

THE STORM BEFORE THE CALM
Week 4: Happy Mother's Day
May 10th, 2020

OPENING PRAYER

Have someone in the group invite God's Holy Spirit into our presence. Pray for your encounter with God's Word. Ask God to open your heart and mind to some new understanding and especially to a new way of life.

SMALL GROUP GUIDELINES

~Safe Group	~Silence	~Sharing
~Confidentiality	~No Cross Talk	~Self-Aware
~Listen	~No Fixing	~"I" Statements
~Pause	~No Rescuing	~Handle Conflict Biblically

"GETTING TO KNOW YOU"

Go around the room and briefly share your answer to the following question:

(spring, summer, fall, and winter) Which is your favorite season and why?

INTRODUCTION

This week we celebrate Mother's Day! We hope you have been able to celebrate all the women in your life who have had a positive impact on you. We know that positive influence can look different for each of us, for some it might be your biological mom, for others a mom who adopted you, a grandmother, a sister, an aunt or a good friend.

Our message this week is a special one as we focus on Mother's Day. We are blessed to have 4 different perspectives on Mother's Day from some amazing women that are a part of our Madison Park family! This week we won't focus on a particular biblical narrative but process together what these wonderful individuals shared.

DISCUSSION:

Go around the room and share from your heart, remembering the group guidelines.

- **Pastor Stephanie shared about how Mother's Day can be hard. Can you relate? Would you briefly be willing to share with the group why it is difficult for you?**
- **Someone read Galatians 6:4...Pastor Ali shared her struggle with comparing herself to other moms. Do you find yourself comparing your abilities, your talents, or your skills with others? Ali shared the comparison as a mom, what area is it for you?**
- **Romans 12:10 says "*Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.*" Pastor Shelly recognized a few of the women who have represented this verse in her life... Would you share about the women in your life who have had that kind of impact for you?**
- **Finally, Mariann shared about the storm we all find ourselves in. She referenced the words of Jesus in John 14:27..."*I am leaving you with a gift-peace of mind and heart. And the peace I give is a gift the world cannot give. So don't be afraid or troubled.*" How has that gift helped you in this storm? If you are willing to share, in what ways has it been a struggle to experience that gift?**
- **Was there anything else that you heard during our Mother's Day worship on Sunday that spoke to you? Stood out to you? A Takeaway?**

CLOSING PRAYER-Spend some time in prayer, pray for the season we are in, for those that may be affected, for the community, for our world. Pray for one another, for those that might be absent and for prayer requests.