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Grace Evangelical Church
Sunday, May 9, 2010
Mother's Day
"For The Glory Of God"
Ezekiel 4 & 5

I know we are all grateful to the Lord for our mothers who we honor today. Their many acts of service to their families can never be fully repaid. And the words "Thank you," hardly seem adequate.

In their service to their family and others, I understand that mothers have various feelings and emotions like love, care, tenderness even worry about their children. In their own special world, mothers have their own dictionary also, which may appear a little odd to others, but mothers from each corner of the world are capable of not only understanding, but at the same time also use the words contained in the special dictionary. Let me give you some of the words that are found in a mother's dictionary.

Airplane:

What Mom impersonates to get a 1 year old to eat strained beets.

Bed and Breakfast:

Two things the kids will never make for themselves.

Bottle-feeding:

An opportunity for Daddy to get up at 2 AM too.

Car Pool:

Complicated system of transportation where Mom always winds up going the farthest, with the biggest bunch of kind, who have had the most sugar.

Defense:

What you'd better have around the yard if you're going to let the children play outside.

Droling:

How teething babies wash their chins.

Date:

Infrequent outings with Dad where Mom can enjoy worrying about the kids in a different setting..

Fable:

A story told by a teenage arriving home after curfew.

Full name:

What you call your child when you're mad at him.

Garbage:

A collection of refuse items, the taking out of which Mom assigns to a different family member each week, then winds up doing herself.

Grandparents:

The people who think your children are wonderful even though they're sure you're not raising them right.

Handi-wipes: Pants, shirt-sleeves, drapes, etc.

Independent:

How we want our children to be as long as they do everything we say.

Ketchup: The sea of tomato-based goop kids use to drown the dish that Mom speak hours cooking and years perfecting to get the seasoning just right.

Lemonade Stand: Complicated business venture where Mom buys powdered mix, sugar, lemons, and paper cups, and sets up a table, chairs, pitchers, and ice for kids who sit there for three to six minutes and net a profit of 15 cents.

Look out:

What it's too late for your child to do by the time you scream it.

MOMMMMMMM:

The cry of a child on another floor who wants something.

Panic:

What a mother goes through when the wind up swing stops.

Refrigerator:

Combination art gallery and air-conditioner for the kitchen.

Show off:

A child who is more talented than yours.

Sterilize:

What you do to your first baby's pacifier by boiling it and to your last baby's pacifier by blowing on it.

Storeroom:

The distance required between the supermarket aisles so that children in shopping carts can't quite reach anything

Sunday Best:

Attractive, expensive children's clothing made of a fabric which attracts melted chocolate and grape juice.

Top bunk:

Where you should never put a child wearing Superman jammies.

That Way:

How kids shouldn't look at moms if they know what's good for them. Also applies to how they talk.

Verbal:

Able to whine in words

When Dad Comes Home:

Standard measurement between crime and punishment.

Whodunit:

None of the kids that live in your house.

Whoops:

An exclamation that translates roughly into "get a sponge."

Yard Sale:

Heart-wrenching emotional process wherein Mom plans to sell kids outdated toys and clothing that she decides at the last minute are treasured mementos she can't bear to part with.

Zucchini:

Vegetable which can be baked, boil, fried, or steamed – before kids refuse to eat it.

Salute The Mothers...

