

## May 2026



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***This months edition is dedicated to Mothers***

## **How Children Treat Mothers Today Compared to 40 Years Ago**

I have a couple of younger friends who have toddlers or children under five. And bless their hearts, they bring those toddlers everywhere. Everywhere.

***Well... everywhere except my house anymore.***

I learned my lesson the hard way. I love hosting adult game nights—cards, trivia, and every now and then a round of Uno when we're feeling young and feisty. Adults laughing, snacks on the table, nobody climbing the furniture... it's a beautiful thing.

But the last time one of my younger friends brought her toddler over, I realized something important: **Embrace, prepare, and say a prayer.** This little visitor of mine walked into my house like he was the new owner. He opened cabinets. He pulled the throw pillows off the couch. He watered my plant with his juice box. And my little dog JoeJoe clung to me like Velcro, convinced her life was in danger. The whole time he ran in every direction—mumbling, squealing, making airplane noises—his mother sat calmly on the couch telling me about her latest drama. My eyes were darting, my body was in panic mode, and she didn't even flinch. Not one correction. Not one redirect. Not even a gentle "No, honey." Then he reached for a butter knife on the table. That was it. The mother in me—the one my own mother trained—rose up like a reflex. I said "No," and I tapped his little hand before he could grab it.

Meanwhile, I was praying silently, "Lord, give me strength... and maybe a childproof lock."

But here's the thing—and this is where the Lord nudged my heart a little. It's not that these toddlers are “bad.” It's that the world they're growing up in is different. Today's toddlers are not the toddlers I grew up with. And today's mothers aren't the mothers I grew up with either.

When I look at how children speak to their mothers today, it's clear the world has changed in ways that would have shocked the households many of us grew up in. I was raised in a generation where respect wasn't optional—it was expected. You listened when your mother spoke. You didn't talk back, you didn't roll your eyes, and you certainly didn't slam a door unless you wanted to see your life flash before your eyes. And yes, if you crossed the line, you got spanked. Not abused—corrected. Discipline was part of growing up, and most of us turned out just fine.

I still remember the most powerful sentence my mother ever used: **“I am going to tell your dad when he gets home.”** That was it. That was the nuclear button. The moment those words left her mouth, my behavior snapped into place like someone flipped a switch. She didn't have to yell or chase me around the house. Just the *idea* of facing whatever consequence he had in mind—was enough to straighten me out instantly.

My mom was the typical old-fashioned mother of her time. She didn't work outside the home. She didn't drive. Her whole world revolved around taking care of my dad, me, and my three siblings. She cooked, cleaned, managed the house, and kept the family running with strength that often went unnoticed. But we respected her, because that's how families operated.

Friends of mine, even being just 10–15 years younger than me, they grew up in a completely different era. Times changed fast. Suddenly, most households needed two incomes just to stay afloat. Child-discipline laws shifted, and spanking — which had been a normal part of parenting in my childhood — was no longer allowed in many places. What had been considered “normal correction” in one generation became unacceptable in the next.

That short gap in years created a huge difference in how children were raised, how mothers were treated, and how families functioned. Forty years ago, mothers were the clear authority in the home. You didn't argue with Mom; you obeyed. Today, children often feel more comfortable expressing frustration directly — sometimes too directly. Backtalk, eye-rolling, and entitlement seem more common, not because kids are “bad,” but because the world around them teaches a different tone. What used to be called “talking back” is now sometimes brushed off as “expressing feelings,” and the line between communication and disrespect can get blurry.

Mothers today face pressures my mother never imagined: working full-time, managing schedules, navigating screens, monitoring online behavior, and carrying the emotional load of the entire household. They're expected to be calm, gentle, patient, and available 24/7 — while receiving less respect and gratitude than mothers of the past. Motherhood may look different today, but the heart of a mother — her strength, her love, her devotion — has never changed. The same God who guided mothers 40 years ago is guiding mothers today.

Written and dedicated to Mothers of the past and future by Lora Shirey



# Mothers of the Bible

In keeping with the theme of our Ladies Bible Study this past week, I thought it would be meaningful to highlight a few mothers from thousands of years ago. You likely know their stories, but they deserve a little recognition and gratitude. Of course, I couldn't name all of them in one article, but here are a few worth mentioning.

