

Lessons from YWYM's Groups.

**Glimpses book 2**



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### **NOTICE**

Please note that there might be grammar and typing error in this document. We have tried to preserve it as much as possible in its original format. While effort was made to remove many things away, please read this bearing in mind that it is not a book.

# Topic 1

## How we can be wives of the Word and not the world?

**Response 1:** The first thing here is to know that as a redeemed child of God and as a wife, there is a reason why I am given the opportunity to be a wife to my husband and that the Lord wants to glorify Himself in and through me as a wife. So, for me to be the wife that He wants me to be, I need His help each day, and this can be done through His word. The fact that everybody is doing something does not mean that it is right unless it's according to the Word of God. I must not compare myself or marriage or husband with others and I must allow the Word of God to be my standard and not the world system.

Also, I have to get rid of self-daily. I have to be passionate about pleasing God above all other persons. May God help us all (amen). We must also study the word of God to know what He is saying. I pray that God will give us a deeper hunger for His word.

To be wives of the word, we need to first

Truly desire and earnestly seek to know and understand the word of God Psalm 123: 1-2, Psalm 42 - (as the deer pants for the water so my soul longs for you) and that would help us know and understand our purpose as wives and mothers.

To do this we need to ask, seek and knock (A.S.K.) - what is our posture? This is not about doing what is expected alone i.e. personal devotion and worship but also doing what is inspired by the Holy Spirit. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they shall be filled.

Ask - this is the gift of the Holy Spirit

Seek - how far are you willing to go, what sacrifices are you able to make, are you willing to keep God's company? Are we willing to stop being worldly?

Knock - and it will be opened unto you. This is an experience behind the door. This is where God reveals the secret things - His plans and purpose, instructions etc. The presence of the Holy Spirit is the secret place.

**Response 2:** To be wives of the Word, we need to fall in line, in step and in shape with the Holy Spirit - a daily work of truth, trust and faith. We need the Holy Spirit to become our strongest influence. We need God's approval and empowerment. The highest pursuit in life is to walk with the Holy Spirit. Please note that the greatest desire of our heart should be to experience God's comfort and the deepest healing is letting God touch our depths and the most beautiful transformation that can happen is by living the Word as the Holy Spirit makes us-

more like Christ. Also, there is no way we will be wives of the Word and have a worldly disposition to our husbands. Our attitudes, responses, thoughts and patterns should and reflect who influences us (if it be the Holy Spirit or the world dictates).

**Response 3:** To be a wife of the Word and not the world, I need to evacuate my old mind set through the renewal of my mind using God's word. I need to deliberately sit at the Master's feet to learn from Him like Mary through Bible study. I also need to be a practical believer of God's Word and not just a listener. In addition, I will have to be deliberate on what I allow myself to hear, see, speak or go to. Please note that this cannot happen without prayer and genuine hunger for a change.

**Response 4:** In all these, devotion to the Word of God is key. This brought Matthew 19:4 which says *'Haven't you read,' he replied, 'that at the beginning the Creator "made them male and female"'*. The phrase "have you not read" is what this thought hinges on. And I realised that: We will act and handle issues as wives of the world if we are not reading, and reading the Word of our Maker and the Originator of marriage. The Cross brings us to a better place of engaging God in His Word.

We will act as wives of the world if we do not understand God's Word. Not only must we read, study, memorise God's Word, we must understand it. It must become an "under" for us to stand upon, it must be the foundation upon which the weight of our lives stands upon. We will act as wives of the world if we do not allow the Holy Spirit to help us act on God's Word. Remember in our vlog, the first young wife got into trouble because she did not act on God's Word, neither did she herself quote God's Word properly, therefore, she was deceived.

Sisters, this is one thing we want to act on quickly, taking time to engage God's Word. If anyone of us have issues in reading and studying God's Word maybe due to work, looking after children, other busyness of life, please let Sister Deborah know off list and let us see how God might help us.

What are the day to day issues that will face us that might put us in situations where we either act as wives of the "world" or wives of the "Word"?

- When we find out that our husbands are cheating on us (maybe you see a lady's chat, email, letter etc).
- When you are earning more than him.
- When you notice your husband overspends.
- When your husband seems not to be taking his responsibility seriously
- When your husband seemed not to behave as a believer.
- When your husband gives priority to their parents, siblings, friends above you.
- When the children are misbehaving or giving you hard times, etc.

A wife in the Word will seek to act in accordance to God's Word. It is also wise to speak to someone whom you know will not give you wrong counsel that might worsen a matter or destroy your marital relationship.

### **How do we respond to some of the day to day issues identified above?**

#### **Life experience with issue #2**

My husband and I from our courtship years never resided in the same country. As we prayed, we felt God would have us relocate to the UK, which meant my husband had to migrate from the USA to join me in the UK. For the first 18 months he was without work even though tried his best to find one. This put me in the position where I earned more than him. Even though a believer, he was not happy to be without a job and was unable to provide. God somehow helped me sisters, I cannot lie that I was perfect to prepare for his coming and prepare his heart for life in the UK. He was content to relocate because that was God's will. He rested in God to open a door for employment for him. He saw that time as God's opportunity to him to deep deeper in the Word and for us to build a life together. This is because we after we got married, we still lived apart for a while. I remembered the testimony of an older Christian woman who narrated the same scenario as mine. She said she got humbled when God asked her to hand over her pay cheque to her husband every month when she got paid. These were the days of cheques issued on payday and no direct deposit. She learned to trust God because their spending styles were completely different. She saw how this simple act empowered her husband and put a responsibility on him to spend well. This was exactly what I did. I prayed to God and I felt God was happy for me to follow this same counsel. I relayed to God all my fears: my husband is new to the system; how will he cope with all the bills? What if he doesn't remember to pay and we default in a bill? The truth was, I was struggling to relinquish control, I was used to taking care of myself since I was 16. I did not have to liaise with anyone on how and what to spend my money on. I struggled much internally not so much externally but I obeyed. My husband was hesitant with the idea of taking the money and taking over the bills but with much persuasion he agreed. I must tell you; he was settled in his own manhood and with taking ownership of disbursing the funds that at a point he declined giving me money to go and get braids. I can only say it was a miracle. Yes, our spending styles are different. There were times I was tempted to tell him how to dispense the money. I got frustrated sometimes when he said no to my request for money. I sometimes thought was this a bad idea. But sisters, I think that act of obedience helped me more than my husband. It broke my will, it crushed my independence, it was what revealed the place of mammon in my life. The truth is my husband has always been and remains simple. The situation I think was just God's arrangement to help my life. After a while my husband confessed to me that this one act challenged him in more ways that I will ever imagine.

What I learnt:

God used the situation to humble me, to break me, to bring out submission in the area of finance/will; break the hold of mammon in my life. To see Him as Jehovah El-Communicator (this is my own English) rather than be viewed as a nagging wife. To hold God in trust that my husband will do what's best because he hears and belongs to God. To trust Him to cry to Him over quiet concerns and see how beauti-

fully He worked it out. God used the situation to further convict my husband that He is and will continue to help me. My husband still jokes that I will never know how that obedience did something to his heart and outlook.

On this issue, we must recognize that in as much as we receive cares from our husbands, we must not forget that our obligation is to be a HELP. We would be failing as wives if our focus is only on receiving cares instead of helping.

I am currently a sit at home mom, even though I am a graduate and a master's degree holder. I accepted my role based on the nature of my husband's job (He is a consultant and travels a lot). I felt at that time it was the right and godly thing to do. It was very challenging, sometimes I feel like I am wasting my time in comparison with my mates who were thriving in their careers. But I kept my focus on the Lord and times when I had negative thoughts, I reach out to women in the Lord who did the same to learn from them.

**Response 2:** For me, my challenges are when my husband thinks that I am been extreme as a believer, I met my husband when I don't have any understanding of the Cross or having a relationship with Christ. So, for me, I have to daily ask the Lord to help me, and to be honest most time I allow my anger and frustration take over and most time, I can feel the Holy spirit asking me to humble myself and take it to the Lord in prayer. I have always explained that my decisions and actions is according to the Word of God. For example teaching the children about things to watch or music to listen to, spending, when I am saying something is not right for a child to do, or listen to, and they sees dad doing those things, it takes the grace of God not to get angry or feeling you are alone, so, each day I have to beg God for my life, not to fail Him as a wife and mother. I thank God for His grace and strength each day.

As for knowing that your husband is cheating, I have been there and sisters, it is not easy, it's heart breaking, and for me I have to daily ask the Lord to help me trust my husband again because I find it difficult to fully trust him, and I believe that the Lord is helping me. I have talked with him with the Word of God and I pray fervently for him to have the fear of God and that the Lord separate him from all ungodly relationships. I have sometimes felt that I can't continue, I am tired, but I always felt the Holy Spirit saying, in Christ nothing is impossible. The joy of the Lord is my strength. In this race I will finish strong in Jesus name. My prayer for my husband and children is that the Lord will grant them a Divine revelation. Christ alone is my standard.

**Comment:** The beauty of the veil destroyed and fig leaves uncovered is transparency. Thank You Lord for the cross that crushed Mr. Flesh, that life that always wants to hide and pretend. I salute you my sister in the Lord. The Lord will remember you and your home for good. It is not often we find Calvary sisters who are naked with what is their reality, who are unashamed and will not hide their lives with fig leaves. The Lord that you have vocalised truth to will undertake for you. We will rejoice over you, your home with great rejoicing.

**Comment 2:** Thank you so much for sharing this with us, and the matter you shared is what I have heard and seen women raise often and often especially when your husband is not on the same platform as you are. It can be very frustrating and demanding, it can be like you are building and another demolishing. But knowing your resilience, God will use your faithfulness to Him to equip you more and make you a means of grace to your husband.

**Response 3:** Earlier on in my marriage my husband struggled to show affection and although there is a massive improvement now which I am grateful to God for there is still room for growth. I am a very affectionate person, I like hugs, kisses and compliments. Words of affirmation really are most important to me. But there was a time that my husband struggled to understand this. He just didn't place much importance on it like I did and there was a point that we started to grow distance and I actually came to a point where I thought I didn't want to be with him anymore. I told him I wasn't happy and I didn't want to be in a relationship/marriage where I wasn't happy. This was the most difficult hurdle for me and I most definitely felt like I was behaving like a wife of the world in response to that. I was immature in Christ and my immediate response to the matter was to quit. The situation really frustrated my husband too because he didn't quite understand what I was feeling and thought I was making a big deal out of nothing. The fact that he even belittled my emotion angered me the more. I felt like he had no regard for how I felt. I thought I made a big mistake marrying him. I felt he was not the one for me and I wanted to be out of the relationship.

My husband and I both come from dysfunctional background. He and I were both looked after by social services/local authorities. So even though we wanted to go our separate ways we physically couldn't. There was no family home to go back to for either one of us and neither one of us wanted to make the other homeless. So, we stayed put and, in this process, God started doing something in our hearts. Started working on us individually. The funny thing is, we would go to church together with our (then) one child and pretend to be a proper happy family and no one knew what we were going through at home. But now, I give God the glory. The story has changed.

**Response 4:** Still on the matter we are discussing. I will touch on in-laws and friends.

I married a pastor and as such had responsibilities. My husband was also the firstborn of the family, so more responsibilities. One thing that distinguishes my husband's life in CHRIST was his attitude, but I was the extreme opposite. So, when we got married, even though we were counselled to let families live apart while we both live together to grow our lives and relationships, I insisted my father in-law should come and stay with us when he came for our wedding. Dad was tough, and I was tougher, so, my husband was in the middle, as dad said one thing, I will respond in many ways, I believed I made life miserable for dad, and gave him the impression that his son married a bad wife, and all these were at the very beginning of my married life, what a wrong way to lay a foundation. Dad travelled back with such experience of a terrible me as his son's wife. Afterwards, my sister in-law also came, and she was tough, and as usual, I was tougher, though a Christian. She had to move out to spend the rest of her visit with her younger sister. Looking back, I left a terrible impression for these two people who were supposed to be one of the most cherished relations of mine. Today, both of them are no longer alive, but imagine how I responded to them. Myself, dad and aunty reconnected to a degree, but how wonderful will it have been if I was a wife of the WORD despite what they might have done.

Another was my husband and his one and only best friend. Hmm, how terribly I failed also in that. I will leave that for another day. I am learning now that it is not about what people did or what they are doing to me, but it is how I respond. Does my action reveal me as a woman of the world or of the Word?

