,
mothers of sick or injured children, or children with complex needs,
May they know the warmth and support of God's motherly love –
and may it reflect in their own lives.

Be thou my guardian and my guide,
and hear me when I call
Let not my slippery footsteps slide
and hold me lest I fall.