

Mastering *Motherhood*⁺

Devotion Guidelines

HONORING CHRIST: Your devotion needs to always reflect honorably on Christ. It should not have a focus on you or those who have helped you to understand the gospel. One should also refrain from negative denouncements of another person, place or business. The point is to show how Christ has worked in your life and that you are encouraged about this. Take care that you do not inadvertently leave the perception that it is acceptable or pleasing in the Lord's eyes to have walked in sin.

DOCTRINE: We have moms from many different churches participating in Mastering Motherhood including in leadership roles. We ask that anyone who shares a devotion respect this fact and not denounce a particular denomination and/or challenge where they might doctrinally differ. There is considerable common ground these denominations all share centered on belief in the Lord God Almighty, the gift of eternal life by his son Jesus Christ and the desire to know Christ and be conformed into his image by the power of the Holy Spirit. We do require that anyone who shares a devotion have made a personal commitment to follow Christ and believe that Jesus Christ is their savior.

AUTHORITY: Your story has authority in as much as it is your personal experience of and response to the Word of God. We ask that you include one or two scripture verses to highlight your devotion. The verse should be referenced to the book of the Bible but not necessarily by using chapter and verse. If you are quoting the verse from an older translation, paraphrase it in your own conversational style without compromising the accuracy or meaning of the text.

LENGTH: The testimony should be concise and clear, relating your story in ten to twelve minutes. You will be asked to start around 10:00am and have concluded in prayer by 10:15am. If you are comfortable, please conclude in prayer asking the Lord to use your words to minister to the hearers and praying that they might likewise be blessed and empowered by the verses you have used. If you are not comfortable, the person who has introduced you will step back up to the microphone and pray for the whole group.

STYLE: Gear your testimony to the non-Christian. Your language should be understandable from her point of view. Speak in everyday language rather than Christian slang or jargon. Your style should be conversational, relaxed and natural as you tell others of your relationship with Christ. Take care not to be too graphic or explicit in details such that the listener gets caught up in focusing on those details and not the message of the healing and redemptive power of the Lord.

CONFIDENCE: Adequate preparation and practice will give you confidence and will help you to relax. Be clear and concise simplifying less important details and emphasizing what you feel is essential. Just keep in mind that the goal is that your listeners not walk away thinking how great you are or tough you have had it but rather how great and wonderful the Lord is and can be for them.