**Eve** - Eve is called “*the mother of all living*” (Genesis 3:20).

**Sarah** - Sarah waited decades for God's promise. Her laughter of disbelief became laughter of joy when Isaac was born.

**Jochebed** - Jochebed hid her baby Moses and trusted God with his future. Her courage saved a nation.

**Hannah** - Hannah poured out her heart before the Lord, and God answered with Samuel.

**Naomi** - The Mother-in-Law through grief and loss, Naomi guided Ruth with wisdom and love.

**Ruth** - Ruth's loyalty and faith placed her in the lineage of Jesus.

**Elizabeth** - God blessed her with John the Baptist, her joy overflowed.

**Hagar** - God saw, heard, and rescued when she was cast into the wilderness.

**Rebekah** - Rebekah listened for God's voice and believed His promise about her sons.

**Jochebed** - When Pharaoh ordered Hebrew baby boys to be killed, Jochebed refused to surrender her son.

**Bathsheba** - Bathsheba became the mother of Solomon, one of Israel's wisest kings.

**Elizabeth** - Elizabeth waited a lifetime for a child and God blessed her with John the Baptist.

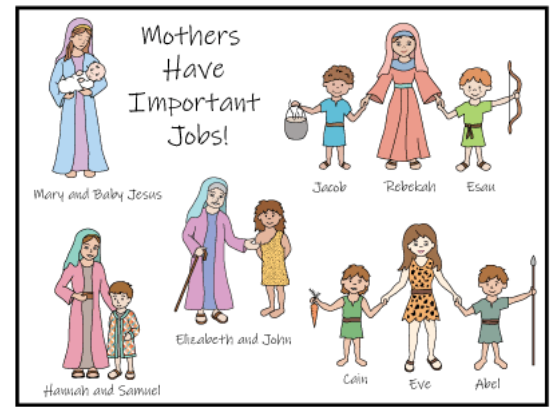
**The Widow of Zarephath** - With only a handful of flour and a little oil, she fed the prophet Elijah—and God multiplied her supply.

**The Shunammite Woman** - This unnamed woman welcomed the prophet Elisha into her home. God blessed her with a son, and when tragedy struck, she clung to faith until her child was restored.

## Mary: The Mother Who Surrendered

Mary's “yes” to God changed history. She carried the Savior, raised Him, followed Him, and stood at the foot of the cross. Her faith was quiet, steady, and courageous. “*I am the Lord's servant.*” (Luke 1:38).

Though centuries separate us from these women, their stories speak to every mother, grandmother, stepmother, and spiritual mother in our church family.



# Christian Humor

## **GO TO CHURCH WILLIAM**

On a sunny morning, William's mother came into her son's room and said, "William, it's Sunday. Time to get up! Time to get up and go to church! Get up!" From under the covers came mumbles, "I don't want to go!" "What do you mean?" she said. "That's silly! Now get up and get dressed and go to church!" "No!" he shot back. "I'll give you two reasons. I don't like them and they don't like me!" "Nonsense," she told him. "I'll give YOU two reasons to go. First, you are 42 years old, and second, you are the PASTOR!"

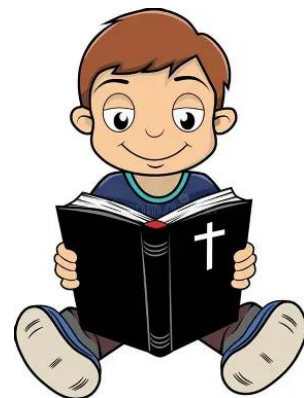


## **ACTS 2:38**

An elderly woman had just returned to her home from an evening of religious service when she was startled by an intruder. As she caught the man in the act of robbing her home of its valuables, she yelled, 'Stop -Acts 2:38!' (..turn from your sin...). The burglar stopped dead in his tracks. The woman calmly called the police and explained what she had done. As the officer cuffed the man to take him in, he asked the burglar, 'Why did you just stand there? All she did was yell a scripture to you.' 'Scripture?' replied the burglar, 'She said she had an AXE and two 38's!'

## **ADAMS SUIT**

A little boy opened the big and old family Bible with fascination and looked at the old pages as he turned them. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible, and he picked it up and looked at it closely. It was an old leaf from a tree that had been pressed between the pages. 'Momma, look what I found,' the boy called out. 'What have you got there, dear?' his mother asked. With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered: 'I think it's Adam's suit!'



