

MOMS
RAISING SONS
to Be MEN

RHONDA STOPPE



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To my sons,
Tony Hebert and Brandon Stoppe,
who continually encouraged me as I wrote this book,
and to my precious sons-in-law,
Jacob Ebner and Estevan Atkinson
I am richly blessed to have watched each of you
become godly men in this generation.
The world is a better place because of your faith
and resolve to follow Christ.

To my daughters
Meredith, Kayla, Kylene, and Jessy
I'm amazed by your wisdom and grace.
You truly are the godly architects of the next generation!

And finally, to our fifteen grandchildren
(and any others God may bless us with)
May God capture each of your hearts to live in
wholehearted devotion to Jesus.
I pray that your love for God and for others will turn
the world upside down for Christ
and shine brightly the hope of the gospel
in your generation.

Soli Deo gloria

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PART ONE

LIFE LESSONS
FROM MOMS
OF THE BIBLE



CHAPTER 1

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

On Mission with God

Luke was 13 years old and had become quite a good tennis player. One day he was playing in a tennis tournament. As he watched the match preceding his, he became convinced that he would have no problem winning against his next opponent. However, during the match, he became inconsistent and was not doing his best.

Luke got very angry with himself. He threw down his racket and chastised himself for making a mistake. Amid his temper tantrum, he looked up into the audience in time to see his mother, Helen, get up and leave the stands. Luke lost his match that day, and Helen never returned to the event.

Later, Helen met Luke at the car. Driving home, she explained to him why she had walked out: “I will not witness my son showing such disrespect. Your actions today did not display a man who was emulating Christ.”

Luke Smallbone is one of seven children raised by Helen and her husband, David. Helen’s oldest daughter is Rebecca St. James, a well-known Christian singer. Luke and his brother, Joel, also make their living as Christian musicians with their popular band

for KING & COUNTRY. Luke says all his siblings have grown up to serve the Lord, and he attributes that to how his parents raised them to surrender their talents to God. “Keep your hands open. Be willing to take a risk,” Helen often told her children.

Luke says, “My mother always made it a point to have the hard conversations with me and my siblings. My parents taught me to think. They were good at answering my questions. By taking the time to walk my thought process through the answers, they helped me learn to weigh out the possible consequences of my actions. My mother always cherished us, with the perfect balance of love and a discipline that said, ‘I am for you. I believe in you. I see who the real Luke is. I know God has something in store for you.’”

When I asked Luke to describe his mother’s influence upon the man he has become, he said, “My mother is strong, compassionate, and caring, all mixed into one. She raised me with incredible care and honesty. I probably owe all that I am and have achieved to my mom because when a man is loved by his mother, he can end up doing great things... I am grateful to have a mother who selflessly loved me.”

In her memoir, *Behind the Lights*, Helen Smallbone says, “Deep down, I believe every mum is an unsung hero.”¹ Helen’s life and legacy certainly attests to the influence a mom can have upon her children and the culture in which they live. How did Helen raise all seven of her children—five boys and two girls—to love and serve the Lord? What can we learn from her? And to what can we attribute her success?

Ken Sande, author of *The Peacemaker*, says, “The world defines success in terms of what a person possesses, controls, or accomplishes. God defines success in terms of faithful obedience to His will. The world asks, ‘What results have you achieved?’ God asks, ‘Were you faithful to my ways?’... He asks for only one thing—obedience to His revealed will.”²

Your success as a mother does not depend upon what your son

chooses to do with his life. Rather, according to Scripture, success lies in *your* obedience to God—in what *you* choose to do with your life.

If you get nothing else out of this book, get this: God has called you to the ministry of motherhood. And with that calling He has provided the Holy Spirit to lead you and guide you in your journey. By being committed to know God through His Word, you will grow to love Him more each day, and when you love God properly, you will love your son correctly. The Lord has provided tools for you to do well in your calling. By daily communing with Him through the Bible, prayer, worship, and fellowship with the church, you will be fully equipped for this incredible privilege of bringing up your son, because God will work through you to raise your son for His glory.

To be the mother of a son is not for the faint of heart. I remember when my son Brandon was born. Looking into his little face, the feelings within me were somehow different from four years earlier when I had given birth to my daughter. I felt so inadequate as I weighed the responsibility of molding this baby into a man. Up to this point, raising a girl had not been a difficult challenge. It was clear that she was like me, with all the love for being a girl that she could express. She loved shoes and colorful bows for her hair. She was extremely social and adored her friends. And her daddy? Oh, she loved her daddy. Yes, relating to her had been no problem at all.

