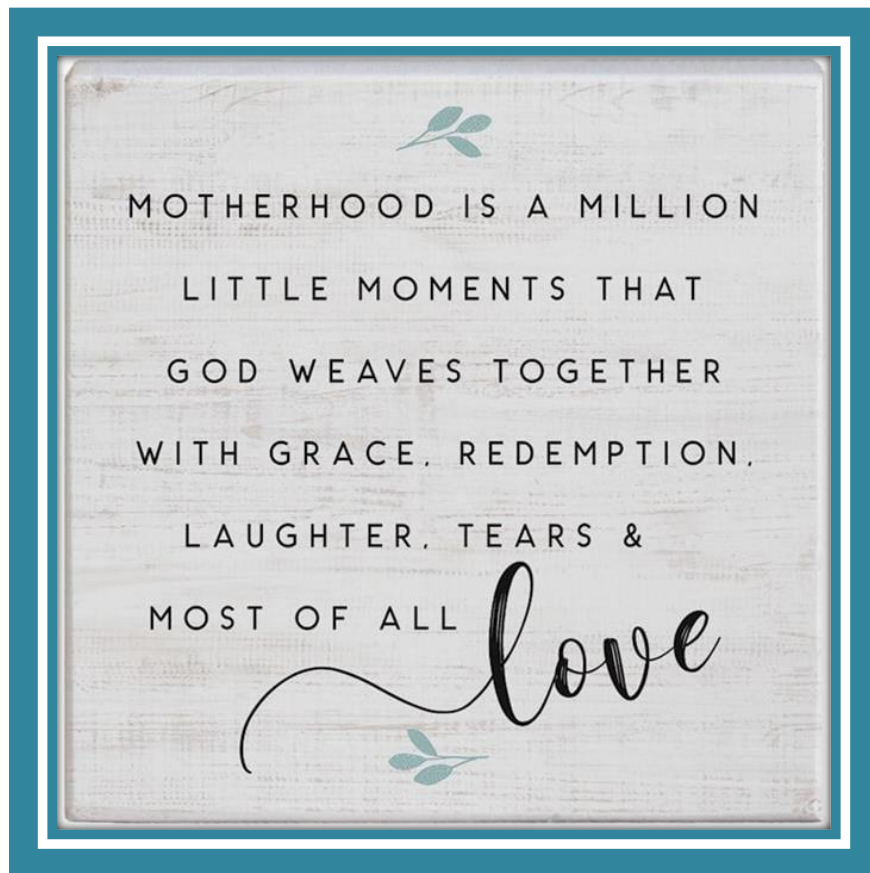


# INNERGLOW

First Reformed Church  
Boyden, IA

LaVonne Sietstra & Teresa Harms, Editors



May 2026



This month's article is entitled "Bible Verses for Parenting." It comes from a Christian blog I often read. I thought it would be a lovely addition to the May Innerglow that celebrates Mother's Day! These verses can also bring peace in all areas of your life, not just with parenting. I pray that you enjoy it. Teresa

## Bible verses for Parenting

Parenting is a journey filled with joy, challenges and growth. Our children are the most important parts of our lives and the process of parenting forms us just as kids are formed by their parents and/or guardians. Every year, (we) conduct a survey asking people to share their favorite Bible verses, which often reflect experiences of parenting. Here are some of the most cherished verses along with heartfelt stories of why they matter to parents (as room allows.)

**John 16:33** "I have told you these things, so that in Me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." (My favorite Bible verse! 😊)  
For a single mom, this verse has been a lifeline. Even when life is challenging, she knows that she has Jesus - who has already conquered the world! - next to her. It's so, so reassuring that, even in the unexpected trials of parenting, peace and victory are found in Jesus, especially in the toughest moments.

**Psalms 139:14** "I praise You because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; Your works are wonderful, I know that full well." One parent who has had several children in the past few years feels deeply connected to this verse. Every time her family was blessed with another child, she saw how amazing the gift of life and God's creation is. This verse is a beautiful reminder that each child is uniquely and wonderfully crafted by God, a testament to His creativity and love.

**Psalms 28:6** "Praise be to the Lord, for He has heard my cry for mercy." A mom of four close-in-age children remembered the challenges of raising four kids. ... Parenting can stretch us to our limits, but crying out to God for mercy and strength brings comfort, even in the most trying seasons. Perhaps even *especially* in the most trying seasons.

