

SHATTERED MOM'S CLUB



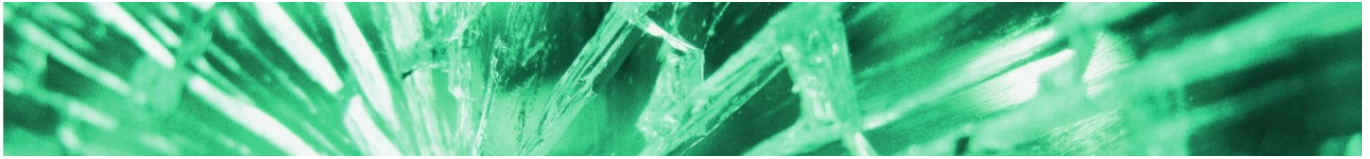
a look at 3 Biblical mothers

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Shattered Mom's Club

Session One

Introduction

We all know what the word shattered means. Broken apart, torn to pieces, or devastated comes to mind. In our series, we are going to look at some mothers in the Bible that were at that state in their lives. They were broken apart and shattered.

What is this *Shattered Mom's Club* all about?

The women in this club each had a difficulty revolving around being a mother. This club isn't about financial status or pedigrees. That is for sure. No formal initiation. Life itself initiated these women into the club in a cruel way. No hazing. Life took care of that too in a forceful and intense way.

Being a mother is a lovely beautiful thing, but sometimes getting there is difficult or impossible. When you do get there, although there are numerous blessings in motherhood, it can get tough. Let's be real—the things revolving around motherhood isn't always pretty. Sometimes what a mother goes through can cause such ripping pain that it results in shattered pieces.

Who's in this *Shattered Mom's Club*?

First, let's look at all who's in this club from the Bible. I'm not mentioning all of them, but here are some of the standing members.

The roster is in alphabetical order.

Shattered Mom's Club Roster

Eve – First wife and mother. Mother of the first murderer. (Genesis 2:21-25;3:20;4)

Hagar – A concubine. Treated harshly. Was sent to the desert to live with her son. (Genesis 16:1-16;21:2-21)

Hannah – Went through infertility. Endured pain and heartache because of her husband's other wife. When Hannah did have a son, she had to allow him to live separately from her at the Temple. (1 Samuel 1, 2)

Jochebed – She had to hide her son in order for him not to be killed. Then she had to give him over to a princess. Even though she did get to nurse him and help raise him, it must have been tough circumstances. (Exodus 1, 2:1-20)

Leah – Bore children to a man who she had to share with her sister, knowing her husband wanted to marry her sister more than he did her. (Genesis 29, 30)

Mary the Mother of Jesus – Unknowingly became pregnant. Tasked with raising the Son of God. Watched her Son tortured and sent to the cross to die. (Luke 1, 2; John 19:23-27)

Naomi – Went through a famine. Lost both of her sons and her husband. Circumstances made it so she had to move back to her homeland, widowed and broke. (Ruth 1-4)

Rachel – Went through infertility. Had to live with the fact that her sister, also married to her husband, bore her husband children instead of herself. (Genesis 29, 30, 32-33, 35)

Rebekah – Went through infertility the first part of her marriage. Mother of the first set of twins. Her children were fighting kids who were at war with each other. (Genesis 24-27)

Sarah – Had infertility issues. Mother at around age 90. (Genesis 11:29-31; 12; 16; 17:15-21; 23:1-2)

I'm sure there are more shattered mothers mentioned in the Bible, some nameless, but we catch bits of their tragic stories throughout Scripture. We are going to focus on just three women in this series. I hope you will look up and read the stories of the other ones in the Bible though. I think there are things we can all learn from these mothers that suffered and had shattering circumstances in their lives.

So to begin, what shatters a mother?

Let's take a look at some of the things that can shatter a mother. Being a mother is a relationship, so when other people are involved, even though we may love them such as our children and husbands, it can get rough. Sometimes women are dealing with divorce and ex-husbands because there are children that still need to be cared for, and that can be tougher yet.

There are always going to be things that we can't control. There are always going to be things that we don't have the ability to make go our way when it comes to being a mother.

Here is my list of some things that I think of when it comes to shattering circumstances and motherhood. Some of these things are specifically things that can shatter a Christian mom.

What Shatters a Mom?

- Infertility
- Health issues with children
- Loss of a child (through death)
- Loss of a child (through a move such as to college or a long distance)
- Loss of a child (through marriage)
- Fighting among children (young)
- Fighting among children (as adults)
- A blatantly disobedient child
- A child's dependence on any type of addiction (drugs, gambling, etc.)
- A child's choices not to follow God's Word
- A child's choice of friends
- A child's choice to marry someone that doesn't know Christ.
- Seeing a child (young or old) abused in some way (sexual, spousal, etc.)
- Divorce where children are involved
- Postpartum Depression
- Loss of a job or tight budgets where children are involved (feeding/care)

These are just some of the things that can have an impact on mothers. I know every shattered mother may have different circumstances and different stories to tell. What I am hoping is that we can all learn from each other. I will be talking about three women this week. Job's Wife, Hannah, and Naomi.

Each of these women are different and all had different circumstances to bear. Job's wife had issues because she was Job's wife and we all know how he was attacked by Satan. Hannah had issues because she wasn't the only wife involved and she had an infertility problem. Naomi came to the point where she didn't have her husband or her children either because they all had died. We will take a peek at how life's shattering circumstances affected each of these three women in the Bible.

These mothers all went through some shattering times. We will start taking a look at each one and how they dealt with their shattered lives. You know, we all have choices of how we deal with tragedy, and we are going to take a look at how these women dealt with theirs.

What can being shattered lead to?

Negative Reactions:

- Anger
- Bitterness
- Lashing out in speech
- Lashing out in actions
- Unforgiveness
- Low self-esteem
- Loss of joy
- Relationship trouble
- Loss of focus and direction
- Anxiety
- Health issues from stress
- Stop taking physical care of one's self
- Suicide

Positive Reactions:

- Persistence
- Determination
- Reliance on faith
- Reliance on prayer
- Reliance on God
- Strength
- Passion
- Meaning in life
- See the blessings more clearly
- Dependence on the Word of God
- See eternity in perspective
- See the value of relationships
- See the joy in the little things

Come with me as we hone in on what it took for these women to cope with the shattered pieces they were dealt in life. We will take a look at their reactions to pain as we look at their stories.