



The Mission of Mom to Mom

“We were gentle among you, like a mother caring for her little children. We loved you so much that we were delighted to share with you not only the gospel of God but our lives as well, because you had become so dear to us.”
(1 Thessalonians 2:7–8, NIV)

Mom to Mom is a ministry rooted in God’s directive found in Titus 2:3–4: “Teach the older women to ... teach what is good. Then they can train the younger women to love their husbands and children” (NIV). Thus the small group leaders are all “Titus 2 women.” Mom to Mom is a safe place for Christians and non-Christians, married moms and single moms, to share the joys and frustrations of motherhood and to explore the purposes and promises God gives to parents. It provides an oasis in the frenzied weeks of busy moms—a place where they are:

- better equipped for parenting through biblically based instruction
- encouraged by sharing with other moms who are confronting similar challenges
- energized by the loving support of both more experienced mothers and their own peers

Why Mom to Mom?

1. The Need: Moms are looking for parenting help and supportive relationships.
2. The Opportunity: Moms may be willing to come to church for Mom to Mom.
3. The “Bridge Potential”: Mom to Mom could provide a bridge to faith in Christ.
4. The “Titus 2 Model” (Titus 2:3–4): Churched and unchurched moms want and need good role models.
5. The Mentor Piece: Mom to Mom provides a place and opportunity for “older” moms to fulfill their role as laid out in Titus 2:3–4.
6. The Two-Tiered Goal: Mom to Mom is designed to strengthen Christian families while also helping families who may be seeking.



Starting a Mom to Mom

Prayer and Planning

As with any effective ministry, prayer is definitely “The Main Event” of Mom to Mom. In *My Utmost for His Highest*, Oswald Chambers says: “Prayer does not fit us for the greater works; prayer is the greater work.”¹ Careful and detailed planning must grow out of prayer if the ministry is to succeed.

Gathering a Prayer Team

Begin by gathering a small group of dedicated women who have the conviction that such a ministry may be needed in your church. They may meet on a regular basis to pray about God’s direction for the following:

- The church to embrace the vision of a ministry to moms
- Interest, needs, and heart preparation for mothers God will lead to attend
- Selection of the Mom to Mom leadership team, including the Team Leader, registrar, and other administrative leaders
- Selection of Titus 2 Leaders
- Selection of childcare coordinator(s) and specifics of childcare program
- Publicity regarding program—how to inform church and community
- Other items of concern specific to your local church or community group

Ideally this initial prayer team will grow into an ongoing prayer team composed of:

- experienced “Titus 2” women
- younger moms (to help keep a clear focus on the needs of young moms)
- other godly women whom you may want to call “prayer moms”

The prayer team will commit to praying for the ministry and for specific needs of moms as they are made known. Prayer moms may not be able to attend or be involved in Mom to Mom meetings, but their prayer role will be invaluable to the ministry. (For a sample “Prayer Team Letter” see the Leader CD-ROM in the back of this guide.)



Our prayer team:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Planning for the Ministry

As you plan your Mom to Mom ministry, avoid placing the weight of responsibility on the shoulders of mothers of very young children as the viability and stability of the program could be jeopardized. However, it is equally important that the program be formulated with vital input from young mothers regarding what these women really need, what works and what doesn't, and so forth. The ministry will not be any stronger than the quality of planning; therefore, putting together an outstanding leadership team is crucial.

As you anticipate implementing a Mom to Mom ministry in your church (or a group of partnering churches), keep in mind the importance of eliciting the following commitments from your church:

- Prayer support
- Promotional assistance and secretarial support as needed
- Financial resources, if possible, to cover program costs such as speakers, curriculum, supplies, childcare costs, scholarships for women in need, and so forth
- Space for:
 - the large group
 - the small discussion groups
 - the childcare rooms
 - large-group brunches and workshops
- Support in directing mothers to counseling resources when needed

Note: Because the specific needs and resources of various groups are so diverse, this is not likely to be a comprehensive list of guidelines. Rather, it is offered as a way to start thinking about what you need to start your Mom to Mom ministry.



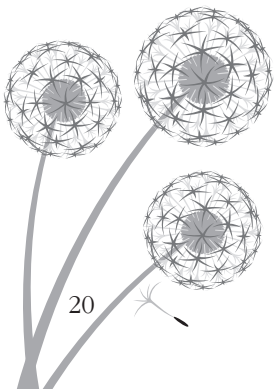
Forming Small Groups

The basic format of the Mom to Mom program is large group with video teaching and small-group discussion. Titus 2 Leaders serve as small-group facilitators and encouragers. Much prayer needs to go into the formation of the small groups. The person or group of persons who know the most about the moms should take part in assigning the women registered for Mom to Mom into small groups. Depending on the size of your group and your administrative team, this might include the Team Leader(s), Registrar, and a Titus 2 Leader. The size of the groups will vary according to the number of women registered and the number of available Titus 2 Leaders. However, keep in mind that groups of eight to ten are optimal. Smaller groups lack dynamic and larger groups have more difficulty building comfortable and trusting relationships in an atmosphere where moms can learn and grow.

Information gathered from registration forms (see the Leader CD-ROM for “Mom to Mom Registration Forms”) will be helpful, while any firsthand knowledge you have of some of the registrants will enhance the process. Aim for heterogeneous grouping as an overarching principle. However, take into account the needs of some segments of your population who may especially benefit from being grouped with others dealing with similar issues—for example, women who have a child with special needs or women who have preadolescent children. It is important that no one feel alone in a group—that no woman be the only one in her group who is—

- a single mom
- an older mom
- a mother of many children
- a mother of teens
- a woman struggling to balance career responsibilities and family life
- a mother of biracial children
- an adoptive parent
- a mom with an especially challenging child

8–10 moms = 1 small group





In addition, strive to achieve balance between the women in the group who are more spiritually mature members of your church with those who may be seekers. With these principles in mind, here are some of the factors to look at in forming groups. As you look at each woman's registration, take into account:

- The number of children she has
- The ages of her children (i.e. younger preschoolers, older preschoolers, school-age, preteens, teenagers)
- Her current marital status
- Where she lives (moms may come from a 50-mile radius or so)
- Her past or current career, interest, or hobbies
- Her church affiliation and/or probable level of spiritual maturity (when known)
- Her personality (in women you know) and potential contribution to group dynamics
- Any special life circumstances or known needs—for example, a husband in medical training, in the military or who travels excessively; financial or relational crises; struggles with secondary infertility

Once again, keep in mind the most important element of all in making group assignments: PRAYER. Pray over these group assignments. Knowing how crucial these groups are to the growth and nurture of moms, do everything you can to put together the best possible groups. Keep in mind that only God knows where the best place is for each woman. You will see Him orchestrate what you never could have known or engineered. So “work as if everything depends on us and pray as if everything depends on God”—and what a magnificent work He will do in your midst!

Earnestly seek God's direction in forming small groups.