**Isaiah 40:28-31** "Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Lord is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and His understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." One parent finds solace in this passage. It has always been a powerful reminder of God's power and presence. They especially resonated with the phrase "...His understanding no one can fathom." It helped them trust Him with the things they didn't understand, especially with her adult children. For those parenting adult children or facing uncertainties, this verse encourages trust in God's infinite wisdom and enduring strength.

**Isaiah 59:21** "'As for Me, this is My covenant with them', says the Lord. 'My Spirit, who is on you, and My words that I have put in your mouth will not depart from your mouth, or from the mouths of your children, or from the mouths of their descendants from this time on and forever,' says the Lord." The message from this verse is simple, as one member shared. Even though it's hard, even though we want to do everything for our children, ultimately God is in control. We can trust God with our children and grandchildren. This verse reminds us that God's promises extend across generations, offering hope for the spiritual legacy we pass on to our families.

**Psalms 103:17** "From everlasting to everlasting the Lord's love is with those who fear Him, and His righteousness with their children's children." Parenting doesn't stop when our kids grow up! One older member reflected on how, as they matured, God has been at work in their children and grandchildren. This verse reminded them of God's faithfulness from generation to generation. This Psalm celebrates God's love and faithfulness as we witness His work in our families across the years.

Parenting is a sacred calling, filled with both challenges and immense rewards. These verses, shared by parents, remind us of the strength, peace, and promises we find in God's Word. Whether you're seeking reassurance, celebrating life, or praying over your children and grandchildren, these Scriptures offer guidance and hope.

# Praise & Thanks for...

- \*the meaningful Holy Week services and everyone who helped out with the breakfast and worship**
- \*the birth of Asher Vanden Bosch, son of Grant and Julia and little brother to Paisley**
- \*Kaitlyn Rosenboom, Marissa Mouw and everyone who serve the Children-in-Worship ministry (if I try to list everyone I know I'll forget someone!) Your dedication is such a blessing to our church!!**
- \*all mothers whom we honor and remember on Mother's Day and everyday!**
- \*the gift of music and hymns of faith that have been meaningful through many generations**
  - \*the warmer weather**
  - \*the assurance that we don't need to be afraid of the past, present or future because God is in control!**
    - \*a country where we can worship freely**
    - \*the men and women who gave their lives for our country in the armed services and to those who serve our country and help keep us free!**
      - \*each member of Boyden First Reformed Church**
      - \*Jesus – His love and sacrifice is free for EVERYONE**



# Pray for...

- \*volunteers to help serve at the church – ushers, media team, Awana, etc.**
- \*the plans being made for Boyden Vacation Bible school**
- \*high school and college graduates as they pursue new adventures either in the work force or higher education**
- \*surrender of our personal lives and the life of the church to Jesus**
- \*spring rains and safety for the farmers as they get back out into their fields and during the planting season**
- \*answers to prayers – God is good all the time – trust His timing!**
- \*a spirit of unity, kindness and love among our church family**
- \*the thousands of men and women who serve our country and their families, as well as the families of the people who made the ultimate sacrifice**
- \*all our brothers and sisters in Christ around the world**
- \*the leadership of this church, our community and our country**
- \*peace throughout the world – an end to wars and hatred**
- \*everyone who is hurting, afraid, troubled, suffering – there is so much pain in the world and in our church family. PLEASE BE KIND!!!**



God's help  
is only a  
prayer  
away!

**Most moms have read a lot of books to their kids. How well do you know these popular children's books? Answers in June's Innerglow!**

## Children's Book Trivia Quiz

1. What is the name of Winnie the Pooh's donkey friend?  
a. Eeyore b. Kanga c. Roo
2. What kind of creature was defeated by the Three Billy Goats Gruff?  
a. Goblin b. Werewolf c. Troll
3. Eric Carle's *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* is known for what?  
a. It has holes cut through its pages  
b. This is the first book printed in color  
c. This book is printed in black and white
4. What was the title of Dr. Seuss's first book?  
a. Horton Hears a Who!  
b. And to Think That I Saw It on Mulberry Street  
c. Green Eggs and Ham
5. Which animal is the subject of *Goodnight Moon*?  
a. Puppy b. Goose c. Bunny
6. Who had an encounter with the three bears?  
a. Goldilocks b. Cinderella c. Snow white
7. Who was created by Gepetto the woodcarver?  
a. Peter Pan b. Pinocchio c. Gingerbread-man
8. In which book a poor boy explores a magical candy factory owned by an eccentric candy maker?  
a. *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory*  
b. *The little Prince*  
c. *Alexander and the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day*
9. What did *Corduroy* lose?  
a. A ball b. A button c. A shirt
10. Who has a "terrible, horrible, no good, very bad day"?  
a. George b. Andrew c. Alexander
11. "The Polar Express" centers on which holiday?  
a. Thanksgiving b. Christmas c. Easter
12. What is the name of the Pig in *Charlotte's web*?  
a. Wilbur b. Stuart c. Homer