Today, as I write, I am faced with serious challenge in my marriage for over eight years now, and in it all I am learning obedience through the things I am suffering, it has not been an easy road, but it has been a journey with my LORD. I am open to His applaud, His rebuke, His correction, His discipline and direction. My life, I learn day by day now to lay at the altar of sacrifice. The pain and insult I couldn't bear; I learn to bear more than that now. The endurance that I lacked then, I had to receive and put it in display daily, the living out of the Gospel declarative and imperative that I seemed not to understand then, I had to settle into it deeply now. O what a misery to waste a divine opportunity to put Christ in display through my life as a young wife. The unlearned, the uncultured women, lived out the life of a wife of the Word, but it took me this long to learn it and to become it.

## Topic 2

# Dealing with In-laws

Discussions shall come under the following headings

- When husband gives money to family without wife's consent.
- When sister in-law controls your husband and you as the wife feel vulnerable.
- When husband tells parents all that happens in your marital relationship.
- When a mother in-law controls the affairs of her son's marriage.
- When husband is unable to meet parent's demand.
- When your husband is the bread winner of his family.
- When father in-law is demanding for what your husband cannot afford.
- When parents' in-law bypasses your family rule and bring in their rules.
- When there is infertility in marriage and in-laws thinks the problem is with you, etc.

### **Life Experiences:**

**Comment 1:** I can say I am blessed not to have parents in law or siblings in law like these. The ones I have are very respectful. But I am aware of such situations and I feel that if I was put in most of those positions, I would have really caused a big problem because I am very blunt. I will just say my mind and perhaps tell them to leave my house or put them in their place. Is it wrong to deal with matters in this way? Most times that's how I deal with my problems. I can't stand keeping things in all in the fear of sounding disrespectful when their words or actions are clearly disrespecting me. Why should I suppress myself and suffer in silence?

**Response:** Patience and wisdom, these two things are needed but not always easy to apply especially in the heat of things.

**Response 2:** It's very delicate dealing with in laws, especially when they are living with you and not visiting at the same time, one shouldn't let them walk all over one. A friend has said, never get in a fight with your mother in law, because you can never win. It also depends on the husband, some husbands handle things differently but most of all let's pray for patience and wisdom like you said, especially the fear of God.

I was waiting to host my in-laws before commenting on this. In dealing with in-laws, I think one should treat them like one's family. Recently I had my sis in-law and her family and my husband's cousin visiting and one thing I did was to treat them like family. My sister in-law and my husband's cousin are not one of my husband's people that I'm familiar with as I had only met them twice during my wedding. So, I was a bit

conscious when my husband told me about the visit but I told myself that I was going to treat her the way I would treat my elder sister and brother. The visit was amazing and we never had any altercations. Maybe I was lucky and they were easy going, either way, treat them like family first and ask for God's help all the way.

I think in most cases there are mutual exchange of respect between in-laws and wives. And even though agreements may not collide people generally know how to deal with it with some degree of maturity. But we hear cases of blatant disrespect and ill treatments and in such cases I wouldn't advice a friend or sister or even myself to tolerate such.

**Comment 2:** My input from different perspective and platform: Before encountering the Gospel of the Cross - we react based on our reflexes, do me, I do you, I can't take that feeling and at best beggarly methods to deal with our in-laws. After experiencing the Gospel of the Cross - I can say the above only because calvary has happened and we stand on the platform of victory because our old nature has been deactivated. I died and the Person that lives in me is Christ. I died to my old ways of doing things. I died to how I would normally react. I died to self and the outflow of my life should be the nature of Christ. I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me see Galatians 2:20. Relating to the questions is, my first thought as a post Calvary wife is to walk in that knowledge that I/my old nature died and that the Life in me now is Christ. How is Jesus going to act in whatever scenario He finds Himself even though He is now living in me? Whatever action I take, can Jesus say boldly that this was what He would have done or did I forget that He lives in me and allowed my old reflex/ ways to express itself. I must confess that sometimes I've reacted and if I am honest with myself, I will admit that was not how Jesus would have loved to do in me. My prayer is to always keep knowing that I died, yes, I died and the Life I carry now is Jesus Christ. I must allow Him to be the wife, daughter, mother etc in me.

**Question:** Is there not a degree to which this can be exploited?

**Response:** Yes, sister you are right. There are many who take advantage of true believers. I must admit that. I just pray that God will help all our husbands to be correct heads and godly men who stand up and cover for us especially in sensitive situations. Husbands who shield their wives from insult and assaults. Husbands who step up to take the bullets of words and take proper spiritual leadership to cover us wives. In a small measure I can testify to these and it is beautiful. It saves a lot of drama. When husbands step in, it reduces the need for heart ache for us wives.

But sister, I have also seen that when we allow God to be the One reacting in us it is serious. He defends us like no other. He rises violently on our behalf. Even when people want to abuse the love of God that flows out from us, they only break down at the love of Jesus.

**Comment 3:** I also wish to add that, one's level of education can bring misunderstanding especially with in-laws that don't have same level of education. Age differences can also bring pride that causes unresolved differences in communication. Sometimes as Christians, we are not sure how we will react until a situation comes up to show us who we really are on the inside, yet we are dead but nevertheless, everything the

old man used to use as its property must be put away or buried out of sight, as such we shouldn't pretend that's not us, we should beg God for mercy at that moment and not think we are sinners, just be sincere.

Also, the issue of having a family member live with us when marriage is still very young. I don't think it's ok but depends on your ability to deal with it. If you can't, don't pretend to take too much on your plate and there after regret it. Let's rightly divide the word of truth at all times but let no evil communication proceed from us. But I see here that situations that occurs in our lives is what Christ put in place to build us up and get us equipped as disciples, so that we too can become older women that teach younger wives.

**Response 3:** Our ways of responding to situations are mostly due to our past experience(s), but when yielded into God's hands we'll become channels of His grace to others. We will remember that we started with the vlog "In whose company are you" and I begged that we should be patient with each other as we discuss as we are all coming from different life experiences, and knowledge of the Christian faith. Grateful for complying.

From the vlogs, we ended up seeing that the Cross of Christ took our Adamic nature.

We must know now whose spirit is in us, are we still in Eve's company or God's company? And as such, dealing with our husbands and our family members must operate from whose we are. The natural way to respond to difficult in-laws or family members was ours by nature since the fall, but since that nature has been nailed to the Cross, we can now respond with the mind of Christ. When we are faced with difficult in-laws or our own family, we must not allow our natural inclination to come in just like I did with my in-laws and even my own family. I would have also responded in a very terrible way to whoever it may be if not for the understanding of the Cross of Christ that came to me. Like some of us said, sometimes we have very difficult family members and in-laws, yet, God is able to pass through us to transform them. In all our responses of handling our in-laws no matter what they seem to be doing wrong, we must ask ourselves, who is responding to this situation, is it Christ or my own nature? We must ask if what is on ground will matter in our marriage in the next 2 years.

Where there is physical, sexual or emotional abuse we must not keep silent but find someone to voice out to. May we be species of godly young wives to those around us.

**Comment:** When I got married, I thought I could handle in-laws living with us from the onset, but I couldn't. Even during our counselling, we were asked to build up ourselves first, just the two of us, no relatives, but I told my husband, no, but the counsel was what I should have yielded to. As long as it is possible, it is always wise to allow new couples to start their lives together with no relatives with them. But if you have relatives with you, there is grace now to accommodate them.

It might mean walking hand in hand with an older sister in the faith who will guide you well.

**Question:** As regarding mothers who do not work for now, are there ways to fill up the gaps, knowing that an idle mind is sometimes a devil's workshop? Let's also keep in mind, those who are in countries that have no-support of any kind and the income of spouse is low. Kindly suggest other key things to do at home? For example, take-up a part-time job that gives you enough time for the kids, learn a new language, arrange schedule for the kids.

**Response 1:** As for me I used that opportunity to really dig deep in God. It was in that place of idleness as one might put it, that I discovered my purpose. Because I drew nearer to God and God began to give me deep revelations that has built me up to who I am today. So, I'd seize that free time as an opportunity to level up in God. Time spent with God is never a waste. You will never regret it.

**Response 2:** So, as a stay at home wife/mother, fill the gap with:

- Deepening your personal walk with God.
- Listen to audio Bible, take time to search the scriptures for your life now that you are home.
- Take time to listen to messages.
- Use this gap to grow your children both physically, emotionally and spiritually.
- Carve time for your children to impart your children one on one and also together.
- Use the gap to pray Kingdom prayer.
- Pray for your husband.
- Pray for your children
- Pray for many other causes in God's heart.
- Invite people to come to yours to pray.
- Volunteer
- Use the gap to volunteer in your neighbourhood or church group, in doing so, you offer help and you also acquire more skill as you volunteer.
- Use the gap to look into stay at home jobs e.g. child minder, buying and selling few things on eBay

## TOPIC 3

### Raising children, the godly way without breaking laws of different nationalities.

- ✚ How do we go about the above?
- ✚ What is actually raising children?
- ✚ What is raising children in godly way?
- ✚ How can we break the law of a nation while raising our children?
- ✚ What do we do when the law itself opposes the godly raising of our children?
- ✚ What is child dedication?
- ✚ Where are you in the raising of your children?

**Comments:** I have come across some new curriculum in to be introduced and mandated in schools in the UK on RE- relationship Education (in all primary schools both faith private and public) and RSE - Relationship and Sex Education. Now this are serious topics as our children will be taught touching themselves as early as 7years old. Although parents may opt out for Sex education in primary it is compulsory in Secondary. Also, in primary schools they will be taught about different types of families which will include a girl having same sex parents. Raising Children, the Godly way: How do we practically address this issue when by September 2020 it is a compulsory subject?

#### Questions:

How do we unwrite what the educational system is writing in our children and teach them what we believe? We are not unaware of the fact that these children spend more time in school than they may spend with us - by this, I mean that on the average, a child goes to school 6 hrs a day 5 days a week. During the productive time of the morning. Except God helps one maximize time then the influence at school is more. How do we begin to teach our children these things also and tell them what we believe? Do we tell them it exists as there are different race and religions so also there are indeed different types of families that man have created for themselves which is different from the one God created? Do we begin to explain that man has free will as was in the Garden of Eden? How would my 3-year-old understand this? How can we like Jochebed, hide our children and build an ark of safety (the cross) in their hearts whilst they are still under our care until that time when they have to be released?

**Response to question 1:**

**Response 1:** If the government of your country is introducing this curriculum, you write your own curriculum too to counteract what will be taught. The few minutes you will impart your child will overwrite the long hours the school will spend teaching your child evil. TRUTH, no matter how small has the potential to bring down massive lies. Please note that the first school for our children is the home. Let us not let our hearts be troubled, truth prevail always!

**Response 2:** If there is anything that the school is teaching that you do not agree with do not be afraid to explain the direct opposite to your child, you have the right to do that. One day my little girl 5 now but then four came to me and said “mummy, sometimes it is okay to have two mummies?” and I told her that's not true. I asked her how many mummies do you have she said one and how many daddies do you have she said one. I said to her so you see, it is supposed to be one daddy and one mummy. Two daddies and two mummies is wrong it doesn't work because they won't be able to have babies. I explained to her about how God created it. If she went to school and explained this I would love to see the foolish teacher that would want to come and challenge this with me. I think that if you have the choice to turn down this option of sex education and same sex family teaching in primary school, I would strongly recommend you do so. Because **I would want to have access to my children's brain first before the world does.** However, from secondary school onwards I won't mind if she's taught about those things because in the world that we live in today, education about these things are important. Also form a good relationship with your children/child at a young age so that she/he will feel free to discuss whatever they are learning in school, that way you can have a chance on inject your truth into what they are being taught.

**Respond 3:** I think all we need to do is to trust the Lord to help us do our part and at the right time and allow the Lord to water the seeds we have sown in their hearts, the Bible says we should train up our child in the way he should go and when he grow he will not depart from it. We need to lay the right foundation starting from when they are in the womb or whenever we come into the truth ourselves, it is never late with the Lord, and we just have to do our part and plant the truth in them and continue with prayers; and trust the Lord to bring His word to pass in their lives. No matter how big the lies of the enemy, the truth of God will always prevail.

**Response 4:** I agree, we should not allow the spirit of fear to overtake us. The scripture says that God has not given us the spirit of fear but of power and love and of a sound mind. If we fix our eyes on God He will take care of it all as we do our part.