Yet now in my arms I was holding a helpless baby boy who would grow into a man. In her book *Strong Mothers, Strong Sons*, Dr. Meg Meeker explains: “The mother-son dyad is complicated by the opposition of gender. Neither mother nor son can fully understand what it is like to be the other half of the equation.”³ My biggest concern was that I would mess up as a mom, and my failure would lead to his rebellion. Maybe you have had similar concerns.

When you gave birth to your son, did you find yourself imagining what kind of man he might become? When it came to my son, I

did not want to raise a momma's boy, yet I wanted to be his protector. I did not want him to be rough and reckless, but I did want him to be strong. I wanted him to become a wonderful, godly man like his father. After I took the little guy home and began to raise him, I found my parenting overshadowed by a fear of doing it wrong. I gradually developed a sort of reactionary mode—he acted, and I reacted. Rather than following a clear path toward shaping his life, the fear of what I did *not* want my son to be became my standard. I was merely putting out fires rather than kindling the flames of my son's character.

My husband and I had always wanted our home to be a place of peace, yet I found it becoming a chaotic environment ruled by *my* emotions. Because I did not want to disappoint my husband, I did not let him know how much I was struggling. The day my daughter said to me, “I know you can't wait until we are grown up so you can do whatever you want,” was the day I knew I needed to get some help. It broke my heart that I had given her that notion. I loved being a mother; it was what I *wanted* to do. Yet in my harried frustration, that was not at all the impression I had given my sweet little girl.

Feeling even more inadequate and alone, I began to read books about parenting, from which I compiled a sort of how-to list. I soon discovered that the list did not have the power to change me. It became a burdensome reminder of the standard I was unable to meet. I lacked fortitude for this new adventure. I knew I needed to *become* a kind, courageous, and confident mother if I was ever going to raise kind, courageous, confident children. I desired to be a godly mother who raised godly children. But where would I find the direction I so desperately longed for?

I Need Help, Lord!

Reading books had given me some basic ground rules for this new playing field, but I also wanted to learn from the women

around me. My mother-in-law, who had raised two wonderful sons, had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and was no longer the vibrant help she had been when my daughter was born. The young mothers I knew seemed no more prepared for raising a son than I was. I felt alone and desperate for answers, and I had no idea how to ask God for what I needed. I've since learned that one of God's favorite prayers is that of a simple cry for help flowing from a humble and desperate heart. I was both humbled and desperate as I uttered the plea, "I need help, Lord."

God graciously answered my prayer by bringing several older, godly women into my life. These women were not scholars or trained in child development. But as mothers of sons, they had traveled down this path ahead of me. They had insights and understanding into what I was experiencing. Their lives had not been perfect or free from trials. They were genuine, precious, and vulnerable as they taught me what God had taught them. When I shared my struggles, I did not feel judged; rather, I felt loved.

Titus 2:4 instructs older women to admonish younger women how to love their husbands and their children, and this group of women wholeheartedly obeyed that command. Of all the friendships I have had, the relationships that developed with these women have by far been the most pivotal in my life. They taught me not only how to parent, but also how to *become* the mother God wanted me to become. In writing this book, my heart's desire is to be an older woman God can use to pour courage and confidence into you, just as those women did for me.

The Mission of Motherhood

One life-changing insight I received from these wonderful women was that I had been called by God to the mission of motherhood. And so have you. God has called you to join Him in the work He plans to do in your children. To become the instrument God will use to train your son somehow sheds glorious light on the unique

ministry of motherhood, doesn't it? The Bible instructs God's servants to "take heed to the ministry which you have received in the Lord, that you may fulfill it" (Colossians 4:17). There is no pass. No get-out-of-jail-free card. Your ministry came in the form of your son. How will you prepare yourself for that ministry? God never intended mothers to go it alone. Through His Word and godly mentors, He wants to equip you to train your children to love and trust Him.