- Who sit up all night with sick toddlers in their arms, wiping off spit up and repeatedly saying, "It's OK honey, Mommy's here".
- Who walk around the house all night with their babies when they keep crying and do not stop.
- Who show up at work with spit-up in their hair and milk stains on their blouses and diapers in their purse.
- Who make dozens of cookies for school teas.
- Who sew various designer Halloween costumes.
- Who gave birth to babies they will never see.
- Who adopted babies and gave them place not only in their homes but also in their heart and lives.
- Who have become frozen stiff sitting on metal bleachers at hockey, baseball or soccer games any night of the week instead of watching from their cars.
- Who have yelled at their kids in the grocery store and swatted them in despair when they stomped their feet and then hated themselves for "losing" it.
- Who taught their children to tie their shoelaces before they started school.
- Who taught their sons to cook and sew and their daughters to be brave and strong.
- Whose heads turn automatically when a little voice calls "Mom!" in a crowd, even though they know their own offspring is at home.
- Who sent their kids to school with stomach aches, assuring them that they would be just fine once they got there but soon got calls from the school nurse asking them to pick them up right away. And they do.
- Who bite their lips sometimes until they bleed when their 14-year-olds dye their hair green, red or blue.
- Who have the ability to nurse a baby, cook dinner, and sew a button on a shirt, all at the same time.
- Who feels a unique ache when they watch their son or daughter disappear down the street, walking to school alone for the very first time.
- Who has the terror in her heart at 1 AM when her teenager with the new driver's license is an hour late getting home.
- Who flee from wherever they are to hug their child when they hear news of a fire, a car accident or a child dying.
- Who feels the dull ache as they look in on their sleeping daughter or son the night before they leave for a college in another city.
- Who have put their energy into raising children who love God and seek to serve Him.

Mom, we do salute you today. As the man of wisdom, Solomon penned, "We rise up and call you blessed."

Our text today in Ezekiel 4 & 5 has something to say to Moms, and to all of us.

As we start getting into the book of Ezekiel that we are considering on Sunday morning, we discover today some actions that God directs Ezekiel to carry out that seem very unusual to us today.

In fact, some have thought that Ezekiel might have had a mental problem. As we shall see that is not true, for God wanted to teach the people of Israel in exile in Babylon around 539 B. C about His dealings with Israel through the actions of the prophet Ezekiel.

I. God's directions to Ezekiel.

Chapters 4 & 5 of Ezekiel set forth four of the ten signs that God gave through Ezekiel to the people of Israel in exile in Babylon.

1. The first sign (Ezekiel 4:1-3).

(1) The Sign.

Ezekiel was to get a brick (of soft clay) and draw a picture of Jerusalem on the brick. Then he was to lay siege against the city, build a siege wall (a tower), connecting the two with a ramp, pitch camps, and place battering rams against it all around. Then Ezekiel was to get an iron plate and set it up as an iron wall between him and the city. (The iron plate showed that Jerusalem would not escape the siege that was taking place). Ezekiel was to set his face toward the city to demonstrate that the city is under siege, and besiege it. Ezekiel acted out before the people Babylon's final siege of Jerusalem.

(2) The Teaching – Jerusalem under siege.

Jerusalem would not escape being captured and destroyed by Babylon which came in 586 B.C., some 7 years later. God's judgment would come on Jerusalem. The city could count on it.

2. The second sign (Ezekiel 4:4-8).

(1) The sign.

This sign was even more unusual.

The LORD told Ezekiel to lay on his left side 390 days, during the day when he was prophesying. Then Ezekiel was to lay on his right side for 40 days. Assuming the numbers are accurate that is more than a year that Ezekiel lay on his left and right side. I'm sure he would have gotten the people's attention. Think about someone in Madison going to the Square each day for more than a year laying on one's left side for 390 days, and on one's right side for 40 days. Someone certainly would have noticed. The news would certainly pick up on such action. It might even get national and international attention.

(2) The teaching – Length of exile.

Ezekiel laying on his left side for 390 days was telling the northern kingdom, Israel, and then for 40 days on his right side was telling the southern kingdom, Judah, of their iniquity and rebellion before God.

The number 390 could refer to the time of the division of the kingdom (931 B.C.) to 541 B. C., about the time the exiles would return from Babylon (536 B.C.). The 40 years might be reckoned from 586 B. C., the final fall of Jerusalem to 540 when Cyrus was threatening power to Babylon. This was telling the people of Israel in exile that God was judging Jerusalem and the nation of Israel for their disobedience to the LORD. At the same time, the time of the exile would end giving hope to the exiles. Other explanations have been given for the numbers here, but the point is clear that God wanted to make to His people through Ezekiel. God will judge the disobedience of His people still in Jerusalem who have disobeyed the Lord, while providing hope.