Please see the following resources:

<https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/3d-flip-book/mother-positioned-to-rescue>

<https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/3d-flip-book/arise-and-travail>

**Questions**

1. What is raising children?

2. What does raising children the godly way mean?

**Response:**

Raising children has to do with the process of helping a child develop spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually. So, in helping our children develop in these 5 areas we consult the Word of God. Child raising also means to take care until completely grown. Therefore, godly raising of our children is taking care of them till they are completely grown physically, emotionally, intellectually, financially, spiritually etc.

**Question 4:** How can we break the law of a nation while seeking to raise godly children?

**Comments:**

- By beating our children to the extent of leaving a mark, neglecting them, i.e. not feeding and clothing them properly
- By engaging them in fraudulent practice, asking them to lie for us or encouraging violence.
- When your child comes back from school to tell you she was beaten by a classmate at school and you advise your child that she should have beaten the person back.

**Comment:** That's what I tell my child. And I believe that. I always tell her to defend herself and if someone pushed her and she pushed back I would be really proud. Otherwise that's how bullying starts because if she doesn't push back, then all the other kids will think they can pick on her and get away with it. I was bullied in primary school and it was only when I started fighting back that they stopped. Some kids can be really mean. But it's the wording though. I do not tell her to push back or fight back or anything like that because she's too young to articulate all that. But I look her deep in the eye and tell her you must always defend yourself! Stand up for yourself! Hopefully that would translate to push back!

**Response:** When someone pushed her, she should report to her teacher. She is to represent Jesus in her school, and in doing so, she needs self-control. Two wrongs will not make a right. There will be other ways to tackle bullying.

My daughter had an experience in reception at the early days of starting school. Something happened during playtime, so she smacked the person and she got her name on the board with tick. She returned home very sad. She told us the story and vowed never to do that again, and indeed she went back with a repentant heart and did not do that again. There were many cases of bullying her, but she knew she was light in the midst of darkness, she will report to her teacher and also tell us at home, and we approached her teacher on matters as such. When our children are been bullied at school, please let us affirm who they are meant to be and pray for your child and their bullies. I have heard cases where there were serious cases of bullying and the mother prayed earnestly and since the bully will not change, at God's time the bully was removed from school: God is our defence! To be honest with you, our children are faced with serious pressure at school, but we can build them up to withstand any pressure at school.

In dealing with bullying with our children.

- Get to know your child's school bullying policy if they have one.

- Tell your child the state of the world, the world out there is cruel and hostile and particularly to Christians.
- Reaffirm who he/she is in accordance to God's Word and tell your child not to welcome any form of bullying, give him/her examples of bullying, and tell him he should report to a teacher and let you know also.
- Tell your child not to give in to the demand of bullying, but instead walk away from such person.
- Tell your child not to stay in a bullying environment either an act against him/herself or someone else.

**Comment:** Thank you. But the part that really bugs me is the walking away part... Bullies don't respect that they prey on that. That's the reality of the situation that I've dealt with in the past... And I don't know if I can tolerate someone bullying my child.

**Response:** That is where you take a stand with your child's teacher, report the child and let the teacher know how that affects your child. I will not tell you to ask your child to fight bullies. And the truth is that bullies respect nothing, even when a child defends herself, it will not change the bullies. Do not forget that the way we deal with this world must be from the point of God's Word. I will applaud a child that comes home and tell the story of how he or she walk away from bullies and probably report to the teacher or the authority, and remember God defends us, and He is great in doing that beyond our wildest dream.

Some scriptures we can think of are:

*But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.*

Matthew 5:39-40, 42 NIVUK

*Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God's wrath, for it is written: 'It is mine to avenge; I will repay,' says the Lord.* Romans 12: 18-19 NIVUK

**Comment:** This has been a new revelation for me which I think I was blinded to. Funny enough, I can testify of the goodness and power of God in my life but I don't know why when it came to this issue, I was blind to that. When you explained it to me last week, I realized that I was most probably feeding off my insecurities. Because I was bullied as a child and the only thing the adults around me told me was to ignore it or report it. I did that. It didn't work. The way the teachers responded to reports were not effective in my opinion. From the children's perspective it is a different experience. Fair to say I didn't know God then. I didn't have a positive role model in my life. So, I started fighting back. Beating all the children mercilessly, and the bullying stopped. So then in my mind, I concluded that fighting back is the answer and that's how I survived through school. I have never tried this thing of surrendering to God in that area. But based on other evidence of surrendering to God in my life that has worked I believe God can deal with anything! My prayer right now for my children is for them to not encounter bullying in the first place. But if they do, I am really grateful for the information that I have received here which I will try my very best to apply.

**Now, let us look at “What do we do when the law itself opposes the godly raising of our children?”**

- **Let us look at Child dedication**

Some of us have dedicated babies and will be dedicating babies in the future.

- What is child dedication or why do we dedicate children?
- Is there any implication to this?

**Comment:** We dedicated both our children but I actually don't understand why spiritual. I just thought it was some sort of a cultural demand and since we are Christians, we include prayer with it.

**Comment 2:** Child dedication means I am returning my child to God who gave them to me for safe keep. The implication is that I have a responsibility to ensure the child grow in the way of the Lord, see Proverb 22:6. But I have seen how people make a big deal out of it by doing so much preparation for the day but yet the child is not in God's way. I know this is the part many don't want to talk about but my heart cry for our kids, is that we spend that much time in actually training them in the way of the Lord. The truth be said some of us never got it, I know we are not perfect either.

**Comment 3:** I think there are different types of dedication. Based on denominations, am I correct in assuming this? For instance, what's the difference between christening and dedication? For Jesus, he was dedicated at 3 months in the temple, as such, many Christians follows this principle.

I really would like to know if it is a Biblical requirement and any implication of not doing it. I didn't really think much of it because I didn't really know that someone has to do it.

**Comment 4:** Usually a baby is not allowed to come out until he or she is strong to withstand bacteria, at 3 months he's considered strong enough after he might have taken his vaccination. As such he can join the congregation to fellowship see Luke 2:21 – 40.

The questions for me to ask is that, since this was the Law of Moses is it still applicable to the new covenant Church in Christ? I was going to ask how that means that we must follow in the same way. Don't get me wrong, I like the idea of child dedication but just never viewed it as an essential biblical requirement.

See *“Don't misunderstand why I have come. I did not come to abolish the law of Moses or the writings of the prophets. No, I came to accomplish their purpose”* Matthew 5:17 NLT. Usually we interpret this verse to mean that we don't have to do anything of the law, remember Paul writing on circumcision concerning gentiles. Yes, but if that is the case then there are many laws of Moses that we do not follow today..

**Response:** Many Churches, truth be said has adopted the old covenant and not the new one in Christ. The question again is are we to adopt some part of the law that we like and leave the rest?

**Comment 5:** Also, by dedication I am standing to say God I give this child to you and by faith I claim your promise for this child that when he/she becomes of age he/she will choose Jesus. That is my understanding of child dedication. Child dedication for me is like an outward

expression of the commitment we have made with God inwardly. Recognising that we are stewards God holds in trust to care for and help nurture His heritage. Acknowledging that these children do not belong to us but Him. Publicly asking God to take His rightful place as their Lord and dedicating them to the Lord. I think it's easy for this to become a religion without any depth or thoughtfulness on why we do it. We can even get bugged down by how many days it has to be done and allow the day to become a mere merriment. For my daughter, I still remember some of the words spoken over her life and engage God for its fulfilment. But proclamations over her life are not limited to that day alone.

**Comment 6:** For me dedication is more of a spiritual affirmation of who we are, what we are and how we want God to guide and guard the child we have come to dedicate! It's like telling God just like Hannah did that we have come to loan this child back to God. We have seen where people dedicate their children to all sorts of spirit and we see those children reflecting whatever spirit they have been dedicated to. Like almost all spiritual things, people tend to water it down by turning it into a social event but we must as Christian Mothers consciously tell ourselves what we seek and how we seek to achieve it. For me, dedication should be a must, based on spiritual understanding!

**Comment 7:** Naming/christening as we know it is taken from the New Testament, the fact that Jesus was named after 8 days. For me I feel that it was something that was culturally prevalent at that time. For instance, the part of Nigeria where I come from, children are named after 3 or 4 days even though the fact that we all or most of us live in Lagos has made us imbibe the 7/8days cultural thing. So for me between Naming and Dedication, dedication takes precedence!

**Comment:** Sorry to pull us back on the topic of raising Godly children. Just somethings to be aware of and would like to encourage us to continually intercede on behalf of our children.

1. Introduction of LGBT and self-pleasure lessons into school curriculum to children as young as age four. 2. Children as young as age 12 increasingly involved in Gang life, peer pressure and knife stabbing incidences. 3. Unconscious bias and limitations placed on black ethnic minority groups preventing children from full exposure to opportunities to enable them reach and fully excel in all areas of life. My message was along the lines of what our roles are as mothers in raising Godly children and also the stages in which we are solely responsible when children are younger or is it both parents. Also Proverbs 15:20 which is always quoted. I really want to understand mother's role so by His grace I don't fail. I am so sorry but this was my line of thought. And if okay by everyone can we shed some light on it.

**Response to the above:** Intercession is a key element for our children upbringing. What I have noticed is that we have many who are "interceding" in quote, but not engaging their children. Yet, these must be done hand in hand. Teach, train and intercede.

**Response:** Maybe as we go through how we can practically play our roles in our children's lives; we can also look at a day to come together as mothers to intercede for our children. I think you brought in an important aspect of this matter. Sometimes, we assume we know and we are doing the right thing, meanwhile there are omissions that we need to look at.

Comment: Yes, we need to constantly engage with our children to keep conversations going on these issues so we are aware what the children are picking up or being exposed to outside the home. We also need to show them and make them understand what the Bible teaches about such sensitive issues and what is expected of them as Godly children.

**Questions:** In regards to our responsibilities as parents how do we avoid these omissions/ assumptions? In reality both parents are supposed to be responsible but in homes today is that the case? Mothers are often overwhelmed carrying majority of the responsibility in the home. Sometimes in order to make ends meet, children are left in the hands of carers sometimes due to situations beyond their control and before you know it the children have grown. Research has it that by age 7 a child's character has already been formed

**Comment:** It should be the responsibilities of both parents to raise a child! Eph 6:4 talks about a father's responsibility in raising a child, Mark 10:13 talks about parents bringing their children to Jesus and if we consider Prov 31, we will see the responsibilities of a Christian woman. So, I sum it up by saying the role belongs to both parties. Is this prevalent even in Christian homes? No! I struggle to understand why the woman will go to work, care for the children, share in payments of bills and still be solely responsible for ensuring that the home front is well managed! I feel it's too much responsibility on women, I haven't seen this properly addressed even in our churches.

**Response:** I think the problem often starts from the foundation. When the objective of the family become to make money and not to pursue God and to desire to know why God place them together as husband and wife, there will always be a strife. Sometime we struggle and, in the end, give a lot of ourselves to things that God could have given to us with ease if only we sought after him first. This is my testimony and what has brought me out of the bondage of trying to make ends meet and focusing on what is important. God will provide for those who diligently seek him. So that there will be smooth functioning in the home. That doesn't necessarily mean we will live a flamboyant life but indeed God will provide for our daily need. For the scripture said we should not worry about tomorrow and what it will bring. Focus on life day by day. I meant a lack of understanding of the Biblical role of both the husband and the wife raising the children together is a matter in the church.

**Response:** One of the big problems in our Christian homes is the matter of absent fathers, not just been absent physically, some are there but they are not playing their role. And when God spoke in Gen 1:28, it was to both the man and the woman, and this covers every aspect of life for them.

And that means it covers child upbringing, it is meant to be a joint effort so that we can both achieve the mind of God for our children. Now, how this will be carried out will differ from home to home. That is why we as wives have great responsibility to pray our husbands into their roles. Nagging them, quarrelling them will not resolve the matter. Note that when the foundation is faulty it bounces back on the children too. If God open our eyes to see His plan for many of the children He has given us, we will forsake many things to concentrate on them. And you know what, they will not be with us forever. So, it is not wrong to evaluate our lives and see how to balance things up for the sake of our children. I am also remembering the mother of Timothy, Eunice, her husband was not involved in the Biblical upbringing of her children, Eunice was a believer but her husband was a Greek, yet, God had mercy on the labour of Eunice coupled with grandma Lois' ef-

fort and a Timothy was produced. One thing that I know is that if God finds us faithful, He is more than faithful to make our children His praise on earth.

