G.U.I.D.E.S. Acronym

1. G – Giving – Give so a child's basic physical needs can be met. Nurturing and nourishing comes naturally for you as a mother. When your son asks you for food because he is 'starving,' you feel compelled and compassionate to respond.

2. U – Understanding – Understand so a child is not provoked or exasperated (Ephesians 6:4). As a mother, you are good at empathizing, actively listening, and seeking to understand. However, there are days when you will grow weary in doing good, and you'll have a strong need to be understood by others.

3. I – Instructing – Instruct so your child can know and apply God's wisdom. Proverbs 1:8 says, "Do not forsake your mother's teaching." God expects you to instruct your son – but it's important to instruct without lecturing him about being respectful.

4. D – Disciplining – Discipline so your child can correct poor choices. "Proverbs 29:16 says, 'A child who gets his own way brings shame to his mother.' How true! You've seen this with other mothers and their sons, but it will be different for you. You're not going to spoil your son.

5. E – Encouraging – Encourage so your child can courageously develop God-given gifts. When you observe your son losing heart, pray for wisdom to speak words that will give him courage and strength.

6. S – Supplicating – Supplicate in prayer so your child can experience God's touch and truth. Mothers are often the best prayer warriors, especially for their children. As a mother, you are confident that the Lord is your source of power and love for the deepest needs of the heart.

(Adapted from the book, *Mother & Son,* by Dr. Emerson Eggerichs; Used by permission)