

Sunday, May 11, 2025

Scripture Reading: John 10:22-30

*There's no way to be a perfect mother,
and a million ways to be a good one. — Jill Churchill*

The Bible says in Isaiah 66:13, “As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.” Today is Mother’s Day — a special time to celebrate the love, sacrifice and nurturing spirit that mothers embody. The Bible frequently uses the imagery of a mother’s care to reflect God’s love for us — a love that is tender, persistent and comforting. One of my favorite Mother’s Day stories beautifully illustrates the essence of this love.

In May 2008, a deadly earthquake in China flattened whole villages and towns in the mountains and surrounding areas. Nearly 90,000 people died or were missing and presumed dead, including more than 5,300 children, the bulk of them students attending classes. As rescue efforts unfolded, volunteers found a woman curled over her infant child under the rubble of a collapsed building. Though the mother had perished, the child was found alive under her protective embrace. In the woman’s hands was a cellphone with a message that read: “If you survive, remember that I love you.”

This is *maternal* love — enduring, sacrificial and selfless. It is also a snapshot of *divine* love, as the Isaiah verse reminds us. Just as a mother protects her child, God shields us through the trials of life. God’s love, like a mother’s, never abandons us, even in the hardest moments. On Mother’s Day, we honor the mothers who reflect God’s heart through their care, and we are reminded that, just as a mother comforts her child, so God comforts us.

Actress Goldie Hawn is reputed to have said, “The truth is that no matter how old we are, as long as our mothers are alive, we want our mother.”

So true! This Mother’s Day, may we be inspired by stories of sacrificial love and be reminded that God’s love for us is even greater than we can imagine.

—Timothy Merrill

Prayer: Loving God, we thank you for mothers and for the love that nurtures and sustains us. Thank you for those who reflect your heart through their daily sacrifices, care and compassion. We pray for strength and encouragement for mothers everywhere, that they may feel your love sustaining them. May we all remember to share love with the mothers and caregivers in our lives, today and every day. In Jesus’ name. Amen.



Daily Bible Readings

- Sunday:** Luke 18-21
- Monday:** 1 Samuel 21-24
- Tuesday:** 1 Samuel 25-28
- Wednesday:** 1 Samuel 29-31
- Thursday:** 2 Samuel 1-4
- Friday:** 2 Samuel 5-8
- Saturday:** Psalms 46-48

Verse to Remember

God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear.

—Psalm 46:1-2

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z	T
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I G F E D C B A	_____
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A	_____
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____
Z Y X W V U T S Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A	_____
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____
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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z	_____
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F D C B A	_____
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R T U V W X Y Z	_____
Z Y X W V U S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A	_____
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P N M L K J I H G F E D C B A	_____
A B C D E G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____
Z Y X W V U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A	_____
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S U V W X Y Z	_____
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A B C D F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____
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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____
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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____
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A B C D E F G H I J K L M N P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____
Z Y X W U T S R Q P O N M L K J I H G F E D C B A	_____
A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z	_____

The Language of Love!

On Mother’s Day we are given an opportunity to remember those we love and those who love us. Think of the words of the apostle Paul in 1 Corinthians 13.

Study each line carefully to see what letter is NOT in the row and write it in the blank provided. If all letters are present, consider that a space between words.

When you’ve completed the puzzle, write this statement about love in the space provided below.