

## Suggested Discussion Questions for 5/12/2024

### Message: Great Mothers

1. Brainstorm some qualities that make a great mother. Where does Scripture address these?
2. According to the biblical account, in what ways might we say Mary's life was bitter?
3. "Service is important; humility is essential." Agree/Disagree and why?
4. Favor/grace is something bestowed by God, not something we earn or deserve. Some, most notably in Catholicism, have reversed these and created a series of dogmas regarding Mary that cannot be found in Scripture. These include her immaculate conception (she was born without sin), her veneration, that she is our intercessor, that we are to pray to her, that she is a co-redemptrix & co-mediator of salvation and a dispenser of grace. Scripture attributes all these to Jesus, not Mary. Where in Scripture are these said to qualities and works of Jesus? Why is attributing these to Mary problematic?
5. What happens when we confuse fame with divine favor?
6. The biblical record is brief but profound: Mary *believed that there would be a fulfillment of what was spoken to her from the Lord.* How does this challenge you? What is its significance?
7. Think about what you treasure *in your heart*. How do we determine what to treasure and what to testify about?
8. Where are you currently stretched to persevere amid sorrow or suffering? What attributes of God can or do you meditate upon to secure you in the journey?.
9. How else is Mary an example, encouragement and/or challenge to you?