

We have many celebrations during the year in our beloved Jesus MeetUp program. Mother's Day becomes one of the most cherished times of the year because we have all been blessed in one way or another with that special woman of whom became our Mom. We honor our Mothers during our JMU gathering and then schedule a separate time for a Mother/Daughter and/or Mother/Son events outside of our group meeting. We will offer you a list of many event choices you can do alone or blend them together and we encourage you to get creative and maybe come up with some new ones we have not thought of.

While celebrating Mother's Day for those who have children this day may be a time of sorrow for others. Due to abuse, the loss of a child, infertility or some other reason Mother's Day could be a painful time and we should recognize this and find compassion. For this reason we also offer our Jesus MeetUp "Healing For The Wounded" this week at a separate time so that those who are hurting may find comfort while others are celebrating. As a male or a female who finds yourself in this place during Mother's Day please reach out to us so that you may join our group who cares about you and will walk with you during this time of upset.

In this post, we've compiled 32 ideas to honor and have fun with the moms you all love.

1. Have some previously chosen mothers share their stories during your Jesus MeetUp.

Giving mothers an opportunity to share their stories about motherhood can be incredibly powerful and encouraging. Inviting mothers who have walked through difficult times in their roles to share what they've learned and how they've grown can empower the mothers who are present.

2. Bring a special gift for moms

Depending on your Jesus MeetUp group size, have flowers at the entrance door with a sign reading "Please take a flower if you are a Mother as our gift to you on this special day." Or, you may choose to do something other than a flower that is meaningful to Mothers in your culture.

3. Put on a special meal

Involve the men in putting on a special meal post-JMU meeting. Invite the men in the church to plan it, provide the food, and take care of the cleanup. This can be a wonderful way to thank moms for all they do. Those involved can role model for the children what service looks like. Note: This is a gift for the Mothers, so let them relax and have others do the work.

4. Include special music

Have someone present a song about Mothers at the end of the Jesus MeetUp group meeting. Involving the children in a song for Mothers always warms the heart, if not even produces a few tears of joy.

5. Have daughters or sons share their stories of their Mother

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6. Volunteer as Family

Mother's Day is about all the mothers of the world, so why not volunteer for an organization that supports other women? Volunteering is a great way to spend quality time together, build bonds with your community, and find fulfillment.

7. Watch Home Movies

Reliving family memories is a great way to warm mom's heart by watching old home videos. The whole family will howl with laughter at mom and dad's old outfits or your own crazy antics from years past!

8. Film a Home Movie

Once you've gone through the old home videos, make a few new ones! Film yourselves doing your Mother's Day activities for the future, or create a spoof movie you can giggle at later that evening.

9. Go Camping

You don't need the fanciest outdoor gear to enjoy sleeping under the stars (though a sturdy tent doesn't hurt!). Find a campground in your area and treat her to a back-to-nature getaway. If she's not big on sleeping under the stars, no worries. You can bring the camping experience to her by setting it up in your backyard, then head inside when it's time to go to bed!

10. Schedule a Fishing Trip

Lots of moms love to fish! Head out to your local lake and find the ultimate relaxing way to connect with nature. If you've only ever been an observer, it's easy enough to pick up (at least if you're not looking to catch anything too big!). Or, find a local fishing business that will use their guidance and provide a trip for you all.

11. Spend an Hour Reading Together

Do you and mom share a favorite book? Or a love of storytelling? This shared event can go two ways: Creative people can write a story about their mom and growing up with her—this will warm her heart, and she'll keep it forever. If you're more of the quality-time type, spend the afternoon reading your favorite book together.

12. Head to the Zoo or Aquarium

For nature lovers, these two locations never cease to elicit awe. Transport yourself to the Sahara desert or tropical rain forests by strolling around the most fantastic land or sea creatures. Animal-loving moms will love a trip to the zoo or aquarium just as much as the kids do!

13. Visit a Local Farm

One great way small local farms work to support themselves is by offering farm tours throughout the week. After you enjoy your stroll, pick up a bag of fresh groceries to enjoy throughout the week!

14. Take an Art Class

Ceramics, painting, crafts, or watercolors—the possibilities are endless! Get your hands dirty together and possibly go home with a beautiful new treasure to put in your home.

15. Offer to wash and dry her hair!

There are few things that feel better than having your hair cared for by another. Be her hair stylist and have fun making mom look pretty.

16. Set Up a Scavenger Hunt

Home-spun-fun games are the best, especially when they're mom-themed! Hide a list of clues that have to do with her around the house or yard and let the whole family go hunting for them.

17. Create a Coupon Book

Make a list of things mom likes to have done: back scratch, brush her hair, rub her feet, do the dishes, give 10 hugs, say 5 nice things about her...you get the idea. Now make a booklet with one "coupon of love" per idea. Tell her she can cash in her coupons any time she desires.

