

# A Mothers' Union Family Service for Mothering Sunday

*This service can be adapted to suit your particular setting. If a more formal service is required then use whichever elements are appropriate.*

*You will find more Mothering Sunday resources, including two liturgies written by staff and students of St. Mellitus College, on the Mothers' Union website:*

<https://www.mothersunion.org/mothering-sunday-resources>



## Make a Mother's Day 2020



## Welcome

Welcome to our Mothering Sunday Family Service.

Today is a special time to thank God for mothers and all who help us

so we can grow up to stand on our own two feet and live our lives well.

Let us pray: *(a child may read this prayer)*

Dear God,

We thank you for mothers and carers everywhere,  
and for all they do to help us to grow up well.

We thank you that they love us and show us  
how to learn to stand on our own two feet.

We pray that mums will feel really special today;  
that they will know how much we love them  
and how much you love them too.

Most of all, we thank you, God,  
that you are our heavenly parent  
who loves us and helps us all to grow well  
and make the very best of life. **Amen**

## Hymn

**Bible readings and talk** *(These could be read by two older children or young people)*

*You may like to invite the children up to the front to listen*

We're going to hear first about a baby called Moses. He was born at a time when it was difficult for his mother to look after him and so she made a plan to keep him safe. Listen carefully and see if you can work out how many people helped to look after baby Moses.

### **Moses the baby: Exodus 2:1-10 (GNT)**

A man from the tribe of Levi married a woman of his own tribe, <sup>2</sup> and she bore him a son. When she saw what a fine baby he was, she hid him for three months.



<sup>3</sup> But when she could not hide him any longer, she took a basket made of reeds and covered it with tar to make it watertight. She put the baby in it and then placed it in the tall grass at the edge of the river.

<sup>4</sup> The baby's sister stood some distance away to see what would happen to him.

<sup>5</sup> The king's daughter came down to the river to bathe, while her servants walked along the bank. Suddenly she noticed the basket in the tall grass and sent a slave woman to get it. <sup>6</sup> The princess opened it and saw a baby boy. He was crying, and she felt sorry for him. "This is one of the Hebrew babies," she said.

<sup>7</sup> Then his sister asked her,

"Shall I go and call a Hebrew woman to nurse the baby for you?"

<sup>8</sup> "Please do," she answered. So the girl went and brought the baby's own mother.

<sup>9</sup> The princess told the woman, "Take this baby and nurse him for me, and I will pay you." So she took the baby and nursed him. <sup>10</sup> Later, when the child was old enough, she took him to the king's daughter, who adopted him as her own son.

She said to herself, "I pulled him out of the water, and so I name him Moses."

*Ask the children who they think helped to look after baby Moses, and what they did. (mother, sister, King's daughter, slave.)*

We're now going to hear about a time when Jesus was a boy of twelve. He was old enough to do lots of things by himself, unlike baby Moses, but he still needed people to help him in some ways. Listen carefully and see if you can work out who helped to look after him and what he did by himself.

### **Jesus the boy: Luke 2:41-52 (GNT)**

Every year the parents of Jesus went to Jerusalem for the Passover Festival. <sup>42</sup> When Jesus was twelve years old, they went to the festival as usual. <sup>43</sup> When the festival was over, they started back home, but the boy Jesus stayed in Jerusalem. His parents did not know this; <sup>44</sup> they thought that he was with the group, so they travelled a whole day and then started looking for him among their relatives and friends. <sup>45</sup> They did not find him, so they went back to Jerusalem looking for him. <sup>46</sup> On the third day they found him in the Temple, sitting with the Jewish teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

<sup>47</sup> All who heard him were amazed at his intelligent answers. <sup>48</sup> His parents were astonished when they saw him, and his mother said to him, "Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been terribly worried trying to find you."

<sup>49</sup> He answered them, "Why did you have to look for me? Didn't you know that I had to be in my Father's house?" <sup>50</sup> But they did not understand his answer.



