

MESSAGE TRANSCRIPT //

MOTHER'S DAY 2022

AARON BROCKETT + MADDIE WENTZ | MAY 8, 2022

It's so good to be with all of you today. Just want to welcome everybody gathering across all of our physical locations and anybody joining us online.

What we want to do right now across all of our locations, could we just put our hands together and show some love for our moms joining us today. Love you all and appreciate you so much. And I think every day should be Mother's Day.

I remember when I was a little kid walking into church with my mom on Mother's Day, I said, "Why do you get a special day? When is it going to be kid's day?" And she was like, "Every day is kid's day."

So I just want to celebrate all of the moms joining us. I also just want to acknowledge that I know that this day can be challenging for any number of people for a variety of reasons. I know that many of you are here today, and you no longer have your mom with you. Maybe you no longer have your kids with you. Maybe you would really love to be a mom and it's just not unfolded for you in that way. God just hasn't had that plan for your life to this point.

I just want to let you know that we see you and as a church family I just want to acknowledge that grief and that pain that you are walking through and to let you know that we are specifically praying for those of you who are walking through that today.

I wanted to have just a special conversation today on Mother's Day. So I asked a friend of mine if she would be willing to come and join me on stage and just have a conversation about motherhood and her faith and what God is doing in her life.

She graciously said, "Yes." So today Maddie Wentz is going to join me out on this platform. For those of you who do not know who she is, Maddie is married to Carson Wentz who is an NFL quarterback. He played for the Philadelphia Eagles, played for the Colts, and now he's going to be playing for the Washington Commanders. So would you please, across all of our campuses, would you put your hands together and give a warm Traders Point welcome for Maddie Wentz?

Aaron

Well, Maddie, thanks so much for being willing to come on Mother's Day, so happy Mother's Day to you.

Maddie

Thank you. I appreciate that.



Aaron

For those who may not know who you are, or your story, just tell us a little bit about who you are.

Maddie

Yeah, I'll give you a little intro. My husband is Carson. He is a NFL quarterback. We started out in Philly and New Jersey. We were here last year. Loved our time here. And now we actually just finished moving to Virginia. So we're back for the weekend. We celebrated our daughter's second birthday yesterday. We have two girls; one is two and one is six months. And life is busy. We're in the thick of it. That's a little bit about me.

I actually grew up in Lexington, so not too far from here. Had my family close, any Kentucky people here? Awesome. That's a little bit about my back story.

Aaron

Well, I know you and Carson moved to Indy a little over a year ago—the first time we got introduced. It's just been great to get a chance to get to know you guys a little bit. In fact, we grabbed a picture of your family. Just give us some introductions here.

Maddie

Oh my goodness. Yeah, we actually realized in first service this morning that he and his wife, Lindsay, were actually over the first time our daughter took steps.

Aaron

I'd like to think it was a pastoral blessing for your house—just helped her walk.

Maddie

Yeah, so my husband, Carson, he's amazing. He's sitting right in the front down here. Couldn't do motherhood without him, he's a great dad. Hudson is the one he is holding. She's six months old, almost. And then Hadley is our two-year-old. She is very spunky, sassy. I've told everyone that if you've had her in Children's Ministry you probably heard her loud singing, dancing, whatever. She's spunky so we have a lot of fun.

Super busy. But it's a joy being their mom.

Aaron

The two girls, how are they different and how are they alike?

Maddie

It's interesting. Hudson's personality is just starting to come out, but I don't know, they were both like super smiley.

Aaron

They get that from you. Carson has a nice smile as well. I don't want to take that away.

Maddie

So Hudson has been a little more personal touch. I can tell she likes to be held more. Hadley was always like, "I'm good. Let me go." That's a difference, but it's hard to tell when they are so young. So we'll see. It's fun.

Aaron

Yeah, you'll figure that out. Wait till they are teenagers.

Maddie

Oh, gosh. Yeah. I know. That's what my husband says all of the time. It's like, "When they are both in high school, that will be your time to shine." So, we'll see.

Aaron

So, Lexington is where you came from originally. Tell us just a little bit about the family that you grew up in.

Maddie

For sure. I grew up in Lexington not too far from here. I actually grew up in a household where my parents were divorced. And I always kind of viewed that as a negative thing. I would look to other families and just think like, "Oh, man. They are all so perfect." And, "Why is my family the one that is messed up?" But I've truly seen God just use that in ways that I would never imagine. And I've been able to walk through a lot of life with people who have had the same situation.