3. The third sign (Ezekiel 4:9-17).

(1) The sign.

Ezekiel was to bake his food over a fire made with human excrement, as the Jews under siege in Jerusalem would have to do. The uncleanness of their food did not represent the type of food they would have to eat but the fact that they would have to eat their food among defiled people (in captivity, v. 13). The prophet talked to the Lord about the fact that he had never eaten unclean food (cf. 44:31; Lev. 22:8; Deut. 12:15-19; 14:21; 23:9-14), so the Lord graciously allowed him to prepare his food over a fire made with cow's dung rather than human feces.

Ezekiel could not have been lying on his side continuously all day; he prepared meals during some of this time. In parts of the Middle East today, some people still use dried animal dung as fuel due to the scarcity of wood. God acceded to Ezekiel's request to substitute animal dung for human feces because the prophet wished to preserve his own purity and because the use of human waste, though more realistic, was not essential to the lesson Ezekiel was to teach the people (cf. Acts 10:14-15).

As one commentator added, ". . . God was not so much trying to get Ezekiel to violate his own priestly

responsibilities as to be reminded of how many compromises of what is usual and normal would have to be made by those cooped up in Jerusalem under overwhelming enemy pressure."

The bread was to be made of wheat, barley, beans, lentils, millet and spelt. The bread was to be 8 ounces and made and eaten during the 390 days, along with a quart of water being used for his drink as he ate the bread.

(2) The teaching – scarcity of bread in Jerusalem.

This sign that Ezekiel carried out was to teach the people in Babylonian captivity that in the coming and final siege of Jerusalem there would be a great scarcity of bread and water (Ezekiel 4:16-17).

4. The fourth sign (Ezekiel 5)

(1) The sign.

Ezekiel, directed by the LORD, was to take a sharp sword and use it as a barber's razor on his head and beard. Then he was to take a scales for weighing and divide up the hair.

One- third would be burned in the center of the city.

One third shall be struck by the sword around the city.

One third shall be scattered to the wind.

A few hairs would be bound in the edges of Ezekiel's robe (5:3).

(2) The teaching – Judgment on people in Jerusalem – still a faithful remnant.

Note 5:5 – What God has made of Jerusalem, His city on earth. He has set her at the center of the nations. But she has rebelled against the Lord and become involved in gross idolatry (5:6-17).

Ezekiel 5:9 are strong words from the LORD.

"I will do among you what I have not done, and the like of which I will never do again."

God would thusly:

--Destroy one third of the city.

--One third would be destroyed in battle.

--One third would be scattered to the wind – taken in to exile.

--A few would be apart of the faithful remnant.

In each of these four signs or symbols, God is reminding those in Babylonian exile that they are there because of their disobedience to God, and others still in Jerusalem will be judged and some will lose their lives, while some will be brought into exile as well. Still there will be a faithful remnant who keep on believing God.

The fact that God used four different signs here tells us of the hardness of Israel's heart, and the need for God to keep telling those in exile that there is no way they will get by disobeying God. They must repent and turn to the Lord. God also knew the power of a visible illustration.

What a reminder to each of us that the sin of idolatry has drastic consequences. Israel broke the first commandment of the LORD. The nation substituted other gods for the true God of Israel.

To become involved in idolatry leads to gross immorality and debauchery. As Ezekiel 5:10 states, there will even be cannibalism.

John tells in his first letter the last chapter and last verse, "Little children keep yourselves from idolatry" (I John 5:13),

II. Ezekiel's Response.

1. The negative.

No place here do we hear Ezekiel telling the Lord.