The matter for me now is how do we go about teaching, training and raising our children for the Lord and against the evil tidings of our schools and generation?

How can God help us whether our husbands are actively involved or not actively involved?

What do we do in helping our children to grow in all totality (spirit, soul and body)? How should we help them at various stages of development and growth so that when God look into our record, He will see that we played our part? Please let us share how we can practically raise godly children. We have children of different age group and abilities.

**Comment:** This takes total reliance on the Holy Spirit, one needs patients, love and humility. One needs to continue to sow the truth in the heart of the children and constantly water it with prayers and love, and trust the Lord to do His part. We need to get our husbands involved when the opportunities occur, and allow them to be themselves not with force or anger, this takes the grace of God and our love for them. For me, I believe in the help of the Holy Spirit, as He helps me, I am able to be of help to them and not struggle or allow flesh which leads to frustration and stress.

We cannot give up, or relent, sometimes we have to repeat some teaching, studies of the word. Let them know that God comes first.

## Discussions

**Comment 1:** I rely on the Holy Spirit entirely. It can seem very difficult if one seeks for advice from different sources for child rearing even among Christians. At least that's what I've found in my experience, because every home is different and every child is different. Sometimes you cannot even apply the same strategy that you might have used on one child on another child because they might receive it differently. And to be quite Frank I am fearful to apply another person's strategy on my child. I really try my best and listen to the little whispers of the Spirit. I respect my children and regard their emotions too. I try to communicate with them on their level. Even when applying discipline, I question myself over and over again, is this my anger overreacting, what point am I trying to make, is there a better way to go about this? And I believe all this comes from choice to lean on the spirit's instructions. This might sound overly spiritual but it has worked for me. And even when I seek advice or I hear someone's way of dealing with a particular situation, I take time to think about it deeply. Consult God about it. I may decide to keep some and some I feel like that's another person's reality and it doesn't have to be mine. I don't think there is one fixed way to raise our children. I believe leaning on God is the key. Allow the spirit of God to instruct you and when he does listen. I've had times when the spirit of God has told me to come off the phone and have a conversation with my child. He told me to stop what I am doing and cook a proper dinner for my kids. I can feel a whipping in the spirit that really torments me when he wants me to do right. I haven't always listened but I know the voice and I try my best to listen each time.

**Comment 2:** I agree with you sis we have to depend on the leading of the Holy Spirit and also the cues He gives us. The two areas you mentioned are also areas where I have been cautioned. Drop that phone and pay attention to your daughter. Healthy feeding in some partic-

ular days. Also, what is she watching on TV. I have not been 100% but moving on it's to decide to listen and be more intentional. Sometimes I sit and watch it with her and we talk about it. If it's good or bad and we agree if we shouldn't watch that again and why little things like that. I know it's not easy because we can get caught up with chores and other things but listen to what this guy is saying in the preaching. It's so scary. Neglect now will cost a lot later. It's better that we do it right now.

**Comment 3:** Can we also consider factors why some of our men might not be responding the way we want, especially those who didn't have that "childhood training" or raised with different orientation? I also know, none of us got married by asking these questions on whether he could do chores. I believe that this can help us, to be more patient and praying them in but most especially we train all our children to become family oriented and not placing so much on one part. For example, when we teach our girls to cook also do same to the boys or when we teach the boys to empty the dustbin could we also teach the girls same. Coming from African backgrounds this seems to be a challenge overseas, especially if this is your first time, we are sometimes quick to compare what our neighbours are doing. In some places in Africa where those who could support was available, you find some of the men, sit all day or typically just say "well-done" it is considered funny if anyone sees the man doing house chores. So, we see this and act in reflex, even when you expect that a reasonable person should know this. I discovered that those who were raised abroad properly don't wait for the plumber, carpenter or any professional to come and handle things, they are self-taught themselves to know. We really can't give what we don't have. We can pray for our men but also try and teach or hint them in good timing when need be.

Please see the following resources:

<https://youtu.be/shVuS5TbbL4>

<https://youtu.be/lbxFVC21z64>.

<https://youtu.be/lgbKYRWBrtS>.

<https://youtu.be/3EN4RG9C78E>.

<https://youtu.be/gyKKWP5ONVo>.

<https://youtu.be/VhKPNkKSJLA>.

<https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/the-challenge-of-raising-godly-children-in-this-present-world>.

<https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/coats-for-my-children>.

<https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/are-they-in-the-company>.

<https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/mother-the-indispensable-bridge-biographies-of-mothers-in-history>.

<https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/hymns-for-parents-2>.

<https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/raising-a-godly-generation>.

<https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/hide-them-not>

**Response:** How can discipleship help in this journey? For examples there are men and women who are doing this the right way, why not get closer with them or learn from them, like those on the video. They might not be perfect but they are working on to perfection in Christ.

**Response:** Like already said by some of our sisters, child dedication is where the parents willingly release their child unto the Lord during a public gathering as an evidence that this child belongs to the Lord and that you as the parents will play your part in nurturing him in the way of the Lord. And it is also a means of those present taking responsibility to say we will support you in the Biblical upbringing of your child. Now, child dedication may be done in church, some may do it at home as a family, what really matters is the commitment you are entering into with the Lord to raise your child for Him. It is true that many have shifted away from the basic child dedication and make unnecessary party out of it. Child dedication is just presenting your child before God to say we willing release the child into Your hands, plans and will. It may be done anytime or week or days or months after the child's birth. The Bible did not specifically require us to dedicate our children, like one of us said, we actually dedicate them from conception, and the going to church to do this is making it known publicly the step we are entering into with the Lord.

For the Jew's of old it was a requirement, but for the new covenant believer our perspective on it must be Romans 12:1, saying we are willingly presenting our child that he will be a living sacrifice as long as the Lord help us to play our roles.

Naming is the giving of name to our new born which Elizabeth and Zechariah did for John, it was also done for Obed in Ruth 4. People name their children at a convenient day and time. There is no law to that. Some of us actually name our children ever before birth. Jesus, John the Baptist and Josiah were all named before their conception and birth. Again, we only do it publicly as to announce to those around the name we witness God put in our heart for our children. Some give name and dedicate the same day. We did the giving of name and dedicating of our 2nd the same day. Christening actually is the naming of the child, but some denomination uses it as baptising a child. That is another matter entirely. Some have even done child dedication online. Every law was fulfilled in Christ. Romans 10:4

As we now walk with Christ there may be peculiar issues, He may be calling you to consecrate yourself on, then it is your personal responsibility to respond. None of us can follow the law, but we can follow Christ Who is the fulfilment of the law.

That is why we cannot pursue the law, but let us pursue CHRIST. If in our pursuance of Him, He placed a demand to adhere to something, He is also able to help us fulfil it. Child dedication is good and biblical to do since all that we have is the Lord. Proverbs 3:9 asks us to honour the Lord with our substance and that include our children. The point that I actually want us to focus on is the implication of child dedication for us as parents who took our children down for dedication.

Many children were given Christian names, dedicated at church but not raised for the Lord in the context of their home. And sometimes in the Bible, God Himself said the names some should give their children before conception. Take for instance the naming of Isaac.

When we dedicate our children, we must not do it as a tradition, culture or norm, but it must be done with full persuasion that I am taking responsibility for the Biblical upbringing of my child, and that I am releasing this child into God's hands, so that if in the future the child decide to pursue mission or a career that is not your dream career for that child, you will allow the mind of God to prevail over that child.

When God give us names for our unborn children, our first duty is to share it together as husband and wife, and then begin to pray on that name, seeking God for more details to the reason why the child is named that particular name, because by the time we tell people the child's name, they will be affirming the goal of God for that child each time they call him or her by his name.

So, my prayer for each of us on is that we will take the Biblical upbringing of our children serious, let us not only take them to church to dedicate, let us dedicate ourselves, our hearts, our time, our all to play our role in teaching and training our children for the Lord. When we do our part, God is faithful to do His part.

### **Response to previous comment or questions**

If I find myself in a church situation that I am not comfortable leaving children in the teacher's care like the situation described in the scenarios above, I will want to share my concern in a loving way with the person concerned in the children church, and I know this can be difficult sometimes and for the sanctity of our marriage and our children's opportunity to learn Biblical marriage from us, it is always good to go to the same church with our husbands.

Also, I think the reasons some of our men are not responding, like it was already said here last week could be because:

1. They did not experience that.
2. They were not taught.
3. They are still not taught.
4. Their wives may not know how to involve their husbands.

And there could be more factors, circumstances differ. If we and our husbands have different view, and you are sure your view is godly, then take the matter to the Lord, and you will be surprised how God can change things. We need discipleship, so we can disciple our children too. Thank God we also have one of our sisters who have raised children to early adulthood, and particularly as the only one standing well in the faith. Hoping she will give input on how we can go about when our husbands are not responding to godly raising of our children.

As promised, see a few thoughts on how we can practically help in the godly raising of our children.

Most of the resources posted last week are quite practical too.

### **As mom, be a role model.**

1. Spend time in prayer and in God's Word, your child should see this from you.
2. Spend time in God's word with your husband, it is a good model for your child.
3. Incorporate family devotions; a time where mum, dad and children sit to sing, read Bible, discuss and pray.
4. Read parenting books.
5. Get an older sister to walk with you in your motherhood role, tap from her experience.

**The dimensions to help your child grow are:** Spiritually, Physically, emotionally, socially etc.

**How to help your child spiritually:**

**Ages 0-5 is the age of foundation laying.** Most of what the child learn at this age are a means of indoctrinating him or her, and you will build upon that foundation later on. Do not leave this foundation laying to your church children's church or clubs or school. Get your husband involve, fathers are wonderful instructors, and girls particularly gel so well with dad, and boys needs the input of dad so much.

I will divide into various age groups.

**First is New-birth to 2 years:**

- ✚ Engage in repetitive teachings.
- ✚ Think of a theme you want to teach the child till he is 2.
- ✚ Divide your theme into 12 topical subjects.
- ✚ Get a verse for each subject.
- ✚ Tell your baby/toddler the topic for each month, you will have to tell him this everyday as you spend time to do his quiet time.
- ✚ Read the accompanied verse to the child and explain.
- ✚ Ask your child to repeat the verse after you, do not worry whether the child repeats or not.
- ✚ Ask questions from the child based on what you have done.
- ✚ Take your child's cry, giggles, laughter as the answer to your question, and afterwards clap for the child and give him a kiss.
- ✚ Do this daily for a month, each session may not be more than 2 minutes or less.
- ✚ Do the same principles to each monthly topic.
- ✚ Help your toddler start his or her day in prayer and reading of the Bible.
- ✚ You may have Bible stories and video time later on during the day.
- ✚ I assure you that in doing the above, you are writing something in your child's heart, and only time can tell.

N.B

Make sure your child, no matter how young has a Bible of his or her own. If you have more than a child, let them not share Bibles, but give each person their own, so they know they have a personal access to God in His Word.

You can also get Bible story books to supplement your time with the daily devotions.

As you do each daily reading, read from the child's Bible.

See an example of a year devotion for your 0-2years.

### **Who is God?**

He is my Maker Gen 1:1, 27

He is my Keeper Ps 121:5

He is my God Ps46:10

He is my Redeemer Titus2:14

He is my Rock. Ps18:2

He is my Salvation Isaiah12:2

He is my Door. John 10:7

He is my Way. John14:6

He is my Director Prov3:6

He is my Justifier. Romans 3:26

He keeps me alive Acts 17:28

He holds me in His hands. Isaiah 41:13

Age 3-5 years

At this age repetitive teaching is still needed. Isaiah 28:10

- ✚ You may use the format for 0 -2 years, but at this point, you want to begin to share the Gospel in a child friendly manner with your child.
- ✚ You can use the wordless book as a format to communicate Creation to the fall.
- ✚ You may draw up a topical lesson for your child again, but this time dealing with the redemption of mankind, as you want to make effort to lead your child to the Lord.
- ✚ Incorporate a lot of Bible characters in your child's learning.
- ✚ Introduce Bible videos that involves Bible characters, and as he watches, point out the aspect of your teaching from the video he has been watching.
- ✚ You may look for Bible devotions for your child's age, but I always love mummy's recipe.
- ✚ You may merge your topics with a Bible personality. For example:
  - i. And the world was made (creation story) using God and creation story - Gen 1. The whole of Gen 1 can be taken verse by verse with your child for a whole month, maybe one verse a day examining and discovering God's creation, emphasising that God is the Creator.