So, I remember vividly a moment in Haiti when God brought it full circle for me. I was in Haiti in the summers and just kind of in a circle of kids and they were all coming from single parent homes, and it was at that moment when God kind of spoke to me and said, "Hey, you went through this so that you can impact them."

So ever since then I've shifted my perspective and just continue to ask God, "What do You have for me in this and how can I walk this with other people?" So, it really has just been a blessing as I have shifted my perspective and invited God in, just to see the redemption of that.

Aaron

How old were you when they got divorced?

Maddie

I was six years old, so pretty young.

Aaron

You have two sisters?

Maddie

Two sisters, yeah. One is two years older and the oldest is six years older.

Aaron

How did that impact you all as young girls?

Maddie

I mean I think for each of us it was probably a little different. I was very young, so I feel like I have a vague memory of it. My older sisters were definitely affected a little bit more. But I think growing up when you're splitting time between two homes, it's a lot on a kid going back and forth. I mean, now my parents get along fine, it's great, but there was a lot of divide and I feel like navigating that as a kid was kind of confusing in a way. But I also have just seen that God has totally redeemed relationships in my family, so it's been really cool at the same time.

Aaron

Yeah. So at what age did you give you give your life to Jesus? When did that come into the equation? Was that before the divorce or after?

Maddie

That was after, for sure. So we actually grew up going to church. And I think growing up, maybe a lot of you can relate to this, it was kind of something we did. So I would just go, and it was great. I think I know Jesus. I'm singing the songs. Going to youth group. And I'm like, "This is fun." And I feel like youth group in high school was more like socialization until I started to get to the end of high school.

I actually interned in student ministry at our home church in Lexington and I had a mentor. Her name is Mallory. And she was the first person to really invest in me and hold me accountable to everything. So, she'd have me do a devo every day I came in. It was the first time I was consistent with the word. And just really owning my faith on my own, not being my parents or anyone else's, but really taking that step for myself.

So she kind of helped me see how I needed to accept God as my personal Savior, not my parents know Him, so I know Him. That's when I first initially invited Jesus into my life. And I'm still growing every day and learning and being challenged. Some days I struggle. So, it's an every day journey. But I would definitely say high school was the turning point.

Aaron

Your senior year?

Maddie

Yeah.

Aaron

Me too in a lot of ways. I grew up in church and I really resonate with that. I don't remember a time where my family didn't attend church. It was just like what we did. There are many blessings that came with that, but the challenge with that is that you sort of almost slip into autopilot. And you're like, "Oh, this is all I've ever known." And I'd not really come to grips with my own personal decision around this. So it was my senior year in high school as well.

So, I know you had a great church background there, especially toward the latter end of high school. I appreciate that you mentioned your mentor who walked with you through that.

But then you graduated high school and then you went to Bible college.

Maddie

Are we going to bring this up again?

Aaron

This is where there is a little bit of similarity here. So you moved to my hometown, actually. Tell us a little bit about that. Why would you do that?

Maddie

I'm not going to skip this part. We went to the same school. He went there way before I was there. He's trying to just move past that, but we're going to just....

Aaron

It's just that every time you bring it up you have to mention that. I don't know why. It was just 20 years.

Maddie

I can't skip over it. I know.

But, yes, I went to the same place. And if you know anything about Joplin, Missouri, there is only one thing to do. You go to the falls, am I right?

Aaron

The falls. They don't even know what we are talking about.

Maddie

Yeah, so there is basically nothing to do there. So how God got me there I'm like, "I don't know." I still am like, "Thank you." But my original plan—my plan—was to go to Ole Miss and then once I was working with my mentor my senior year things just started to shift in me and I felt God calling me to do something different.

We actually had a student from Ozark Christian College there at the time and he had been saying, "Just check it out. Just check it out." So I finally ended up doing that and I knew when I was on the campus that that was exactly where I was supposed to be and that is where God was calling me. And that, I truly believe just changed the trajectory of my life.

I know God would have still worked in and through me if I went to Ole Miss, but I truly believe that's what He had in store for me. That is ultimately what led me to Haiti and to my husband. So, yeah, it was a really unexpected story, but it is just kind of how it happened.