"Lord, I'm a priest. I am not going to take a brick of clay and illustrate the siege of Jerusalem."

OR,

"I have gone out and laid on my left side for 100 days. I don't want to do this anymore. Really, I need a long break from this daily drudgery. How boring! There must be something more exciting to do. I'm not your man for this job."

OR,

"I have tasted of the shewbread back in temple in Jerusalem, I am not going to make this kind of bread, and then eat it. Lord, who do you think I am?"

OR,

"Lord, remember I'm a priest. Priests don't cut off their beards or have a bald head. I'll be a laughing stock of the people, Lord. I just can't do that."

None of these statements are recorded in Ezekiel 4 & 5. There is no record of Ezekiel talking back to God about the tasks he was to carry out for the Lord, although Ezekiel had a discussion with the Lord about the fuel to be used in baking the bread. There is no complaining on Ezekiel's part. There is no evidence that Ezekiel wanted to renege on God's mission for him like Jonah did some years later. No excuses are offered like Moses.

Ezekiel faithfully carried out the Lord's direction, in spite of how seemingly unfitting for him to do these things as a priest, then a prophet, and watchman of Israel.

Why did Ezekiel faithfully carry out God's directions without any complaints, grumbling or arguing with God?

2. The Positive.

1. Ezekiel had a personal relationship with the biblical God through faith (Ezekiel 1:3).

He was a priest in Jerusalem, before being taken into exile by Nebuchadnezzar. He knew God by faith and knew the teachings of God's Word.

2. Ezekiel knew how to worship the biblical God he knew by faith (Ezekiel 1:28).

Having seen the glory of God, Ezekiel could only bow in humble worship before Him. He was worthy of first place in His life.

3. Worship of the biblical God gave Ezekiel a passion to do His will (Ezekiel 4 & 5).

Seeing God's glory gave Ezekiel a passion to serve the Lord. Regardless of the people's response to his message, his seeing God's glory gave Ezekiel a passion to do His will. This is displayed so vividly in the signs that God told Ezekiel to carry out to Israel in exile.

4. Ezekiel depended on the Holy Spirit given to him. (Ezekiel 2:1, 3:14; 3:24).

God's Spirit empowered Ezekiel for ministry. In the Old Testament the Holy Spirit came and went on people according to their need before God in service. Now, since the Holy Spirit has come at Pentecost, the believer in Jesus Christ is indwelt by the Holy Spirit permanently until the day of redemption (I Corinthians 6:19; Ephesians 1:13-14). The Holy Spirit empowers the believer to do God's will, to live a clean life for Him and be obedient to Him. We are to walk in the Spirit and not fulfill the lusts of the flesh.

5. Ezekiel obeyed God's Word (Ezekiel 2&3).

He took God's word in, digested it, and then did what God told him to do. He offered no complaints and no excuses (3:1, 10).

6. Ezekiel practiced the presence of the Lord in His life (Ezekiel 4-5).

This took place in Ezekiel's life because God had reassured him that HE was with Him (Ezekiel 3:12- 13, 23),

7. Ezekiel knew that the task wasn't the issue, but rather He was serving the Lord and doing that task for the glory of God.

Regardless of the task, Ezekiel did it for the Lord because of His passion for the Lord that was continually activated in and through Him by His dependence on the Holy Spirit and His obedience to the Word of God.

Ezekiel didn't keep focused on the task, but rather He kept focused on the LORD. He was serving the Lord not men, and not even himself!!!

III. Our Response.

1. Are we faith people in the Lord Jesus today? Do we have a personal relationship with HIM?

2. Who do we worship in our daily walk with the Lord?

3. Who or what is our passion? Is it the Lord?

4. What or who is our dependence? Is He the Holy Spirit.

5. How is our obedience to the Lord? Do we obey God's Word immediately?

6. What about the presence of the Lord in our lives? Do we practice the presence of the Lord?

7. Do we look at the task we are doing? Or do we realize each moment that we are serving the King of kings and Lord of lords?

