

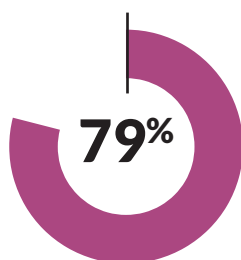
STATS FOR SERMONS

MOTHER'S DAY EDITION

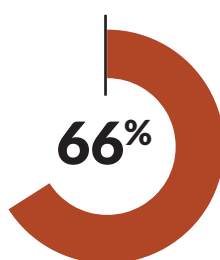
Barna's research on the state of motherhood shows that there are some incredible opportunities and needs for mothers within the Church. Here are some preaching points based on key findings from the research, including points to help you integrate these stats into your Mother's Day sermons. These preaching points are designed to be used in conjunction with the Stats for Sermons: Mother's Day Edition slide deck.

MOTHERS ARE THE MANAGERS OF FAITH FORMATION

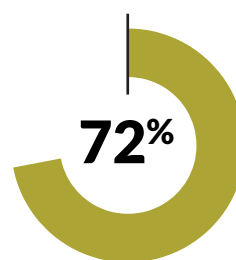
Practicing Christian teens say, "My mother..."



...ENCOURAGES ME TO GO TO CHURCH



...TEACHES ME ABOUT THE BIBLE



...TEACHES ME ABOUT TRADITIONS

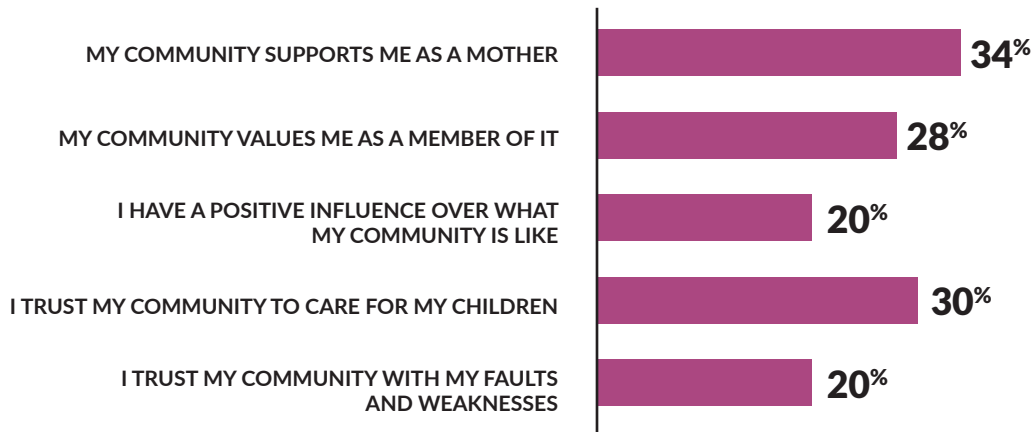
n=448 U.S. practicing Christian teens, April 5-11, 2018. Note: Not all response options are displayed. From Households of Faith.

- Children are a gift from God, and as with all gifts, we are meant to steward them well. *Psalm 127:3*
- The warning of not providing for our family, especially our own household, is clear. *1 Timothy 5:8* tells us that anyone who doesn't provide for their family has denied their faith worse than an unbeliever.
- How we respond to our children while we are raising them matters. *Ephesians 6:4* points it out this way:
 - Bring them up (ἐκτρέφετε αὐτὰ – *ektrephete auta*)—to nourish or to raise (*Ephesians 5:29*, “No one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it.”). This is how a parent reveals a heart of love that displays the character of God.
 - In the discipline (παιδεία – *paideia*)—this word suggests a more active role than just teaching. It translates more toward “training,” which requires intentional direction and response to provide appropriate consequences for a job done well or poorly. (other texts: *2 Timothy 3:16*, *Hebrews 12:7-8*)
 - And instruction (νουθεσία – *nouthesia*)—this word is not the same word for “teaching” or the Greek word *didaskalian*. “Instruction” does not provide enough force for this word as it hints toward a more corrective and warning side. A Greek lexicon defines the word this way, “to counsel about avoidance or cessation of an improper course of conduct.”
 - Of the Lord (Κυρίου – *kurion*)—all of this training is to be from the Lord. All our dependence as parents must come from God's word as we seek his wisdom and apply it to how we steward God's children. The goal is that our children will see Jesus as Lord through how they saw their parents respond and react behind closed doors.

The foundational set-up that moms provide for their children is irreplaceable, but we have all heard the saying, “It takes a village to raise a child.” As the church, the community that reflects the imago Dei, where do we play a role in this?

OVERALL, MOMS TODAY DON'T THINK VERY HIGHLY ABOUT THEIR COMMUNITY—EVEN CHRISTIAN MOMS.