- ii. Who is the boss? Here, you want to talk about God choosing man to be the boss over all His Creation -You can talk about what God put in man in order to do that. Gen 2:8,15 - You can use Gen 1:26, Gen2:7, 2:18, Psalms 8:4-6
- iii. Man and woman made God sad - Gen 2:16-17, Gen 3 can be taken verse by verse for a whole month God put a curse on nature and human and sent man out of Garden of Eden.
- iv. You are grounded! Why? Man sinned, Human nature

## **N.B**

Out of each month's reading, you may choose a single verse to be the memory verse to memorise for each month of learning.

Weave your child's day to day experience into the explanation of each scripture, bring school affair, home affair etc into the scene.

Do video time, colouring time in view of what he or she is learning.

Invest in Christian books so that your child can get use to reading Christian literatures.

Follow up with what is taught in church or Christian clubs.

You can get resources from icmbooks direct, Eden, and YouTube has a lot of Christian cartoons.

Use an advert free, and children friendly versions of YouTube.

Watch with your children as much as possible.

[https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU\\_q1xGbvJwZAg\\_TTLqWP-xK6nNn3NeBZ](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLU_q1xGbvJwZAg_TTLqWP-xK6nNn3NeBZ)

The above link is the "Creation to Christ videos" You may watch these Creation to Christ videos with your child. One video at a time, and take time to chat over what you have watched and how it linked to the wordless heart.

## **Testimonies**

I want to share a short testimony with you to shame the devil over our children. This platform is helping me greatly with spending more time with my kids deliberately and getting to know them more, as such we can talk freely without the enemy forcing them to hide things. My daughter of 4yrs old, told me something that was very shocking that she saw in her dream, I didn't know children can remember dream, normally when she wakes up in the morning I usually just ask her how was your night?, her usual response is "mummy I slept well" but when I asked this time around she shared something my spirit didn't agree with and I joined faith with my husband to pray for her. For some time now, she said she has been seeing certain personality forcing her to do things and she always says "Stop". I have thought her to always plead the Blood of Jesus and she used the school holiday to learn more on the bible. To God be the glory, she sees it no more, so shall it continue to be in Jesus name. Let's become vigilant because our enemy is not sleeping. He is planting here and there especially through videos on the Internet. It might not be bad but watch what they say. My prayer as a mother is that the Lord allows me to lay a good foundation that the enemies cannot withstand over their life's. Especially those of us from faulty foundations like Polygamy, abusive upbringing. I used this bible verses: Job 33:14-18, Isaiah 49:24-26, Psalm 24: 1-10, Psalm 91, Psalms 25:2-22. It shows what we are doing with our children is effective, and as many of us are taking responsibility over our children, the enemy has become jittery. The dream is to show us that God has a great plan for our children and that what we are doing with them is causing the devil a huge distress.

**Woman 2:** I also have a testimony of a 3-year-old who comes to mine and has become an evangelist, she told my children to tell me and my husband that Jesus loves us and that He died for us on the Cross. She quotes John 3:16 often and tells us about Zacchaeus, it amazes me that when I said John 3:16 the 10-month-old sister also looked back to look at me, she probably felt she is mentioning what I know. I believe God will honour our little token over our children.

**Woman 3:** My little girl goes about asking people “do you believe in the son of God?” One time we went out for a meal and she prayed before she ate and a woman opposite us was looking. When she noticed that the woman was looking, she paused and exclaimed out loud: am praying to Jesus! Do you pray to Jesus?

Please see resources on ages 6-10

We are still looking at the spirituality of our children.

At this age, your child is probably beginning to discover himself or herself. He or she is already reading and writing.

Make sure he has his Bible.

You may invest in devotional, or expand what you did at toddler stage to include more verses for each topic.

Allow the child to read the Bible daily even if it means a verse a day.

You may task the child to begin to read the Gospels and write down what he learnt.

Make sure he has a journal or notebook to write what he learns.

Give your child a privilege during family devotions to share what he is learning.

Please sisters see a few links and resources below.

<https://ministry-to-children.com/sunday-school-lessons/>

<http://ubdavid.org/kids-world/kids.html#boycabin1>

The other effective aspect of child upbringing is: **Praying for your children.**

Apart from teaching your children, praying diligently both in season and out of season can never be underestimated.

- Pray for their spirituality, emotions, academics, social life etc.
- For those who are still waiting for a child, start praying for the not yet conceived child, and for the ones in the womb, start praying for them too.
- How we may pray for our children.
- Mention them name by name during your personal prayer.
- Mention them name by name when you and your husband pray.
- Mention them name by name during family devotions.

- You may create a prayer journal specifically for each child, and write prayer concerns, the date written, and when your request was answered.
- You can stick prayer focus on your fridge, walls to constantly pray for your child(ren).
- You may set days or time aside to pray and fast for them, e.g. every day of the month that correspond with their birthdate, e.g. praying on the first for a child that was born on the first.
- Pray scriptures for your children.

### **Let us look at the social, mental, academic and other aspects of our children upbringing.**

How can we go about this?

What challenges are we or our children facing and what could be God's solution?

**Comment:** I was meditating over this issue. I realize that there is one major challenge my children are currently enduring and have been Biblically instructing them but I feel so incapacitated when I saw first-hand what these children endured. Bullying has been a major issue with my children since February and until I saw a child actually bully them, I just had a passing resemblance of empathy but I saw red and almost wanted to pull the mother of the child and give her a 1st class dress down although did not engage. Right now, I am wondering how to help them effectively stop being bullied.

Response to the above: This is a very serious subject. Although I've learnt that teaching your child to fight back is not the right way, I still think it's very difficult to stand back and see your child being bullied directly in front of you. Rather than attack the parent, I think I would have given the child a good telling off. If the mother gets involved then we can discuss it. I could be wrong but bullying is a very touchy subject for me. And like you rightly said, the child's experience is different from the parent's perspective.

Please let us read this to our children daily and prayerfully engage God and trust Him to keep His word. And please let us raise a cry to heaven for every child and all our children that are experiencing this at the moment that God will please help them because I know how it can affect a child psychologically. Please let's raise all children represented on this platform to heaven that this will stop. How God will do it I do not know. But I know that God can remove every oppression from their position.

<https://www.biblestudytools.com/topical-verses/bible-verses-about-bullying/>

*Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.” Deuteronomy 31:6.*

I think we also need to pray for the bullies themselves. And I say this because they grow up to be even bigger bullies as some of us face bullying as adults in the work place. I believe if we check, these adults were bullies as children.

### **Scenario**

**Mother 1:** I do feel like when it comes to what our children say, no matter how minor it may sound to us; if it appears as though it bothers them, I think we should address the matter immediately. I always try to stop and think about when I was a kid, how the most hurtful things

to me seem almost insignificant to my carer's eyes. Not out of spite or wickedness, but just excusing it by saying things like "is that why you're crying?" As a result, I started to bottle things in because I was almost ashamed to admit how I feel because of how my feelings were addressed. I promised myself not to make the same mistake with my kids. If it is a big deal in their eyes, then it most definitely becomes a big deal to me. We must handle our children's emotions diligently. No matter how small it may appear to us, in their eyes, it is the biggest deal, the only thing that matters at that time in their lives and as such I feel we must address it immediately.

**Mother 2:** Please note that God expects us to be their advocate and shield them with the Word in a world that is fast crumbling. The need to bring them into the Ark of Safety (Jesus) cannot be over emphasised now. We have a prayer book where my husband, daughter and I pick 5 names of people to pray for every week. My daughter mostly has names of teachers, classmates etc on it. It is interesting how much I glean from her prayer for each person. She was saying the other day that Lord help Mr zzz to stop being angry, making silly jokes and to be more patient. Help him to stop saying everyone should be a Chelsea fan. She said Lord help my classmate XXXX to stop lying and putting other people in trouble. That gave me more prayer points re: the teacher.

I am teaching her that God loves and answers the prayer of little children. Reminding her of personal and Bible examples to give her confidence to deal with issues when mummy is not there. The issue of up turning divine order of the family unit (where the child is the most important now and then mum and the dads). The issue of the devil's plot to normalise LGBT and its strategic target on our children whilst still impressionable. The matter of normalising dissatisfaction with our gender, image etc is a matter.

I am going back again and again to Genesis 1 to help my daughter understand the order of God. To help her see that God made her a girl and said she is good. God says she is wonderfully and fearfully made. God loves her the way she is. God made male and female not male and male or female and female. God likes her the way she is. She does not need extras to be more beautiful. Daily I find myself debunking errors from outside sources. Praying as a family helps a lot. Starting the prayer journal also gives me lots of information on what is going on in her school. Engaging her when driving to school and back on her day tells me a lot of what is happening and gives me the opportunity to input where necessary. My husband also started to create daddy time with her at night where they talk and weekends where they spend deliberate time alone together. Lord help us.

## Questions

**How do we teach our children to grow independently?**

**How can we prevent our fears, anxieties and insecurities from rubbing off and taking roots in our children?** Because I feel like I am always revisiting my past when I am dealing with my kids and am so anxious and worried that they do not have the same experience that I had growing up.

**Answer:** I think honestly God gives grace to forgive our past and thank God for the present. I believe each of us has a past but since our commitment to Christ, Christ should now be the past, present and future we refer to.

### **What is the role of mothers in their daughter's lives?**

**Answer:** For me, this question was answered as I looked at Luke 11:27. The role of mothers in their daughter's life is to bear (that is carry them and give birth to them). We are the ones that carries them in our wombs, and we must continue to carry them in our spiritual wombs in the place of prayer. Secondly, we are to birth them, which means to release them, or to help them into the next phase of their lives.

### **What is the implication of not playing this role?**

**Answer:** The implication of not playing this role is severe, it is like a woman in labour but refused to push, we all know the implications. It might mean other people taking over the birth of that child, CS may come in, and emergencies may come in. In the same way, even after giving birth, if we do not engage our daughters, we make them vulnerable to the outside world that can pick them up and raise them wrongly.

### **How can we cultivate a mother daughter relationship with our girls?**

**Answer:** I believe we can do this as we create deliberate time with them no matter how little it is. We can ask what they would want us to talk about, we can tell them about ourselves, our past, and what the Lord is doing with us now. We can use books together, there are books on puberty, books on girls' issues, we can look at girls in the Bible together etc. We can tell them a particular day of the week/ time is me and you time, and we can chat over anything.

### **What are the practical things to discuss with our girls and how can we do that?**

**Answer:** We can discuss their day or our day with them. We can discuss relationships, puberty, their fears, concerns, our outlook and a host of subjects with them. We can go out together, use nature to teach them, we can bake, sew, knit or cook together. I think we should make it as short as possible so they can desire more time again.

My role as mother, I believe, is to pass on the baton to my daughter. I realise as I'm typing that I could use the opportunities when praying for others, to involve my daughter and ask her to pray (for non-confidential matters) - something I never do and feel convicted to do so that she can see how God answers her prayers too. It's so easy to see them as our little kids who are dependent on us instead of reminding them that they are dependent on Him.

Not playing my role can cause my children to struggle later on when they move "out of my wing". If I can help them realise under whose wing they really should be EVEN whilst they are young, then facing the big wide world will be easier knowing who they are.

Cultivating a relationship with our girls, FOR ME, at this stage of our journey, is NOT to point out EVERYTHING she does that is not according to my will. To ask God to show me all the wonderful things she does and says and to praise her for that... to talk openly about things that matters, to listen and not just talk... to truly listen and to HEAR what it is that she's sharing with me so that the Holy Spirit can guide me with the correct response. These are the practical things I believe I need to work on at the moment but I'm excited to hear what everyone else can bring to the table as God speaks to us. Our girls are so precious and it's so easy to want to protect them from the scary world out there, whilst hurting them ourselves. My precious girl has asked me before, "Mum, what have I done wrong now?" with tears in her eyes...

So, YES, we need to teach them the ways of the Lord and right from wrong, how to sit and dress and interact with others and so on... but may the Lord guide us to teach and then to ZIP it!!! As for me, I can go ON and ON and ON and ON... you get the message!  
See: <https://oakofrighteousness.co.uk/coats-for-my-children>

### Mother-Daughter Relationship Cont'd

Words are so powerful! We should be aware that we can bless our children in years to come by simply proclaiming such words over their lives. We are speaking life into them. Here are the words -it's so beautiful, let's speak this over our children's lives: we are praying for their future, praying for their friendships, for wisdom - therefore making good choices and decisions, praying for peace, and praying for protection. What a blessing to them! They will achieve excellence through the words we speak over their lives.