What's the key?

It goes back to who do we really worship??

Israel lost her passion for the Lord because the nation turned from God's glory to worshipping idols. God's judgment came. Although grace was not forgotten by the Lord.

When we are worshipping the Lord, and His glory, and His presence is actively acknowledged in one's life, the task is immaterial – for whatever you are doing, whether you eat or drink you do that task to the glory of God.

God touched Ezekiel's life, put His hand upon him (Ezekiel 1:3), and Ezekiel responded in worship to his LORD and was never the same afterwards. He served his Lord with whole hearted enthusiasm. God's touch on Ezekiel's life made the difference. It changed his life forever!

Elsa Morgan, president of MOPS (Moms Of Pre-Schoolers) tells this story.

I was in line at the grocery checkout. A few feet in front of me, a mother guided her toddler ahead, anchored her baby on her hip and elbowed her checkbook open to pay the clerk. In what seemed one single gesture, she retrieved her toddler's hand from the candy rack, tore the check from her book and offered it to the clerk while placing a comforting smooch atop her baby's head. The baby drooled down the mother's shoulder, the toddler clamp-gripped his mom's leg and the other wrapped her arms about both while waiting for her payment to be processed.

A mother's touch ... the difference a mom makes.

I feed my children with more than groceries. My touch makes a difference.

As I wheeled my cart to my car, I noticed another woman with her kindergarten-age son, rushing into the store I was exiting. Suddenly she stopped and glanced down at her child, reached in her pocket and brought out a wadded Kleenex. Moistening it with her tongue, she swabbed it about his dirty face. He resisted, but only briefly. Satisfied with her work and his appearance, she stuffed the tissue back in her pocket, took up his waiting hand again and marched into the store.

A mother's touch ... the difference a mom makes

As I approached my car, I noticed a woman and her teenage daughter chat animatedly. Hands flew—it wasn't an argument exactly, more a debate. The daughter, almost six inches taller than the mother, inclined her head downward. The mother rolled her eyes and patted her daughter's back. As they reached their car, the mother tossed the daughter the car keys and watched her daughter's face break into shock.

A mother's touch ... the difference a mom makes.

Writing to the Thessalonians about his commitment to lead them with both lessons and life, Paul describes his posture as being "like a mother caring for her little children." In 1 Thessalonians 2:7, he gave his followers an example that wove words with love, truth with touch.

I thought of his words as I drove home and schlepped groceries from trunk to table and finally to cupboards and refrigerator. In the midst of my shelving, Eva and Ethan burst through the door from swim practice. With water circles about their necks from wet hair, they dumped their bags and rummaged through what was yet unpacked. "Yuk—I hate olives!" "Yes! Fruit roll-ups!" "Can we have this pasta tonight?"

I smiled, reached my hand out and wiped away a streamlet of pool water from Eva's face. I turned and flicked Ethan's hair from its stiff matted mess into some sense of order. I pictured the touch of the mothers I'd witnessed in my grocery-store journey, and I knew then that I feed my children with more than groceries. My touch, laced through the routines and crises, too, is what makes a difference today for tomorrow.

Yes, I tell them to offer kindness to those around them and to avoid drugs and premarital sex and violence. I teach biblical truths of forgiveness when they mess up and of truthfulness when they'd rather lie. I outline the basics of how to get along in life by managing an allowance, making their beds and getting their homework done before they relax.

But there is more to mothering and more to discipling than telling and teaching and outlining. There is touch. The nurture of appropriate touch reaches out and over words and wraps a child in a comforter of conviction that he or she is valued—no matter what.

A mother's touch ... the difference a mom makes

The Power of a Mother's Touch
It really does make a difference

The LORD touched Ezekiel's life. He lived his life to the glory of God.

Thanks Moms for your touch on our lives to the glory of God! Your touch has encouraged us to live to the glory of God.