**How do we know God likes coffee? Because the Bible says, He brews.**

## 30 Sayings of the Wise – Proverbs 22:22-30

### Our Continued Series

Many of you have read these before—some may have even studied or memorized them—but I thought they would make a meaningful addition to our newsletter each month. These sayings offer simple, steady reminders of the Lord's wisdom and guidance in our everyday lives.

(Sayings 1-4 In January; - Sayings 5-9 in February; - Sayings 10-15 in March; Sayings 1-21 in April )

## Wisdom from the Proverbs



### ***Saying 22 — Listen to Your Parents***

Honor your father and mother; their wisdom is a gift to your life.

### ***Saying 23 — Choose Righteousness Over Wealth***

Truth, wisdom, discipline, and understanding are worth more than riches.

### ***Saying 24 — A Joyful, God-Honoring Child Blesses Parents***

A wise and righteous life brings deep joy to your parents.

### ***Saying 25 — Avoid Envy of Sinners***

Don't envy those who do wrong; keep your hope anchored in the Lord.

### ***Saying 26 — Be Wise With Food and Drink***

Avoid drunkenness and gluttony; these lead to poverty and ruin.

### ***Saying 27 — Guard Your Heart in Relationships***

Stay away from immoral entanglements; they destroy lives and futures.

### ***Saying 28 — Don't Be Fooled by Appearances***

Wine may sparkle and look inviting, but it can bite like a snake.

### ***Saying 29 — Don't Envy the Wicked or Seek Their Company***

Avoid those who stir up trouble; their path leads to destruction.

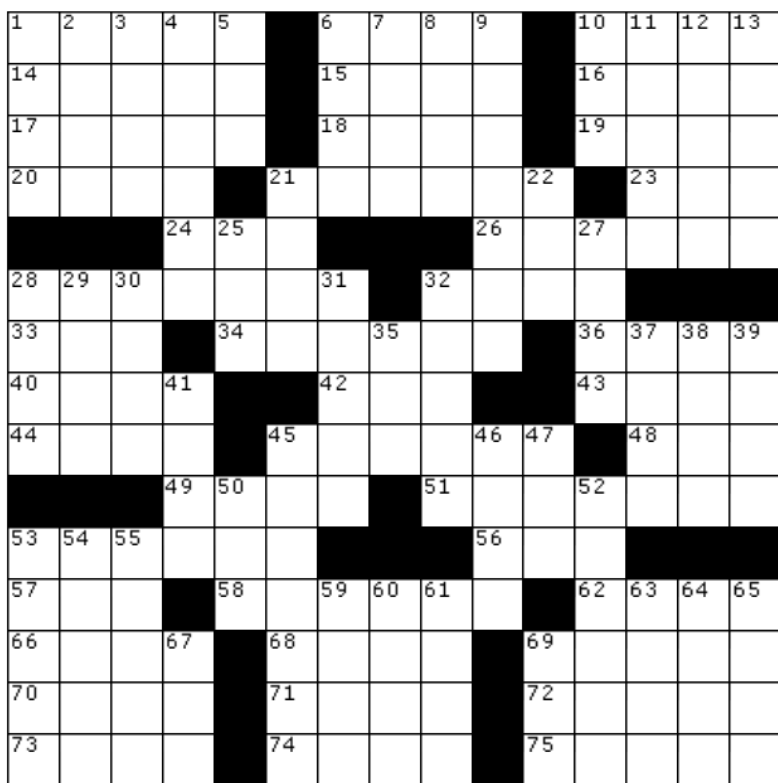
### ***Saying 30 — Fear the Lord and Honor Authority***

Respect God and the leaders He has placed over you; rebellion leads to disaster.

## PROVERBS



The book of Proverbs contains a special section known as the *Thirty Sayings of the Wise*—practical, God-honoring wisdom meant to guide everyday life. Beginning in Proverbs 22:17 and continuing through 24:22, these sayings offer instruction, correction, and encouragement for anyone seeking to walk faithfully with the Lord. This concludes our series, and I truly hope you've enjoyed reading each newsletter since January and have gained insight, strength, and a little more knowledge for your walk with God.