<sup>51</sup> So Jesus went back with them to Nazareth, where he was obedient to them. His mother treasured all these things in her heart. <sup>52</sup> Jesus grew both in body and in wisdom, gaining favour with God and people.

*Ask the children who they think helped to look after the boy Jesus, and what they did. (Parents, relatives and friends, teachers in the temple.)*

*If possible, arrange for a mother to come up with their baby. Ask her what things she needs to do to care for her baby e.g. feeding, changing, carrying around... if the baby is a few months old, ask her what the baby is now able to do that they couldn't when newborn e.g. sit up, eat solid food, hold a spoon etc.....*

*Now ask the children what they can now do that they couldn't do when they were a baby e.g. read, tie their laces, go to school by themselves etc... and who helped them to be able to do these. (Be sensitive to children with particular learning challenges)*

*Finally ask the children what they are looking forward to being able to do by*

*themselves when they are older e.g. drive a car, buy their own clothes, ....*

We're so grateful and thank God for our mums and everyone who helps us to grow up well so we can stand on our own two feet as we get older.

## **Hymn**

### **Giving out of thank you gifts**

We've thought about the different ways we need our Mums and those who care for us to help us grow up well so we can stand on our own two feet, and now we want to say thank you to them.

*It would be good if children gave gifts to reflect the "growing theme" e.g. planted bulbs, packets of seeds, posies of flowers, to their Mums, carers and the congregation.*

It's good to say thank you to people who care for us. It's also good to say thank you to God for giving us all we need to grow well and stand on our own two feet.

**Thank You Song** *To the tune of "If you're happy and you know*



*it clap your hands"*

*(Children could practice this in their groups beforehand)*

Thank you God for all who care for us each day *(Thank You!)*

Thank you God for all who care for us each day *(Thank You!)*

We will thank God when we pray

We will clap, and shout hurray

Thank you God for all who care for us each day *(Thank You!)*

Thank you God for giving what we need to grow *(Thank You!)*

Thank you God for giving what we need to grow *(Thank You!)*

We will stamp our feet to show

God knows all there is to know

Thank you God for giving what we need to grow *(Thank You!)*

## **Prayers**

*Have three plant pots at the front ready to plant either the seed cards from the Make A Mothers' Day appeal or seeds from a packet. Children can help plant seeds in each plant pot as a symbol of the growth we're asking God for in our prayers.*

It's not just babies and children who need a helping hand to learn how to grow well. Sometimes families and communities need help to make the most of their lives. Some feel a bit weak and need help to grow strong; others feel worried and unsure about the way they are living and need help to grow in confidence; there are some who live where there's a lot of fighting and they need help to grow peace instead of conflict.

Loving Lord,  
as we plant these seeds  
we pray that strength  
will grow and flourish in  
families and communities. **Amen**

Loving Lord,  
as we plant these seeds  
we pray that confidence  
will grow and flourish in  
families and communities. **Amen**

Loving Lord,



as we plant these seeds  
 we pray for peace  
 to grow and flourish in  
 families and communities. **Amen**

### **Memory verse**

As we ask God to help families and communities to grow and flourish in the way they

live we know that this is what he wants for us all, because Jesus said that he came to

earth so that we can make the very most of the lives he gives us.

*Ask children to show the congregation the actions*

*then everyone can say the verse with actions together.*

**Jesus said: I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full.**

***John 10:10***

**Jesus said: I have come** *Point upwards*

**that they may have life** *Make a "thumbs up" gesture or point to your heart*

**and have it to the full.** *Jump up and wave hands as energetically as possible!*

***John 10 verse 10*** *Make "book" with open hands*

### **Offering:**

This Mothering Sunday please support Mothers' Union as we work across the world to help people grow in strength, confidence and peace.

### **Final hymn**

### **Blessing**

Let us go from here rejoicing  
 that God loves us and  
 gives us all we need for life.

As the children of God  
 we take his love into the world  
 that others may also  
 have fullness of life

as part of his family. **Amen**



**Mothers' UNION**   
Christian care for families

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