

MAY 12, 2024 MOTHER'S DAY, FPC PORT HURON, A CHILDREN'S MESSAGE FOR ALL OF US CHILDREN'S MOTHER'S DAY PLAY: "MOTHERS OF OLD"

As many of you know, we are in a series about Old Stories—New Lessons for the month of May. Some of those Old Stories are centered in the Old Testament.

That is why today—Mother's Day—we are focusing, not only on our own mothers and their Motherly traits, But we are also focusing on Mothers of Old in the Bible.

Soon the children will portray some of those mothers—With the help of their own mothers and grandmother to tell the story as Narrators. But before they begin their portrayal of mothers, I have a few thoughts to share with you. Mothers—come in all kinds of shapes and sizes. Mothers come as a Variety Pack—Mothers come as a Variety Pack—There are Birth mothers; Step-mothers; Grandmothers; Foster mothers; Surrogate Mothers, Mothers-in-law; Motherly Mentors; and People who just like to Mother us. . (Did I miss any?) and people who become our mothers when our birth mother has passed from this life to the next. It is the same with the Mothers of Old. There are birth mothers and then there are grandmothers, and slave mothers and maidservant mothers.

You will notice in your bulletin that all the mothers have a title—which indicates something about her character or situation. Also on an insert, you will see the Family Tree of many of these mothers—just so you don't get too confused. Important to note that the "sons" in the Israelite nation were much more important than the "daughters." Sorry girls. But it was because the sons would carry on the family name. Even today, we have some of that.

A Couple of the Mom Characters in the Play: Eve and also Rebekah had hard jobs because there was great conflict between their sons: Eve—Cain and Abel; Rebekah—Esau and Jacob. It is just an indication that mothers (and fathers, for that matter) put up with a lot in their children, but they keep on loving them.

In the Bible and in the Play, Leah and Rachel are sisters and they are both wives of Jacob. There were multiple wives in those days. As one of the kids said in the rehearsal yesterday, you mean Jacob was "cheating" on both of those women? I just looked at the mothers who were there, pretty much saying, "You deal with this at home." It suffices to say: "it was just a different time and culture then than it is now.

The men had several wives—notwithstanding, maidservants and slaves.

Jochebed, the Mother of Moses whom you will see in the play. It is assumed that she was a midwife in those days in Egypt. She went against the Pharaoh's order that any boy born to the Israelites, was to be killed at birth. Jochebed was an Israelite herself so she did not do what the Pharaoh wanted done. She loved her people and she loved her son Moses. Now Jochebed, Moses' mother had two other children, Miriam, a daughter (7 years older than

Moses) and Aaron (3 years older than Moses). When Jochebed puts Moses in a basket and floats him down the Nile River, we know that the daughter of Pharaoh takes him out of the water. But—Miriam, his sister is hiding in the reeds and asks Pharaoh's daughter if she will need a nursing mother. She says "Yes." So Miriam gets her mother and Jochebed nurses and raise Moses for the first two years of his life. Then Moses is returned to the Pharaoh's palace to be raised by the Pharaoh's daughter. Amazing!! Jochebed is a very smart mother—And so is Annie—who portrays her.

When we finally come to Mary, mother of Jesus, she has all these stories of mothers in her heart. And even Jesus, with his compassion and grace for his people, he compares himself to a mother. In Matthew 23, Jesus says: "How often have I desired to gather my children, together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings?" Mothers have always tried to gather their children under their wings. So let's get on with the Play: "Mothers of Old"

**The Skit Guys—Mothers (a take off from their preview)—
Adapted by Pastor Roxie for "Mothers of Old"
REVISED "MOTHERS OF OLD"**

(As each mother is presented, the circumstances of each situation is acted out as a mime (mostly no words, except for the narrator's words. At the end of the narrated presentation of each woman, the woman will be named as a Mother)

INTRODUCTION (Pastor Roxie) Motherhood plays an important role in the Bible. These stories give us a glimpse of how God's love can come to us through mothers.

EVE (Genesis 2-4) (Narrator 1) In the beginning, there was the first man, Adam, (Adam comes up to Chancel Area) And the first woman was named Eve because she was the mother of all living beings.

(Eve comes up to Chancel Area) But Eve was a mother in her own right—Cain and Abel were her sons.

(Cain and Abel come up to Chancel Area) Unfortunately, jealousy overtook Cain (Cain and Abel take off their gloves and fight And Cain punches his brother or knifes him) The two brothers fought and Cain killed his brother Abel. Jealousy is never good. Eve must have been grieved over the loss of her son. But she went on to have many other children, to make her the mother of the human race.

Eve, the Mother of The Living.

SARAH (Genesis 12, 18, 21) (Narrator 2) (Sarah comes up to Chancel Area)

For a very long time Sarah had no children. (Abraham comes up to Chancel Area) She was married to Abraham who never gave up on God's promise that he and Sarah would be the parents of great nations. (Abraham and Sarah look up to the sky and Then motion to the land—sand) They would have as many descendants as the stars in the sky and sand on the beach. Sarah gave birth to her first born, Isaac

(which means laughter) at the age of 90 and Abraham was 100. God fulfilled His promise, through Sarah, even if it caused a lot of laughter. (Everyone laughs)

Sarah, the Mother of Promise.

REBEKAH (Genesis 25: 19-34; and 27) (Pastor Roxie)

(Rebekah comes to Chancel Area) Isaac, son of Abraham and Sarah,

married a woman called Rebekah. It was a long time before Rebekah had children.