# HYMN OF THE MONTH: *"GOD LEADS US ALONG"*

*"He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul." Psalm 23:2,3 (NKJV)*

George Young, a carpenter, and his wife dedicated their lives to following the Lord, wherever He would lead. "He does the leading," they often said, "and we do the following." God led them to the rural Midwest and they traveled from church to church in revival efforts. Their finances were always tight, but "through the many years we never went hungry!" Mrs. Young said years later, "Oh, sometimes we didn't have too much of this world's goods but ... we always had so much of Jesus."

Finally they saved enough to buy a small piece of land on which George built a cottage. Though small, it was the fulfillment of a life's dream, and when they moved in they dedicated the house to God and sang the Doxology. But some time later, when the Youngs were away on a ministry trip, a thug who had been offended by George's preaching set the house afire. Returning home, the Youngs found a heap of ashes. All their worldly goods and cherished possessions were gone.

As George gazed at the ruins, he recounted the precious possessions fire could never destroy - his family, his relationship with Christ, his ministry, his eternal home. There and then, the words to "God Leads Us Along" began forming in his mind. Within a few days, he had written all three stanzas.

Years later, Dr. Harold Lillenas, seeking to track down George's widow, drove to the small Kansas town where she resided. Stopping for directions, he was alarmed to hear that Mrs. Young was living in the run-down Country Poor House. Lillenas was deeply troubled that the widow of the author of such a hymn about God's guidance should spend her final days in the Poor House. But when he finally found her, Mrs. Young explained, "One day God took my sweet husband home. Oh, how I missed him for we had always served the Lord together. In my heart, I wondered - where will God now lead me? Dr. Lillenas, God led me here! I'm so glad He did, for you know, about every month someone comes into this place to spend the rest of their days, and, Dr. Lillenas, so many of them don't know my Jesus. I'm having the time of my life introducing them to Jesus! Dr. Lillenas, isn't it wonderful how God leads?"



# God Leads Us Along

He calleth his own sheep by name, and leadeth them out. Jn. 10:3  
He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Ps. 23:3

1. In shad - y, green pas - tures, so rich and so sweet, God leads His dear  
2. Some - times on the mount where the sun shines so bright, God leads His dear  
3. Though sor - rows be - fall us and e - vils op - pose, God leads His dear  
4. A - way from the mire, and a - way from the clay, God leads His dear

chil - dren a - long; Where the wa - ter's cool flow bathes the wear - y one's feet,  
chil - dren a - long; Some - times in the val - ley, in dark - est of night,  
chil - dren a - long; Through grace we can con - quer, de - feat all our foes,  
chil - dren a - long; A - way up in glo - ry, e - ter - ni - ty's day,

## Refrain

God leads His dear chil - dren a - long. Some thro' the wa - ters, some thro' the flood,

Some through the fire, but all through the blood; Some through great sor - row, but

*rit.*

God gives a song, In the night sea - son and all the day long.

# In Years Gone By ...

## 50 YEARS AGO – May 1976

The congregation was encouraged to sign the Liquor Petition to bring the drinking age up from 18 to 19.

FRC participated in a Radio Rally with KIWA Radio, Sheldon, singing songs and sharing thoughts in a live program.

Holy Baptism was given to Kristin Elaine Alons, infant daughter of Mr & Mrs Dwayne Alons.

Congratulations were shared with the following individuals who graduated from high school – Kenneth Boone, Deanna De Groot, Amy Moths, Jackie Rensink, Lori Sneller and Julie Starkenburg.

## 25 YEARS AGO – May 2001

Sympathy wishes were extended to Glenn & Priscilla Salmon for the loss of their son Dr. Duane Salmon.

Congratulations were shared with the following individuals who graduated from high school – Shane Kleinwolterink, Brent Mulder, Jennifer Starkenburg and Barbara Warntjes. Also to the college graduates Amy Kleinwolterink, Dyan (Reuvers) Vander Sluis, Doug Van Es and Alison Van Nyhuis.

