



REFLECTIONS OF GOD'S LOVE: God created mothers for the special purpose of giving us an earthly example of His heavenly love toward us. Each stage of motherhood reflects a different aspect of God's love. Discuss each stage and how it affects you and your relationship with God.

The Pregnancy

Even in the womb the mother loves her baby. She knows his every move – she knows when he's awake or sleeping or playing. Compare this to how intimately God knows us as described in [Psalm 139:1-5](#).

The Delivery

Think of how a mother puts her baby's needs ahead of her own. She's willing to endure great pain to see her child face-to-face. Read [John 3:16](#). Wouldn't you say the same is true with God who endured the great pain of seeing Jesus on the cross so that we will one day be able to see Him face-to-face. Discuss & try to imagine God's pain.

Nurturing the Baby

Think of a mother feeding her baby. It's just the two of them. The mother telling her child how much she loves him as he looks into her eyes with complete love. She cares for his every need. Read [Job 4:4](#) and [Psalm 95:6-7](#). How does this remind us of God feeding us His Word? Can you picture our heavenly Father cradling us, telling us how much He loves us, providing everything we need, all the while we look to Him with complete love?

Raising the Child

Notice the mother setting boundaries for her child. Rules are put into place. The difference between right and wrong is taught. She does this to keep her child safe - she only wants the best for him. He rarely understands this though and thinks Mom is out to ruin his fun. But one day it will become clear to him that she has his best interest at heart.

So it is with God who sets boundaries for us as well and, like Mom, is often viewed as a "bad guy" because we don't understand that He's only looking out for our safety. Read [Hebrews 12:11](#). Describe how, just like this child, one day we will understand too.

All Grown Up

Read [Jeremiah 31:3](#) and [Psalm 139:17-18](#). No matter how big he is or how successful (or unsuccessful) he becomes, he will always be his mother's baby, she will always love him with all her heart. Again, do you see a reflection of God's love? Do you see how God loves you deeply and continually thinks of you? How should this impact you and the way you live daily?

*“As a mother comforts, O words of gentle worth!
So will I comfort you,” declares The Lord of all the earth.
He patient is, as mothers are, who love their children well;
Our faults and failings He forgives; His mercies—who can tell!*