As you parent your children, if your focus is on every turn of events, you will certainly be overwhelmed and afraid. Fear and confusion will rob you of courage. By contrast, focusing on God and resting in His character will bring peace. Rather than subjecting your family to the gyrations of your emotional reactions, you can develop the habit of responding with an unwavering confidence in who God is. Knowing God intimately is a vital attribute of being a godly mother. How does one develop that kind of confidence in God? I looked to these older women for answers, and they directed me to the Bible.

When I spent time with these women, I observed their peaceful responses to the chaos of life. They didn't trigger when life got hard. Rather, they displayed a resolve to seek after the Lord in every situation. In my estimation, the greatest measure of their parenting success was their sons' genuine love for them *and* for the Lord.

The Crossroad

I found myself at a crossroad when the women encouraged me to attend their ladies' Bible study. Honestly, my motivation was, *Free babysitting and two hours with grown-ups? I'm in!*

During the first session I was given a homework book. I thought, *Homework? No problem.* I had gone to Christian schools; I could fill in the blanks without even having to look up the verses. I know, my response was arrogant. *I was arrogant!* (God would reveal that to me later, but that is a topic for another chapter.)

When I got home and opened the book, I was blown away by

how much work I had to do. This was not the typical fill-in-the-blank book. This was a Precept Ministries International Bible study that assigned five hours of homework each week. Evidently my new friends were under the impression that I had time on my hands. There was no way I could do that much homework! I concluded that these women had their children so long ago they had forgotten how much was needed to care for a baby. When I called my friend Gayle to explain I couldn't possibly keep up with the class, she kindly encouraged me to hang in there for just one semester. She offered to help me by babysitting, promising that I would be forever changed by the experience. I reluctantly agreed to her offer; I didn't want her to think I wasn't spiritual.

I kept the study book open on my kitchen table and worked on the assignments a little bit at a time. I studied while nursing and in between changing diapers and folding laundry. Do you know what I found? For the first time in my life, I began to crave the Word of God. I looked forward to my few minutes of open time here and there to learn from Him. I began to be transformed by the renewing of my mind (Romans 12:2). My thinking was different. My parenting was different. Life's experiences were being filtered through God's truth, and that truth was changing who I was.

Even my husband, Steve, noticed the change. Fear was replaced with peace, anxiety with confidence. My propensity toward people-pleasing was overshadowed by a genuine desire to please God. I had given my heart to Christ when I was young, but never before had I experienced this kind of longing to know Him. Up till now I had always viewed reading the Bible as a religious duty. But this was no duty: I was hungry for God and His Word. I was developing an unwavering resolve to seek God.

Do you long to seek after God? Are you hungering after His Word? Are you eager to cultivate a deeper personal relationship with the One who created you, knows your heart better than anyone else, and provides for your every need? Or perhaps as you're reading this

you realize you've never taken that step to surrender to Christ as your Savior and Lord. Or maybe you're uncertain as to whether you are a Christian. If you would like to know more about giving your heart to Christ and having an intimate relationship with Him, please see "How to Have a Relationship with Jesus" on page 225.

Resolve to Seek God

So what does this resolve look like—this hungering and thirsting after God? I read a passage that spoke what my heart longed to express: "My heart is steadfast, O God, my heart is steadfast" (Psalm 57:7). When I read that, I felt I had to know more about the person who penned that phrase! Those words were written by David amid one of the greatest trials of his young life. What kind of woman had raised a son like this? I wanted to live how he lived, and even more, I wanted to raise my son to be like him.

David, while not without his faults, was devoted to seeking God. In Psalm 89:20, God proclaimed, "I have found My servant David." Note that God said He found David. Elsewhere in Scripture we read that "The eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him" (2 Chronicles 16:9). Can you picture that? The eyes of God moving all across the earth in search of individuals whose hearts are loyal to Him. Why? So that He can show Himself mighty on their behalf. Isn't that exciting? You don't have to do this mother thing alone. God stands ready to offer you His strength. He is even more concerned about the man your son becomes than you are!

Learning to love God will make your heart loyal to Him. When I say this, I'm not talking about being a religious woman—that is, someone who merely goes through the motions of religious duty and rituals in the hopes that you can somehow earn God's favor. No, I'm talking about genuine change that starts in the heart and draws upon God's power and wisdom. I'm talking about a true inner love and passion for God, not mere external behavior that might look

good to others but amounts to nothing more than hollow actions. The loyalty God seeks comes from the heart.

