

Introduction



Ever heard the classic line, “Just you wait”?

“Just you wait until they’re teenagers” (from another mom with older kids).

“Just you wait until they move away and leave you all alone” (from the elderly lady at the grocery store).

“Just you wait until they’re just as much trouble for you as you were for your mother” (from Great-Aunt Bertha at your family reunion).

Whether it’s because someone sees you struggling (and feels compelled to let you know it only gets worse) or sees you enjoying yourself (and “needs” to let you know it won’t last), those three words can put such a damper on the emotions and motivation of moms who sometimes are wondering if they’ll make it through bedtime—never mind tackling whatever parenting horrors people keep telling them are lurking around the bend in a few years.



Video Link



“Maybe,” you think, “all of this effort isn’t worth it. Maybe it’s all an exercise in futility. Maybe I don’t have what it takes.”

What if I told you there is a different narrative about motherhood to be found in the pages of God’s Word—one that offers hope, genuine help, and a rock-solid assurance of the worthiness of this calling to invest in eternal souls?

In this study guide, you’ll find practical action steps, thought-provoking questions, a handy chart breaking down the dichotomy of a worldly mindset about “worth it” versus a biblical one, space to record your thoughts, and even a format that will enable you to transform this from a time of personal reflection into a group study if you feel so led. I’ve also provided a QR code to allow access to accompanying video content from me for each chapter. This is the ideal companion to the book and study guide to help you take these truths to heart.

Mamas, even if you do encounter some of the struggles so many are eager to warn you about, the good news is that you will be in good company, and you’ll have Jesus as your model and Scripture as your guide. Plus, after reading this book, I have a feeling you’ll know exactly what to say to the next person who asks (either implied or outright), “Are you *sure* all this effort in motherhood is *really* worth it?”

CHAPTER 1

An Eternal Investment



This very first chapter explores themes of expectation and regret—the expectations we have for motherhood, the expectations the world places on us, and the regret we’re told we’ll feel in “losing ourselves” to motherhood.

It can feel like we’re being bombarded with messages telling us we’re not cut out for this job. And sometimes we struggle with our own negative thoughts: “This is too hard. I didn’t sign up for this. Someone else could do this better.”

The truth is, if we believe God is sovereign, then we know He has uniquely gifted us with the children in our home and He will uniquely gift us with the capacity to grow in both skills and grace.

The only true regret we need fear is that of losing sight of the privilege it is to shepherd eternal souls.



Video Link



INVESTMENT IN ETERNAL SOULS IS THE
WORTHIEST PURSUIT BEYOND OUR
PRIMARY CALLING TO LOVE GOD
FIRST—IS, IN FACT, A NATURAL OUTFLOW OF
THAT LOVE FOR HIM.



 **The Narrative** 

Read the examples in your book of a worldly view of “worth it” versus a biblical one. Take some time to pray about the areas in which you might be embracing secular priorities, and record them here. Then reflect on what those same scenarios might look like through a lens of biblical truth.

A WORLDLY RESPONSE TO “WORTH IT”	A BIBLICAL RESPONSE TO “WORTH IT”

 **Action Steps** 

Memorize and meditate on Psalm 127:3: “Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD, the fruit of the womb a reward.” One helpful way to memorize Scripture is to start by writing it down.

Make a list of three regrets in motherhood. Make a list of three things you enjoy most about motherhood.

Things I regret:

1.

2.

3.

❖❖ Reflection Questions ❖❖

Do your lists of regrets and enjoyments in motherhood most closely align with the “worldly” or the “biblical” category in our narrative?

Are you more prone to want to go the extra mile for “neighbors” outside your home than the ones who live with you? Why or why not?

What is your daily motherhood mindset? One of investing in eternity, one of surviving the day, or something else entirely?

★ ★ Group Discussion Questions ★ ★

If someone asked you right now in your motherhood journey, “Is everything you do for your family worth it?”—what would you say?

What are the three main factors that influence the way you answered the question above?

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

What example did your own parents set for you of an attitude of “regretful” or “worth it” in parenting?

When you think of “living for eternity,” how does that phrase affect your mindset about serving your family and the value of investing in your children?

What are three things you never regret doing for or with your kids?

1.

2.

3.



Prayer



Lord, help us to recognize the attitude we are to emulate when Jesus says, “Let the little children come to Me.” May we recognize and value the eternal investment opportunities inherent to raising children, rather than focusing only on the messy or inconvenient aspects of their care. Amen.