Aaron

I think it was Oswald Chambers who said, "God redirects our paths in Bible college," which is kind of an interesting phenomenon. Well, I know that when you and Carson first moved to Indy—I don't think I ever told you this, but the President of Ozark Christian College texted me and he said, "Hey, Carson's wife, Maddie, attended Ozark." Here's what he said, "She's the real deal." So I was like, "Alright. Looking forward to meeting her and having her make fun of my age."

Maddie

Perfect. Yeah.

Aaron

But you didn't graduate from Bible college, you then transferred to Missouri Southern State University, right?

Maddie

Yeah, I went to Missouri Southern for a little bit and then transferred home to UK. So, I was working in Haiti in the summers. I would live there for like three months at a time. Ozark from Kentucky was about 10 hours away. And there was just a lot going on in our family so I kind decided to move back home to be closer to family. So ended up there.

I feel like we were talking through it this morning, but my mom and I actually are best friends now, which is crazy. But God has done a work in our relationship because we weren't as close when I was younger. You've probably seen her around here at times because she is with us all of the time. She is my best friend.

But all that to say, I just want to encourage anyone who is out there who maybe has a broken relationship with their mom, or you are a mom and you have a broken

relationship with your daughter or son, don't be discouraged. I remember... I know my mom had always been praying for us and just relationships in her life. And I feel like it takes the same from both sides to kind of breakthrough. But if you're willing to do that, God can really have a reconciliation story for you.

Aaron

That is such a good word. And I know you just blessed a bunch of people by saying that. So, thank you.

So you worked summers in Haiti, so did you relocate there full-time?

Maddie

I did not live there full-time. I was only there in the summers for three to four months at a time when I was in college.

Aaron

So, you're in Haiti. You're doing God's work. And some tall redhead shows up on the scene. So tell us a little bit about how you and Carson met and how all of that went down. The kind of advice your dad gave you, all the fun stuff. All of the details.

Maddie

So the reason he points out my husband is a redhead is that I said, and this was when I was younger, early college, I had said, "I will never date a redhead. I will never date an athlete. And I will never move more north." So you see where we ended up. So all of those things happened. So never say never.

But, yes, God always has different plans. So, I worked for Missions of Hope, an organization in Haiti. And I would lead churches that came in. So if you came in I would lead you throughout the village. And then my last summer I was doing more logistics in the office working directly with the mission people.

So my husband came down with our pastor from New Jersey and a few teammates. And we actually met there. I was leading a tour. Just kind of giving vision about the campus. And at the end of the tour we met, started talking, and he can tell his side of the story one day.

Aaron

Oh, I've heard. I've heard.

Maddie

He was very persistent. If you know him, he is very persistent. So he pretty much knew I was going to be his wife that day. I did not.

Aaron

Did you pull the “God told me”? Did you say that?

Maddie

No, I did not. He did have confirmation from God that day, but he did not tell me until after we were married.

So, it was good. He is incredible. He did send me flowers on my birthday after we had met. And that kind of creeped me out. So we pumped the brakes a little bit until I got home from the summer. I really just wanted to focus on my work there.

But when I got back I pretty much knew that was who God had for me as my husband. So, we pretty much started dating.

The funny part about that is that my dad worked with athletes when I was growing up and he had always told me, “Never date an athlete.” So that’s where that one came from. But, he’s incredible. There are a lot of amazing athletes out there. So kind of a funny little side note.

Aaron

Yes, we’ll get into some of the dynamics of being an athlete’s wife here in just a little bit. So I know one of the things that I really, really respect about you, Maddie, is just how grounded you are, how real you are, and your humility. So I know that several months ago when I reached out to you and said, “Hey, would you consider coming and sharing on Mother’s Day?” I just loved your response.

And oftentimes I’ll pay attention to the way that people respond. If they jump too quickly I’m like, “Oh, they want the platform too much.” Or, if they are like, “No, no, no, I could never do that...”

But your response was perfect. You just said, “Can I pray about it?” And I just thought, “Wow, absolutely.” So I think that you were just very calculated, very measured, very prayerful in wanting to come and share.

And I love your humility because the thing you said back to me was, you said, “Well, Aaron, I’m such a young mom. I’m so inexperienced. What could I say that would be helpful to all of the ladies in the room?”

And I really, really appreciate your humility and your self-awareness in all of that. And I think that is part of what gives you the voice and the platform that you have because you recognize the season of life that you are in. You’re young, you know, 20 years younger than me, or whatever. We’re not counting.