18. Play Games Outside

You don't have to travel far to have fun on Mother's Day. Spend the afternoon in the backyard with a variety of lawn games—corn-hole, horseshoes, capture the flag or any other favorite cultural games for your area. Set up a station with prizes for the winner, snacks and refreshments for your whole family.

19. Enjoy an At-Home Spa Day

Moms are the ultimate superheroes. They do so much for us every single day, but they deserve some time off to just relax. Treat mom to a special day of pampering (even if you can't get to the spa). Make a do-it-yourself facial mask and set up a station for doing her nails and toes. Take pictures when you are done!

20. Make Breakfast in Bed

This is a classic tradition around the world. This sweet gesture is totally worth the effort. Get your spouse to help the kids put together a tray with Mom's favorite breakfast treats and present it to her after she gets to sleep in, for once.

21. Take a Virtual Cooking Class

Master some new chef skills with an online/video cooking class. Whether you're physically in the same kitchen or miles apart, this fun Mother's Day activity will make you feel closer than ever.

22. Go for a Walk

Sometimes the simple things are the very BEST! Enjoy the early days of warm, fresh spring air by going for a leisurely stroll with mom. Grab a pair of sunglasses, a bottle of water, and keep your eyes peeled for all the beautiful blooming flowers. Don't forget sunscreen!

23. Make a Craft

Looking for a fun project that's also a great Mother's Day gift? Try making personalized beaded jewelry or a bouquet of construction paper flowers. She'll love how meaningful it is (even if it's not perfect).

24. Set Up a Picnic

Whether you head to the park or just set out a blanket in the backyard, enjoying lunch outdoors is a great way to spend Mother's Day. Pack up a basket full of make-ahead sandwiches and picnic salads. You can even bring along some fun picnic games, music or a book.

25. Visit a Botanical Garden

Flowers are in bloom, so there's no better time for taking a trip to a sun-filled garden. Some botanical gardens will have limited capacity or special guidelines so just be sure to check the website for your local garden before visiting.

26. Get Out of Town

You don't have to go very far to make mom feel special. However, a weekend getaway at a cute place or a road trip to a new location that she's always wanted to visit is the perfect way to get extra time with mom.

27. Have a Movie Marathon

You'll laugh, you'll cry, but most importantly, you'll spend quality time together. Make a bowl of popcorn and turn on a classic Mother's Day movie—there are family comedies, dramas, and even musicals.

28. Make a Family Photo Album

Flip through old family photos or print some out from your phone and get crafting. Make a scrapbook using pretty printed paper and stickers or decorate your own paper. You can work on it together or make her one as a gift using an online photo company.

29. Host a Tea Party

Find some good recipes and make some little sweet and savory treats and use some pretty cups and plates. You don't have to go to a fancy restaurant; make some bite-sized tea sandwiches and make a pot of tea.

30. Solve a Puzzle

Gift your mom a puzzle this Mother's Day—there are plenty of designs to choose from. Then spend the evening working together to complete it with snacks and music. She will love this.

31. Plant Something

This is the gift that keeps on giving—mom will love spending the day in the garden with you and will always be reminded of it when she sees her plants grow.

32. Have a Game Night

Feel like a kid again by playing some classic board games with the whole family. Mom will love the extra time she gets with you, and you can even make some fun snacks to munch on throughout the night. Pictionary is one of our favorites!

At the end of each event take a moment to read a parenting passage from The Urantia Book together and pray together.

Some especially significant passages to read include:

84:6.4 Women seem to have more intuition than men, but they also appear to be somewhat less logical. Woman, however, has always been the moral standard-bearer and the spiritual leader of mankind. The hand that rocks the cradle still fraternizes with destiny.

And Jesus reminded a husband...

133:2.2 And then, in bidding him farewell, Jesus said: "My brother, always remember that man has no rightful authority over woman unless the woman has willingly and voluntarily given him such authority. Your wife has engaged to go through life with you, to help you fight its battles, and to assume the far greater share of the burden of bearing and rearing your children; and in return for this special service it is only fair that she receive from you that special protection which man can give to woman as the partner who must carry, bear, and nurture the children. The loving care and consideration which a man is willing to bestow upon his wife and their children are the measure of that man's attainment of the higher levels of creative and spiritual self-consciousness. Do you not know that men and women are partners with God in that they co-operate to create beings who grow up to possess themselves of the potential of immortal souls? The Father in heaven treats the Spirit Mother of the children of the universe as one equal to himself. It is Godlike to share your life and all that relates thereto on equal terms with the mother partner who so fully shares with you that divine experience of reproducing yourselves in the lives of your children. If you can only love your children as God loves you, you will love and cherish your wife as the Father in heaven honors and exalts the Infinite Spirit, the mother of all the spirit children of a vast universe."

You may find other passages from our Urantia Book to share together. Enjoy your Mother's Day celebrations and may love grow and grow in your relationships. ~ the group at God Discovered