

Mother's Day 2022: The Story - Faithful

READ: We are in this series, The Bible Tells a Story and You Have a Part to Play...if you are a mother one of the most important parts you will play is that of being a mother!

READ: Because motherhood is such an all consuming role...there is a focused attack to undermine our confidence in who God has called and created us to be!! The enemy is so sneaky and manipulative and wily...he knows how to create lies that come at us in the most effective way! **These lies come to “steal, kill & destroy”...our confidence, our calling, our impact, our influence and ultimately, our legacy!**

I reached out to the moms here at City Life that are a part of the All Church Leadership Team and asked them to share with me the top 1-2 lies that they deal with?

Email blew up within minutes....no one had to think long on this one....these mama friends of mine knew right away and were so gracious to share them with me....

The #1 lie...said in different ways by different moms...the most overwhelming lie that most of the moms shared was: **I WILL NEVER BE ENOUGH FOR MY KIDS**

- won't have the capacity for what my kids need from me
- single mom, new in faith, work too much,
- don't have good role models in my own family
- can't provide enough for my kids - opportunities, love, care
- I am not good enough...moms can saturate themselves in this lie!
- **OVERALL SENSE OF LACK IN MY MOTHERING!!!**

READ: Lie - I will never be enough for my kids...is true! If you were enough for your kids they wouldn't need a savior, they wouldn't need Jesus! You were never meant to be enough for your kids...you were meant to point them to Jesus! You were never meant to be PERFECT, you were meant to FAITHFUL!

Romans 3:23 - for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

Jn 14:6. I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

John 1:12. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God,

Romans 3:10 None is righteous, no, not one;

So if we cannot SAVE our kids...what can we do? What is our part to play?

READ: I believe a mother's most powerful "part to play" is her faithfulness as she radically submits her life to the Lordship of Jesus Christ!

- lie of perfection robs us of the joy we were intended to experience in pointing our kids to Jesus...we don't have to their Savior...Jesus is!

READ: On this Mother' Day I want to encourage all of the moms here in 3 areas that I know we need to be faithful in to "play our part":

1. Your identity
2. Your voice
3. Your time

1. Your identity

READ: It is one thing to hear who God says I am....totally different to embrace that definition of who I am and make it my definition of myself! When this happens it begins to instruct how I act, how I think, what I speak, how I view others, God and most certainly my "part to play" in my role as a mother

Just like I can't stop being a mom....I need to not be able to stop being a daughter of the King...not something I take on & off!!!

From the time we are young girls we take on others definitions of ourselves...and it becomes baggage we wear...even when it is not bad...it is just not our authentic selves! We must do the work of stripping off other's definitions of who I am to fully discover God's definition of who I am

Ps 139:14 – fearfully and wonderfully made

Ps. 17:8 - apple of His eye

Deut 7:6 – His treasured possession

2 Cor 5:17 – new creation

Eph 4:24 – righteous and holy

1 Thess. 5:5 – a daughter of the light, no longer of darkness

- Must **accept/celebrate/embrace** who God says I am:
 - Forgiven redeemed precious
 - Desired beautiful valuable
 - Lovely capable worthy
 - Whole enough complete
 - Contributor unique have a part to play
 - He formed you in your mother's womb and you are fearfully and wonderfully made!
 - God sees you as complete – lacking nothing – only one who ever will!
(even on your best day, the people that love you most will still see your lack/shortcomings, etc)
 - Each one of us must make it our personal mission to “own” God's definition of who we are...takes practice and intentionality

Read: Playing My Part as a mom does not require me to be perfect but it does require me to be faithful in fully embracing my identity in Christ!!!

2. Your voice

Read: The Bible has so much to say about the power of the tongue and how our words can be used for impact (James 3:2-10)- both good and bad! In thinking about the part we play as mothers, let's focus on the amazing opportunity we have to use our voice as a creative force that gives us power...POWER TO CREATE FEELINGS IN PEOPLE THAT WERE NOT THERE BEFORE WE SPOKE (ONE OF THE WAYS WE ARE MADE IN GOD'S IMAGE...PLANTS & ANIMALS DON'T HAVE THIS ABILITY)

- Using it to build up
- Using it to create hope
- Using it to get rid of fear
- Using it to be kind
- Using it to forgive
- Using it to speak life!!!

Prov 18:21

“The tongue has the power of life and death and those who love it will eat it’s fruit.” (explain)

1 Peter 3:10

For the Scriptures say “If you want a happy life and good days, keep your tongue from speaking evil and keep your lips from telling lies.” (this means that if you want a happy life speak good things and speak truth)

Ephesians 4:29

Don’t use foul or abusive language. Let everything you say be good and helpful, so that your words will be an encouragement to those who hear them.

Read: Playing My Part as a mom does not require me to be perfect but it does require me to be faithful in using my voice to speak life!!!

James 3:2-10

2 We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.

3 When we put bits into the mouths of horses to make them obey us, we can turn the whole animal.

4 Or take ships as an example. Although they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are steered by a very small rudder wherever the pilot wants to go.

5 Likewise, the **tongue is a small part** of the body, but it makes great boasts. Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark.

6 The **tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body**. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one’s life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.

7 All kinds of animals, birds, reptiles and sea creatures are being tamed and have been tamed by mankind,

8 but **no human being can tame the tongue**. It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison.

9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness.

10 **Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.**

3. Your time

Read: Being faithful with my time really encompasses the prioritization of how I spend my time with a clear focus on the reality that time is limited! Not to induce fear or sadness but rather to induce motivation and focus!

**not to rush us or stress us out but rather to help us to ruthlessly eliminate those things that don't really matter

Ephesians 5:15-17 So, then, be careful how you live. Do not be unwise but wise, making the best use of your time because the times are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the Lord's will is.

- values based living that instructs your time - Biblical values are what determine where your time is spent, how time is organized

- Time is a limited commodity, it is precious, it is meant to be stewarded as a gift from God....not belonging to us or entitled to have it valued and ordered in how we spend it

**Are Biblical values instructing your time? (Overall....week to week)

**Are the things that matter to God reflected in how you and your family spend your time?

**Are God's values reflected in your schedule? (Eph 5:15....making the best use of your time because you understand what the Lord's will is)

Courageously reflect on these questions....NO REGRETS....not perfect but faithful! (My own reflections!)

Don't beat yourself up if you are mom here today and you wish you had a "do over" or that you would have been in a different place in your relationship with God when you were raising your kids....YOU HAVE TODAY!!!!

READ: Playing my part does not require me to be perfect but it does require me to be faithful in making the best use of my time with my children!

Closing