But you are in a unique situation in the sense that you married somebody who everybody knows. So I can’t even imagine what that would be like. You’re a young mom. You’re still learning and growing, you know a lot more than you think you know, but you ramp that up by like a million just because all eyes are on you, the spotlight is on you,

the internet has all kinds of fun things and opinions to say about you and your husband. So what is that like for you as a mom?

Maddie

I think personally we really had to remove from all of that. I know nowadays social media is a huge thing. So for our family, we've kind of chosen to unhook so we don't really know a lot of what's going on or what's being said unless someone tells us. That happens a lot.

I think the hardest thing is that I'll naturally hear some things that are said about him or my family that are kind of direct attacks on us as people. And I think that's where I just have to step back and say, "Ultimately, we know that our identity is in Christ," and a lot of stuff comes from the outside from people who don't exactly know us. And I think it's one of those things we say all of the time, "We've just got to let it fall off our shoulders, just let it go."

I do think a lot of the times if we do sit down with people and they can start to understand our life, we really are relatable because we go through the same stuff that everyone goes through, and our life isn't any greater than anyone else's. So I feel like kind of unplugging from social media has truly been a blessing for us.

But also, there is this standard, I guess, an expectation of perfection. Like what people expect me to be. I feel like, I even remember I ran into a high school friend at a wedding a while ago and she was like, "Wow, you haven't changed." And I'm like, "Yeah, I'm the same." But it was weird for me to hear that because I'm like, "I guess that's what people's perception of, 'Oh, you became an NFL wife, and you must be this way.'"

So that was just a reminder for me to just stay the course and be who I've always been. Yeah, it's definitely a struggle. I'm always learning. And this lifestyle comes with a lot of challenges for sure, which I know we'll get in to. But at the same time it's a blessing in a lot of ways.

Aaron

Yeah, absolutely.

I think you bring up an interesting point whether it's the NFL, I think this happens for all of us and I appreciate you saying what you said about social media. I think social media can be a great tool for a lot of things. It can also be really dangerous if we find ourselves on it a lot. We're always sort of presenting the best version of ourselves and then people get this perception that we just must have it all figured out.

And when you say you guys aren't reading what people are saying about you, I believe you. Because halfway through the season, it was a rough week in the media and I reached out to Carson and just said, "Hey, man. Praying for you this week." And he was like, "What are you talking about?" I was like, "Uh, nothing. Just in general."

Maddie

It happens a lot.

Aaron

So, I really, really respect that because I think that there are probably some of us personality types that would be combing through everything people are saying and that's just not healthy.

But I think it brings up a real interesting point, especially when it relates to motherhood. Because ladies, regardless of who they are married to or if they are married or what they do for a living or what their husband does for a living, there is a lot of pressure nowadays. You mentioned it: perfection. To provide for my kids. To be enough for my kids. To almost be perfect for my kids, or for my kids to be perfect and to compete whether at sports or school or whatever.

So speak a little bit to what you feel the pressures are on ladies in particular around motherhood nowadays and then what you're even seeing from some of the other NFL wives that you've had the chance to spend some time with.

Maddie

I think the thing right now is comparison. I think that a lot of that can stem from social media. But even just in general we have so many resources that can be good, but also at the same time can bring struggle as well. So, I know it's just big to compare how long your baby's sleeping, or are they breast fed—it doesn't matter, they are fed—one of those things. But there are always things that we are comparing, and it almost feels like a one-up kind of culture. Like, "Can I do this better? Can I do this better?"

So that's one of the things a few of us, as a group of women, just in a Bible study last year, we talked about, "What can we remove from our lives that kind of feeds the comparison?" And that's different for everyone because what everyone struggles with is different in each lane, so you kind of have to figure it out for yourself, "What's feeding my insecurity?" and just kind of target it from there.

But I would say for sure in this culture right now and just the time we're living in, it's comparison. And I've really seen that eat away at moms, even myself. I see, if I start to get into that, I get discouraged as a mom. And I know, I'm like a great mom. So when I start to get discouraged, I know I'm letting the enemy in, and I know I need to refocus and shift my perspective and ultimately know that God chose me to be Hadley and Hudson's mom and nobody else. And no one can do it better than me.

And if you're a mom in the rooms, He chose you to do the same. And if you're not a mom yet and you want to be and you desire that, God sees you, He knows your cries, He hears you.