The Holy Spirit can use your loyal heart to draw your son to know and obey God. If your faith isn't authentic, your son will know it, and that will likely turn him away from the things of God. It is only as you truly love God and surrender to His perfect will that you are enabled to live as an example to your son and make God attractive to him.

I Surrender All?

David was willing to do anything God asked of him. God said, "I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will" (Acts 13:22). As David was growing up, he expressed his love for God in his psalms of worship. Out of that love grew trust. When David was just a young shepherd boy, God allowed him to experience circumstances that would help to build that trust and give him courage for the trials he would face in the future. Don't be deceived into believing that a good God doesn't send trials to His servants. That misconception will cause you to question God's goodness when trouble comes your way. For example, as a young boy, God gave David strength to fight a lion and a bear, knowing full well it would prepare David to battle a giant (1 Samuel 17:36-37).

Mom, you have no idea what giants lie in your son's future. God knows. And while it is tempting to question God's goodness when He allows trials in the life of your children, learn to trust His ways and stay faithful to Christ. In the 30 years that we have been in ministry, we have witnessed many mothers turn away from God when their child endures an unexpected trial. At some point, if the parent is a true believer, they will repent and return to Christ. But at what cost? Your children are observing how you respond to trials to determine if your faith is genuine. How you respond is what God can use to grow their faith and equip them for their future.

For example, my teenaged daughter, Meredith, observed how I chose to trust the Lord while Brandon endured years of severe seizures. A decade later, Meredith would give birth to her own child with special needs. Because Meredith had watched us resolve to follow God when the trial didn't make sense, she was ready to trust Him in her own season of trouble.

Wisdom from David's Mother

Have you ever asked yourself where David's momma was while he was out there camping with the sheep and wrestling wild animals? Well, she wasn't there fighting his battles for him. If my adolescent son had come home and told his daddy that he just battled a bear, I would have pulled my husband aside and said, "He doesn't work for you anymore!" We can learn a lot from David's mom.

She allowed her boy to become a man while he was still living at home. David was her youngest son, yet she allowed him to leave the safety of home to do the dangerous work of a shepherd. What kind of man might he have been if his mother's fears kept him tied to her apron strings? She seemed to know when to step back and allow him to face challenges without micromanaging his choices.

It can be frightening to loosen your grip on your son as he matures. All too often mothers coddle their sons in an attempt to protect them or make life easier for them, only to hinder their ability to manage themselves when they leave the safety of their homes. Making a conscious effort to allow and even orchestrate opportunities for your son to accomplish tasks away from your watchful eye will show him your respect while developing his courage and his ability to make decisions.

She had the courage to leave his safety in the hands of God. In those lonely hours spent on the hillsides, David learned how to be a man. God had used trials to develop his loyal heart. David's mother seemed to have resisted the temptation to rescue him at every turn. The Bible says, "Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and lean not

on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths” (Proverbs 3:5-6). The Lord wants to be involved in your parenting decisions moment by moment. As you trust and acknowledge Him at each turn, He will make your path straight. If you rely on your own understanding and fight every battle for your son, how will he learn to rely on God’s strength?

She respected her husband’s wisdom. When David was a teenager, his father, Jesse, sent him to the battlefield with food for his older brothers. You don’t hear David’s mother protesting, “Not my baby! He is too young to go.”

Over the years there have been many times that my husband has given one of our boys a responsibility that I thought was too much for him. My initial instinct was to come to the boy’s defense and explain why my husband was making a wrong decision. More often than not, I was the one in the wrong. I had to learn that my husband, who *was* a man, had more discernment with regard to what our sons could and couldn’t handle.

David’s mother raised a man after God’s heart. Do you want to do the same with your son? What kind of mother might you be if you resolved to seek after God more diligently? How would your surrendered life affect your son’s character development?

A Courageous Mother

I imagine you would agree that you are bringing your son up in a very difficult time in history. But be encouraged, you’re not alone. Mothers down through history have raised their children amid unprecedented difficulties and oppression. Consider the biblical account of another courageous mother.

Moses was another man who was used greatly by God. Who was his mother? Jochebed found herself in a troubled time in Israel’s history. Pharaoh sent out a proclamation that every baby boy born to the Hebrew women should be put to death.

