



Mother's Day, or Mothers' Day, depending on where you prefer your apostrophe, is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate all those in 'mother' roles, and we at Home for Good know that such roles reach beyond biology and shared last names. This and every Mothers' Day, we want to celebrate, acknowledge and thank the huge array of parenting and caring roles that impact the lives of children and young people and affirm all those who are making a difference. We also want to invite you and your church community to consider what their part could be in ensuring that every child is welcomed into a home and community who will care for and support them.

This year, we are really excited by the opportunity Mothering Sunday offers us to invite your church family to take part in the Home for Good Foundations course. Foundations is an online course for anyone who wants to find out more about fostering, adoption or supported lodgings for teenagers. This might be because you're interested in growing your family in this way, or because you'd love to gain a better understanding in order to support others. Wherever you find yourself on your journey, we believe that the Foundations course will equip you to better understand the experiences of children and young people, and enable you to make well-informed decisions.

Session one of the Foundations course is named 'What can I bring?' and the aim of the session is to begin to consider what unique role we each have to plan in caring for children and young people with care experience. A large part of the session is dedicated to a Bible study which looks at the story of Moses, unpacking the roles of each of the five women involved in his birth and early life; the Hebrew midwives, Shiphrah and Puah, Moses' mother, Jochebed, his sister, Miriam, and Pharaoh's daughter. Each of these women were vitally important, each mattered enormously and each played an important role in ensuring Moses' survival.

This year, we're delighted to be able to offer you two videos to share with your church community, perhaps before, during or after your service on Sunday 19 March.

The first is a short Mothers' Day message from Home for Good, in which we share some thoughts about why this day can be wonderful for so many of us, but also complex, complicated or even painful for some. We'll share about the urgent need that exists today to find more homes for children and young people in care, and we'll invite the viewers to consider joining us for an online Foundations course this year to learn more about fostering, adoption and supported lodgings for teenagers.

The second video is a slightly longer reflection from session one of the Foundations course, which unpacks the stories of these women in the first few chapters of Exodus in greater depth. A sermonette of sorts, this longer video (5-7 mins) made up of both to-camera speaking and animation could be shown in church services or could be used to inspire a sermon delivered live.





[Video one: Mothers' Day 2023](#)
[Subtitled version](#)

[Video two: A part to play](#)
[Subtitled version](#)

Will you take the opportunity to share about the Home for Good Foundations course among your church family this year? We've created this slide for you to use if that's helpful for you, which contains all the information they need to sign up for a course.

In addition to this, we have, as always, compiled some ideas for your service, which we really hope will help to create a space where everyone feels welcome, however they feel on Mothering Sunday. We hope it inspires your community to think about the parts that each of us can play to welcome, care for and encourage care-experienced children and young people in our communities.

Thank you for choosing to support Home for Good in this way. We're excited at the thought that this March, many individuals and families from church communities right across the UK might be inspired to take their first step towards fostering, adoption or offering supported lodgings – and that ultimately, homes will be found for children and young people who are waiting.

Together we truly can find a home for every child who needs one.



Ideas for your service

Gathering together

Here are some ways you can make your service a space of welcome this Mothers' Day:

- Write 'Welcome' in different languages on your screen.
- Good coffee and delicious biscuits (or whatever your equivalent is) go a long way in showing value and breaking the ice as people enter and settle into the service.
- Have a diverse range of different voices, ages and faces contributing to your service, through readings, worship, prayers etc.
- Consider how your church can ensure that all accessibility needs are met.
- Explicitly telling people that you are glad they have joined you can go a long way. Acknowledge that for many, Mothers' Day can be complicated or painful – let those joining you know that whatever their experience, they are welcome.

Sung worship

There are countless hymns and worship songs that worship God and celebrate and reflect on our being part of His family. Here are some of our favourites, which might be a nice addition to your service!

- No Outsiders – Rend Collective
- Nothing Can Separate – Lucy Grimble and Matt Redman
- Familia - Vineyard Worship
- The Blessing – Elevation Worship
- Every Mother Every Father – The Porter's Gate

Bible reading and discussion questions

The following Bible study has been taken from session one of the Foundations course. You may want to use this discussion guide to shape your Bible readings in your service, to inspire conversation among your church family, or to share with small groups for use during the week.

