

It's vital for us to talk with our daughters about who they are as females created in God's image, and what that means. Tell your daughters that God himself is referenced as a helper ("ezer"), a role only given to women, not men. Show them in scripture that God's compassion is compared to a woman and her child.

I wrote the following words during a time I was facing my mother's death and revisiting my own understanding of God's image in me as a woman, and how that reflects in my role as a wife and mother.

Teach your daughter this:

He created her in his image: "...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) and He bestowed on her all of the feminine attributes that distinguished her from Adam...Every one, in the image of her Creator...attributes that He had before the foundations of the world, that He longed to express perfectly and wholly in a separate being called woman. There is no feminine attribute that is not chiseled intentionally to reflect and image God.

She nurtures. He nurtures.

She humbles herself in deference to her husband. He (Abba) humbled himself, giving up everything for us.

She sees forests and trees at once. He sees all things at once.

She brings forth life. He created all life.

She is home for her husband, a place of rest for her children. He is our home, and our safe place of rest.

"Can a woman forget her nursing child, that she should have no compassion on the son of her womb? Even these may forget, yet I will not forget you. Behold, I have engraved you on the palms of my hands..." Isaiah 49

Engraved. Purchased. And, in need of rescue. In her brokenness she can never fulfill her potential as an image bearer. But in Jesus she is being completed in His image, stands beside Him as sister, and is seated with Him in the Heavenly places as one who was chosen before the foundations of the world. His righteousness is hers, and is freely given at a great price. As a needy recipient of the grace and mercy of God, she can serve in humility, with quietness and faithfulness, because Jesus quietly and faithfully served perfectly for her by giving himself up for us all. She can be satisfied in Him because he has given her a new name by his blood, "Beloved," "My Delight is in Her."

Image bearer. Daughter. Mother. She is a friend of God by the blood of His Son.

~written by Lynn Adams at the time of the loss of her mother