1. **FOOD:** The response Mom usually gives in answer to the question "What's for dinner tonight?" See "SARCASM"
2. **FROZEN:** 1) A type of food. 2) How hell will be when Mom lets her daughter date an older guy with a motorcycle.
3. **GARBAGE:** A collection of refuse items, the taking out of which Mom assigns to a different family member each week, then winds up doing herself.
4. **GENIUSES:** Amazingly, all of Mom's kids.
5. **GUM:** Adhesive for the hair.
6. **HAMPER:** A wicker container with a lid, usually surrounded by, but not containing, dirty clothing.
7. **HANDI-WIPES:** Pants, shirt-sleeves, drapes, etc.
8. **HANDS:** Body appendages which must be scrubbed raw with volcanic soap and sterilized in boiling water immediately prior to consumption of the evening meal.
9. **HINDSIGHT:** What Mom experiences from changing too many diapers.
10. **HOMEMADE BREAD:** An object of fiction like the Fountain of Youth and the Golden Fleece.
11. **ICE:** Cubes of frozen water which would be found in small plastic tray if kids or husbands ever filled the darn things instead of putting them back in the freezer empty.
12. **INSIDE:** That place that will suddenly look attractive to kids once Mom has spent a minimum of half an hour getting them ready to go outside.
13. **"I SAID SO":** Reason enough, according to Mom.
14. **JACKPOT:** When all the kids stay at friends' homes for the night.
15. **JEANS:** Which, according to kids, are appropriate for just about any occasion, including church and funerals.
16. **JOY RIDE:** Going somewhere without the kids.
17. **JUNK:** Dad's stuff.
18. **KETCHUP:** The sea of tomato-based goop kids use to drown the dish that Mom spent hours cooking and years perfecting to get the seasoning just right.
19. **KISS:** Mom medicine.
20. **LAKE:** Large body of water into which a kid will jump should his friends do so.

21. **LEMONADE STAND:** Complicated business venture where Mom buys powdered mix, sugar, lemons, and

paper cups, and sets up a table, chairs, pitchers and ice for kids who sit there for three to six minutes and net a

profit of 15 cents.

22. **LIE:** An "exaggeration" Mom uses to transform her child's papier-mache volcano science project into a Nobel Prize-winning experiment and a full-ride scholarship to Harvard.
23. **LOSERS:** See "Kids' Friends"
24. **MAKEUP:** Lipstick, eyeliner, blush, etc. which ironically make Mom look better while making her young daughter look "like a tramp."
25. **MAYBE:** No.
26. **MILK:** A healthful beverage which kids will gladly drink once it's turned into junk food by the addition of sugar and cocoa.
27. **"MOMMMMMM!":** The cry of a child on another floor who wants something.
28. **MUSH:** 1) What a kid loves to do with a plateful of food. 2) Main element of Mom's favorite movies.
29. **NAILS:** A hard covering on the end of the finger, which Mom can never have a full set of due to pitching for batting practice, opening stubborn modeling clay lids and removing heat ducts to retrieve army men and/or doll clothing
30. **PANIC:** What a mother goes through when the darn wind-up swing stops.
31. **OCEAN:** What the bathroom floor looks like after bath night for kids, assorted pets, two or three full-sized towels and several dozen toy boats, cars and animals.
32. **OPEN:** The position of children's mouths when they eat in front of company.
33. **OVERSTUFFED RECLINER:** Mom's nickname for Dad.
34. **PENITENTIARY:** Where children who don't eat their vegetables or clean their rooms eventually end up, according to Mom.
35. **PETS:** Small, furry creatures which follow kids home so Mom will have someone else to clean up after.
36. **PIANO:** A large, expensive musical instrument which, after thousands of dollars worth of lessons and constant harping by Mom, kids will refuse to play in front of company.
37. **PURSE:** A handbag in which Mom carries the checkbook and keys she can never find because they're buried under tissues, gum wrappers, a plastic container full of cereal, toys from a fast-food restaurant, a teddy bear, a football, wallpaper samples, a grocery list and several outdated coupons.
38. **QUIET:** A state of household serenity which occurs before the birth of the first child and occurs again after the last child has left for college.
39. **RAINCOAT:** Article of clothing Mom bought to keep a child dry and warm, rendered ineffective because it's in the bottom of a locker stuffed in a book bag or because the child refuses to wear "the geeky thing."