Mothers say, “The following statements are true:”



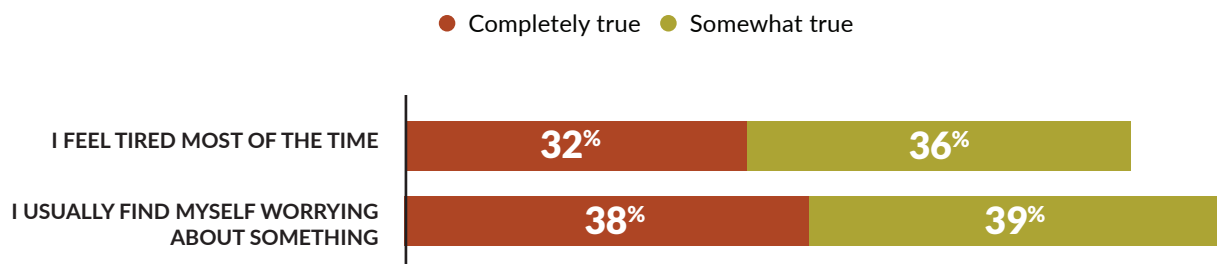
n= 1,008 U.S. mothers, October 12-20, 2022.

- Her value exceeds pearls. Because she has been created in the image of God, she already holds value beyond our comprehension. *Proverbs 3:15*
- We are better together in community than alone. Of course, the enemy would have us believe that we are better off without others, but nothing could be further from the truth. *Romans 12:4-5*
- God is sovereign and works on behalf of his children. Understanding that should help address our fear and distrust toward others. *Romans 8:28-29*
- As the Church, we must work to prove that we are worth trusting because we genuinely care. *Proverbs 27:10, Romans 15:7-17*

If you can't be honest with your community because you fear judgment, you won't trust the people around you, leading to isolation and loneliness. This is the opposite of what God has called us to be and do in our community. If the women who need us most—not to mention women who are supposedly already part of our Christ-following community—feel like they can't trust us, where does that leave them? Where does that leave us?

ANXIETY AND EXHAUSTION ARE REALITIES FOR THE MAJORITY OF MOTHERS TODAY.

Mothers say, “The following statements are true:”



n= 1,008 U.S. mothers, October 12-20, 2022.

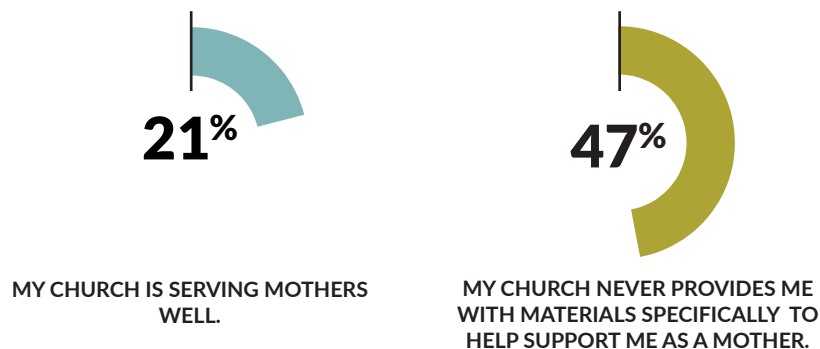
- Take action in helping out and caring for mothers. Encourage them and remind them that this is only a season, and they can release their captive thoughts for God to take care of. Most importantly, remind them they are not alone:

- Isaiah 35:4
- Philippians 4:6
- Isaiah 40:10
- John 14:1

Having little human lives depending on you can be overwhelming. It becomes even more unbearable when we don't have a community that we truly trust not to judge us or condemn us for not having it right every single time. Be the voice that encourages and the body that responds in action for someone in need.

MANY MOMS SAY THEIR CHURCH DOES NOT PROVIDE DISCIPLESHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND RESOURCES TO SERVE THEM IN THEIR SEASON OF MOTHERHOOD.

Mothers say, "The following statements are true:"



n = 1,008 U.S. mothers, October 12-20, 2022.

- We **are** the Church. Be someone who bears other peoples' burdens. *Galatians 6:2*
- As the Church, we are to love each other as a response to how God has loved us. President Kennedy once said, "A rising tide lifts all the boats," which can also apply to how a community cares for each other. *John 15:12-13*

Data shows that churches don't often provide specific discipleship opportunities or resources to serve mothers during this unique season of their life. This data point should move church leaders to action. Motherhood can be an extremely vulnerable and overwhelming time in a woman's life, but helpful resources and encouragement from a church or churchgoers can help alleviate some of the challenges that come up during motherhood.

Additional Scriptural Connections: *Proverbs 11:25, John 15:12-13, Philippians 2:4*