

What I Learned from my Mother

Tammy: ‘My mom taught me to open my heart and home to others. We always had people around for dinner and mom served everyone, cheerfully, without complaint. There’s always a way to make the food stretch to serve one more person. There was always room at my mom’s table and there is always room at mine.’

Carol: Hello, and welcome to Women of Hope, where today we’re going to share something a little different.

We thought we would ask some grown up daughters what they learned from their mothers as they were growing up.

If you’re a younger mother, you might learn some interesting things about what *your* daughter can learn from you.

If you’re an older mother, you might hear things that your daughter might say if we asked *her* what she learned from *you*.

If you’re a daughter, listen to the things that these daughters have learned from their mothers. Maybe you could tell your mother what you’ve learned from her.

Tammy: I think today is one of those days when we should make a cup of tea and sit together to chat, listen, and share some lovely thoughts and ideas about mothers and daughters. I hope you can do that – relax and enjoy our time together.

Carol: I asked my friend’s daughter Sarah, what her mother Ellen had taught her. This is what she said, ‘My mom taught me to be *strong*. When I was growing up she taught me two things about being strong. Firstly, that sometimes people would have different views than me and I could keep my views and let them keep theirs. She taught me not to get upset if I could not change their point of view to see it my way.’

The second thing she taught me was that when someone is depending on you for something you must follow through even if you’re busy or tired.

I also learned from my mom to let my ‘yes’ be ‘yes’ and my ‘no’ be ‘no’. She taught me to stick to my word and not be persuaded by others to go against what I said I was going to do.’

Tammy: That’s a great thing to learn from your mother isn’t it?

Carol: It is. It’s very good that she learned to stick to her word. It’s not always easy to do that is it? People can make you change your mind. Or you might just decide that it’s too hard to do what you promised you were going to do.

Tammy: Did Sarah say anything else?

Carol: Yes. She said her mom taught her to be patient. She taught her to be proud of my home and keep it clean and organized. She said her mother always kept the house clean and ready for visitors.’

And here's the last one from Sarah. She said, 'My mom taught me to *make lists*, so that I could see clearly what I needed to do. From school projects when I was a girl, to university studies, to catering for weddings, to running a women's refuge, to being a high school teacher.

Making lists has helped me so much to be really organised in my whole life.'

Tammy: *I love lists* – making a list is the best way for me to see what I need to do and get it done. The best: I love crossing things off the list as I do them.

Carol: So do!

Tammy: Now we're going to hear from my friend Marj's daughter, Nisha.

'My mother taught me to be confident. She used to say to me, "God has made you special, and he will help you to face whatever it is that would make you nervous or afraid."

Be selfless. Think of what someone else might need before yourself. Help them if you can – either by giving material things, or just showing friendship and support when they go through difficult times. This means having compassion and not being selfish.'

Carol: What a great thing to learn from your mother – to take care of others before yourself.

Tammy: And here's the next part. I like this: 'Love your family, *warts and all*.

Carol: That's great! That means you love them even when they annoy you or you don't feel like loving them doesn't it!

Tammy: It does! Nisha said, 'They will not always be near you, and one day it may be too late to show them how much you love and appreciate them. Give practical support when they go through difficulties.'

And the last one from Nisha: 'Trust in God, no matter what happens to you. He has a plan for your life and his plan is best.'

Carol: That is such good advice from your mother. There are some words in the Bible, God's word, that tell us just that. They say: "For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." (Jeremiah 29:11 NLT)

Tammy: We sometimes hear Ros on Women of Hope. Well today we're not going to hear her – but we found out what her daughter, Adele said that *she* learned from *her* mother.

Carol: That's right. The first thing Adele said when her mother asked her what she had learned from her was: "If you don't have something nice to say don't say anything at all."

That made Ros laugh, because she can remember saying that a lot, especially when her children were small.

She also said... 'My mom taught me to be adventurous and to be young and curious in spirit.'

She taught me to be kind. And most of all to be yourself – even if I was embarrassed by her in public sometimes!’

She also said, ‘I learned from my mom that people are more important than possessions.’

She said, ‘My mom taught me how to sing in harmony.’ I know they used to sing together. So, that was a good one.