Or if you've lost your mom, same thing. I know my mom lost her mom and it's hard not to be able to pick up the phone and call. And I just want you to know that you are seen and that you are loved.

That's something I feel like, as moms, it can often just get tucked under the rug. You're always doing, doing, doing and sometimes a lot goes unseen. But I just want you to know that you are seen. There are so many types of moms. However you got that title, foster mom, whatever it is, just know that you're seen, and you're appreciated, and you're loved.

Aaron

Thank you for that. That is such a good word, such a good word.

This wasn't a question we talked about last hour but I just want to ask you when you hear that phrase: I'm going to find my identity in Christ (and I think what we are talking about insecurities, and loneliness, and comparison a lot of those are identity issues, so oftentimes we'll hear people say, "I find my identity in Christ."), what do you think that means? What do you think it doesn't mean? What's a healthy perspective on identity in Christ?

Maddie

I think really it's a stripping away process. So I always like to start with, "What is it not." It's not comparing myself to people. It's not listening to who others say I am. That's what we get a lot of, what people want to label us as. And I'm like, "That's really not who we are." And so I think it's a stripping away, a pruning process.

So many times throughout Scripture it talks about a refining fire, a process. So I always love to think about my identity in that way. So what is God trying to take away from me to make a better person? And sometimes it is....

We're in the middle of a big transition and it totally caught us off guard. So we're in this season of, "Okay, what is God trying to do?" And we thought we had it all—not all figured out—but we thought God was really using us here and we had big plans for what the next few years were going to look like, and dreams and hopes for our NFL community here in Indy. When that changes it's kind of like, "Okay, what's happening?"

But I think just having your roots deep in knowing who God says you are and in God's promises is so important. And ultimately that comes from the Word. You can't get that anywhere else. So knowing who God says you are—He's called you His beloved, His daughter, you're chosen, you're fearfully and wonderfully made. And that has really impacted me, just knowing I'm nothing anyone else says I am, I'm only who He calls me to be.

Aaron

That's so good, Maddie. Thank you.

So, let's talk about the last few months. I know that it's been challenging, and it's been hard. And I love just how real you've been in all of that. I've had a chance to sit with Carson and talk with him some about it as well. For those of you who don't know, Carson was our quarterback here in Indy for the past year and just got traded a few months ago to Washington. And you just didn't see it coming. You've developed roots here. You've got family and friends here.

So walk us through what that has been like for you and what do you feel... I love what you said about it, it's just that stripping away, as much as we would love it for our character to be shaped on the mountaintops—I think God can do that—but most of the time He's shaping us through challenges, difficulties and this has certainly been challenging. It's been emotional, because it's not just like a trade, there have been attacks on character. So, what is God teaching you right now in this season?

Maddie

I think it has been challenging. I lost control. So if there are any moms out there...

Aaron

Any control freaks out there.

Maddie

Nobody, I'm on my own. Alright, I saw a few. Thank you. I appreciate it. Everyone else, I think you are just lying. No.

Anyway it has been challenging. If you know me, I'm a pretty bubbly person but this past month has probably taken a lot of that out of me to the point where I looked back and I was like, "Whoa, that was a dark place." I remember the song "Same God" that they played in worship this morning came on the weekend we got traded and I couldn't sing it. I just stood back there, and I was listening, but I was crying. And after service I came up to be prayed for.

I knew, I've always known who God is, but sometimes you're in a season where you just can't sing it, or you just don't feel it. And so I was just feeling a huge disconnect and one of my friends said, "Sometimes you just have to sing until you believe it." And that's exactly what I've done.

I was able to stand down here and worship this morning. It still makes me emotional, but I'm on the other side and I've seen God's provision and His faithfulness through this transition. But it's definitely....

I think it's easy for people to look at our family and think, "They have it all together. They have everything they need." And in a lot of ways we do, but at the same time we're human and we have all of the same feelings that everyone else does. And transition

with kids isn't easy. We have a two-year-old and a six-month-old, so it's been hard. And there have been days where I just want to give up. And I'm like, "How in the world am I going to get through this?"

And I've developed a really strong relationship with a lot of the women here in Indy, and it's hard leaving. So, I think it's one of those things where my husband and I were just confused, like, "God, what are You doing?" We thought He'd called us here and we had a lot of confirmation coming here. So, we were just confused.