Holy Baptism was given to Madison Michaela, daughter of Mike & Sara Korthals.

## 10 YEARS AGO – May 2016

Congratulations were shared to the following individuals who graduated from high school – Jonah Fedders, Chase Rensink and Ashley Warntjes.

The Junior & Senior High Youth Groups held a Tip Night at the Sheldon Pizza Ranch.

Welcomed as new members by transfer of membership were Anona Boone and Bonnie Poppen.

Sympathy wishes were extended to the friends and family of Marcine Mulder.

## 5 YEARS AGO – May 2021

Boards for a new Habitat house to be built in Hull were kept in the church basement and everyone was encouraged to write blessings, bible verses, prayers, etc on them for the family.

Items were collected for Mother/Baby baskets for Center of Hope.

Coffee and cookies for the summer were served in the coffee room off of the sanctuary only.



**May 25, 2026**



## **The Badge of Glory**

Author Unknown

Of all the medals upon our chests  
From battles and wars we knew,  
The one admired as the very best,  
Is the one of infantry blue.

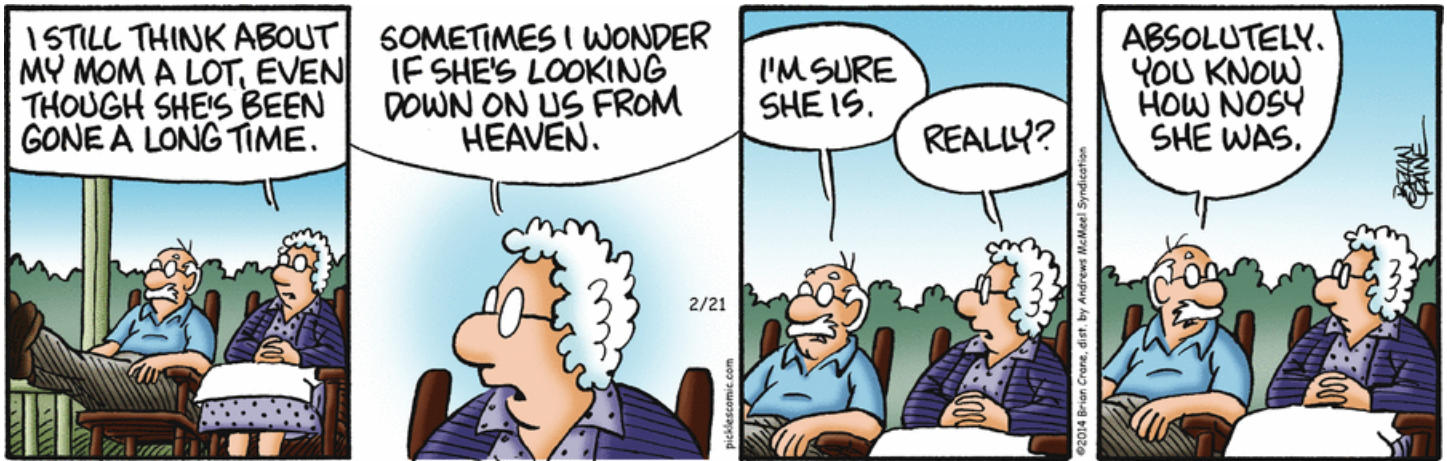
It's only a rifle upon a wreath,  
So why should it mean so much?  
It is what it took to earn it,  
That gives it that magic touch.

To earn this special accolade,  
You faced the enemies fire.  
Whether you survived or not;  
God dialed that one desire.

For those of us who served the cause,  
And brought this nation glory.  
It's the Combat Infantry Man's Badge  
That really tells the story.



# HAPPINESS IS ...



## Wasn't it Smart of God to ...

- ... give us nose hair to help filter the air we breathe to help keep our lungs clean.
- ... give us inquisitive minds so we can ask questions that He will answer so we'll know more about Him.
- ... cause women to forget the extent of pain during childbirth so we can know the joy of siblings.
- ... design humans to yawn so we'll know we're sleepy or that our dates are bored.
- ... give us two ears and one mouth so we'll remember to listen twice as much as we talk.
- ... make our hair not bleed when we cut it.



