

“They fill up their jar and then they walk the hours and hours back just so that their children will have water. And then they do it the next day. And they do it the next day. And they do it the next day. There is this maternal impulse, this ancient nurturing instinct and it transcends time. It transcends culture, it transcends economics. There is an ancient mothering impulse and it’s also a divine impulse.”

When was the last time you saw a mother living out her maternal impulse?
How has your experience with your own mother shaped your perception of God?

“Throughout the Bible, God is described as compassionate. In Hebrew, the original language of the Scriptures, it’s the word ‘raham.’ It’s also the word for ‘womb.’ So ‘God is compassionate’ is ‘God is womb-like.’ This is a feminine image for God.”

When you hear that God is compassionate, what stories come to mind?

God asks Job “from whose womb came the ice?
Who gives birth to the frost from the heavens?”

[Job 38:29 \(TNIV\)](#)

“Now these images can be very helpful in describing the divine, but Jesus said that God is spirit. And spirit has no shape, it has no form, it has no physical essence. I mean, God is in essence beyond male and female. Or perhaps you could say it more accurately; God transcends and yet includes what we know as male and female.”

Do you think of God as male or female?
Why do you think you view God this way?

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

[Genesis 1:27 \(NIV\)](#)

“If you don’t have her leadership, if you don’t have her wisdom, her voice, her perspective, you’re not just missing her, you’re missing something central to the very core of who God is.”

How does your view of women affect your view of God?
How does your view of God affect your view of women?

In Christ's family there can be no division into Jew and non-Jew, slave and free, male and female.
Among us you are all equal.
That is, we are all in a common relationship with Jesus Christ.

[Galatians 3:28 \(MSG\)](#)

"If you're a woman and you've been made to feel second-class in the Jesus movement, maybe you've been taught blatantly or you've picked it up subtly that like, 'It's nice that you're here but the men do the real work around here,' that is just not right. I'm sorry you've had that experience because it's not what Jesus had in mind."

Have you ever been made to feel second-class? If so, how did you respond?
Have you ever viewed women as somehow less than men?

"Some women are mothers, some aren't.
Some run companies, some stay home.
Some live out very traditional roles, others break all sorts of new ground.
And it's all a reflection of the creativity, of the diversity,
of the variety of the God who's bigger than any of our language."

Who are some women you see reflecting the creativity, diversity, and variety of God?

"As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you."

[Isaiah 66:13 \(TNIV\)](#)

"And when Isaiah is speaking to his people who are wondering if they even have a future, they're disillusioned, they're filled with despair, they don't have any hope. Of all the images Isaiah could use, Isaiah essentially says to them, 'Have you ever seen a mother comfort a child? Well that is what God is like. And that is what God is going to do for you.'"

When was the last time that you needed comfort?
Were you comforted? If so, by whom?
When the difficult times come, would you trust God to comfort you?

"When you see a mother doing her mother thing, when a mother's heart breaks for her children, she is tapping in to the very nature of who God is and what God is like and that is a gift. That is grace, that is divine."

Have you ever considered God to be like a mother? Why or why not?
Is your view of God limited by a gender?
If so, do you think you are missing aspects of God's nature?

“So may you embrace the God who’s bigger than any of our language.
May you celebrate all of the images and pictures and metaphors
that help us better understand who God is and what God is like.
And may you be comforted as a mother comforts a child.”

The mother and daughter featured in the film are actually mother and daughter.

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