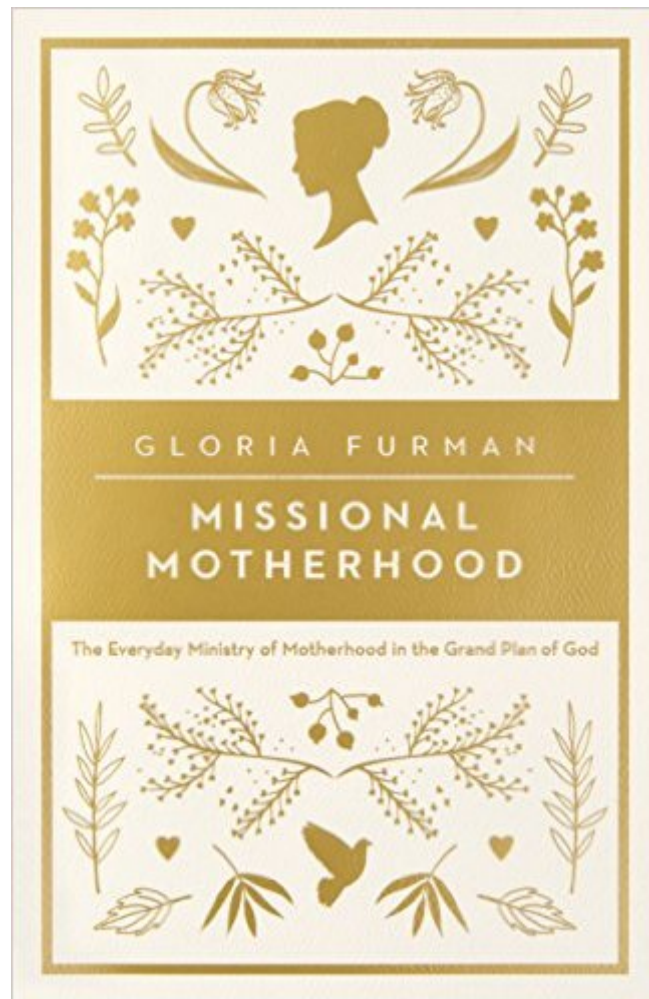


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Missional Motherhood: The Everyday Ministry Of Motherhood In The Grand Plan Of God



Synopsis

There's no such thing as a "just a mom." Despite the routine tasks and mundane to-do lists, motherhood is anything but insignificant. God has designed motherhood as part of his greater plan to draw people to himself—instilling all women, whether called to traditional mothering or not, with an eternal purpose in nurturing others. In this book, Gloria Furman searches the Scriptures for the mission of God in motherhood. She opens our eyes to God's life-giving promises—promises intended to empower each and every woman as she makes disciples in her home, in her neighborhood, and around the world.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Two, small children know me as "mama". That said, I don't have an abundance of time to sit down, which leads me to be snobbishly choosy when it comes to selecting reading material. In the past 4 months I've read about 20 books (over half of which are Christian lit, almost all of which have been good), but "Missional Motherhood" has been (by far) the most impactful and enjoyable read. The book is intended to reach women in all seasons of life -- not just biological or adoptive mamas because, "... every Christian woman is called to make disciples of all nations." I read snippets aloud to my husband, stifled laughs (so as not to wake my sleeping babe), and suffered from hand cramps because I underlined on every page and THIS was my FAVORITE part of all: "Do we, with glad hearts, glorify God for designing this cruciform pattern for our work in nurturing others? I mean, it's wonderful that Jesus, "for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross" (Heb. 12:2), but me?

How can I gladly lay down my comfortable schedule in order to serve someone? How can I gladly lay down my body to carry someone else inside it for nine months? How can I gladly lay down my fears and insecurities, pick up a Bible, and disciple some women? How can I gladly lay down my coffee to do anything? The answer to those how questions is found in the cross. We follow Christ, who laid down his life in order to nurture our lives. Serving others from a position of personal weakness is embarrassing for us prideful people. We like to be seen as sufficient. We enjoy admiring glances. We brush off compliments of, "Wow. How do you do it?" but we relish those words and pay them back in our minds. Distinctly Christian mothering is done from a posture of weakness and dependence.

Spoiler Alert: This is not another "How-to" do it yourselfie parenting manual to place MORE burdens on women! Did I get an amen on that? And can I say how hopeful I was to open this book and see this refreshing model for mothers? And just in case you think you are off the hook from reading this book because you don't have children in your home, THINK AGAIN! In Gloria Furman's new book, *Missional Motherhood: The Everyday Ministry of Motherhood in the Grand Plan of God*, readers are called to examine the word "mother" as a verb, as she challenges us to realize "nurturing" involves discipling, serving, caregiving, mothering, teaching, showing hospitality, and more by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. If you have two X chromosomes, you will see this book takes mothering to another level. A deeper level.

PART ONE "THE META-NARRATIVE"

This encouraging, Scripture-saturated book is divided in two main sections. The first half of the book consists of a "fly over" of the Old Testament and how God had a redemptive plan from before the foundation of the earth. Gloria articulately unwraps God's story presenting how God's redemptive plan plays into our relationships, whether they are within our four walls, within our neighborhood, while discipling girls from a nearby college, over coffee with girlfriends, or bringing a meal to a newly widowed friend. She describes our nurturing opportunities as an intervention just as God intervened with mankind. Not only is the book saturated with the Word, Gloria calls us to rely on the sufficiency of the Word that was breathed by God into a living and active work. She also calls us as nurturers to be equipped by his Word to do the good work of mothering.

In her book *Missional Motherhood*, Gloria Furman says there's never such a thing as "just" a mom. She writes about how God has designed motherhood as part of his greater plan to draw people to himself. I was so excited to read this book! I was expecting perhaps a study on motherhood in

Scripture, perhaps even specific moms who effectively pointed their children to the gospel, salvation and Christ. She could have studied Hannah and her prayers for her child, or Mary's love of Scripture, or Lois and Eunice passing on a heritage of faith. Or, I thought perhaps she would give a reminder of the spiritual importance of motherhood and then give biblical and practical ways to build into our children spiritually, to do so much more than meet their physical needs and make it through the day with our sanity more or less intact. Any of these would have been such a great book idea, so needed, so powerful, so encouraging! But that's not what this book is at all. And, if like me, you expected this book to really dig deep into motherhood itself, you might be surprised by it also. The first half of this book is simply a metanarrative of Scripture. Now, if you really are interested and looking for a brief overview of the Old Testament, go for it! This book is exactly what you're looking for! I wasn't expecting or wanting a biblical survey, though, and I didn't need an overview of the Old Testament. I would have been okay with it if the overview was particularly insightful or fresh or if she made incredible connections to mothering in Scripture and God's big design (like the book title implies). But that wasn't true here. To be clear, I was not expecting "fluff" or a meaningless pep talk about being a good mom and how what I do has value.

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