Read: Exodus 1: 1-22

Use the following questions to guide your discussion:

- What words or phrases stood out to you in the passage?
- How do you feel when you read the instructions given by Pharaoh to the midwives?
- How do you imagine they might have felt in that scenario?
- What do you think of the midwives' actions?
- What can we learn from them?



Read: Exodus 2: 1-10

Discuss:

- Let's reflect on the roles of Moses' birth mother, his sister and Pharaoh's daughter in turn.
 - How do you imagine each of them might have felt in this scenario?
 - What do their actions tell us about their character?
 - What can we learn from them?
- Consider and discuss how each of these women would have interacted with one another as they cared for Moses.
- What can we take away from this story as we consider the experiences of children and teenagers in care, and of foster carers, adoptive families and supported lodgings hosts?
- Does anyone have any final thoughts, reflections or questions they would like to share?

Stories

Mothers' Day provides a great opportunity to give space for those in your congregation to share their own stories of mothers and mother figures who have made a difference in their lives. This can highlight and celebrate women from all walks of life who have made a difference, representing a variety of mothering roles. We think Mothers' Day provides a particularly special chance for you to raise awareness and shine a light on the experiences of foster carers, supported lodgings hosts, kinship carers, special guardians and mothers through adoption, whose stories are often missing from traditional Mothers' Day celebrations.

We at Home for Good have an online library full of beautiful real-life stories, which you may want to use in your service or share with your church family before, after or on your social media platforms.

Read: [This is your bedroom: a foster carer's story](#)

Read: [Through thick and thin: reflections from an adoptive mum](#)

Read: [Ruth and Phil's story](#)

Read: [A ready-made community: Sharon and Rich's story](#)

Read: [Little changes: reflections from a volunteer kids' leader](#)

Find more articles and stories at homeforgood.org.uk/resources





Congregational prayers

Today is about you

God of Sarah,

Who waited for many years before giving birth to her son, Isaac.

We lift to you this Mothers' Day all those who are waiting for family.

Will you hold them in your arms through the waiting, the wondering and the questioning.

Will you help them trust in who you have created them to be.

Will your voice be louder than those of doubt, of fear and of society's expectations.

And as you did with Sarah, will you bring joy from unexpected places.

God of Shiprah and Puah,

The midwives of Israel risked their own safety to ensure the survival of countless children.

We thank you this Mothers' Day for all those who care for children and young people through their work;

For those who care for our health and wellbeing, and those who care for our education,

Those who help us explore passions of sport, music, art,

And for those who read, write, learn and speak on behalf of children, ensuring their voices are heard and needs met.

Thank you for those who allow children and teenagers to feel seen, known and understood, and who encourage them to grow.

God of Pharoah's daughter,

Who welcomed Moses into her family, navigating relationships with his sister and birth mother to ensure he was cared for.

We think today of foster carers, kinship carers, special guardians, adoptive parents and supported lodgings hosts.

We ask that you strengthen and uphold each of them, and grant them guidance and grace as they nurture the children in their care.

We ask for more individuals, couples and families who will provide a place of stability for children and young people, where they can feel safe and loved, where they'll be championed.

Show us, Lord, how we, your Church, can step in and wrap around families with encouragement, prayer and practical support.

God of Naomi and Ruth,

Who walked together, committing to and caring one another as friends,

We think today of those in our community who have stepped into our lives with love, guidance and friendship.

Thank you for the friends, the relatives, the church family members who are consistent with their presence and their care.

Thank you for those who listen and understand.

Thank you for those who bring joy and laughter.





God of Hannah,
For whom loving her son Samuel meant saying goodbye and caring from a distance.
We lift to you this Mothers' Day all those whose children are not living with them right now.
Where there is grieving, will you bring comfort.
Where there is pain, will you bring restoration.
Where there is uncertainty, will you bring peace.
Where there is loneliness, will you bring love and community.