So, ultimately we've gotten to this point of just saying, "God, we surrender. We trust You and we know ultimately this life is not our own." And it's all for Him and whatever is going to bring glory to His kingdom and draw more people to Him. So we're excited now. We've been meeting some of our teammates there and I already love all of them, which is great.

But needless to say, transition is tough. And I know, as a mom in NFL life or not in NFL life, you're stuck with a lot of the picking up the pieces. And it's a lot. You're constantly getting the kids ready, constantly dragging them everywhere, packing up all of this stuff. Picking up after them. All of the little things that go unseen. I think I struggle with that at times. He gets praised for a Sunday, right?

Aaron

Throwing a ball.

Maddie

Yeah. And there is a lot of negativity all of the time, but he gets a lot of praise, right? And I'm like, "I'm over here trying to get these kids everywhere," and sometimes I just feel a little unseen. And so I feel like if you're a mom, you've probably felt that way at some point, a little unseen, unheard, just not appreciated at times.

So I want to speak to you today and just tell you we see you, we love you, you do more than you know. And that God sees everything. I always have to remind myself that I can't escape from His presence. He's always there. He's always pursuing me. And I want you to know the same. He's always watching over you, He's always with you even when it feels isolating, even when you feel alone—because as moms I know that's a huge feeling that we feel a lot of the times. But just know that He is with you. And when you're discouraged... I oftentimes just pray and ask Him to just comfort me, "God, comfort me because I need You." I think that song is perfect, "My God I Need You." And that has been my anthem lately.

Aaron

I love that so much.

It's been said that character isn't what comes out when everything is going your way, but character is what is revealed when things don't go your way. So I've loved and respected both of you since the time I've gotten the chance to meet you.

Even in just the way that you guys have handled this unexpected transition. Just the mean things that people will say. And just the character, just the fact that you're like, "Hey, God is the same God. I'm going to keep a smile on my face," says so much about who you are. And I can say that for Carson as well. And I just really appreciate that.

I think the thing that stands out to me so much, it's just like this moment in time. Carson got traded on a Wednesday afternoon. And I remember hearing the news. It was the same day of our worship night, if any of you recall that this past spring. And I honestly didn't know if you guys were going to show up. And Carson texted me, "We can't find a place to park."

So you guys came in and I was standing next to you, and it was a rough day. You'd just gotten the news three hours or so before worship night. You guys came and I snapped a quick picture of the two of you worshiping and that says it all. I just love that posture of just recognizing that you just received some really difficult news, and yet you were in the house of the Lord worshiping with His people. Just the surrender that took place there.

So I just want to say just a couple of things to you. First of all, I just want to say that I'm so sorry for the unfortunate things that people say about your husband's occupation in a game. You know, it's a game. And we can get so wrapped up in that.

I was talking to Carson about this before. He's so quick to deflect a lot of that stuff too. But every single one of us in our occupations.... We all have good and bad days in our occupations, the big difference is that we don't have the whole world doing commentary on it like it's just one continued, "Hey, replay that. Replay that bill you forgot to pay, over and over and over again."

So, I just want to thank you guys for the character that you display. You were here in our community as part of the Colts organization for a year, and you guys made a huge impact. And I think that the attack is only a sign of the fact of who you guys are in Christ.

And I don't want to over-spiritualize it or say that there's a demonic thing, but I do think there is an enemy who really despises that. So he really churns all of that stuff up.

To me it just feels unprecedented. So that just shows that you're a threat to hell and God is proud of you. I just want to honor you. Thank you guys. You really are—you guys are the real deal and I appreciate it.

One last question here. I'm really interested in this one because I am a husband to a mom and I have a mom, what types of things can we as guys do to stay out of trouble, to bless you, how can we serve you? What are the things that we do poorly? What are the things that we do well? Encourage us a little bit. I want to do things better.

Maddie

I've got this. My husband is intently listening.

I do think men are quick to want to fix things. I've noticed that in my husband. And I think the consensus from a lot of my friends, their husbands are the same way. And I think that can be good at times, but sometimes we just want to be heard, like, "Just listen to me. I don't always need a resolution or a *fix it* to the problem. I just want you to sit with me and listen." So I think that just like feeling supported and encouraged in that way is a great way to love on the women around you.

And I think just, yeah, being a mom sometimes is hard. It can be draining. It can be discouraging when you pour your whole life into tiny human and then they just throw something at you. You know it's like, "Man, I work so hard. I try to be so gracious. And I try to get on your level and really make sure you understand." And it's not reciprocated. So I think it can just get discouraging, right? It can kind of create this weary soul, where it's just like exhaustion.

