

# Safford Church of Christ

3888 S Hwy 191, Safford, AZ 85546

10 May 2015

## Topics

### A.M. Bible Class:

Peter denies Jesus (John 18:15f)

### A.M. Lesson:

Happy Mother's Day (Ruth)

### P.M. Lesson:

Judging others (Matthew 7:1-6)

### Wednesday:

Israel's salvation (Romans 11:25f)

### Pulpit Evangelist

Ken Knowlton: 428-3494

### Elders

Greg Briggs: 428-8756

John Cunningham: 428-0895

Sunday Bible Class	10:00 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship	11:00 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship	6:30 P.M.
Wednesday Evening Class	6:30 P.M.
Thursday Ladies Bible Class	11:00 A.M.

*I was glad when they said to me, "Let us go to the house of the LORD!" Psalm 122:2  
Please silence your cell phones and other electronic devices.*

## Four Biblical Mothers

Andy Rau

[www.biblegateway.com](http://www.biblegateway.com), May 8, 2015

Mother's Day is today! We hope you'll take some time this weekend to pay respects to your mother—or if that isn't possible, to somebody in your life who embodies the grace and wisdom we associate with godly mothers.

The Bible speaks highly of mothers who raise children and guide their families in a righteous manner; in the oft-quoted Proverbs 31, the "wife of noble character" is honored by her husband and children for her virtues.

Motherhood wasn't a requirement for godly women in Bible times—and just as today, not every woman who wanted children was granted her wish. But the mothers and matriarchs of the Bible exhibit qualities that all of us, male or female, parent or not, should strive to emulate. Here are a few of the famous mothers of the Bible, with links to their stories:

### Mary, the Mother of Jesus

Perhaps no more famous mother exists than Mary, who at a young age learned from an angel that she would give birth to the long-awaited Messiah. Her song of praise in response, and the well-known events of Christ's birth, are what usually spring to mind when we think of Mary. But her role as mother brought her grief as well as joy; we can only imagine what it must have been like for her to witness Jesus' crucifixion. Read her story in John 19.

### Elizabeth

Mary's was not the only miraculous birth recorded in the New Testament. Elizabeth was a godly woman who was "righteous in the sight of God, observing all the Lord's commands and decrees blamelessly"—and yet she and her husband were unable to conceive a child. God answered her prayers late in her life and she gave birth to John the Baptist, but is perhaps best known for her prophetic encouragement of the young (and perhaps frightened) Mary: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the child you will bear! But why am I so favored, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? As soon as the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the baby in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed is she who has believed that the Lord would fulfill his promises to her!" Read her story in Luke 1.

### Hannah

Hannah is one of the most inspiring mothers in the Bible, although her story is less well-known. Despite years of patience and prayer, she remained unable to have a child. One day "in her deep anguish Hannah prayed to the LORD, weeping bitterly"—and God answered her prayer at last. But Hannah's character truly shone when, in gratitude to God, she dedicated her newborn son to His service. Her son would one day become one of Israel's greatest prophets. Read her story in 1 Samuel 1.

### Sarah, the Wife of Abraham

Sarah is one of the great matriarchs of the Bible—yet she didn't become a mother until very late in life. In fact, her reaction to God's promise that she would have a son was to laugh, as memorably recorded in Genesis 18.

Nevertheless she did give birth to a son, and her lineage would include Jesus Christ himself. Read her story in Genesis 18.

There are many more famous mothers described in the Bible; many of them righteous, some not so much, but all used by God to bring about His design. This weekend, as we give thanks for the mothers in our lives, consider how you can embody the traits that define a godly mother—patience, kindheartedness, faithfulness—and consider how you can encourage the mothers in your community, young and old, as they work to meet that same standard.

## Word of the day: Chiasmus

Neil Short

In modern times, most non-fiction is written in the form of a standard outline. It begins with a thesis statement (introduction) followed by a body (with several orderly points) and a conclusion, which typically summarizes the points and the thesis statement. This structure works quite well in writing because the person learning from the writing is learning by reading. In Bible times, most people learned from writing because they listened to it being read. Because writers expected their writing to be mostly “heard” out loud rather than “read” silently, they followed a very different kind of structure. Writers (and public speakers) used these organizational methods in order to help their hearers keep track of the logical flow of the lesson.

Probably the most common classical structure is called the chiasmus, or “chastic structure.” This method is defined by a set of points and then the same points are repeated or related in reverse order.

We have recently studied two familiar passages that are chiasmi. One is Matthew 7:6:

Do not give what is holy to dogs;  
and do not throw your pearls before swine,  
or they will trample them under foot  
and turn and maul you.

Notice that the swine trample and the dogs maul. Realizing that this verse is a chiasmus helps us to understand it.

Another chiasmus appears in Romans 10:9-10:

If you **confess** with your lips that Jesus is Lord  
and **believe** in your heart that God raised him  
from the dead  
you will be saved [central point].  
For one **believes** with the heart and so is  
justified  
and one **confesses** with the mouth and so is  
saved.

A more elaborate chiasmus appears in John 18:28-19:16. If you cannot spot it, don't worry about it. The passage serves well as a personal reading for reflection on the Lord's Supper.

## News:

Hattie Hedrick is in very poor health. She has been placed in an acute care facility.

Megan Short will graduate from Junior High School on Friday, May 15, 7 P.M. at the First Baptist Church.

Billy Martin graduated—with honors—from EAC with honors.

The Martins are out of town.

Louella Briggs is out of town visiting her grandkids.

The Cunninghams are out of town—doing the Oklahoma thing.

There was a karate belt exam on Friday. Jojo Short earned a brown belt. Megan Short earned a second brown belt. Catalina Short earned her second red belt.

## Prayer List:

*Joy Gibson—cancer treatments*

*Tatyana Knowlton—macular degeneration*

*Ken Cocke—back and shoulder pains*

*Janet Radar—nursing home*

*H.L. Boling—general health and complications from leukemia, grief comfort*

*Mike Cavasos—constant pain, foot surgeries*

*Sandy Cavasos—degenerative disk disease*

*Nic and Ani Self—health and personal needs*