God of Lois and Eunice,
Whose faith changed Timothy's life.
We thank you this Mothers' Day for the women who have been like spiritual mothers to us;
For the Sunday School leaders, the youth workers, the church leaders, the worship leaders,
the prayer warriors.
Thank you for those who have shared with us the good news of your love for us,
Who encourage us along the path you have laid before us,
Who help us see you more clearly and who see and are excited about the person you are
creating us to be.

Our God,
Who longs for us, fights for us, loves us like a mother,
Who walks with us, cares for us and guides us like a mother.
We praise you this Mothers' Day for who you are,
And we thank you for all the mother figures in our lives who reflect to us your heart.

Amen.

Additional films

Over the years, Home for Good have created a number of short films to be used in church services in Mothering Sunday.

[Today is about you - interview](#)

[Today is about you - animation](#)

[Thinking of you](#)

[What does Mother's Day mean to you?](#)

[Because of you](#)



Creative prayer idea

Mother's Day bouquet

A bouquet of flowers is a beautiful gift to receive, and is often the go-to for a Mother's Day gift! We've taken some inspiration from this gift, often used to express love and thanks, and have created a prayer activity that we hope will be suitable and encouraging for everyone in your church family.

Print or draw and cut out images of flowers, large enough to be written on and light enough in colour that words written or pictures drawn can be seen. You can use [our flower templates](#), search for your own online or create your own with whatever craft supplies you have to hand! We encourage you to select a variety of different types, colours and sizes of flowers to illustrate that there are so many different roles and people we can celebrate on Mother's Day.

Give each member of your church family a flower. You may want to hand them out as people enter the building, or leave one on each chair for them to find when they arrive.

Ask everyone to write in each petal the names of individuals who have cared for and helped them.

Encourage people to be as creative as they like with words, pictures and colours. As they write the names down, encourage them to thank God for those people. Have someone at the front with some florist wire, and invite your church family to bring their flower heads to the front of the church. Stick the florist wire to the back of the flower to create a stem, and place the flower in a vase.

Admire the vase full of flowers as church family, and acknowledge the many different roles people can play to allow us to feel loved, cared for and supported. Pray for your church family and for the names on the flowers before you – you may want to use one of our congregational prayers – and give thanks to God.



Kids activity: Because of you cards

We often send cards with those we love on Mother's Day – let's use them to reflect on and thank all the different people who love and help us! Ask each child to choose one person and acknowledge one way that they show them love.

Give each child a card – you may want to allow time for them to create and decorate their own card, or you can print and use our [Because of you templates!](#)

On the inside, ask the children to write or draw about the difference their person has made. For example: 'Because of you I can eat my favourite food. Thank you for your yummy cooking.'

Encourage the children to give the card to the person they've written it for.



It's our privilege to provide our like this Mother's Day resource package free of charge to as many churches as possible in the UK. Perhaps your church can consider making a donation to support the vision and work of Home for Good?

Churches across the country support Home for Good either through hosting a special collection during their services or making a monthly or annual donation. This Mothers' Day please consider:

1. **Hosting a special collection for Home for Good**
2. **Committing your church to a monthly or annual donation**

There are three ways that you can donate:

By bank transfer

You can make a donation into Home for Good's bank account using these details:

Name on account: Home for Good

Bank: CAF Bank, 25 Kings Hill Ave, Kings Hill, West Malling ME19 4JQ

Sort code: 40-52-40

Account No.: 00029458

To help our finance team identify your donation, please also send an email to fundraising@homeforgood.org.uk to let us know the name and address of your church, and the date and amount of your donation.

By cheque

You can send a cheque made out to 'Home for Good' to 8 Angel Court, Copthall Avenue, London EC2R 7HP. Please also include the name and address of your church along with the cheque.

Online

You can donate with a debit or credit card online at homeforgood.org.uk/donate. Please ensure that, unless it is your own personal money, you do not tick the Gift Aid declaration.

If you have any questions about how we use donations to facilitate our work, or would like to know more about giving as a church, please contact our Head of Fundraising, Bethan Spencer via fundraising@homeforgood.org.uk.

Thank you. Together we can find a home for every child who needs one.

