

# Life Events Reveal Hidden Gifts

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*Letting individuals have their own memories ...*

The 40ish woman confessed to her hairdresser she was excited about her weekend away, but was worried about leaving her husband at home with the kids.

This too oft repeated story bothers me. True, nothing is going to be the same as if mom was there, but maybe that's OK.

Uncles can have a wonderful afternoon taking their 3-year old nephew in the truck with them. And that nephew will think his uncle is pretty marvelous.

Ten-year old daughters take on responsibilities at meal time that they would never try if mom was home. They and their dad might not get the dishes done until mom's almost back, but they've had fun doing different tasks together. How important it is for us to hand control over to others, and watch the creativity that happens.

Margaret Mead's daughter wrote a wonderful tribute about her mother, a renowned anthropologist. She wrote "Our mother always lets us own our memories". None of this trying to correct or manage how another person thinks, for each of us see what happens through different eyes. Enjoy the gifts revealed.

Finally, I think of the young husbands and fathers suddenly confronted by a whole new set of demands because of the serious illness of a loved one. How wonderful to see boys become men. Until now their agenda has been to enjoy their "toys", watch their 'games', have time with the guys. But when they are confronted with the need to support another person as they face medical tests or complex procedures, and as they face the unknown, these men know what it means to be called to the fore. They assume new responsibilities, they offer thoughtful suggestions, and most of all they explore what it means to be a companion to one in need.

These hidden gifts revealed become treasures of great worth.

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