40. **REFRIGERATOR: Combination art gallery and air-conditioner for the kitchen**

41. **ROOM MOTHER:** A position of great honor and responsibility bestowed on a mom who inadvertently misses a PTA meeting.
42. **SCHOOL PLAY:** Sadistic ritual in which adults derive pleasure from watching offspring stumble through coarse reenactments of famous historic events.
43. **SCREAMING:** Home P.A. system.
44. **SNOWSUITS:** Warm, padded outer garments that, when completely zipped and snapped performs two important functions: Protecting children from the cold and reminding them that they have to go to the bathroom.
45. **SOAP:** A cleaning agent Mom puts on the sink on the off-chance one of her kids will accidentally grab it while reaching for the towel.
46. **SPIT:** All-purpose cleaning fluid especially good on kids' faces.
47. **SPOILED ROTTEN:** What the kids become after as little as 15 minutes with Grandma.
48. **SWEATER:** Magically charmed article of clothing that can ward away colds, flu and even pneumonia.
49. **SUNDAY BEST:** Attractive, expensive children's clothing made of a fabric which attracts melted chocolate and grape juice.
50. **TEACHER CONFERENCE:** A meeting between Mom and that person who has yet to understand her child's "special needs."
51. **TERRIBLE TWO'S:** Having both kids at home all summer.
52. **"THAT WAY":** How kids shouldn't look at moms if they know what's good for them. Also applies to how they talk.
53. **TOWELS:** See "FLOOR COVERINGS"
54. **TRAMP:** A woman with two kids and no stretch marks.
55. **TROUBLE:** Area of nonspecific space a child can always be sure to be in.
56. **UMPTEENTH:** Highly conservative estimate of the number of times Mom must instruct her offspring to do something before it actually gets done.
57. **UNDERWEAR:** An article of clothing, the cleanliness of which ensures the wearer will never have an accident.
58. **UTOPIA:** See "BUBBLE BATH"
59. **VACATION:** Where you take the family to get away from it all, only to find it there, too.

60. **VITAMINS:** Tiny facsimiles of cave people Mom forces you to swallow each morning as part of her sinister plot to have you grow up to be "Just like Daddy."
61. **WALLS:** Complete set of drawing paper for kids that comes with every room
62. **WASHING MACHINE:** Household appliance used to clean blue jeans, permanent ink markers, loose change, homework, tissues and wads of gum
63. **"WHEN YOUR FATHER GETS HOME":** Standard measurement of time between crime and punishment.
64. **XOXOXOXO:** Mom salutation guaranteed to make the already embarrassing note in a kid's lunch box even more mortifying.
65. **XYLOPHONE:** Small toy musical instrument often given as gifts to children who show their appreciation by playing the stupid thing constantly, over and over, all day long! See also "DRUMS"
66. **YARD SALE:** Heart-wrenching emotional process wherein Mom plans to sell kid's outdated toys and clothing that she decides at the last minute are treasured mementos she can't bear to part with.
67. **"YIPPEE!":** What Mom would jump up and shout if the school year was changed to 12 months. See also "YAHOO!"
68. **ZILLION:** Amount of times Mom must have gone to the supermarket already this week.
69. **ZUCCHINI:** Vegetable which can be baked, boiled, fried or steamed - before kids refuse to eat it.

[Author Unknown -- from Kevin Rayner 'Off-The-Church-Walls' (otchurch@hotmail.com)]

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