So I think that, as a man in the room, just bringing life back into the women around you, just speaking encouragement, in a voice that's just, "Hey, you're really good at this." Yeah, just a voice of hope and love and encouragement, really. I do think that is lacking today. I think, yeah, just continue to encourage, and love on the women around you and just always make sure to build them back up because it is hard work being a mom, I truly think that is one of the hardest things.

Aaron

Yeah, amen.

Well, that is such a good word of encouragement. We hear that and we receive it. I'll try to do better so thanks.

Well, what I want to do... Maddie, first of all thank you so much. I know you're a mom, it's Mother's Day, you've given up some precious, precious time to actually come and to invest in us and encourage us, so I just want to thank you for everything you've said and everything you've shared with us today.

What I want to do is ask Maddie if she would just pray over us as a church family, specifically for the moms and the ladies joining us today. And then I'm going to pray for Maddie. So let's pray together.

Maddie

God, we just thank You just for this moment, God. We just thank You for all of the people who are in the room. God, I thank You that they chose to even come today. God, I just thank you for this safe space that Traders Point is and just that people are able to just come here and gather each week.

God, we thank You for Your grace. We thank You just for the life that is possible in You, God. That You give us our identity and that comes from no one but You, God.

And I just want to specifically pray for all of the moms in the room. We know that there are some people out there who are just struggling with infertility, or maybe have had miscarriages, or whatever it is, God, I pray that You will just be a comfort to their hearts right in this moment, God. That You'll just shower them with love, God. We thank You that You are capable of miracles. So we just speak to their wounds, God. We just pray that You will make a way, God. Because only You can do that. We just pray that You will make a way when there is no way. And we thank You for that.

We thank You for all of the moms in the room who are just weary, God. Who have just invested everything in their kids and maybe have a child who has wandered or is just having a hard time in motherhood, God. I pray that You would just speak hope into their hearts, God. That You will restore their faith. That You will restore their love for their kids. And just give them a passion to be a mom again, God.

And we just thank You for anyone who is here who has experienced loss or is an adoptive mom or a foster mom, God. I just thank You for how You design us so uniquely, God, how You've created us all to do something incredible. And I thank You just for what You're doing. So, I just pray for all of the women that You will just continue to encourage their hearts. Raise them up.

And we thank You for all the women who are raising up the next generation, God. What a gift it is to be able to raise up the next generation and just kids who will run after You, God. So, I just pray that. We pray over our kids that they will be a generation who will seek You seriously and we just thank You, God, for all that You are doing.

We pray that all the moms will feel loved, seen, celebrated, and just adored today, God. It's in Your name we pray.

Aaron

Father, I just want to lift up Maddie to You today. Thank You for who she is and for how You've gifted her. God, I know that her words impacted many people today. And I just ask that they would feel encouraged and identified with just through the common struggles that we all have in life.

And, Lord, I know that the last few months have been a real challenge for Maddie and Carson. And I thank You for the way that they have received unexpected news, for their character that has been on display, and how they've chosen to represent You so well in the midst of an experience that few of us will ever have.

So, God, I just pray that today she would get more out of what she's given to us. And as she leaves today she would feel the closeness of Your presence more than ever. That You really are the same God, and that You're going to continue to tell a story through her life as You've been doing for years.

God, I just ask that You would give her an extra measure of Your grace and Your peace and Your love. That You would expand her capacity as a mom to love her daughters really well, to love Carson really well, and to reach out to the people that she'll cross paths with in a new place.

And this wasn't something that they would have chosen for themselves, but I'm confident that in the near future they are going to look back and see Your hand all over it. That there was a reason behind it and that what the enemy meant for evil, You can turn for good.

So, God, I just ask that she would know that her church family is rallying around her and Carson and their family. We love them and care for them and are praying for them. And I just pray that whatever is around the corner that You'd prepare her feet for it so that she's stays steady in that.

So, we thank You for the Father that You are to serve us in the midst of our needs and our challenges. We ask this in Jesus' name. and everybody said: Amen.

Would you please give Maddie another thank you? Thank you so much.

Alright, well it was so good to have you with us today. If this was your first time, welcome. Go have an incredible Mother's Day. Enjoy the weather. We will see you back here next week.