And the last one sort of made me laugh: ‘She taught me how to hang the clothes on the clothesline.’

Tammy: Well it’s important to hang the clothes straight and not crumpled, so they dry properly!!

So Adele’s mom taught her to be herself – and that people are more important than things! That’s good.

Carol: We’re together on Women of Hope and today we’re sharing what some daughters have learned from their mothers. I hope you’re enjoying hearing from these grown up daughters.

If you’re a daughter listening, maybe you can think about what you’ve learned from *your* mother – and what you would like *your daughter* to learn from *you* when you’re a mother.

Lois has a daughter, Rachel. Let’s hear what Rachel said she learned from her mother.

Tammy: Rachel said, ‘Mom taught me about morals and values particularly during my teenage years as I was growing as a Christian woman.

She showed me her love of hospitality and always welcomed people into our home - big groups, families, couples and singles and my friends.

I have developed this love of hospitality and we welcome many people into *our* home now. When we moved to another city our openness meant that we made so many friends.’

Carol: That’s a very good lesson for us all isn’t it? If we have an open home and welcome people, we will make friends. Have you noticed how many of the daughters have said that their mothers loved to invite people into their homes? And isn’t it a good thing that it seems to pass on down to the daughters!

What a wonderful world it would be if all daughters learned from their mothers to open their homes to other people.

Tammy: That’s very true Carol. And Rachel said some more interesting things...

‘Mom has a different perspective on life because we have different personalities. When we talk about problems and challenges I face, mom always helps me see things from another point of view.’

Rachel went on to say, ‘Mom taught me about discipline and focus in my teaching studies and in my work. I tend to be a bit “free ranging” and my mom has taught me to be more focused and organized.’

Carol: Wow – that is a good thing. I’d like my daughter to say I taught her to be focused and organized – wouldn’t you?

Tammy: Are you enjoying hearing what these daughters have learned from their mothers today on Women of Hope? I am! Maybe it's time to get a fresh cup of tea and make yourself comfortable as we listen to some more.

Carol: Now here's another person you've heard often on Women of Hope – Fran.

She asked her daughter, Kate, the same question – what did you learn from me as you were growing up? Kate had quite a lot to say.

Firstly she talked about the *practical* things. Fran is a very practical person – and very artistic. She makes and alters her own clothes. So let's hear what her daughter Kate said:

'My mom taught me sewing - how to thread a needle, hand stitch, hem, sew on buttons and use a sewing machine.

She taught me drawing - perspective, and how to really look at things.

She loves her garden so she taught me how to prune and water, and care for the plants.

Tammy: My, what a practical person our Fran is!

Carol: She certainly is, but that's not all she taught her daughter.

Kate told us what her mother taught her about how to live life. She said, 'My mother taught me to give away money to poor and suffering people and not just little amounts. She told me to always help people. She taught me that when you have worries or problems, the best thing is to pray about it. She told me, "Life isn't fair - but you should be."

Tammy: I like that – and it's so true. Instead of feeling sorry for ourselves we should make sure we treat others fairly.

Carol: And this is a good one: 'There's never any excuse to be unkind to anyone, or look down on them.' That's so true. We wish everyone thought the same way.

And Fran taught Kate: 'Making money isn't important, and having nice things isn't important. Doing the right thing is the only really important thing.

Tammy: These are great things to learn from your mom aren't they? Have you noticed that most of the daughters have also talked about putting other people first?

Carol: And finally Kate told us what her mother taught her about being a woman was this...

'You should try to look nice and wear flattering clothes. After you get married it's good to dress attractively for your husband, but not to make other men look at you.'

Tammy: Now that's very important – to look attractive only for your husband, and not for other men!

Carol: We're so glad you could join us today as we hear from a bunch of daughters – and what they have learned from their mothers.

Tammy: I can just picture a 'bunch' of daughters looking like a bunch of beautiful flowers!!

Another person we hear from sometimes is Carol's friend Stevie. Carol, would you tell us what Stevie said?

Carol: Sure. Stevie said...

'My Mom taught me to do whatever I could do for myself. You see, you might remember that I have a disability, called cerebral palsy. I don't have complete control over the movements of my body. I have some difficulty walking and talking, and there are some little tasks that I really can't do for myself.

