



Words of appreciation

Show your love for your mother, grandmother or aunt this Mother's Day by placing words of appreciation throughout the house for her to find.

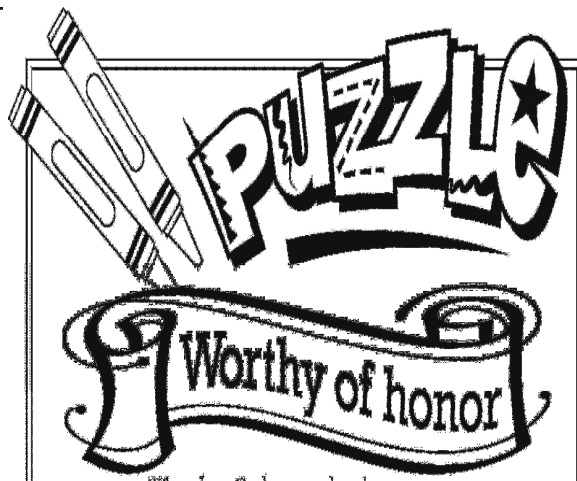
What you need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Tape

THANKS!

What you do:

1. Fold construction paper into fourths.
2. Cut paper along the folds to get four pieces.
3. On each rectangle, write words of appreciation, drawings and so on.
4. Tape the papers throughout the house. For example, a note on the refrigerator or pantry might say, "Thank you for making yummy meals for me." A note on a mirror might say, "You are beautiful inside and out!"



What does God mean when he commands us to honor our fathers and mothers (Exodus 20:12)?

Complete this word search to discover words that mean the same as *honor*.

admire • adore • appreciate • cherish • esteem
look up to • praise • respect • revere • value

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

The Laramie Encourager

May 2012



PRAYER'S POWER

Prayer lays hold of God's plan and becomes the link between his will and its accomplishment on earth. Amazing things happen, and we are given the privilege of being the channels of the Holy Spirit's prayer.
—Elisabeth Elliot



THE ASCENSION CHALLENGE

Ever wonder what it might have been like to be a disciple when Jesus ascended into heaven? He gave them the monumental task of making disciples of all the world. Plus, they'd have to do it without relying on Jesus' physical presence, as they had until then. Were the disciples overwhelmed, uncertain, afraid?

Maybe, yet they went on to spread the gospel throughout the world nonetheless. They rose to the chal-

lenge because they fixed their gaze above as they watched Jesus disappear into the clouds.

When we follow that example, offering ourselves as willing servants and keeping our eyes trained on Jesus instead of our circumstances, there's no limit to what God can accomplish through us.

SOMEDAY

"Someday" is a snake whose tongue has mastered the talk of deception. "Someday," it hisses, "I'll take her on that cruise ... we'll have time to sit and chat ..."

But you know the truth before I even write it, don't you? Someday never comes! Wise up! Invest the time. Send the flowers. Write the letter. Make the apology. Take the trip. Purchase the gift. Do it! The seized opportunity brings joy — the neglected one brings only regret!

—Max Lucado, *And the Angels Were Silent*

THANKS, MOM

Dad came home to find toys all over the living room, dirty dishes stacked in the sink, clothes piled in the laundry room, beds unmade and kids still in their pajamas. The house was a wreck, like nothing he'd seen before.

Worried, Dad rushed upstairs to find Mom reading a book in bed.

"Are you okay?" he asked. "What happened?"

"You know how you always ask what I do all day?" Mom replied. "Well, today I decided not to do it."

IN-CARNATION

The official flower of Mother's Day is the carnation, the favorite flower of the mom of the holiday's founder, Anna Jarvis. Over time, the custom arose of wearing a white carnation on Mother's Day if your mother has died and a red one if she's living.

In fact, many carnation colors have special meanings. Pink carries the richest Christian symbolism. According to legend, carnations first appeared on earth as Mary wept while watching Jesus carry his cross. Where her tears fell, there appeared pink carnations, symbolizing a mother's undying love.

According to one theory, the English word for carnation comes from *carnis*, Latin for flesh. From the same root comes incarnation, God's coming to earth in flesh. Thus, carnations remind us of our loving mothers as well as our loving Savior.

UNANSWERED PRAYER

When prayers go unanswered, we may ask if God hears. Is he listening? Is he even there? If he hears, why is he silent? Does he really love me? Does he care?

We may ask such questions in moments of desperation and discouragement. But let us consider an alternative possibility, a truth supported throughout Scripture: No prayer goes unanswered.

As William Arthur said, "To someone who prays in faith, unanswered prayers are simply the evidence that the answer is much closer."