Words to speak deliberately over the lives of your children

May you grow up to serve Him

All of your days

May He lead you and guide you

In all of your ways...

My sweet baby on loan from above

No better treasure could I more love

I stand here beside your bed as I pray

I lay my hand on your head and I say

May you grow up to serve Him

All of your days

May He lead you and guide you

In all of your ways

May His hand bless your future with

Friendships that last

May you cherish your youth

And not grow up too fast

I stare in wonder at your tiny frame

Just to think that God knows you by name

He knows every hair on your beautiful head

He knows all your thoughts before they are said

May you grow up to serve Him

All of your days  
May He lead you and guide you  
In all of your ways  
May His hand bless your future with  
Friendships that last  
May you cherish your youth  
And not grow up too fast  
May God grant you peace  
In the midst of a storm  
May God give you strength even  
When you're forlorn  
May you answer the door when  
Jesus comes knocking  
May wisdom guide you when  
Your mouth is talking  
May discretion protect you  
And keep you pure  
May you never stumble  
Or fall for a lure  
May your heart remain humble  
To the very end  
May uprightness and truth  
Be what you defend  
May the world not ensnare  
Or change who you are  
May the light that's within you  
Shine like the stars  
May angels surround you  
Body, spirit, mind  
May favour and peace be yours to find  
May rejection and pain  
Never reach you

May your spirit grow bold  
 For what you're called to  
 As you rest in God's care, I will rest too  
 Knowing that Jesus is watching over you  
 Amen

**What is the role of mothers in their daughter's lives?** I think that God made us as mothers' custodians of our daughters so that we can teach them their true worth. They are our heritage - Ps 127:3 "Children are a heritage of the LORD: and the fruit of the womb is his reward"- like God sees them. To remind them that they are gemstones, children of the Most High and they are highly valued. God had ordained each daughter/mother relationship, whether it has been a good relationship or not. Acts 17:26 (NIV): *"From one man he made every nation of men . . . and he determined the times set for them and the exact places where they should live."* I can testify to this, because when I was at my lowest point during my depression, one of the things that prevented me from taking my own life, was the question recurring in my head: What legacy will I leave my beautiful daughter if I take my own life? God knew that I needed her in my life, to save me as I didn't truly understand my worth back then. But now I know Him, I really know Him. He is the God of the valley and the God of the mountain.

What is the implication of not playing this role? Your mother might have given birth to you but another mother showed you the way through His word and taught you what true love, the mystery of God entails. When mother and daughter does not always see eye to eye, then He knows that is the area God wants you to grow in most. As I have grown in my relationship with God, I have come to love myself without being boastful. If we neglect the important job of role modelling who we truly are in Christ, then our daughters will fall prey to the lies of the devil. Let's dwell on Romans 8:28: And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose.

**How can you cultivate mother/daughter relationship with our girls?** I think that the word relationship in this question means, something that grows with time. We don't all get a manual when they are born, but we learn and imitate what we have been taught either good or bad. All part of that heritage. How often has one of us not heard words coming from our mouths that makes us stop and listen to words your mother has used. May we choose to use words of positive affirmations like sister C has shared.

- Let us be teachable and be held accountable by our daughters as they are keen observers of us.
- Be willing to apologies if you as mother has faulted. Because through this behaviour we teach our daughters that you can be a strong woman, but also be vulnerable at the same time. It also teaches respect for each other and cultivates an environment of trust for a future when they need an ear to listen. I have learnt to listen more and ask probing questions in a non-judgemental way. This has led to my daughter feeling comfortable to discuss things that was really difficult for her. Use God's word as a guideline for discussions as Paul has reminded Timothy. He is talking about Eunice and Lois, Timothy's mother and grandmother. We see in 2 Timothy 1:5 these

words, *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.”* So, Paul has already connected Timothy’s faith with what he got from his mother and grandmother. I still remember the verses my mum recited to me in difficult times as a barometer for decision making.

**What are the practical things to discuss with our girls and how can we do that?** The word of God teaches us these things in Titus 2:4-5: 4 - *and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.*

Also note that we can never outgrow motherhood, we grow as our children grows, their needs changes as they grow and navigate life. Please take time to go through all discussions on training and raising children. Also take a cue from the life of Jochebed's mother. We must all not allow our past experiences to shape our present and future, we must now help use these experiences and all that we are learning to prepare our children well.

### Wisdom Nuggets and Tips

Raising an independent child or children must start from us. Let me share a few things that has helped me and as many of us that listen and do regardless of where we live, we might find them useful.

- i. **I am a student:** a mother must keep learning. So, I read books and articles a lot. I listen to messages that speaks to me in different capacities that the Lord has put me and I prepare my children ahead of time. We talk about puberty before puberty, and we still talk as the child gets into puberty, and that applies to starting school, meeting a new friend, visiting somewhere, family plans etc.
- ii. **Then, I invest in books and resources for my children,** to read with them and for them to read by themselves and I start if possible, from pregnancy. Some of such books are mostly biographies, biographies are a great tool for children and even adults. Books such as: the light keepers set (ten girls or ten boys’ series). American girl series that addresses black children, Cathrine Mckenzie's books, little light series, trail blazers, Christian heroines, character building books and many hosts of books that speaks to children of all race and ethnicity. My children have their own bookshelves, so they are bookworms, reading is one of the best things to inculcate into our children and I mean Christian books, and you must start right early. Children pick up a lot from books. Books takes you into a world you may never have visited or may never visit. If anyone of you come to my home, you will see some of their books which they have read again and again. They form vocabularies, views, attitudes, concept, identity, boldness and even gain independence as they read, and I mean solid Christian books.
- iii. **Another thing is videos.** Invest in character building videos, bible characters are a great tool to help children. The torch lighters series is a favourite in my home, it tells the stories of Christians like Hudson Taylor, Amy Carmichael, William Booth, William Tyn-dale, John Bunyan etc to their little eyes and ears.

- iv. **Another thing is family traditions**, like family devotions, family prayer time, family evaluation etc. And other family traditions we did was "weekend of fun", we have a themed weekend once a month, both myself and my girls will have a month each, and we chose a theme, colour, and the host will choose the meal, we buy what is needed for the meal, the host will cook, if still young, we assist the host, and when food is ready for dinner, we all go upstairs, the host turns off the light, may lit a candle and then ask us to come down while playing a worship or singing a song, the host usher us in, we sit, we chat, have starters if provided, and have our main meal, there will be prepared questions or day to day issues written in papers to choose from and we discuss. And dad may close the day with prayers. We must make it a priority to ensure that our children always look forward to home, and to first know that they have the ability to make good choices, there independent starts.
- v. **Another key element is creating me and you time** for each of your children. This could be a time to read books together, watch videos on YouVersion, go through practical books that affect girls together etc. One of such books was "princess and the kiss", "the garden wall", "the three knights" etc. Taking them out on a date, particularly engaging dads with girls, girls are usually friends with dads. Taking them out to learn from nature, taking them on a talk on the road, etc. All these as simple tasks that has a way of helping a child become confident.

**Question:** How can we teach the concept of trinity to a five-year-old?

**Answer:** To talk about trinity, use the concept of egg (egg shell, egg yolk, and egg white). Egg is one but locked up in three dimensions. Also use the creation story to explain. It takes time before questions stops, and her little mind will want to just contextualise God. Let her know God is real, but invisible, He made Himself in Jesus when He came at the first Christmas, and He will come again in rapture, then we will see Him. But for now, just as we believe there is air, even though we cannot see, so also there is God. That is the key thing, you want her to have a personal experience of God, and it is possible for her to have that personal experience. For now, you are indoctrinating her, which is why we must start from pregnancy, so that God is the thought they grow up to know. You are already doing your best, keep praying for her, it is a process.

What I will do, if I find myself in this, will be what you are already doing, pray! pray!! pray!!! And keep listening to her questions and concerns, and always make sure you end any conversation in the Bible, so she knows that we get to discover all of life's questions, and all of God in the Holy Scriptures. What you are doing is having impact on the kingdom of darkness, you are waging warfare for a soul committed into your hands, so be encouraged to continue and pray. Take any challenge she brings to the Lord in prayer, but do not give up teaching her, with time she will grow to relate with God as God.

When your family is in need, pray together, when she needs something, tell her you will all pray together and wait for God to do it. When prayers are answered, sit her down for testimony time. Such opportunities will be good for her to experience God. Sometimes, children only have the head knowledge of God, and that is what indoctrinating does, but the personal experience of God for a child is a work only God does, and I can promise you that God is faithful to do that. There have been many stories of children who were indoctrinated, went to

church, but later on opposed what they were taught because they are not sure if God is real. Give her daily opportunity to grow her faith, be mindful of how she learns, one thing that I have seen amongst us Africans and maybe other ethnic group, is, forcing our idea on our children, we have to guide them gently towards the truth, and the truth is in God, it is not with just a church group or denomination, nor in a particular way of teaching, it is with God, and we must be sensitive to that so that they fully engage God personally for their lives. As you introduce things to her, you will notice the ones she latched on to, then, use that to help her.

**Please see prayer points below**

– Young Wife Young Mother Prayer Wall:

**i. Prayer for wives and mothers:** *every wise woman buildeth her house:* Proverbs 14:1 KJV

Father, thank You for all the sisters represented on this group and the marriage/family they represented.

Thank you for all the sisters here represented

Thank You for each of their husbands, children and the challenge that might be facing us individually.

Thank You for bringing each of us together on this platform and how far You have helped us so far.

We pray Lord for the sisters represented here that the reason why You allowed us to be married and be part of a family will not be in vain.

We pray for all sisters represented here that our lives and marriages will be one of those marriages that makes You glad, and never remind You of the misconduct of the first marriage.

We pray for anyone of us who have faced severe difficulties in our marriages that You will step into it, and resolve that which looks irresolvable.

We pray that You will continue to bind every sister here represented together with their individual husbands, for what You have joined together, nothing should put asunder.

We pray for those of us that are still trusting You for the fruit of the womb that You will turn Your eyes on us as You visit whatever is the cause of bareness in our marriages, and bring forth through us children that will bruise the head of the serpent.

We pray Lord that You will help our marriages to be a pedestal for You to display Your redemption story.

Make us all wise women that builds her home.

Open our eyes to see anyway that we could be destroying our homes unknowingly.

We release each of our lives and marriages into Your hands, let the Cross of Your only begotten Son prevail over us.

Lord us make us women, willing to die to flesh for the salvation of our home.

Lord makes us mothers and wives who will be willing to cover the nakedness of our home like the virtuous woman and be patient for the hand of God to work on it.

Lord help us to be women of prayer and intercessors for our family at large.

Help us to be mindful of the temptation of the devil, the lust of the flesh, the pride of life and the lust of the eyes.

Thank You for this help platform You provided to make us become like Jesus; to help us be grounded and established in the faith; and arise to our call as mothers. Thank You for guiding us in this new, living and narrow way that leads to Life. Thank You for the opportunity we have now to make things right as we grow in You and train up our children. Thank You for gems in Your word that You are lending us without cost. Thank You for the miracle of a divine life exchange for our husbands and children yet to know Jesus. Thank You for Sis Deborah, the visionary of this platform and her large heart to see many mothers come into the fullness of their destiny.

Lord we lay all these mothers at Your feet. Make us like Jochebed, women who see the invisible---women who refuse to stand aloof whilst Pharaoh throw our children into the Nile of sinfulness. Women who build Christ by faith in their children. Women who watch on their knees even when our children leave our nest. Women who use every opportunity they have to tell their children who God is so that like Moses they don't blend into the world system. They actually resist and condemn the way of this world. Give us Moses' who grow up to know they are born to be saviours and redeemers. They live in a world much like Egypt but forsake the fleeting pleasures thereof.

## **ii. Prayer for Husbands and Men**

We pray Lord for our marriages, that You will make our husbands men that are standing well in You.

Take away from our husbands any sort of withering, just as You did for the man in Luke 6.

We pray Lord that You will make us wives that gently affirm our husbands and push them into their roles.

We pray for husbands that are seeking job or those whose business is going down the drain, that You will in Your mercy revitalise it again.

We pray that You will help us to be a source of encouragement to our husbands as they seek for job or business.

