I have a strong Mother. She is headstrong, honest (to a fault), and outspoken (again, to a fault). One of my mother's most important features is that she is my life's first and most important teacher. She was the first to hold me close, express love, and supply comfort and security. If you are lucky, you have -or have memories of - a strong leader in your life that you can call Mother. You have someone who is always by your side, supporting and teaching you along life's path.

The importance of a mother's role is not lost in Biblical ideas. God made it apparent how essential motherhood is by allowing it to be the means for procreating the earth with people. Also, it was through his mother's line that Jesus was connected to the human race; thus, he lived an earthly ministry understanding our lives and giving His sacrifice for us to regain connection to God. It started in Genesis 3:20 when "Adam named his wife Eve because she would become the mother of all the living". Right off the bat, God made the mother a special person who would continue to the lineage of the human race - Eve was the mother to all the living. Humanity commenced through our first mother of existence - Eve. And you know she taught her kids about those apples!

In Proverbs 31, we see another account of the teaching bestowed by a mother. King Lemuel says an oracle - his mother - taught him as stated in verses 8 and 9 to "Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Speak up and judge fairly; defend the rights of the poor and needy". The mother is the guardian of teaching us the Lord's wish of helping those in need and unable to defend themselves. We are clearly instructed on the importance of our mother's role in Proverbs 1:8 which says "...do not forsake your mother's teaching".

The simple fact is that God has so much more in store for women than just a helpmate for Adam. Women are the means by which mankind is continued. Being a mother is a role that God designed for those who tend to lead with their heart. The instructions of those mothers are to be valued and remembered as we grow. Throughout the Bible we see women pray to God for their children or lack of children. We see mothers offer their children to God for His purpose. Women feel their connection to God through the love they have for their children. This love is a fragment of representation of the love God has for us and is one of the strongest bonds held between two living people.

So, as you celebrate this Mother's Day, remember the woman who taught you first. The one who cried with you and for you. The one who taught you matters of the heart and

listening to feelings in life. It is our mother who started us on our journey of life, and often the one who starts us on our journey to God. Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers out there who are leading the example of love which teaches us of God's love for us.