



CELL GUIDE

TOPIC A Tale of 4 Mothers

SPEAKER Gary & Joanna Koh

THEME Strengthen the Family

DATE 12 & 13 May 2018

MESSAGE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

In celebration of Mothers' Day, we recognise that all of us have at least one mother – for better or worse – with whom our life is oft entwined and from whom we derive our life story.

Gary and Joanna address the role and impact of mothers for:

- Every **child**
- Every **father** who is **husband** to a mum
- Every **mum**

Through their life stories, we learn how to obey God's commandment to honour our mothers (Exodus 20:12; Ephesians 6:2-3) and work through motherhood, for God's glory.

HONOURING A MOTHER'S ROLE

1. TO CHILDREN (i.e. all of us)

Mum's role is often depicted by her sacrificial care and pouring out of her life in love, which contributes towards an individual's developmental milestones, childhood memories and mood/atmosphere of the home. For some of us, though, our experience of mum may have been to the contrary. If there is need to restore our relationship with Mum, we must:

1. **Repent** of any way in which we have contributed to the relationship strain. (1 Jn 1:9; 2 Chro 7:14)
2. **Renounce** any vows we may have made in retaliation. (Num 30:2)
3. **Render** ineffective or break any generational curses coming down the family line through mum. (Matt 16:19; 18:18)
4. **Rid** anything that continues to cause us to harbour resentment and feed negativity towards mum. (Heb 12:1)
5. **Release** forgiveness and any "changing" of mum to the Lord. (Matt 6:15)

2. TO HUSBANDS-DADS

We can demonstrate how to honour mum through the way we treat our wife.

1. **Love her** – demonstrating affection towards her in front of the children gives them security

through knowing that their parents have a strong marriage (Eph 5:25,28)

2. **Listen to her** – there is wisdom in what she tells you about the children (Pro 1:5)
3. **Lift her up in prayer** – take a minute each in the morning and at bedtime to pray for your wife (2 Thes 1:11)
4. **Lay down your life to defend her** – intervene when the children are disrespectful towards her (Eph 5:25)
5. **Lead her** – especially in faith @home practices e.g. praying, worship, bible reading and faith discussions as a family (Eph 5:23)

3. TO MUMS

To know our identity in Christ – who we are because of whose we are – we need to understand that a mother’s significance is greater than her role:

1. **Motherhood is a calling of stewardship**, for however long (or short) it lasts. Like Hannah who gave her son Samuel up in service to the Lord, we need to learn to surrender our children to the Lord (1 Sam 1:24-28).
2. **Our children are not our prized possessions**, though it feels like it. We need to stop using our children to define our worth by comparing ourselves with other mums (Gen 16:3-4; Gen 29-30). Regardless of how well or how badly our children perform/behave; God has a purpose for our own lives, which includes encouraging younger mums (Tit 3:3-5).
3. **God sees and knows** all that we’ve done, but more importantly, **who we’ve become**. God doesn't require us to be perfect mums who have it all; aim instead to become more like Christ Who is our all. (Eph 2:10)

CONCLUSION

Whichever way motherhood touches our life, we need to choose to honour a mother’s role, be it dealing with issues we may have with mum or dealing with “mother’s guilt”. When we do that, God works all things for our good (Rom 8:28).

QUESTIONS

1. A key question posed in the sermon was: "How is your relationship with your mum?"
What 3 words would you use to describe it?

2. Share how you might have witnessed or experienced some of the common pitfalls of motherhood, e.g. basing mum's identity on the child or her significance on her role.

3. Discuss and brainstorm some (creative) ways we can honour mum, in obedience to God's commandment in Exo 20:12/ Eph 6:2-3?