**DOWN**

- 1 What a clock tells
- 2 Winter headgear
- 3 Decorative needle case
- 4 Gown
- 5 Eastern Standard Time
- 6 Bullets
- 7 Fossil fuel
- 8 Biblical weed
- 9 Hindered
- 10 Expression of surprise
- 11 Jewish teacher
- 12 Statement of beliefs
- 13 Fence of bushes
- 21 Discount
- 22 November (abbr.)
- 25 Transgression
- 27 Call
- 28 American Civil Liberties Union (abbr.)

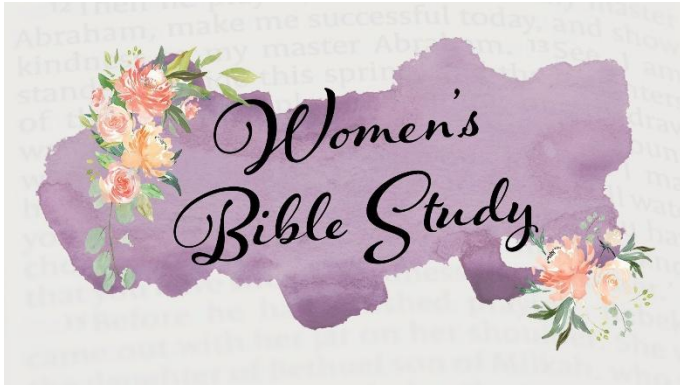
- 29 Gyrate
- 30 You are the \_\_\_ of the earth
- 31 Mother of Isaac
- 32 Legal
- 35 Trail
- 37 Northeast by east
- 38 Make
- 39 Journalist's question
- 41 Small city
- 45 Wrote
- 46 Space administration
- 47 Gross national product (abbr.)
- 50 A name of God
- 52 Back \_\_\_ (board game)
- 53 Mennonite
- 54 Mother-in-law of Ruth
- 55 Performer
- 59 National capital
- 60 Dress
- 61 Model
- 63 Grain
- 64 In \_\_\_ of (instead

**ACROSS**

- 1 Melody
- 6 Book after Gospels
- 10 Bend
- 14 Tiny amounts
- 15 Trench
- 16 Tortoise and the \_\_\_
- 17 Sermon on the \_\_\_
- 18 Mother of Jesus
- 19 A piece of bedroom furniture (2 wds.)
- 20 Revise
- 21 Serious
- 23 Plead
- 24 North American nation
- 26 Iodine compound
- 28 Attacks
- 32 Tribe of Israel
- 33 Accountant
- 34 Got closer
- 36 Afresh
- 40 Swing
- 42 Carpet
- 43 Mother of Reuben and Dinah
- 44 Do \_\_\_ others
- 45 Dining
- 48 Undergarment
- 49 Desire
- 51 Conversation sidetrack
- 53 Pineapple (Gr.)
- 56 Hotel
- 57 McDonald's "Big \_\_\_"
- 58 Sister of Lazarus and Mary
- 62 Undercover agent
- 66 Small particle
- 68 Past
- 69 Electronic mail
- 70 Air pollution
- 71 Native ruler in Asia
- 72 Chooses a candidate
- 73 Employ
- 74 Display
- 75 Turn out

Answers on last page





**Ladies Bible Study – Summer Break Update**  
Ladies Bible Study will be taking its summer break beginning in June. We'll return in September and continue our study in the Book of Psalms. We hope you can join us when we gather again for fellowship, prayer, and time in God's Word!

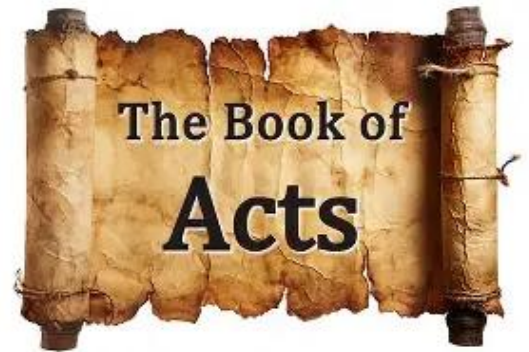



**The new Church Directory is complete!** If you have a mailbox, your copy has been placed inside. For others, directories are available in the Narthex. Please check your mailbox first, as the number of extra copies is limited.

## Sunday School

Gary Stump will continue a study on the book of Acts.