Help us that we will not be wives that make life miserable for their husbands, but instead, we will be wives that support, encourage and affirm our husbands as we yield ourselves and our all, in support of our husbands.

We pray for husbands whose spirituality have dwindled or are still behind, please Lord, raise for them disciplers that will help them to grow in faith and in their walk with You.

We pray that You will make our husbands godly role models to our children and to other husbands.

Let there be light in our husbands life that outshine darkness. Let them be men like Daniel, Joseph, Nehemiah who understood the purpose of God for their lives. In Jesus name... (Amen).

## **iii. Prayers for our Children**

We come Lord as mothers at the foot of the Cross, praying for our children.

We ask that our children will be seeds in Your hands to bruise the head of the serpent.

We pray that as many of our children who have been bruised by the enemy will receive Your divine healing.

We pray Lord that You will help us to equip our children to withstand the evil in their school and in their society.

We pray for those who are bullied, we ask that You will give us wisdom as to how to tackle this.

We pray for our toddlers that are turning one in 2020; we ask Lord, that You order this developmental stage of their lives.

We pray that they will sit, crawl, stand, walk, talk, eat in accordance to Your will.

We pray that You will make each and all of our children to be Your ambassadors wherever they find themselves.

We pray for those approaching puberty stage, that You will shield that stage of development, and cause this stage to be a blessed one for them.

We pray that You will make them Christians to other children, and prepare Christian friends for them too.

We pray Lord that You will shield our children from all evil.

We pray that our children will not become victims of circumstances, and that they will grow loving You and Your word.

We pray for those with delayed speech/development, that You their Maker will step in and bring them into all the milestones that they need to be.

We keep them Lord in the canopy of Your love.

We pray Lord that you will help us as mothers to arise that our children will not be unfortunate because they have us as mothers but that they will be blessed and that great indeed shall be their peace

#### **iv. Prayers for our Motherhood**

We thank Lord You for the privilege to be part of motherhood, whether we have biological children or not.

We pray Lord, that our motherhood shall not make You sad, but be an instrument of proclaiming the Gospel to our children and all that comes our way.

We pray that our motherhood reflects a redeemed motherhood to this failing world.

Help us to be godly examples to our children in our speech, dressing, pursuit etc.

The Bible says "she shall be saved through child bearing", let our motherhood be for the bringing forth of children that are saved through Christ' death.

We pray Lord that our motherhood will be a tool in Your hands to reproduce kingdom children.

We pray Lord, that whatever makes us weep as mothers over our children, You will resolve it as You wipe our tears away.

We pray that You will equip us to help our children spiritually, mentally, socially, academically, morally etc.

We pray that You will make us mothers who fears the Lord.

We pray that we will be mothers who fear the LORD

#### **v. Praying for pregnant sisters**

We thank You Lord for all our pregnant sisters.

We pray Lord for all our pregnant sisters, that You will take them to full term.

We also pray Lord, that You will bring them to the place of safe delivery.

We pray that before their travail, they will bring forth; give them short labour and quick delivery to Your glory.

We pray that You will give them godly and helpful midwives on the day of their delivery.

We pray Lord that You will preside over their delivery day and the delivery atmosphere.

We pray that they will dilate on time, and that their cervix, womb and all part of their body that works for delivery will co-operate with swift delivery.

We leave them Lord into Your omnipotent, Omnipresent and Omniscient hands, and we thank You in advance for safe delivery. Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. Isaiah 66:7

## Topic 4

# How can we juggle our responsibilities as Christian wife, mother, career or working mother?

- First, what is our responsibility as the woman?
- What is our sole responsibility as Christian wives and how does this flow into every area of need?
- What are our daily responsibilities as a Christian, a Christian wife, a mother and a working mother?
- Can we look at practical tips/ways that may help us to juggle our roles and responsibilities wisely?
- What can we practically do to see that we are fruitful in all facet of life that God has put us?
- Career development, child raising and financial support.

### Responses

**Response 1:** Generally, I've learnt that women are gifts to their husbands and humanity at large. Throughout the scriptures we see how God used women as help and rescuers in times of trouble; when mentioning this I think of women like Rahab, Esther, Mary the mother of Jesus and many other women of the Bible. So, to answer the first question I think our responsibility as women in General is to operate in this sphere, where we can allow ourselves to be truly used by God in order to have an impact in society, local community and the world at large. As wives we are helpers, not in the 'husband trample all over you like a door mat way' no! Not in us doing all the dirty house work way, no! I believe every marriage should have a vision and a purpose as given by God - far greater than just raising the children and making good money. When a marriage has discovered this purpose, the man and the woman should work together as one to achieve it. I believe the responsibilities lay more heavily on the man, God expects more from the man and to help ease this demand the woman is there to provide help in the wisest way possible. For all of this to be successful God must be at the pinnacle.

**Response 2:** Also, our sole responsibility as Christian wives is our very marriage. After God, our marriage comes first. We should forsake anything that threatens our marriage; whatever that thing may be. We must strive to uphold our union between us (husband, wife and God) in the hope and prayer that husband holds the same perspective. Not even our children should come against our union, I believe this helps to maintain a happy marriage. When the marriage is right and it is happy, then it will flourish and overflow and out of that overflow it will be able to bless our home, our children, our community and our world at large. But this depth is only possible with the inclusion of God.

**Response 3:** First, what is our responsibility as a woman? My first focus is to allow the Lord to work in me, so that it is no longer I that lives but that Christ now have a deep root in me and lives through me, as such flesh cannot glory in me anymore and then I can build my home in

such a way that the gate of hell cannot prevail against it. Even if my husband is not co-operating as we expect but because Christ is now present in my life and I'm submitting diligently to His will, everything will become beautiful in His time. My responsibility as a woman becomes easy without struggling because it's Christ doing His work in my home and I am just a channel.

**Response 4:** Concerning practical steps/tips in (5) above, I will share a practical example. Living in a foreign land, where no family member or friend is close by to help, that is when I see the power of God at work, as long as I am trusting Him. For a long time, I have been taking care of my two kids with rarely little or no help from anyone, all I do is call for His grace to help and I tell you He does.

When it comes to fruitfulness, my recommendation would be to rely solely on God for help. Perhaps if the first woman Eve had realised this, she would not have eaten the fruit that made her fruitless as against real fruitfulness and fulfilment. We must realise that the world's definition of fruitfulness is what men sees on the outside but according to God it is what is on our inside and that is the heart... Let's have the mind of Christ and all we do will be automatically fruitful.

James 1:5 NLT *If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking.* This for me, always help me to ask for wisdom, even when seems so insignificant. We just have to come to the end of ourselves and cry to Him who is able, and be sincere of the help we need, without us trying to help ourselves by how we have always done (self-help).

**Response 5:** *For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light - Psalms 36:9.* This scripture comes to mind when thinking of the questions above. My usefulness as a woman, wife and mother is only realised when I have understanding of who I am, my identity, destiny and destination in God. My prayer is to keep knowing God's mind as to my role and place as His daughter, an appropriate and suitable help mate (wife) and a nurturer (mother) etc. I think God raised me particularly in terms of marriage to bruise the head of the serpent over my husband. To birth on my knees, in watching and as His helper ALL that heaven purposed for my husband to be and walk into. God brought me into His life to complement and complete him. To make Jesus in him fruitful, multiplied in his and others lives, allow Jesus in him to gain grounds wherever we find ourselves etc. The practicality of this mission on a day-by-day basis, I must trust God to help me walk the full length and breadth of it so this is not just a slogan.

**Response 6:** For me, I believe we must first know what our responsibility is. As God's creation, our first responsibility is to glorify Christ. And if we now look at it in the light of being created as women, our responsibility is to "help" so, we glorify Christ as we embrace the helper design that God designed us women to be. Each and every one of us are actually "God's packaged help" to our individual husbands. So, if you do not know that you are help first, juggling your responsibilities may seem overwhelming and unfulfilled.

I have been reflecting once in a while on this discussion. On issue number 3, our daily responsibility is to spend time with our Maker, which is the chief end of man; we are to glorify God. Out of this flows the cooking of food for our households, changing diapers, taking children to school, attending to our office jobs etc. If we start our day with our Maker, I believe He can help us to start each day in the right direction, and finishing well at the end of the day. Now, the practical things to do are:

- Start each day with prayer and intake of the Word.
- Highlight what you know you are to do that day before the Lord, and ask Him to help you do whatever is His will for you.
- One way that I have learnt is keeping a “to do list” sometimes, I use notebooks or phone to write a monthly, weekly and daily to do list.
- I may write what I know I need to do for the month of February, then I break it into weekly, and into daily. E.g, in February: Record podcast, Cook Jollof rice, Soup, Lasagne, write 5 articles, do all joint and one on one classes, home schooling, swimming lessons, appointments etc. Then, I will break these into weekly. I may then do a “to do list” for Monday 10th to Sunday 16th February, and this may include:
  - Record the podcast Sisterhood, childcare and any other series.
  - Write article 1, 2, 3
  - Help child ‘A’ with addition and subtraction of Fraction, Bodmas, Percentage, school trip etc.

Having broken it into weekly, I will then assign a task for each day. This does not mean that I will accomplish all that I have put down, but it serves as a guideline and a check for what I am doing and ought to do. The intention here is to plan; put your plans in writing and work thorough it. You can use apps that helps to organise your day, diary, memo, or notebook.

Ask for help from your children and husbands. Even your 3-year-olds can help to clean. Ultimately, you need to find out what works for you. Meditate on this scripture: *“She sets about her work vigorously; her arms are strong for her tasks” Proverbs 31:17 NIVUK*

## Topic 5

### When there is no child(ren) yet in a marriage, the stereotype: What should one do in a situation like this?

#### Responses

**Response 1:** I believe one should remain calm, patient and prayerful. God's will, will eventually be done. It will happen at the appointed time. In addition, be in the Word of God to draw comfort and better understanding of the situation. That way it might be simpler to overlook stereotypes. Because negative stereotypes are made out of ignorance especially by people who do not know the Word and the will of God. But if one is rooted in the Word, one may be able to even educate others and overcome that way.

During my study, I've discovered that women who struggled to conceive in the Bible ended up having children who were earth shakers! First of all, every woman I've come across so far in my study eventually did conceive, secondly take a look at the likes of Sarah and Isaac, Hannah and Samuel, Elizabeth and John the Baptist, Rachel and Joseph and so much more. It is almost as though God cannot be manipulated or emotionally blackmailed to give these special children before their time. There, it was the destined time for all of them that they actually came, and when they came at that right time, what a glory and honour it really was. God knows best, this is why personal studying of the scripture is so important, it will definitely shed light into everyone's situation individually with the help of the Holy Spirit. I discovered these things about these women by the way of studying something else, imagine how much more the Holy Spirit will reveal if I was keenly seeking to learn more on that subject. For me personally, anything that becomes an issue in my life I devote time, big time, studying, researching, asking, listening and praying to understand why it's happening to me and God has never failed me. There is always a revelation.

**Response 2:** Also, calmness in this type of situation cannot be over emphasised, as it is so easy to take the wrong step. The Word of God is to be the anchor for every season of life, all the women who waited for children in the Bible all received at God's own time. The only one that did not receive was Michal, the wife of David, and it was because she despised her husband.

As previously mentioned, the issue of delayed childbirth is a sensitive one, difficult and often traumatic challenge for many. I agree that holding unto God as the anchor for the soul is pivotal. Engaging God through His Word is a must. I pray that for all whom this is their current plight, they will seek refuge in God. I pray that husbands will arise as a cover for their wives. To shield, protect and serve as a shock absorber from external inputs until God visits them. Oftentimes wives are assumed to be the problem. Wives can be subjected to stressors and fire extinguishers via extended family. I pray that God will give us men that are spiritually ahead. Men that have a pastor/shepherd heart. Men that can hear and discern the mind of God. Men who can speak life instead of death to their wives (Amen). God is sovereign and can do all

things. I also pray that couples be open and willing to explore if there is a medical cause for infertility or delay. This can further guide prayers.

**Question:** Will a woman be considered as impatient or not trusting God if she went to do IVF. Many women especially Christian women are confused on this issue as we have no precedence in the Bible. Would it be regarded as "helping oneself" there are women who have waited over a decade. And permit me to say that even IVF is not 100% it is still God's grace that it works and with no issues.