When I was very little, Mom took me to therapists who helped me to do exercises that would make my body stronger, and to help my mouth and tongue to move better, so that I could speak more clearly.

Mom helped me with the things I couldn't do, but she let me do what I *could* do. She encouraged me to be independent. I'm so grateful for that because now I can do most things for myself. I went to a regular school and a regular college, and now I enjoy working and I love to write.'

Tammy: Stevie writes beautiful poetry. Her mind is very active even if her body won't do the things she wants. And she prays a lot. She loves God and she prays for other people. She prays for us and she prays for you.

Carol: Guess what Tammy? It's now your turn! I talked to Tammy's daughter and I'd like to tell you what *she* said about her mom. Her name is Rachel and she is the mother of two young boys.

Are you ready Tammy?

Tammy: Ok. I think I can be.

Carol: Rachel told me, 'When we were growing up, our home was a place where we could find refuge. A place where we could be protected from the world and its dangers and judgments.

It was a place where we could be comfortable being ourselves. A place where we were accepted and loved.

She said, 'My mom taught me that the home was an important thing to build and protect.'

It sounds like your daughter felt very safe at home, Tammy. That's really good.

But not everyone feels safe at home. We really feel for you if you don't feel safe in your home, and we pray that you will be able to find safety. We pray too that God will take care of you.

Tammy: We often pray for you that God will provide what you need and that he will show you his love and peace in your life and give you hope.

Now Carol, it's time for me to share what *your* daughter, Katie told *me*. Katie is in her 30s and single. She works not far away so she still sees her mom quite often. I love some of the things Katie told me that she learned from her mother. Here we go... Carol do you have your tissue ready?

She said, 'I learned that with a little imagination, the smallest of everyday things can become part of a magical world that you can create for yourself.'

Carol, did she have a good imagination?

Carol: Oh my, she did. She was always creating stories and dragging her little brother on adventures.

Tammy: Now I really like this...

‘You will always feel better if you get your work done before you play.’

That is a great principle for anyone to live by. And I’m sure we can enjoy our times of relaxing so much better when we have our work done.

And another one: ‘Know when you need to rest.’ She also said, ‘If you have the right attitude, work can be made fun.’ I’m sure that not all work can be fun – but it’s a good way to look at things isn’t it? – to try to get enjoyment out of what you can.

Katie has learned a lot from you Carol about work and having a good attitude to work.

Carol: I guess it’s always been important to me. I’m glad she has learned those things.

Tammy: And here’s something else she said, just like we’ve heard from most of the other daughters: ‘Taking care of others and serving them is a joyful and satisfying experience.’ And a thought about family life: ‘the bond and trust within a family is sacred and to be guarded lovingly.’ What do you think she means by this Carol?

Carol: I tried to teach our family to care for each other, and to respect secrets and weaknesses. And to always be there for one another.

Tammy: And your daughter has learnt some important spiritual truths from you too. She said, ‘You can talk to God in an intimate way, the way you would to a family member or loved one.’ And that’s right – you don’t need special words. And the last one: ‘When you put your faith in Jesus you can be secure – forever.’

Carol: Katie knows that God’s word says, in John Chapter 5, verse 24 (NLT): ‘I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life.’

Tammy: You know, in God’s word, in the book of Proverbs, wise old King Solomon said: Start children off on the way they should go and when they are old they will not turn from it’ (Proverbs 22:6 NIV).

All these daughters have said that they still do things that they learned from their mothers as they grew up.

Carol: In God’s word it tells us that long ago, God spoke to his people about his laws and his promises. He told the people to obey his commands. And he said: ‘Be careful never to forget what you yourself have seen. Do not let these memories escape from your mind as long as you live! And be sure to pass them on to your children and grandchildren.’ (Deuteronomy 4:9 NLT)

We need to bring up our daughters – and our sons – to know and love God.

Tammy: We have to go now. Thank you for sharing this time with us. If you would like to tell us something that your daughter has learned from you, or ask any questions, you can contact us at this station or at Women of Hope.... The email address is: TWRwomenofhope@twr.org.

That's TWRWomenofhope@twr.org.

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