

Jacob's Well

Lesson Title: The Revelations of Jesus–Mother (Provider, Nurturer, Mother Hen)



Key Concept: This series of lessons explores various revelations of the one true God of Israel in the person of Jesus. This lesson examines the revelation of Jesus as Mother who loves her children unconditionally, even when they reject her.



Scriptures:

God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.

(Genesis 1:27 *New English Translation*)

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you who kill the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I have longed to gather your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you would have none of it!

(Matthew 23:37 *New English Translation*)

Context Scriptures: Isaiah 49:15; Isaiah 66:12–13; Psalm 36:7; Isaiah 45:15



Lesson Thoughts:

Imago Dei, Latin for the image of God, is stamped in humanity as male and female. Femininity is part of God's being and, together with masculinity, demonstrates the image of God.

Isaiah describes God's maternal bond as stronger than the intimate bond between mother and infant (Isaiah 49:15). The nursing mother motif parallels the way God desires to comfort and protect his people in Jerusalem (Isaiah 66:12–13). This is not the only time feminine language is used to depict God's protection and comfort for the city of Jerusalem.

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When Jesus arrives as God incarnate, he describes his desire to protect Jerusalem. With maternal instincts, Jesus wants to comfort his wayward children and bring them back to a right relationship with their God. Though they completely reject him, Jesus demonstrates unconditional love and protection towards them. The hen's wings demonstrate shelter for all her chicks who are kept safe and secure (Psalm 36:7). Jesus exhibits a protective and loving mother longing to be reunited with her children.¹

Jesus' lament of "how often" indicates God's repeated action to love and protect the people of Jerusalem. The extensive history of Jerusalem leaving God multiple times hits a climax in the expression of Jesus' grief for the city—a mother who grieves the loss of a child she loves but is unable to protect. Here the person of Jesus reveals the Mother who loves her children unconditionally, even when they reject her.

¹ Carolyn Blevins, "Under My Wings: Jesus' Motherly Love: Matthew 23:37—39, *Review and Expositor* (104) 2007. 365-374.

**Discussion Questions:**

- 1) What feelings or thoughts do you have when someone tells you that God is your mother?
- 2) Describe a time in your life when you felt the protection of God like a mother hen.
- 3) Describe a time in your life when you experienced the unconditional love of God.
- 4) God is a spirit and his image reflects aspects of both masculinity and femininity. How does thinking of God in this way give you a fuller understanding of who he is?

Next Lesson: Son

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Notes and Reflections

- 1) Read the Scripture verses Isaiah 49:15 and Isaiah 66:12–13. What are your feelings/thoughts reading the Scriptures? Does God's Femininity bother you? If so why? If no, why not?
- 2) What are ways you will incorporate the femininity of God in your personal view of God?

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Notes and Reflections, cont.