

If I Were a Mum

Vox Pop

Announcer: *If you were a Mum for a day, what would you do?*

"I would be really nice, and I would help out my kids."

"I would take my car to school and I would give them lots of treats."

"Probably go out to Pilates."

"I'd probably let myself watch TV all day."

"If I was a mum for the day, I'd get all the kids to tidy the house and cook the dinner and drop people off and pick them up again and just enjoy the fact that I didn't have to do anything for once."

"I think I'd find something nice to do."

Announcer: *Hi this is Messages of hope and I'm Tania Nelson. Mothers play such an important role in the world, and in most of our lives. Whether we see them often, or not at all, they shape a lot of who we grow up to be. Today, we chat to people from all walks of life about what they love about their Mum.*

"I love that my mum is so faithful and patient with me and with my kids."

"I love how kind she is to us and how nice she is. She sometimes helps me out."

"I remember her being a loving mum, telling me how much she loved me."

"I like my mum because she's fun."

"What do I love about my mum? I love that she still gives me hair tickles and I'm a grown woman. That's a bit embarrassing."

"I love about my mum, how she's nice, she's kind, and she gives me things."

"She helps me a lot in tricky things and praises me for a lot of things that I do."

"One of the things that's special about my mum is that she cooks. Not just the dinner and stuff, but cakes and biscuits and stuff all the time. There's always some sort of freshly baked something in the house. And she's also taught myself and my brother how to cook as well and we really enjoy doing that."

"I really love my mum because she's always there to assist me doing schoolwork and will listen to me if I have any concerns or troubles."

"She's always been a very kind person and would help people – go out of her way to help."

"She will get down to the heart of what's going on and relate to it with her own experiences. She's also really smart. She encourages me in whatever career I take."

"When I'm feeling sick or sad, she helps me."

"She gives us food and she likes cats."

"I love how supportive my Mum is through thick and thin. And she's always there with a cuddle or a joke."

"Well, I loved the fact that my mother was such a fun person. She was always looking for the good in not only people but also in situations and making the best of a bad lot, if you like."

Announcer: *What do you like to do with your mum?*

"I like playing with her. Maybe just hugging."

"We draw together even though she's not a very good drawer."

"I like to just spend time with her and just chat and talk about my day."

"I like to go bike riding with my mum. I like to go to a river. I really like going to a pub because it's really nice talking to her and just having a nice time while eating."

"I tend to mostly talk with my mum. She doesn't like a lot of the things I do. Like sports and football, but she's good to talk to."

"We chat and chat and chat. That's really fun."

"We usually do art together."

"I love doing a bit of a jigsaw with mum."

"Probably cooking was my favourite thing to do with my mother."

"I like walking with her and playing games with her. I like reading books to her as well."

"Now when we go to visit her, we have a game of Scrabble or do a crossword or something like that. And sometimes she'll do a couple of words and then go to sleep."

Announcer: *What do you think is the hardest thing your mum has had to do?*

"Work. She works a lot."

"I think look after us. It's one of the hardest things because she has to buy stuff for us and do things for us. Maybe take risks to get enough money to help us."

"My mum spent some time as a single mum, and I'm sure that was incredibly challenging."

"Probably go to the very long work meetings."

"I think one of the hardest things that mums have to do is keep chugging along, even if their world is pretty hectic. It's, I guess, a job that they don't really get a day off from."

"Looking back, the hardest thing my mother had to do was learn to live the life that she was given. She married my father after meeting him and knowing him only for two weeks. And they were both in the army. And Mum caught the train to the small country town when she was able to leave the army and already she was pregnant with my sister. And when she arrived, she realised that she would be living with my father's parents and brothers and sisters. And Mum had no idea when she married Dad that it would be like that. And so, I think it would have been really, really hard to start a life leaving her family."

"Children can be very tough. They can be trying. They have their own problems and issues that you as a parent try to solve for them, but you can't always. So that is frustrating. And also finding that line between how much you do for them and how much you let them discover on their own is tricky."

"She has to let go of the dreams she thought she would be happy by."

"I think coping without a partner from the age of 50 and totally had to change her life. She'd been the pastor's wife, and everything revolved around the church. And all of a sudden, she had to learn to drive, get a job, buy a house and do everything by herself. But it made it her very independent. And she always said, "I'll never get married again!""

Announcer: *How have you seen faith play a role in your mum's life, or shape your own?*

"Faith was always part of my childhood growing up. We would go to church every week and even just have chats about faith and about God and about how it all works. And absolutely, to her credit, she never pretended that she had all the answers because, you know, when you're a kid, you always think that your parents absolutely have to know everything because they're adults. And then you become an adult and you realise that actually, just like them, we don't have all the answers. But Mum would often be very happy just sort of sitting in the mystery with us as kids."

"My own mum, her church has just been the most important thing in her life. And whether it's about her specifically as a mum or just a woman of the faith, a child of God, her friends and her community have helped her so much. And through thick and thin, they've been there for her. So, they've been a wonderful support and she definitely couldn't have done it without them."

"My mum has had a massive impact on my faith; realising that you can't do everything yourself and you have to rest in God and let that be enough."

"Well my mother actually became a Christian after I became a Christian and I think that played a big part in her life in especially keeping her grounded and hopes for the future."

Announcer: *How do you know your mum loves you?*

"I just know. I mean, it's obvious from the things that she does for me and says to me."

"I know that my mum loves me because she's willing to spend about an hour with me every night chatting about random topics in life, such as schoolwork or how an assignment has really been stressing me out and just stay there when I say "don't go yet"."

"Well, she praises me, and she always prays for me every night, I just know that."

"Thinking about it now? I don't really know that she ever told me, but maybe she did. But just the way her affection towards me, she was always there for me, prepared meals,

tucked me into bed at night, always seemed to read me a story and say my bedtime prayers, which I still remember to this very day."

"She tells us all the time. And it's funny because I can't recall her doing that when we were young. And it's not like now with people, they end of phone calls with "I love you." And parents didn't do that. But now she always says, "Thank you so much for coming to see me." And, you know, she's always very loving."

"My mum loves to cook things, and she makes beautiful meals or bakes, and she always has a huge smile on her face and give me a big hug."

"She will schedule in her year time to spend with each of her children individually."

"Because she helps me and says that she loves me a lot."

"Sometimes my mum lies next to me in bed."

"She hugs me, and every night she says, I love you."

"I know that my mum loves me because she does wonderful things for me. She serves me."

"I always felt very safe with my mother. And I knew that she loved me because she always wanted the best for me."

"It's just a feeling. It's kind of like the feeling that God exists. So, I know that she loves me, but sometimes she doesn't show it. Sometimes she's a little strict, but she still loves me. She does it for my own good."

Announcer: *Not everyone has had a mother or parents that care for them, but God cares and loves us so much more than a mother can. In the Bible, Jesus talks about gathering people like a mother hen gathers her chickens.*

God shows love like mothers do. God wants to spend time with us – wants us to chat to him and to hear how we're feeling. God comforts us. He tells us he loves us. God's proud of the little things we do. He's happy when we're happy. And God wants what's best for us. And just like mothers often do, Jesus gave up a comfortable life to give us life. And we can find hope that he's reaching out his arms to embrace us.

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