In Acts, Luke sketches the spread of the Gospel from Palestine to the capital of the Roman empire in less than 30 years in an era where the primary transportation was on foot and without radio, TV, telephone or even paper or printing presses; While Jesus had left them, the Holy Spirit provided valuable guidance and encouragement to minister and grow the church in spite of persecution.



 **Reformation Lutheran Church Picnic – June 14th**  
We have been invited to join Reformation Lutheran Church for their church picnic on Sunday, June 14th, held in the Pavilion. A sign-up sheet for side dishes will be available shortly so everyone can contribute their favorite picnic treat. More details will follow as we get closer to the date. Let's enjoy a wonderful afternoon of fellowship, food, and community.

## *Communities of Faith:*

### *MUSIC & CORNHOLE*

**Sunday, May 31 • 3:00 PM**  
**Amos Herr Park – East Pavilion**  
1700 Nissley Rd., Landisville

***An afternoon of music, fellowship, and fun!***

- Spacious pavilion for musicians & listeners
- Grass area for cornhole
- Near playground & restrooms
- Snacks & drinks provided
- Bring your lawn chair



Featuring music from several genres performed by musicians from multiple communities of faith, including **our own Westgate Worship Group!**

🎵 Bring an instrument, lift your voice, or simply relax and enjoy. Cornhole boards will be ready for play. Everyone is welcome!

### *iCare Community Event*

*Date: May 28-30, 2026*

*Location: 1850 Diamond Station Road, Ephrata, PA*

iCare Community Event kicks off on Thursday evening with a banquet filled with wonderful food and fellowship. On Friday - live bands and delicious food, and Saturday's activities include an auction, a festival of food, 5K race, and FREE children's activities.



This event helps raise essential funds for the ongoing efforts of Blessings of Hope and provides a platform for supporters to learn more about what we do.

For more information visit: [BlessingsOfHope.com/Events](https://BlessingsOfHope.com/Events)

**Fellowship isn't just social—it's spiritual. When we gather for something as simple as a picnic or a game event, we're living out the joy of community that Christ Himself modeled.**

## Faith-Based Look at World News in 2026

The year 2026 has brought its share of uncertainty—wars in the Middle East, rising tensions between nations, economic instability, and humanitarian needs around the world. Many people are feeling the weight of conflict, division, and rapid change.

Yet even in a year like this, Scripture reminds us that none of these events surprise God. He is still at work in the world, still guiding history, and still calling His people to trust Him.

As nations wrestle with conflict and leaders struggle to find solutions, we remember the words of Psalm 46: **“God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.”** When economies shake, we hold onto Matthew 6: **“Your heavenly Father knows what you need.”** When the world feels uncertain, we rest in John 16: **“Take heart—I have overcome the world.”**

In every headline, every crisis, and every moment of fear, God remains faithful. And as believers, we respond not with panic, but with prayer, compassion, and steady hope.

May we continue to lift our world before the Lord, trusting that His light still shines in dark places and His purpose will stand.

### *Closing Prayer*

*Lord, in a world filled with uncertainty, we turn our eyes to You. You are our refuge, our strength, and our steady place in every storm. We lift up the nations, the leaders, the hurting, and the weary. Bring peace where there is conflict, provision where there is lack, and hope where hearts feel heavy.*

*Teach us to walk in faith, not fear; in compassion, not indifference; in trust, not anxiety.*

*May Your light shine through us as we pray for our world and rest in Your unfailing love. Guide our steps, calm our hearts, and remind us that You are still on the throne.*

*In Jesus' name, Amen.*





2<sup>nd</sup> David Ryan  
 30<sup>th</sup> Dottie Papez  
 31<sup>st</sup> Connie Fisher



*Happiness is like a butterfly, the more you chase it, the more it will evade you, but if you notice the other things around you, it will gently come and sit on our shoulder.*



2026 Total Funds Received including Kachin & Reformation thru April 30, 2026				
Month	Actual	Budget	Variance	
January	\$ 3,133	\$ 8,731	\$ (5,598)	
February	\$ 14,520	\$ 8,731	\$ 5,789	
March	\$ 22,779	\$ 10,037	\$ 12,742	
April	\$ 7,648	\$ 8,731	\$ (1,083)	
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 48,080</b>	<b>\$ 36,230</b>	<b>\$ 11,850</b>	