**Title: Bridging the Gap**

**Speaker: Joel Smith**

Before I get into the message, I have a question for you to ponder. It is possible to make a wooden bridge without…any fashioners: nuts, bolts, nails; or tie-ee things: wires, rope, vines; affixing things; welding, glue, oh and you cannot utilize one long item that spans the gap, like one big tree or expanding items.

3-Goals

1.) Honor and Appreciate Moms (thank you)

2.) Challenge Everyone in Scripture

3.) Point to Jesus

When I think of a **Christian mom**, here are just a few traits that come to mind.

**Champion of the Faith:** Heb. 11:1 Substance of Hope, Evidence of not seen…Hope in Christ

**Highly Skilled**: The real-life MacGyver…hey I need a costume, Prov. 31:20 helps the NEEDY

**Righteous**: Peacemakers reap righteousness, James 3:18. Not 100%, but quick to repair

**Intercessor:** Let your request be made known, Phil 4:6, Mom's of prayer

**Sacrificial**: Greatest amount you is a servant, Matt 23:11, giving up for others

**Teacher**: Prov. 31: 26 Faithful instruction on her tongue…Spiritual, Academic, Relational skills

**Interactive:** The child knows they are being pursued by parents Prov. 22:6 Way he should go

**Attunement:** Sense what our child is feeling, Her. 17:9 Heart is deceitful, who can know it.

**Nurturing**: Heb. 10:24 love and good deeds, Offer comfort, care, and kindness.

To all our moms' Happy Mother's Day, **We honor & appreciate you!** THANK YOU!

This morning I would like to look at three moms who can encourage all of us. Each experienced some level of challenge, yet each Mom met that challenge in a way we can glean growth.

The first Mom, **Hannah**, well pre-mom, dealt with discouragement.

Have you ever dealt with MAJOR découragement?

This story begins in 1st Samuel. There was a colossal pain and desire in Hannah’s heart. So great was that pain there were times she wouldn’t’t eat and was even made fun of…she desired a child.

How did she deal with it? Prayer. She went to the temple and prayed. I cannot imagine what that looked like, but we know the priest thought her inebriated while she prayed. Let’s pick it up in verse 15.

1 Samuel 1:

15 “Oh no, sir!” she replied. “I haven’t been drinking wine or anything stronger. But I am very discouraged, and I was pouring out my heart to the Lord.

16 Don’t think I am a wicked woman! For I have been praying out of great anguish and sorrow.”

Discouraged - sought the Lord, poured out heart, praying out of great anguish and sorrow.

What can we do when we are down? **T.A.L.K. to God.**

**Tell**Him what is on your heart.

**Ask**, please heal…help me in…

**Listen,** take a moment and listen

**Keep or Kick**…what should I keep doing? What should I stop doing?

Hannah’s prayers were answered positively; however, the answers often fall into four categories **Yes, No, Slow, or Grow.**

George Muller, Bristol orphanage, bread 2 AM and broken milk truck. Thank you for our food.

**What if God asked you to do some great thing, would you do it? Even if it meant there would be some pain along the way?**

The next mom we can all learn from is **Mary, the mother of Jesus.**Great joy, but great responsibility.

At a young age, she was given an incredible opportunity as well as a mighty challenge. Can you imagine? You're young, and you have plans. This is how this my plans should work out. Then the angel appears and tells her "great news," you are about to travel a path that no one has traveled, nor will it ever be crossed again.

Luke 1:28 The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly favored! The Lord is with you."

29 Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be.

30 But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found favor with God.

31 You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus.

32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David,

33 and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end."

Then skipping to verse 38…

38 "**I am the Lord's servant,"**Mary answered. **"May your word to me be fulfilled."**Then the angel left her.

As you look toward the future, is there something that you feel God wants you to do? Well, let's start with these…

**Life Purpose** - Glorify God 1 Cor. 10:31 all to the glory of God

**Life Calling** - who/what draws on your heart?

**Life Work** - how you pay the bills in the process.

**Life Message** - the story along the way. 

Amy Carmichael - sickly, weak, in bed for weeks at a time, yet knew God called her to be a missionary. Spent 55 year years focusing on rescuing children and point them to God.

So we have observed mom’s who were overwhelmingly discouraged or presented with a task way bigger than themselves. But **what do you do when you find yourselves “off road.”** Meaning for whatever ever reason we are over there when we should be over here?

**Eunice** is an example of this. She is first mentioned in Acts 16

1 Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.

Later in 2 Timothy 1 we learn more…

5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well.

It would appear that Timothy’s dad is no longer in the picture, since Paul seem’s to take on the fathering role, as he often calls him my son.

Here we have a mom and grandmother, building faith in their son.

When “off road”, draw a circle around those you can influence and make a difference there.

How does faith grow?

1.) My sheep hear my voice - **WOG**, (faith by hearing, hearing the word of God)

God’s servants John 10:27

God’s Spirit…don’t do that

2.) Doers - Trust in the Lord, Lean not of thy own understanding Prov. 3:5,6, - Booths Salvation Army 25 million

3.) Treasure - Matt. 6:21 For where your heart is there your treasure is.

Without faith it is impossible to please God. Hebrew 11:6.