However, she became pregnant and would have twins. (Esau and Jacob comes to Chancel Area and start fighting) Esau and Jacob fought inside of Mother Rebekah

She talked to the Lord. **“Why is this happening?”** The Lord replied: “Two nations are inside of you. The older, Esau will serve the younger, Jacob.” (Jacob grabs Esau’s heel and holds it)

When the two were born, Esau was first but Jacob had a hold on his heel.

The two boys were at odds most of their life. (Jacob and Esau face off with each other)

Rebekah was a powerful mother, helping to make Jacob, the younger rule over Esau, the older.

Favoritism is not always good. (Esau and Jacob shake hands) It was not until Esau and Jacob

were much older that they shook hands and were finally reconciled to each other. **Rebekah—a Powerful Mother** (Jacob stays in the Chancel Area)

LEAH (Genesis 29, 30) (Narrator 3) (Leah comes to the Chancel Area)

Leah was the firstborn daughter of Laban, a relative in Jacob’s family.

Jacob was in the historic line of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob was looking for a wife.

(Jacob turns his back on Leah) Leah was overlooked by Jacob because he had fallen in love with her younger sister, Rachel. (Rachel comes to Chancel Area)

Even though Jacob married both women (they did that in those days), he loved Rachel the most and shunned Leah. (Jacob’s back is to Leah) God saw Jacob’s rejection of Leah.

So God, through Jacob, gave Leah 6 sons. Reuben and Simeon, Levi and Issachar, Zebulun and Judah. (All the boys come up and if we need more, grab a couple of adults)

Son Judah was the most important son of Isaac and Leah because he was an ancestor to King David and thus, he was included in the line of Jesus. God gave Leah her motherhood. **Leah, the Forgotten Mother**

Rachel, the Beloved Mother

JOCHEBED (Exodus 1 and 2) (Narrator 4) (Pharaoh comes to Chancel Area—cross arms, look angry) When the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, the Egyptian Pharaoh became angry because the Israelite women were giving birth to too many babies.

He ordered that all male babies were to be drown in the Nile River. (Pharaoh leaves)

(Jochebed comes to Chancel Area with baby—Basket already there)

Jochebed, the mother of Moses, wanted to save her son.

(Jochebed puts baby in the basket and puts the baby basket in the aisle)

She put Moses in a basket and floated him down the Nile River towards Pharaoh’s palace. The Pharaoh’s daughter found him and raised him as her son. His name, Moses, means “I drew him out of the water.” (Jochebed comes back to Chancel area and stands there) Jochebed gave up her son for the freedom of her people

Moses became the leader of the Israelites. Along with his brother Aaron and sister Miriam, Moses led the Israelite people out of Egypt to the Promised Land.

Jochebed, the Mother of Courage

Naomi (The Book of Ruth) (Narrator 5) Naomi comes to Chancel Area

Naomi, not only lost her husband, Elimelech but both her sons died as well. They had no children. (Ruth comes up to Chancel Area) Daughter-in-law Orpah went back to her own people but Ruth became the loyal daughter-in-law of Naomi. (Ruth follows Naomi around the Chancel Area and says the Bold Print) Ruth followed Naomi back to her hometown of Bethlehem, saying, **“Where you go, I will go, and where you stay, I will stay. Your people will be my people and your God my God.”**

(Both Ruth and Naomi stand in Chancel Area and Boaz) Daughter-in-law Ruth met Boaz, a relative on Naomi’s husband’s side of the family. Soon Ruth and Boaz were wed and had a child. (Boaz comes up to Chancel Area) And all the people there said that Naomi finally had a family. The son was named Obed. He was the father of Jesse who was the father of King David, who was in the line of Jesus **Naomi, the Spiritual Mother**

Ruth, the Faithful Mother

Mary (Narrator 1) (Mary comes up to Chancel Area) A virgin and not yet married, Mary was found to be with child by the Holy Spirit. (Joseph comes up to Chancel Area where manger is) Joseph, the earthly father, was there when she gave birth to Jesus, (Mary takes baby Jesus and puts him in the manger and Joseph and she Sit in chairs)

The name Jesus means “He saves” and the angels told both Mary and Joseph that his name would be “Jesus.” But Jesus was called many names: **Emmanuel (God with us);**

Messiah—the Expected Holy One; the Savior of the world; the Lord of All the Earth. The motherhood of this blessed woman was more than the continuation of a family name. Mary participated in God’s plan to bring salvation into the world. Jesus was God’s Son and the One who always loves us and forgives us. **Mary—the Mother of a Savior.**

CLOSING (Pastor Roxie) From the beginning of time to the end of time; From the Garden of Eden to the Cross and Resurrection, there have always been mothers (and fathers). **There are so many more mothers in the Bible:** (One girl walks up for each mother) **Rachel, mother of Joseph (with his many colored coat) and Benjamin Hannah,** mother of the Prophet Samuel; **Rahab,** wife of Salmon and mother of Boaz. **Elizabeth,** wife of Zechariah, mother of John the Baptist; **Salome,** Mother of the Disciples James and John, sons of Zebedee; **Joanna,** Mother of Disciple Peter (All children come up to the front Chancel Area) The women of the Bible paved the way for all women, showing the various ways that they could be called “Mom.” Whether a mother of faith or mentorship or adoption or by birth, Mothers (along with Fathers) play an important role in the stories of the generations to come.

To all of you who are mothers or have mothers or are motherly, thank you for who you are.
We love you. Happy Mother's Day (Throw a Kiss).