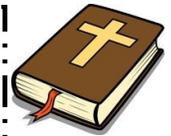


Vacation Bible School—"Heroes of Faith!"
 Saturday, June 15th from 8:45am to 1:00pm
 Please register children who plan to attend—Thanks!



How many days had Lazarus been dead before Jesus made him alive again?
 Bonus: Who said "By this time he stinketh"? (KJV)

**Chosen
 by God?**

Mothers are "chosen." Think about it...

She is the one chosen to receive the messy mustard-color baby "blow-out" on her brand new dry-clean-only dress. She is chosen to be the recipient of "green slime" when her child first tastes and rejects the organic "healthy" mixture of nutrients. She is chosen to experience the delight of discovery as her child "follows in her

footsteps" by using her make up to "paint" on a clown face. She is chosen to endure the same joke told every day—over and over and over again. As an understanding mother, she laughs—again and again and again. She is chosen when her teenager begs for the car keys. Then they carefully drive away around the corner out-of-sight before they high-tail-it down the street. She is chosen to watch her child joyfully proceed down the aisle to marry someone she "hardly knows." Then she is chosen to smile at the whole process of procreation as it happens all over again. Some may even say, "It's payback time." Ahhh, to be "chosen."

A Christian mother is chosen to protect, provide, and prepare her children. From the very first time God gave her a precious baby to hold, she protects them from harm. She also prepares them for the "evil world" of the future. Most of all she seeks to provide them the tools to overcome the evil one, Satan. She prayerfully and lovingly trains them to "put on the full armor of God" (Ephesians 6:10ff). She puts baby booties on beautiful feet that may grow to spread the gospel of peace. A Christian mother's responsibility is to provide for her child by giving them the necessary means to fight the devil. She is to teach them the truth from the Bible and influence them to *not* decide "the way they want to go" (Proverbs 22:6; 14:2). Not only is she to teach the truth but she also displays how to live a righteous life before their Creator. She is to instill steadfast faithfulness in her children, they need to be ready to dodge the fiery darts of the devil. A Christian mother plans for the future and teaches her children *through faith* that God is with them; they can "move mountains" together (Matthew 17:20). She is to protect her children from danger by encouraging them to wear all the armor God provides. She helps them find in the Word of God how to be saved—that is the guidance given from God (see Acts 2:37-42). She is to teach her children daily the Word of God (Deuteronomy 6:7-9). A Christian mother will advocate and actively help her children and herself memorize the precepts of the Lord (Proverbs 30:5). A Christian mother will diligently pray with and for her children (2 Thessalonians 1:11). She does not send them out to "the wolves" unarmed or without help from the Father above. She knows He can provide faithful protection.

A mother provides food, clothing, and all things necessary for children to mature. A Christian mother provides guidance for spiritual food, spiritual clothing, and all things necessary to spiritually mature her children. Not all mothers can do this, only a Christian mother is "chosen" by God (see 1 Peter 2:1-10). If you are a mother, and you are a Christian, then you are "chosen" by God. What an awesome rewarding challenge for all mothers. One day our children may walk in our footsteps and in turn they can teach their children to walk in their footsteps. And yet, most importantly, is that they walk in the footsteps of Christ (Ephesians 2:10). God bless you as you honor your mother.

To all our visitors: *Please feel free to participate!*

You should expect to hear singing with voices only, a few "family" announcements, prayers spoken, and see the Lord's Supper offered, then free-willed giving, and gospel preaching from the Bible.

Any response is up to you and will be kindly received.

We are glad you decided to worship God with us on this first day of the week!

Bday/Anniv Lunch: 3rd Sunday this month... Happy Mother's Day!
Friday Bible Study: from 7 to 8 PM.
VBS T-shirt: Please provide size for ordering on bulletin board flyer (\$10 by May 19). R U ready?
 * **Wednesday Ladies Bible class & Men's Bible class meet at the Shimp's for lunch immediately after classes on May 15th.**