### **Responses and Comments:**

**Response 1:** I think that's a valid point. My only problem with this where do we stop? Then we can stretch as far as designer babies by that sense... Obviously I could be wrong. I am not that sound in the subject matter, but I would be worried about meeting God on those terms. In the simplest form is like saying I tried to exercise my faith in praying for my headache to go away but it didn't so I took pain killers instead. Well, there's nothing wrong with pain killers in the first place but how real was your faith in what you requested from God, and is it everything medicine that is good? I've observed even through personal experience that God like to operate in what we consider 'last hour' He is never late, He is always on time. Sometimes when we are pressed against the wall and it seems like it's the end that's when He likes to appear because indeed all the glory goes to Him... So all in all, the way I see it is a matter of maturity in faith. I would rather cry out to God and wait; I would like to question God about the sincerity of His word. I would rather wait until it looks like it is all over, because I have come to learn that God will never allow us to say to Him - 'Your Word did not work!' because that would make Him a liar, *let all men be a liar and God be true...*

**Response 2:** I know that with God all things are possible, and that He made all things beautiful in His own time. But I have not gone through such situations and I don't know how it feels or what I will do if I'm found in their shoes, but I think I have to be my brother's keeper by praying for each other whatever the situation we are going through and for grace to wait patiently by trusting and holding on to the Word of God. Yes, I believe in the Word of God but sometimes unbelieve sets in, may the Lord help our moments of unbelieve. Let's pray for one another for strength each day and grace to hold on to the finished work of Calvary.

**Response 3:** It is the privilege given to nurturers to help raise lives. There are many children born to women who for different reasons end up without homes. I believe in all things to be guided and led by God on what to do. It sometimes feels as if waiting mothers or families in general shut their heart to this option. Whether done formally or informally. Mordecai raised Esther as if she were her own. Pharaoh's daughters' heart was enlarged to take Moses up before Mariam intervened. Mama Sarah under her roof raised/disciples lives even though informally.

**Response 4:** My elder brother and his wife have been trusting God for a child. They got married in 2006 and here they are, 14 years later and they are still waiting. They relocated to the states and decided to try IVF just to make sure that they have done all they could. I honestly

and personally don't think that it is wrong. I look at it from the perspective of faith without works is dead. Sometimes we try to explain some things away, but the Bible also says that wisdom is profitable to direct. Am I in anyway saying don't trust God? Absolutely Not! However, if God gives you faith like Shedrack and co such that you are ok with being childless then by all means please trust and waiver not. But if not, I think it's ok to seek medical help in some circumstances. I remember the Jehovah witnesses who refuse to take blood and would rather die, are we saying it is good? Not to digress, I think God gave doctors wisdom for a reason. We should be careful with the way we view these issues!

**Response 5:** I agree. That was my point exactly. I wouldn't be quick to judge anyone who has done it. Like someone mentioned, it is a sensitive topic and no one knows until they are in it. But like I mentioned if some wishes to exercise their faith to that extreme, I believe they shouldn't be shamed for it either but that level of faith does exist. I'm no professional nor a scholar, I am just saying it how I believe it to be. That level of faith is open to anyone who wants to access it and genuinely challenge God on His principles. 'Challenge' not in a rude way. There is a possible chance that people can wait for long and still experience the full joy of the Lord in that process - there is nothing wrong with that either. I don't believe there is anything wrong in encouraging and particularly teaching people on how to access faith to that extreme. The most cases that we see of people dying for refusing to take medicine in any case are most likely copy or behaving under influence not the true understanding and access to God. They are after the resources - miracles, signs and wonders, and not the source - which is Jesus Christ Himself! They fall short because they were misled, I believe statistics shows this. But the right thing to do is to seek God first and He will add what needs to be added if it is His will.

**Response:** So far, we have said our sisters who are still waiting for the fruit of the womb should:

1. Wait and be calm
2. Stay in their marriage and waiver not.
3. Hold on to God till the end.
4. Consider adoption.
5. And then, can IVF be an option?

Sisters must not see themselves as failures, with or without child, Christ died for them. I will also want us to probably look at reasons why infertility persist please. Also, what can we say to them? What are the right questions to ask?

**Comment:** We see the longing in their eyes and we sincerely want to know what is in their heart but we are always unsure of what to say to avoid offence.

**Response:** I think we can ask them, how may I be praying on this matter, sometimes their request may look unrealistic, but be sensitive to their need, and indeed take their prayer request to the Lord in accordance to His will.

Another thing is encouraging them to be involved in children ministry. I think any encouragement that will help them focus their hearts on the Lord rather than the need of a child should be passed on to them. We can also get them resources that caters specifically for people in that situation. Getting them messages, books or godly websites that ministers to that people group will definitely be of help, iron sharpens iron.

**Question:** There is also the woman who is able to conceive but her husband is the one with the issue, what should she do?

### Responses and Comments:

**Comment 1:** We need to remain steadfast, even in childlessness, God is able to make it happen, and if He did not, let Him remain God. Knowing God is still God is pivotal. Grace to ascribe greatness to HIM even when there is no child is something we should pray for. Not allowing the devil cheat us and say we are any less is something I will pray for, for those in this plight.

### Scenarios

A couple were married for 14 years; the wife found out after marriage that the husband did not want children. He grew up in a dysfunctional home with an absent father and since then doubted his ability to care for children. He was hell bent on NO children and willing to dissolve his marriage if the wife tricked him into becoming a father. They ultimately separated and divorced.

Another scenario and equally tragic. A couple married less than 3 years and was ready to start a family. She raised alarm after her husband refused to be intimate with her. Long story short--he confesses that he's gay, and not interested in sex with his wife. Both are separated. I pray for a discerning heart for our single sisters and brothers in waiting.

**Comment 2:** This is very disheartening. To me I feel like it's real death. Speaking from experience, I suffered with this probably not to the same extreme, I lost a pregnancy at 17 weeks. And I felt like I was allowed to grieve. People kept saying you are still young you can always have another one but that wasn't enough. It was not comforting at all. The wound miscarriage cuts is deep and sad and the upsetting thing is especially the response that people give... Regarding the issue of miscarriage, when passing through this war or battle, I remember being in the hospital and asking "why" in tears and this Word came for me in the book of Job... *His wife said, 'You cannot still believe that God is good. You should curse God and then die.'* Job replied, *'Do not talk like a fool! We take the good things that God gives us. So, we should not be surprised if he sends us trouble as well.'* Many bad things had happened to Job but he never said any wrong things about God - Job 2:9-10 EASY

Today, I have my son healthy and fine (praise God). I remember on one occasion we ask the gynaecologist why this was happening and he said "if a product is not good, would you like to have it despite deformities" (paraphrase), none of us would want a deformed child either but if it is God's will we must be willing to accept it.

I believe that anyone who is going through this, should not be silent, find a hand to hold and pray (I have a Sister in Christ on this platform, we both at the same time were going through this and we prayed), the enemy is also after our seeds and we must know and understand this apart from medical issues, we must be on our knees with the correct mindset. God is the One who gives us this gift of children and we are

just care takers, they are never ours, as such we must not make a demand with the mind of a child or heart felt disappointment. Also note that you are not the problem and you didn't do anything to deserve it. But take all the issues you have sincerely before God and try to see answers clearly without casting blame. If you know you're sincerely stressed due to work or life style then try to be sincere to yourself and seek medical advice.

We all go through trials but I believe God uses it all, no matter how big or small to teach us patience only in Him and to test the state of our hearts. If we say I don't care and I want it now, let's also ask ourselves if when we are on the maternity bed pushing our beloved baby out and rapture took place and baby disappeared and you were left behind, would you say God was good? I think we should begin to question certain matters before God and get an answer that only Him can give us peace on. I pray that the Lord give us our heart desires not according to the world views and comparison but according to His divine Will for us. Amen

**Comment 3:** Miscarriage whether at 2 weeks or a stillbirth at 9 months is a LOSS. Sensitivity and common sense is a must. What you say and how you say it to someone grieving is important. Why don't we trust God to put us in the shoes of others? It is okay to be STILL than utter foolish words.

I think asking God questions is a good thing. Not to question who He is, but a sincere searching for truth and enlightenment. Oh, I've found HIM to be gracious. I've felt safe asking God questions that many would have misunderstand. He helps me balance spirituality with the needful that I also must do point to stressors, conception timing and calendar, eating better, dangers of harbouring hurts that can be like cancer in itself, checking my motives etc

My experience on this. As new couple, we were newly relocated living far from home and the usual. The period was trying, the question, the pitying looks flooded my mind with so much anxiety and fear but thankfully I asked God why? And He for some reason, He answered me Heb. 11:35. After our crying sessions we encouraged ourselves in the Lord prayerfully decided on response to both families and friend, then the lord came through.

**Response:** In some cultures, once there is no child it is usually assumed that it is the woman. But there are cases where it is the man. How can a godly wife handle this knowing it is not her fault that there are no children and yet still cover her husband even when in-laws may be giving her a tough time and the society as well. Please see the following resources:

<https://homeforgood.org.uk/what-the-church-needs-to-know-about-infertility>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/dont-waste-your-infertility/>

<https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/article/your-options-in-infertility/>

<https://www.christianitytoday.com/ct/2014/july-august/hidden-blessing-of-infertility.html>

<https://justbetweenus.org/topics/struggling-with-infertility/>

<https://christianliferesources.com/beginning-of-life/fertility-infertility-ivf/>

This reminds me of a sister at a pastor's wives conference many years ago. She was married to a man who was so to say impotent, but it

seems the husband did not tell her prior to marriage, and she asked questions, you could tell that she was hurting. There are such cases, and it can be very devastating unless God helps the wife. In a case where infertility comes from the husband, I think both couples should seek medical advice to know what exactly is wrong. At least if you know what the problem is with your better half, you will know how to stand with him by faith.

Again, I will strongly advise that such wife find a godly Christian woman to confide in, so that she can be channelled and counselled aright. Sometimes, apart from the issue on the husband's side, it can also be not understanding the window of opportunity for conception, understanding ovulation and conception might be very useful and, sometimes, both partners may actually be in good health in view of reproduction, yet, no conception.

I think what has encouraged me in this discussion is the fact that some of us have been through the road of infertility before.

### **Prayers:**

Dear Lord, we come before You as one people and one voice as granted access through our Lord Jesus Christ and we submit this matter into Your hands, You who is well able to do anything. You are the God who gives life for You are the Creator of life. We've never seen anywhere in scripture where it states that the Lord failed or lost so we have confidence in Your strength and ability that You can do even far greater than we can ever imagine or think. We raise You up far above the issue for we know that Your plans are higher than the heavens regarding us. We believe that as we raise You high all situations, all problems and all obstacles will be dissolved in our lives and so Lord we ask that this very problem that may appear big in our eyes today be decreased and reduced to nothing as Your glory shines over it and grant these women the desires of their heart. We asked that You open up every closed womb and cause them to function the way that You designed them to function in Jesus name. We come against every strong hold that may be standing in the way of this happening, and that You would frustrate it in Jesus name. We ask that You teach us if there's any way that we are going wrong in our health and well-being that is causing us such obstacles.

Lord, most importantly, we ask that You abide with these women, that You would increase Your joy, peace and cause them to be steadfast in their waiting for Your perfect time for the fruit of the womb. We ask that You comfort those who need to/are mourning over the loss of a child by miscarriage or otherwise.

Speak Lord and open our ears to hear You and do as You wish in these trying times. In Jesus mighty name we pray. Amen.

Thank you, Lord for every Sister, thank You Lord for our different and unique situations. O Lord, You know all things and You see all

things, let Your Will alone be done. *His understanding has no limit.* Psalm 147:5. We believe You for our Sisters in waiting especially for a physical result of a baby. You are God who sees and knows the desires of all flesh and knows how long we can wait.

Lord give each of our Sisters your peace that passeth all understanding, keep their home and their marriage, release them from unfruitful works of unrighteousness and help them to focus solely on You alone, even at this time. You know the challenges as a result of this, dear Lord help them to finish strong. Give them grace that only comes from You. For those who seem to cast their mind back to the past, help them know and understand what Your saving grace did on the cross for them.

And help them to know that they have defeated the devil by the blood of the Lamb and by their testimony... Revelation 12:11 NLT. We wait on You and we believe You will come through for each of them in ways that only YOU can, we are not just asking for physical testimony but much more; a spiritual breakthrough.

We are all here, but situation differs, help us to seek to honour You in the midst of what we lack. We pray that You will help all sisters who are in this sensitive situation to be sensitive to Your bidding, so that they may know the right step to take.