When Jochebed and her husband, Amram, gave birth to Moses,

they did their best to hide their lovely son for as long as they could. But after three months, they realized it was only a matter of time before Moses was discovered and killed. Something had to be done, or surely he would end up dying (Exodus 1:15–2:10; Hebrews 11:23).

I can only imagine the ache in Jochebed's heart as she carefully wrapped her precious baby boy in her favorite blanket. As tears streamed down her face, would she have attempted a brave smile into his little face? As if to somehow give him the courage she may desperately have needed for herself?

As Jochebed prepared to place Moses in a basket upon the Nile River, her daughter, who was standing nearby, would likely have questioned the rationale of her mother's plan. "You're putting him in a *basket*, Mother? Will it float? What if water leaks in? What about the snakes and crocodiles?" Surely Jochebed had already asked herself these questions as well. Could this *really* be Jehovah's answer to her prayer to save her son? She must have been confident her idea was from the Lord to even attempt the plan. And yet, would she end up wavering in her conviction as she prepared to send her son afloat on the Nile River?

I am in awe of Jochebed's composure here. Rather than ranting and raving to Amram about their difficult situation, which I am ashamed to say would have been my default mode, she carefully built a little ark for her son. Instead of running to each of her girlfriends for advice, she quietly acted on the plan that God had put in her heart.

We are truly living in troubled times. And while it is tempting to wonder where God is when the world is in such chaos, remember Jochebed's courage to trust God. She simply did the next thing that He put in her heart to do. My advice to you? Do the next thing, Momma. God will work out the details.

How puzzled the people in Jochebed's generation must have been. God had called Israel His chosen people, yet He allowed them to suffer greatly. How is it possible to place your trust in God

when your circumstances appear to be wildly out of His control? Do you think you could have sent your baby boy down the Nile River? Imagine watching him float out of your secure hands into the unknown. Where would a mother find the courage to do such a thing?

As Jochebed watched her baby float away, she demonstrated courage that was not found in her ability to preserve the life of her young son. Her decision that day required she follow a plan that had no answers. Yet she sent the baby *away* from her protection and into the care of her God. That kind of courage comes only in the life of one who has developed a genuine trust in Him. Jochebed's confidence in the Lord was evident in her actions.

If Jochebed had tightened her grip on baby Moses and attempted to continue hiding him, she would not have experienced what happened next. Her trusting obedience was rewarded with nothing short of a miracle. When the daughter of Pharaoh drew the little Hebrew baby from the basket floating on the Nile, the Lord moved the princess's heart to compassion. Not only did the Egyptian princess proclaim she would adopt Moses as her son; she sent his very own sister—who happened to be nearby—to find a nursemaid for the baby. And of course, Moses's sister pointed Pharaoh's daughter to Moses's own mother! God blessed Jochebed's obedience by making her Moses's nursemaid.

During the few years Jochebed was permitted to nurse her son, she would have had a profound influence upon him. Surely Jochebed would have told little Moses stories of the faithfulness of the God of Israel. Knowing their time together would not be long, Jochebed would likely have had a sense of urgency to teach Moses to love her God. We mothers would do well to begin developing our children's love for God in their earliest years.

Never underestimate the amount of influence you can have on your son in his first years of life. Intentional togetherness with your infant will play a key role in shaping his brain during the first year

of life. Though Jochebed had a very short time to influence Moses, the impression she made was strong enough that it stayed with him even when he grew older and lived in Pharaoh's palace. Her teachings were likely the foundation God used to build Moses's faith. And sure enough, when Moses grew older, he chose to suffer with his people rather than enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season in the palaces of Egypt (Hebrews 11:24-25).

The Bible does not say much about Jochebed and her character qualities. Her name, in Hebrew, means "Jehovah glorified." *Glorified*, as used here, means "to make weighty, to make glorious." Jochebed's actions certainly lived up to her name. In her decision to trust Jehovah, His name was made glorious.

The Influence of a Few Years

The Lord did not bring our oldest boy, Tony, into our lives until he was 15 years old. For years our family has attempted to find a way to illustrate to people, in a clear way, how Tony became our son. One day Tony, now in his forties, called me, excited about a movie he had watched. He said, "I know I am not a big football player like the guy in the movie, but what I saw reminds me so much of our family. And the mom in the movie reminds me of you!" I had seen the very popular movie only days before. I had cried while watching it because it brought back memories of when Tony first came to live with us. He lived in our home for only a short time, but just as the Lord had used Jochebed's few years with Moses to shape him for life, God gave us a brief window of opportunity to give Tony a strong foundation.