## Aspirin Cake

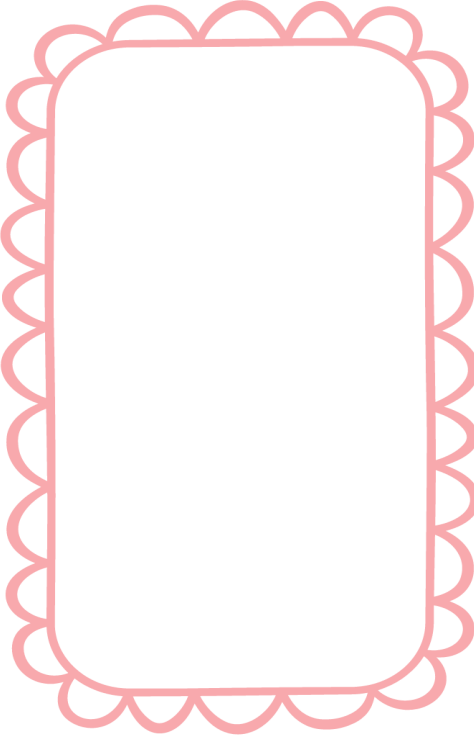
- Preheat oven to 375 degrees.
- Turn down TV.
- Remove toys from countertop.
- Measure 2 cups of flour.
- Get baking powder.
- Remove Benjamin's hands from flour.
- Put flour, baking powder and salt into sifter.
- Vacuum mixture off kitchen floor (Benjamin spilled).
- Get an egg.
- Answer the telephone.
- Separate egg and warm baby Adam's bottle.
- Help Mary figure out a New Math problem (the old reliable way).
- Grease pan - someone's at the door.
- Take  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of salt from greased pan and look for Benjamin.
- Put mess in wastebasket.
- Put dishes in the dishwasher.
- Call the bakery.
- Take an aspirin.



# May

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	1	2
<p><i>Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves.</i> — Romans 12:10 (NIV) —</p> 							Clarella Van Marel
3 Pastor Doug Van Aartsen  Mission Offer  Joan Wiertzema	4 Brooklyn Huls Kaitlyn Rosenboom	5 Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm  Max Moret	6	7 Ken Hoogendoorn Brooklyn Koele Cheyenne Neuman	8	9 	
10 Happy Mother's Day! 	11	12 Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm Elders'/Deacons' Consistory Mtg 8 pm	13 Sloan Rosenboom	14 Beatrice Kooiker Jaycee Reiser	15 Arnie Warntjes	16 Janice Sneller	
17 Building & Repair Offering	18	19 Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm	20 	21 Jeri Hoogendoorn	22	23 Chris Starkenburg	
24	25 Memorial Day! <b>MEMORIAL DAY</b>  IN MEMORY OF MANY IN HONOR OF ALL.  Innerglow news due!	26 Men's Group 5:30am Evening Ladies' 7pm	27	28 	29 Tessa Bolkema	30 	
31 Rev. Dr. John Hartog III  Josh Mouw							

# HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY



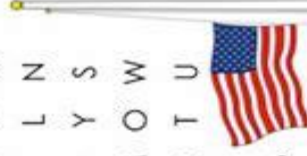
A drawing of me and my Mom

- My Mom's name is \_\_\_\_\_
- My Mom is \_\_\_\_\_ years old
- Mom's favorite color is \_\_\_\_\_
- Mom laughs when \_\_\_\_\_
- Mom always says \_\_\_\_\_
- Mom loves to \_\_\_\_\_
- I love Mom because \_\_\_\_\_
- My favorite thing to do with Mom is \_\_\_\_\_
- I love it when Mom wears \_\_\_\_\_
- I feel loved by Mom when \_\_\_\_\_

# LOVE,

## Memorial Day Word Find

P Y V E A R T T M O S R P I A  
O T L M H A F G C H O N O R L  
M L S W I C E V T A C F P R O  
O P B R W S F W G H V T P A Y  
N J M E M O R I A L D A Y K N  
D K N A P L R B T R U X U E V  
A X R T Q D S E P C T V D W E  
Y R O H K I B T N Y F I A N T  
N T E I B E S R E W A Q X S E  
G U Y S E R V I C E P N A T R  
A E D I P C A N U W I M K R A  
F X P S R E N P F A F Q S L N  
Y O R V U N C L H L O V R Y S  
J W L A X P N T A B A E M O W  
D Z T C H S X H G I D G N T U



Can you find the following words in the above puzzle?

- |           |              |           |
|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| service   | Memorial Day | respect   |
| flag      | poppy        | wreath    |
| half mast | honor        | Monday    |
| war       | veterans     | sacrifice |