Tony had already bonded with Steve even before he moved in with us. Steve was his youth pastor, and right from the beginning they enjoyed a wonderful relationship. When Tony graduated from high school, he gave "Big Steve," as he called him, a card thanking him for becoming his dad. It was a touching note that Steve still

keeps with his most treasured possessions. We kind of look at that card as Tony's "official adoption papers."

During Tony's short time with us, he and I had great talks about his new life as a believer, and we talked about girls. We talked about his dream to become a fighter pilot, about God's character, and about girls. We discussed God's plan for marriage... and did I mention we talked about girls?

While Tony and I got along well, he related to me with love and respect, but never as his momma. I wanted to be a mom to him, but I respected that he had a mother whom he loved, and that he didn't necessarily need another.

Upon graduating from high school, Tony was accepted to Texas A&M University. It was difficult for our family to say goodbye to him, but we were excited about the opportunities before him. I determined that my new role in his life would be as a prayer supporter.

Right away Tony, our overachiever, went out for the drill team, a much sought-after and competitive position. The requirements were grueling. All the while, he was taking a full load of classes. By September, Tony had been selected for the team and he was thrilled—thrilled and exhausted.

One day Tony called home. In a weak and shaky voice, he said he had a severe case of pneumonia and would need to take a break from all activities. He told me he was not going to tell his drill commander he was sick for fear of losing his place on the team. Oh my sweet boy, who had worked so hard to achieve his goals! He had been such a man and accomplished great things. Now all I could hear was a little boy who needed a mother.

I asked the Lord for discernment. As I said earlier, we as mothers need to learn when God wants us to step back and allow our young men to battle their trials alone. But somehow I sensed this was different. Tony had worked so hard to land a spot on the team, and

now he was terribly sick. I felt that the least I could do was *ask* Tony if I could make a phone call on his behalf. Reluctantly, he agreed.

I called a friend of Tony's who was an alumnus of the school. He promised to make some calls. Soon I heard back from the drill team's commandant, who called to assure me that Tony's place on the team was secure. With that taken care of, we brought our very sick boy home, and I took care of him until he got better. Through that experience, God knit our hearts together, and I became a *momma* to Tony.

Tony went on to graduate from college and became an F-22 fighter pilot. He is now a lieutenant colonel. While he has achieved many amazing goals, I was never more proud of him than on the day he called to say, "You know, I am living my dream, and I now realize that it is not enough. My Sunday school teacher, a retired fighter pilot, told me that if I am doing all of this but I'm not surrendered to Christ, my life will be wasted."

When asked how being a part of our family influenced him, Tony said, "The family was, and continues to be, my living definition of both what God expects from me, and what He wants for me. I am thankful for this example, and I have no doubt that it was God's plan for our lives to connect."

Only God Knows

Jochebed had no idea she was being used by the Lord to train a child who would one day become the deliverer of Israel. When David's mother sent her young son to the battlefield, how could she have known God had been preparing him to slay a giant? And would she have ever dreamed that her gentle warrior would one day be the king of Israel, as well as a man after God's own heart?

I say all that to bring up this very important point: The first teachers of these godly leaders were not theologians; they were mothers. And you are your son's first teacher about God as well. Generation after generation, the mission of motherhood has been

the same. God invites mothers to join Him in molding the character of their sons. Will you partner with God in teaching your son how to love Him? The Word of God is your textbook. Will you determine to prepare yourself for this ministry? The Lord is searching for hearts that are loyal to Him. The same One who called the mothers of Moses and David is calling you. Only God knows the future that awaits your son. What an amazing honor He has given you. *You* are the vessel that the Lord will use to prepare your son for a lifetime of use by Him.

The first teachers of these godly leaders were not theologians; they were mothers.

THINKING IT THROUGH

Which mother in this chapter do you identify with most? Why?

Have you ever considered motherhood as a ministry? What steps will you start taking now to equip yourself to fulfill this ministry?

LIVING IT OUT

Write out and memorize Psalm 57:7. Will you resolve to have a heart that is steadfast toward God? Write a prayer of commitment below.

*Watch this chapter's video teaching at
www.rhondastoppe.com/books/moms-raising-sons-to-be-men.*

